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Official Statistics


Background information for provisional November 2021 exam entries: GCSE English language and mathematics

Published 24 November 2022

Applies to England

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1. Purpose

GCSE English language and mathematics are routinely available for assessment in an annual November exam series. This release presents the number of entries submitted to exam boards for the exams sat in November 2022. These figures are provisional and represent the number of entries submitted by schools and colleges to exam boards by 28 October 2022.

2. Geographical coverage

The report presents data on the number of entries in England for the November 2022 exam series.

Four awarding organisations offer GCSE English language and mathematics qualifications in England:

- AQA Education (AQA)
- Oxford Cambridge and RSA Examinations (OCR)
- Pearson Education Ltd. (Pearson)
- WJEC-CBAC Ltd. (WJEC or Eduqas)

3. Description

This release shows the number of entries broken down by subject and age

of students based on school year groups.

The Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) assigns a title (JCQ title) and a code (JCQ code) to every qualification according to a category defined by JCQ which groups qualifications in subject groups. JCQ groupings are used in this release to filter and sort the data in the data tables.

4. External influences

There are various factors which might have influenced the entries for the November GCSE series.

1. 2022 was the [first summer exam series since 2019](#). A package of support to students including [adaptations to assessment](#), was put in place which may have influenced the number of students sitting their exams in November.
2. The rules for entry to the November series were changed in 2020 and 2021 following the cancellation of summer exams. [Further information about arrangements for the November and autumn series in 2021 are available on the Ofqual website](#). [The reasons and arrangements for the autumn 2020 series are also set out on the Ofqual website](#). Ofqual permitted entries to certain students besides those usually entitled to sit English language and mathematics in November. Students could enter if they didn't feel their grade reflected their ability. They could also enter if they had been unable to receive a teacher assessed grade. Since 2017 students aged under 16 on 31 August were not able to enter the November series. In line with other students, they were able to do so in 2021. They could enter if their school or college had entered them for the summer series. They could also enter if exam boards believed they intended to sit exams had they taken place.
3. Full time students who have not achieved a grade 4 or above – in English language/English literature or mathematics, at GCSE or a Level 1/2 certificate in these subjects, must continue studying these subjects in order to meet [funding requirements post-16](#).

5. Data Source

Awarding organisations submit data to Ofqual for GCSE, AS and A levels they award. We contact any awarding organisation that does not return a complete set of data within the collection period to make sure the data is as complete as possible.

Entries data are collected at a point when they should be reasonably complete, although final entry numbers may be slightly different from these. These figures are therefore provisional and represent entry information for GCSEs received by awarding organisations by 28 October 2022.

6. Limitations

There is potential for error in the information provided by awarding organisations and Ofqual cannot guarantee that the information it received is correct. Ofqual quality assures data as far as possible, performing a number of checks on the data, for example, checks for systematic issues. Summary data are sent back to awarding organisations for checking and confirmation. However, it is still possible that some errors may remain undetected.

7. Quality assurance

Quality assurance procedures are carried out as explained in the [Quality Assurance Framework for Statistical Publications](#) published by Ofqual to ensure the accuracy of the data and to challenge or question it, where necessary. Publication may be deferred if the statistics are not considered fit for purpose.

8. Published data

The data underlying these statistics are published alongside this statistical release at 9:30am on the day of release.

9. Revisions

Once published, data on the number of provisional entries are not usually subject to revision, although subsequent releases may be revised to insert late data or to correct an error. In some cases, data may be amended to reflect any new categorisation of subjects.

10. Confidentiality and rounding

To ensure confidentiality of the accompanying data, all figures for the number of entries are rounded. In the accompanying data tables and commentary, the figures are rounded to the nearest 5. If the value is less than 5 (1 to 4), it is represented as fewer than 5 and 0 represents zero values.

Total values of rows or columns are calculated using unrounded figures; the sum of rounded figures may differ from the total reported.

Percentages are rounded to the nearest whole number. As a result of rounded figures, the percentages (calculated on actual figures) shown in tables may not necessarily add up to 100.

11. Status

These statistics are classified as official statistics.

12. Related publications

- [Entries for GCSE: November 2021 exam series](#)
- [Provisional entries for GCSE, AS and A level: summer 2022 exam series](#)

For any related publications for qualifications offered in Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland please contact the respective regulators - [Qualifications Wales](#), [CCEA](#) and the [Scottish Qualifications Authority \(SQA\)](#).

13. Useful links

1. [Report and data tables](#) accompanying this release
2. [Definitions](#) of important terms used in this release
3. [Policies and procedures](#) that Ofqual follows for production of statistical releases

14. Feedback

We welcome your feedback on our publications. Should you have any comments on this statistical release and how to improve it to meet your needs please contact us at data.analytics@ofqual.gov.uk.

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