

National Assembly for Wales

A level, GCSE and Welsh Baccalaureate Results 2010

September 2010

This paper provides an overview of the provisional 2010 A level and GCSE results for Wales. Comparisons are provided with results for 2009 and with results for England.

The paper also provides a summary of the provisional summer 2010 results for the Welsh Baccalaureate and provides a comparison with results from 2009.

Members'
Research
Service



The National Assembly for Wales is the democratically elected body that represents the interests of Wales and its people, makes laws for Wales and holds the Welsh Government to account.

The Members' Research Service is part of the National Assembly for Wales. We provide confidential and impartial research support to the Assembly's scrutiny and legislation committees, and to all 60 individual Assembly Members and their staff.

Members' Research Service briefings are compiled for the benefit of Assembly Members and their support staff. Authors are available to discuss the contents of these papers with Members and their staff but cannot advise members of the general public. We welcome comments on our briefings; please post or email to the addresses below.

An electronic version of this paper can be found on the National Assembly's website at: www.assemblywales.org/bus-assembly-publications-research.htm

Further hard copies of this paper can be obtained from:

Members' Research Service
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA

Email: MembersLibrary@wales.gov.uk

© National Assembly for Wales Commission Copyright 2010

The text of this document may be reproduced free of charge in any format or medium providing that it is reproduced accurately and not used in a misleading or derogatory context. The material must be acknowledged as copyright of the National Assembly for Wales Commission and the title of the document specified.

National Assembly for Wales

**A level, GCSE and Welsh Baccalaureate
Results 2010**

Siân Hughes

Paper Number: 10/064

Members'
Research
Service



Contents

1. A Level.....	1
2. GCSE.....	3
3. Welsh Bacallaureate.....	4
3.1. Intermediate and Foundation Diplomas	5
3.2. Foundation	5
3.3. Intermediate	5
3.4. Advanced Diploma	6
4. Sources of information	7

A level, GCSE and Welsh Baccalaureate Results 2010

1. A Level

Provisional¹ 2010 A Level results were published for Wales and England on 19 August 2010. The results relate to **entries** and not to candidates. This is the first year in which A* grades have been awarded at GCE A level. In order to achieve A* in any subject, candidates must achieve an A grade in the subject overall, **and** achieve at least 90 per cent of the uniform marks available in the A2 units.

- The overall pass rate has fallen slightly in Wales over 2009 and has improved slightly in England. In Wales, performance at grades A*-C has also fallen with slight improvements in grades A*-C in England.
- Performance in England was better than Wales at all levels.
- Girls continue to perform better than boys in both Wales and England, the only exception being the percentage of male candidates attaining grade A* is slightly higher than females in Wales. The gap between male and female performance in Wales and England has decreased, except at the overall pass rate in England which has remained the same.
- The number of entries has increased in England and decreased in Wales.

Table 1 shows the provisional results for students in Wales and England for GCE A levels for 2010, with comparable data for 2009 in Table 2.

¹ Provisional in the sense that data represents the position at the time that results are issued. The data are subject to checking before final data is published.

Table 1: Percentage of pupils achieving GCE A level by grade, 2010 (provisional)

	Number sat	A*	A*-A	A*-C	A*-E
Wales					
Female	16,635	6.5	24.5	75.7	97.5
Male	20,680	6.6	24.3	71.5	96.5
All pupils	37,315	6.5	24.4	73.8	97.1
England					
Female	421,901	8.3	27.6	77.4	98.1
Male	362,976	8.0	25.9	72.4	97.0
All pupils	784,877	8.1	26.8	75.1	97.6

Source: Joint Council for Qualifications

Table 2: Percentage of pupils achieving GCE A level by grade, 2009

	Number sat	A	A-C	A-E
Wales				
Female	21,225	25.3	78.6	98.2
Male	17,208	24.5	74.0	96.9
All pupils	38,433	25.0	76.5	97.6
England				
Female	418,161	27.4	77.0	98.0
Male	359,009	25.4	71.8	96.9
All pupils	777,170	26.5	74.6	97.5

Source: Joint Council for Qualifications

2. GCSE

Provisional 2010 GCSE results were published on 24 August 2010.

- There were increases in achievements at all grades in Wales and England between 2009 and 2010.
- Pupils in England achieved better results than pupils in Wales in most grades the exception being at A*-G where males in Wales performed slightly better. Also at grades A*-G the total performance of males and females are the same in Wales and England.
- Girls continue to out-perform boys in the higher grades, but the difference is less marked in the overall pass rate.

Table 3 below shows results for full course GCSEs in England and Wales for 2010 and Table 4 shows comparable data for 2009.

Table 3: Percentage of pupils achieving GCSEs by grade, 2010 (provisional)

	Number sat	A*-A	A*-C	A*-G
Wales				
Female	151,695	22.0	70.1	98.9
Male	144,239	16.2	62.6	98.6
All pupils	295,934	19.2	66.4	98.7
England				
Female	2,476,843	25.5	72.5	99.0
Male	2,417,814	19.6	65.3	98.5
All pupils	4,894,657	22.6	69.0	98.7

Source: Joint Council for Qualifications

Table 4: Percentage of pupils achieving GCSEs by grade, 2009

	Number sat	A*-A	A*-C	A*-G
Wales				
Female	153,999	21.8	69.2	98.7
Male	147,048	16.0	61.6	98.3
All pupils	301,047	18.9	65.6	98.5
England				
Female	2,522,233	24.3	70.3	98.9
Male	2,461,232	18.7	63.4	98.3
All pupils	4,983,465	21.5	66.9	98.6

Source: Joint Council for Qualifications

3. Welsh Baccalaureate

The Welsh Baccalaureate Intermediate and Advanced Diplomas were piloted at post-16 in 18 schools and colleges from September 2003. Following evaluation, the qualification was fully rolled out from September 2007 in 76 centres across Wales.

