

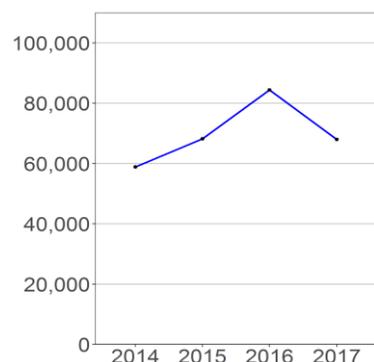
This report presents provisional figures on the number of entries for GCSEs submitted by schools and colleges in England to exam boards by 25 October 2017 for the exams being sat in November 2017. For the first time, this year the November series is restricted to students who were aged at least 16 by the end of the preceding August. The majority of the November entries are students sitting GCSE English and/or GCSE mathematics.

November GCSE entries over time

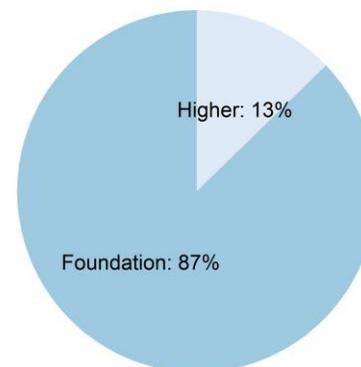
Overall GCSE entries in November 2017 (67,985) fell by 19% compared to 2016.

This brings the overall entries in 2017 back into line with the entries in 2015.

November 2016 was the last available re-sit for the legacy specifications which may account for the spike in entries in 2016.



GCSE maths entries by tier



There were 34,790 entries in GCSE maths in November 2017.

The majority (87%) of entries were made for the foundation tier paper and the remaining (13%) entered for the higher paper.

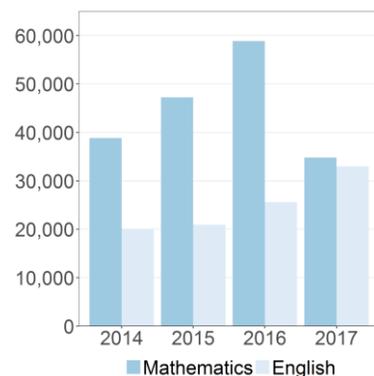
In the summer 2017 exams 53% of entries were made for higher tier and 47% for foundation tier.

November GCSE entries by subject

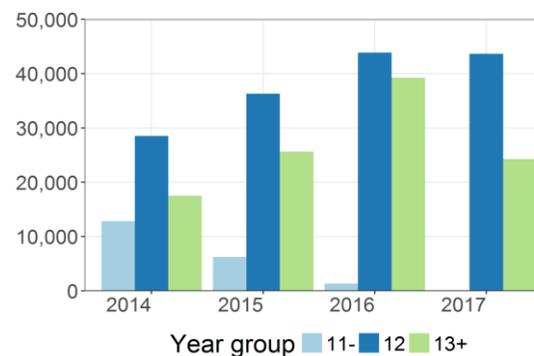
Entries in 2017 in GCSE English saw a 29% increase – growing from 25,610 in 2016 to 32,970.

2017 mathematics entries decreased by 41% from 58,840 in 2016 to 34,790.

In 2017 there is a small entry for legacy science of 225.



GCSE entries by year group



All entries for the November GCSE are from year 12 and above – year 11 students are no longer allowed to enter the November examination series

Year 12 entries remain stable, with a drop of less than 1% from 43,850 in 2016 to 43,650 in 2017.

Year 13 and above entries have seen a bigger drop of 38% to 24,285 in 2017.

At a glance

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GCSEs

Fall in overall November entries in 2017

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Maths tiering

87% of entries are for the foundation tier

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Entry by year group

Year 12 entry remains stable from 2016 but the year 13 entry has fallen by 38%

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Head of profession: Vikas Dhawan
Email: statistics@ofqual.gov.uk

Comments and feedback are welcome.

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Provisional November entries

In this release, Ofqual presents data on the number of provisional entries for GCSEs in England received by exam boards for the November 2017 exam series.

The entries that schools and colleges can make with exam boards to sit exams in November is restricted to post 16 students. The figures for entries can change daily up to the day of the exams. We collect provisional data at the point when it is reasonably complete, although final entry numbers may be slightly different from these. The figures presented here are the provisional figures as submitted by schools and colleges to exam boards by 25 October 2017.

In England, GCSE English language and GCSE mathematics, resits are available in November, but only for students who were aged 16 or above on 31 August of that year.

In this release, all figures are rounded to the nearest 5 to ensure confidentiality of data. Further information on this release is available in the [background information](#) as well as [data tables](#) accompanying this report.

GCSEs

In November 2017, the overall entry for GCSEs in England fell by 19% from 84,450 in 2016 to 67,985 in 2017. The entries in 2017 appear to be back in line with the figure of 68,175 seen in 2015.

In November 2016 we reported that the overall entry for GCSEs in England in November 2016 had increased by 24% from 68,175 in 2015 to 84,450 in 2016. This increase was probably due to November 2016 providing the penultimate opportunity to re-sit the legacy specifications. In 2017 the only specifications available were the reformed 9-1 specifications for English and maths.

The 2017 entries are evenly divided between GCSE English 49% (32,970) and GCSE mathematics 51% (34,790). November 2017 entries in GCSE English saw a 29% increase – growing from 25,610 in 2016 to 32,970. Mathematics entries decreased by 41% from 58,840 in 2016 to 34,790.

In 2017 there is a small entry of 225 for GCSE legacy science, this is the final re-sit opportunity ahead of the new science qualifications which are being awarded for the first time in summer 2018. Note that some exam boards provide their opportunity to enter legacy science in January 2018.

GCSE maths entry by tier

The majority (87%) of entries in maths were for the foundation tier paper and the remaining (13%) entered for the higher paper. This would suggest that the majority of entries have been made by learners who are re-sitting the foundation paper in order to achieve a minimum of a grade 4 or above in mathematics in GCSE so that they may continue studying and to be funded post 16.

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Spring Place
Coventry Business Park
Herald Avenue
Coventry CV5 6UB

Telephone 0300 303 3344
Textphone 0300 303 3345
Helpline 0300 303 3346