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Official Statistics

Provisional November 2024 exam entries: GCSE English language and mathematics

Published 28 November 2024

Applies to England

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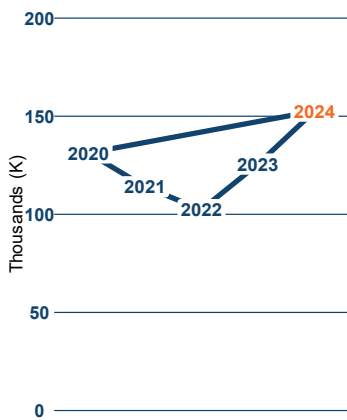
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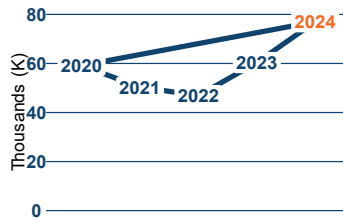
Provisional entries for GCSE: November 2024 exam series

152,610 total GCSE entries in English language and mathematics



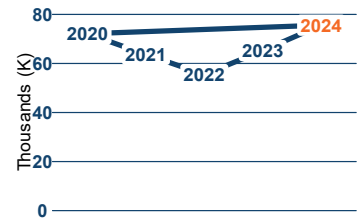
increased by 21% from the previous November series

77,005 GCSE English language entries



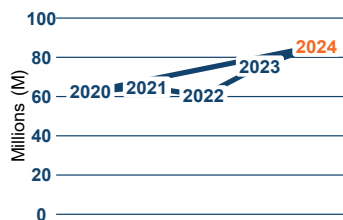
increased by 28% from the previous November series

75,605 GCSE Mathematics entries



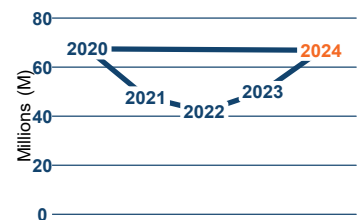
increased by 16% from the previous November series

85,725 entries by year 12 candidates



increased by 13% from the previous November series

66,880 entries by year 13 candidates



increased by 34% from the previous November series

Key headlines

- Total GCSE entries in November 2024 increased by 21%, from 125,615 in November 2023, to 152,610 in November 2024.
- GCSE English language entries in November 2024 increased by 28% from 60,365 in November 2023, to 77,005 in November 2024.
- GCSE mathematics entries in November 2024 increased by 16% from 65,250 in November 2023, to 75,605 in November 2024.
- Year 12 entries increased by 13% from 75,555 in November 2023 to 85,725 in November 2024.
- Year 13 entries increased by 34% from 50,035 in November 2023 to 66,880 in November 2024.

Provide your feedback

We welcome your feedback on our publications. If you have any comments on these statistical releases, or how to improve them to meet your needs, please [complete our short survey](#) or [email our statistics team](#).

Introduction

The provisional figures below show the number of entries for GCSE English language and mathematics for exams sat in November 2024. Schools and colleges submitted the data to awarding organisations by 25 October 2024.

The November series is usually restricted to students who were aged 16 and over by the end of the preceding August and this is the case from 2022 onwards and before the pandemic. However, there were alternative arrangements in 2020 and 2021, because of summer exams being cancelled due to the pandemic. This meant that any students, including younger students, who were entered in the summer and wished to do so could sit these exams.

The 2020 and 2021 November series were also open to students the awarding organisations believed had intended to enter in the summer but were unable to do so or who chose not to do so when exams were cancelled. [Further information about arrangements for the November series is available on the Ofqual website](#).

In addition to the different entry requirements, different grading policies were in place during and in the years immediately following the pandemic, before the return to pre-pandemic standards in summer 2023. For example, the policy for summer 2022 was for grading to be at a midpoint between summer 2021 and summer 2019. The differences in grading policies in the summer series will have impacted on the number of students entering for subsequent re-sits.