The pilot of the Welsh Baccalaureate Foundation Diploma (age range 14 - 19) and Intermediate Diploma (age range 14 - 16) began in September 2006 and was completed in August 2009.

From September 2010, 212 schools, colleges and training providers will be delivering the Welsh Baccalaureate Qualification at Foundation, Intermediate and Advanced level as part of the roll out of the full qualification.

The Welsh Baccalaureate qualification (Welsh Bac) consists of two parts; an 'Options' part and a 'Core Programme' part and the qualification is available at three levels. The 'Options' part of the Welsh Baccalaureate must be completed by students studying for all levels of the Welsh Baccalaureate Diploma, and is comprised of options selected from established, approved courses/programmes (for example GCSEs, Vocational GCSEs, AS/A Levels, Vocational A Levels).

The 'Core Programme' part of the Baccalaureate consists of a programme of personal development studies, which students must complete along with their Options. The components of the 'Core Programme' are as set out below, and the programme is assessed solely on the evidence students collect in carrying out their activities.

- Key Skills – as well as from their options, students develop transferable Key Skills through the other four components outlined below.
- Wales, Europe and the World – a chance to learn more about Wales and its relationship with Europe and the World. A language module at a level suitable for the student is included in this.
- Work-Related Education – includes working with an employer and taking part in a team enterprise activity to help the student understand how businesses work.
- Personal and Social Education – helps the student explore issues in the modern world: family, health, relationships, citizenship and sustainable development. It includes an activity in the local community.
- Individual Investigation – the opportunity to carry out an individual research project into an area of interest.

3.1. *Intermediate and Foundation Diplomas*

The WJEC published the seventh summer award for the Welsh Baccalaureate Intermediate Diploma and the fourth award for the Foundation Diploma on 24 August 2010. The cumulative nature of the Welsh Baccalaureate means that many candidates who have not yet achieved the whole Core Certificate or Diploma will be able to do so, providing they achieve the remaining parts of the qualification in the coming academic year. Table 5 shows the summer awards for the Foundation Diploma and Table 6 shows the summer awards for the Intermediate Diploma.

As such, for 2009 and 2010, the following summary is based on the figures published by the WJEC on the day the results were published.

3.2. *Foundation*

- In 2010, there was an increase of 935 candidates completing the Foundation programme compared to 2009.
- In 2009, 64 per cent of candidates completing the programme were awarded the Foundation Diploma. This increased in 2010 to 69 per cent.
- In 2009, 77 per cent of those completing the programme were awarded the Core Certificate compared to 83 per cent in 2010.

Table 5: Welsh Baccalaureate Foundation Diploma Awards, 2009 and 2010

	Summer 2009	Summer 2010
Candidates completing the programme	1,414	2,349
Candidates awarded the Foundation Diploma	910	1,623
Candidates awarded the Core Certificate	1,085	1,932

Source: WJEC

3.3. *Intermediate*

- In 2010, there was an increase of 1,382 completing the Intermediate programme compared to 2009.
- In 2009, 58 per cent of those completing the programme were awarded the Intermediate Diploma. The equivalent figure for 2010 is 63 per cent.
- In 2009, 71 per cent of those completing the programme were awarded the Core Certificate. The equivalent figure for 2010 is 75 per cent.

Table 6: Welsh Baccalaureate Intermediate Diploma Awards, 2009 and 2010

	Summer 2009	Summer 2010
Candidates completing the programme	2,319	3,701
Candidates awarded the Intermediate Diploma	1,346	2,345
Candidates awarded the Core Certificate	1,640	2,757

Source: WJEC

3.4. Advanced Diploma

On 19 August 2010, the WJEC published the sixth August award for the Welsh Baccalaureate Advanced Diploma.

- There was an increase of 2,444 candidates completing the Advanced Diploma.
- Eighty-one per cent of those completing the programme in 2010 were awarded the Advanced Diploma, a slight increase over 2009.
- Eighty-seven per cent of those completing the course achieved the Core Certificate, an increase over the 85 per cent in 2009.

Table 7: Welsh Baccalaureate Advanced Diploma Awards, 2009 and 2010

	Summer 2009	Summer 2010
Candidates completing the programme	2,936	5,380
Diploma	2,341	4,360
Candidates awarded the Core Certificate	164	4,679

Source: WJEC

4. Sources of information

Data for 2010 is provisional in the sense that they represent the position at the time that results are issued. The data are subject to checking before final data at national (Wales), local authority and school level is published.

The Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) has published provisional data for A, AS and Advanced Extension Awards for Wales, England and Northern Ireland, separately and as a whole. It includes information on results by grade and gender. It can be seen, along with results for previous years, [here](#). The JCQ publishes similar data for GCSE, Applied Level GCSE and Entry Level Certificates which can be seen [here](#).

The WJEC issues media releases on the day that results are published. The releases contain data for examinations awarded by the WJEC and data for all awarding bodies. The release for A levels, AS levels, the Advanced Extension Award and the Welsh Baccalaureate Qualification can be seen [here](#). The media release for GCSEs, Entry Level Qualifications and the Welsh Baccalaureate Intermediate and Foundation Diplomas can be seen [here](#).

2009 data for Wales, at a local authority level can be seen in the Welsh Government Statistical Directorate publication, [*Schools in Wales: Examination Performance 2009*](#). A similar release with data for 2010 is due to be published in May 2011.