November GCSE entries over time

GCSE entries in November 2024 increased by 21%, from 125,615 in November 2023, to 152,610 in November 2024.

GCSE entries increased in November 2024 compared to November 2023

GCSE entries from November 2020 to November 2024

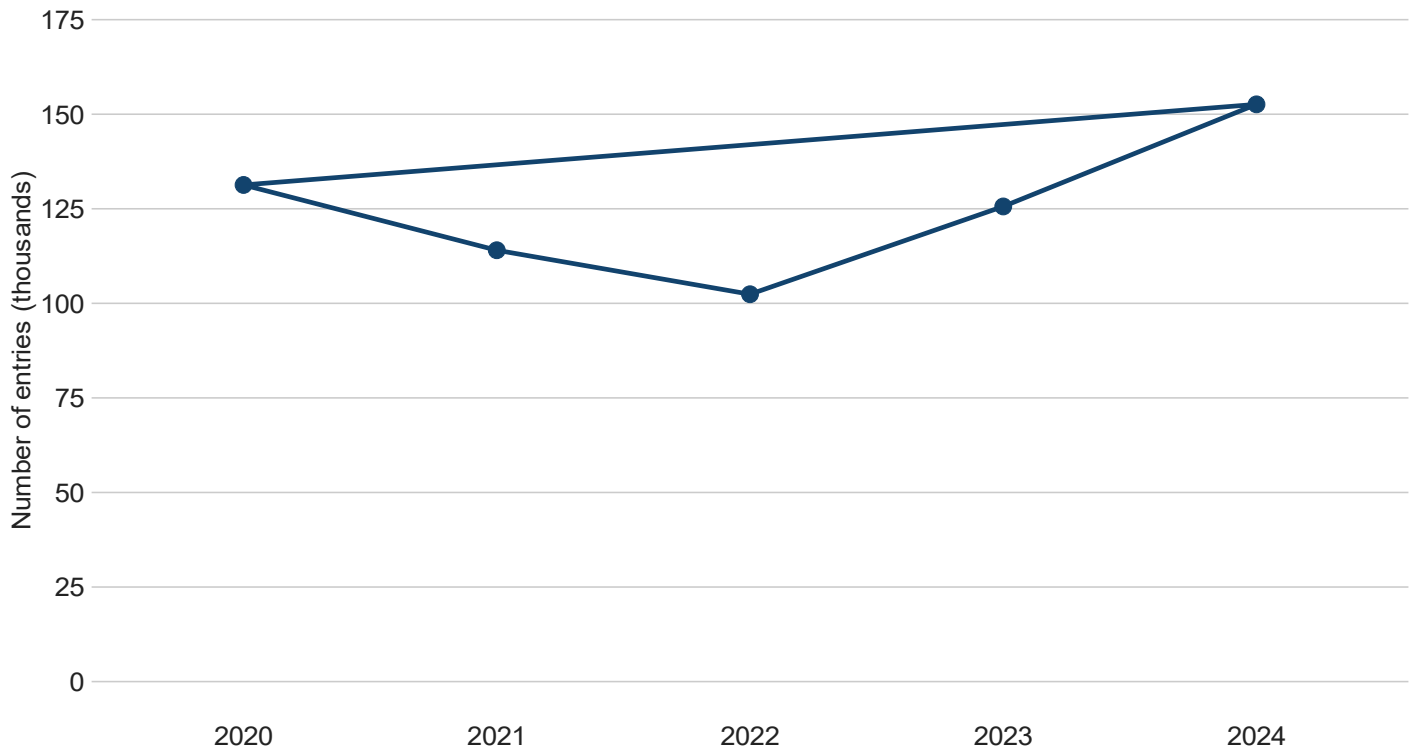


Table 1. GCSE entries from November 2020 to November 2024

Year	Total entries	Percentage change with previous year
2020	131,300	Not applicable
2021	114,040	-13%
2022	102,405	-10%
2023	125,615	23%
2024	152,610	21%

Variations in entries over recent years may reflect a number of factors such as:

- The alternative awarding arrangements for the [summer 2020](#) and [summer 2021](#)

series and changes in eligibility criteria for entry in November 2020 and November 2021 series

- the approach to grading in [summer 2022](#) (when results reflected a midpoint between summer 2021 and summer 2019)
- the return to pre-pandemic standards in [summer 2023] (<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/grading-exams-and-assessments-in-summer-2023-and-autumn-2022>)

The size of the 16-year-old cohort has also increased by 13.0% in 2024 compared with the past 5 years, from 624,590 16-year-olds in 2020 [according to ONS population estimates in 2019](#) to 706,006 16-year-olds in 2024 [according to ONS population estimates in 2023](#).

November GCSE entries by subject

GCSE English language entries in November 2024 increased by 28% from 60,365 in November 2023, to 77,005 in November 2024.

GCSE mathematics entries in November 2024 increased by 16% from 65,250 in November 2023, to 75,605 in November 2024.

GCSE entries increased in English language and mathematics in November 2024 compared to November 2023

GCSE English language and mathematics entries from November 2020 to November 2024

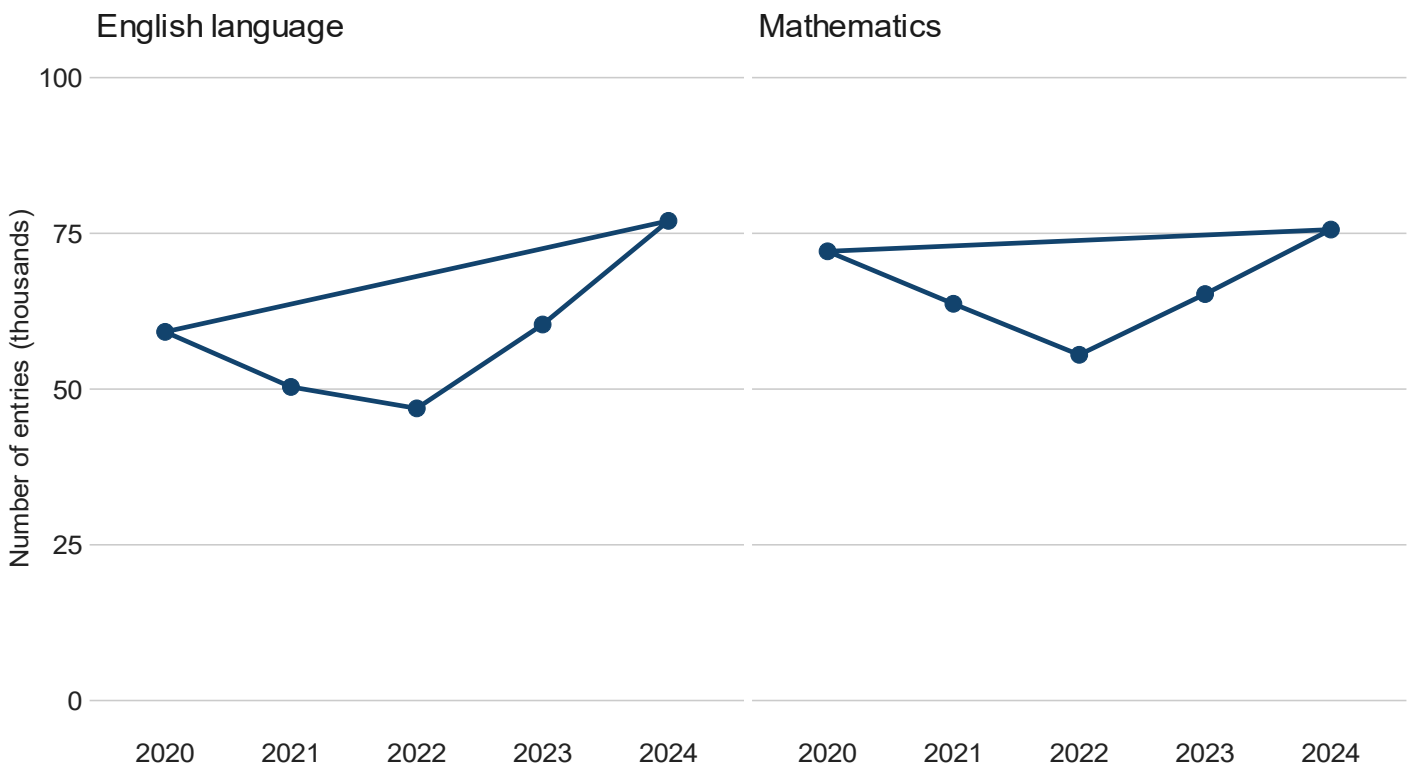


Table 2. GCSE English language and mathematics entries from November 2020 to November 2024

Year	Subject	Total entries	Percentage change with previous year
2020	English language	59,185	Not applicable
2021	English language	50,345	-15%
2022	English language	46,900	-7%
2023	English language	60,365	29%
2024	English language	77,005	28%

2020	Mathematics	72,115	Not applicable
2021	Mathematics	63,695	-12%
2022	Mathematics	55,500	-13%
2023	Mathematics	65,250	18%
2024	Mathematics	75,605	16%

November GCSE mathematics entries by tier

GCSE mathematics is a tiered qualification with foundation and higher tiers. The tier of entry determines the possible range of grades. The November entries followed a similar pattern to previous years with the majority (96%) of entries being for the foundation tier.

The majority of GCSE mathematics entries are for the foundation tier

GCSE mathematics entry by tier from November 2020 to November 2024

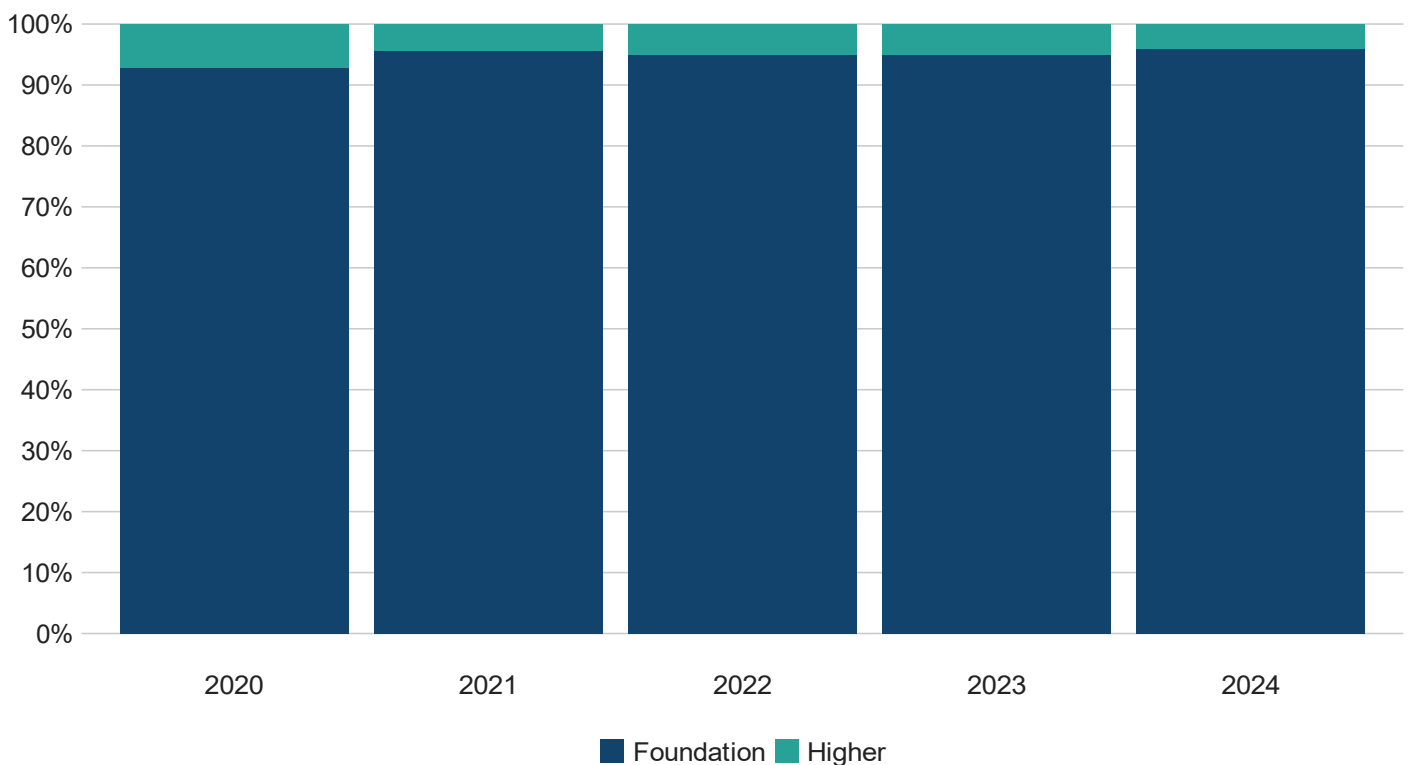


Table 3. GCSE mathematics entry by tier from November 2020 to November 2024

Exam series	Foundation tier entries	Higher tier entries	Percentage of foundation tier entries	Percentage of higher tier entries
November 2020	66,935	5,180	93%	7%
November 2021	60,910	2,785	96%	4%
November 2022	52,755	2,750	95%	5%
November 2023	61,955	3,295	95%	5%
November 2024	72,510	3,095	96%	4%

GCSE entries by year group

Year 12 entries increased by 13% from 75,555 in November 2023 to 85,725 in November 2024.

Year 13 and above entries increased by 34% from 50,035 in November 2023 to 66,880 in November 2024.

Year 11 and below entries were lower in November 2022, 2023 and 2024 than in November 2020 and 2021. This is a result of the entry arrangements for the November 2020 and 2021 series, following the alternative assessment arrangements that were in place in summer 2020 and 2021.

GCSE entries by candidates in year 12 and year 13 and above increased in November 2024 when compared to November 2023

GCSE entries by year group from November 2020 to November 2024

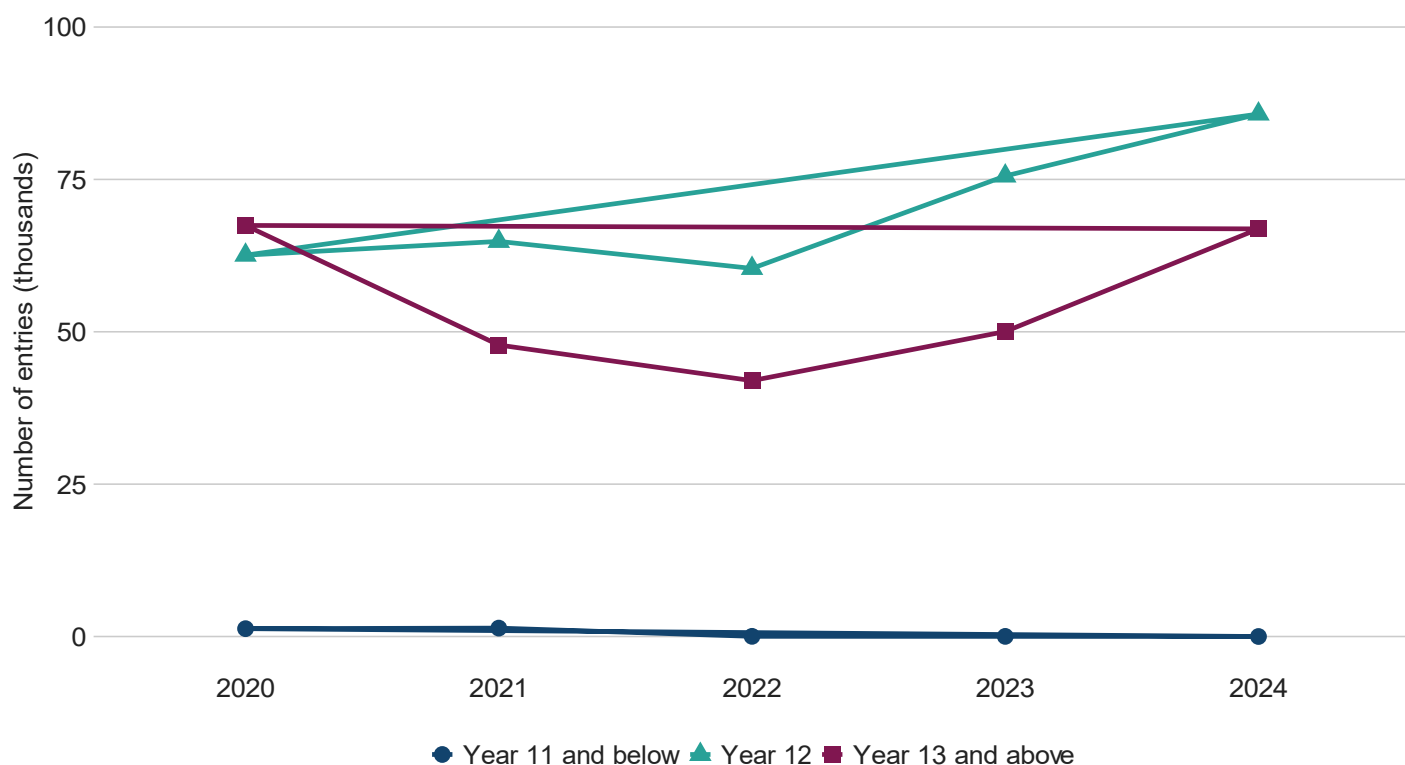


Table 4. GCSE entries by year group from November 2020 to November 2024

Year group	November 2020	November 2021	November 2022	November 2023	November 2024
Year 11 and below	1,285	1,380	30	25	Fewer than 5
Year 12	62,565	64,830	60,395	75,555	85,725
Year 13 and above	67,450	47,830	41,980	50,035	66,880
Total entry	131,300	114,040	102,405	125,615	152,610

English language entries in November 2024 increased by 18% for students in year 12 and increased by 44% for students in year 13 and above, when compared with November 2023.

Mathematics entries in November 2024 increased by 9% for students in year 12 and increased by 26% for students in year 13 and above, when compared with November 2023.

Table 5. GCSE English language and mathematics entries by year group in November 2023 and November 2024

Subject	Year group	November 2023	November 2024
English language	Year 11 and below	10	Fewer than 5
English language	Year 12	38,280	45,220
English language	Year 13 and above	22,075	31,785
Mathematics	Year 11 and below	10	Fewer than 5
Mathematics	Year 12	37,275	40,505
Mathematics	Year 13 and above	27,965	35,095

Background information

In this release, Ofqual presents data on the number of provisional entries for GCSE English language and mathematics received by awarding organisations for the November 2024 exam series. In England, GCSE English language and mathematics exams are routinely available in November. Since 2017, entry to the November series has been limited to students who were aged 16 or above on 31 August of the year of the November series. In 2020 and 2021, any students, including younger students, who were entered in the summer and wished to do so could sit the November exams. The 2020 and 2021 series were also open to students the awarding organisations believed had intended to enter in the summer but were unable to do so.

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. The figures presented here are the provisional figures as submitted by schools and colleges to awarding organisations by 25

October 2024.

In this release, all figures are rounded to the nearest 5 to ensure confidentiality of data.

Further information is available in the [detailed background information and data tables](#) accompanying this release.

Head of profession: Ben Cuff

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