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Official Statistics

Provisional November 2025 exam entries: GCSE English language and mathematics

Published 27 November 2025

Applies to England

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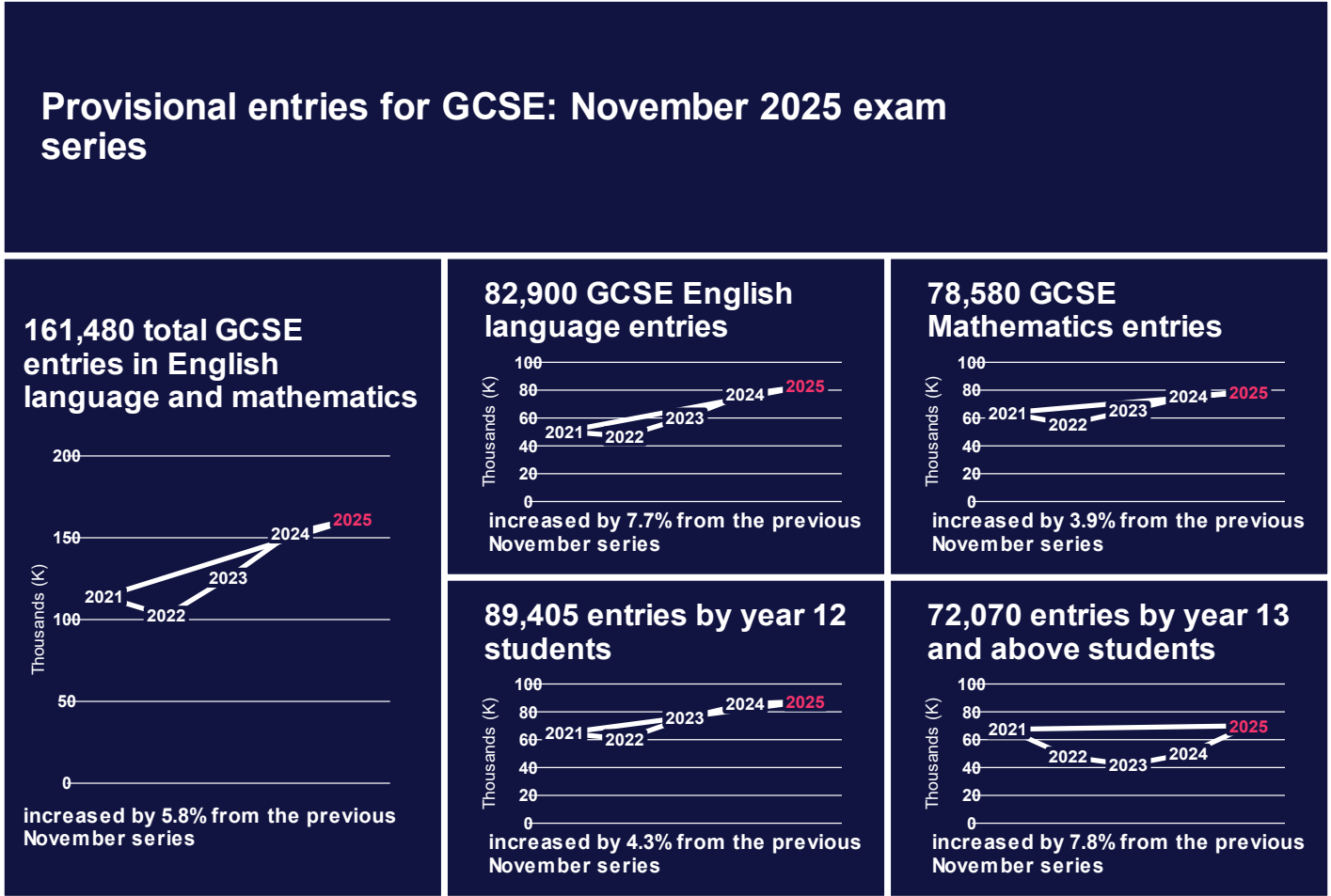
The provisional figures in this release show the number of entries for GCSE English language and mathematics for exams sat in November 2025 as submitted by schools and colleges to exam boards by 23 October 2025.

The November exam series is normally for students aged 16 or over by the end of the previous August, except in certain cases set out below. This applies before the pandemic and from 2022 onwards. In 2021, because summer exams were cancelled, any student entered for the summer, including younger ones, could sit the November exams.

The November 2021 series was also open to those students the exam boards 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 2021 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.

Key headlines



The key headlines regarding the provisional number of entries for the November 2025 series were:

- total GCSE entries in November 2025 increased by 5.8%, from 152,610 in November 2024 to 161,480 in November 2025.
- GCSE English language entries in November 2025 increased by 7.7% from 77,005 in November 2024, to 82,900 in November 2025.
- GCSE mathematics entries in November 2025 increased by 3.9% from 75,605 in November 2024, to 78,580 in November 2025.
- year 12 entries increased by 4.3% from 85,725 in November 2024 to 89,405 in November 2025.
- year 13 and above entries increased by 7.8% from 66,880 in November 2024 to 72,070 in November 2025.

Provide your feedback

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November GCSE entries over time

GCSE entries in November 2025 increased by 5.8%, from 152,610 in November 2024 to 161,480 in November 2025.

GCSE entries increased in November 2025 compared with November 2024

GCSE entries from November 2021 to November 2025

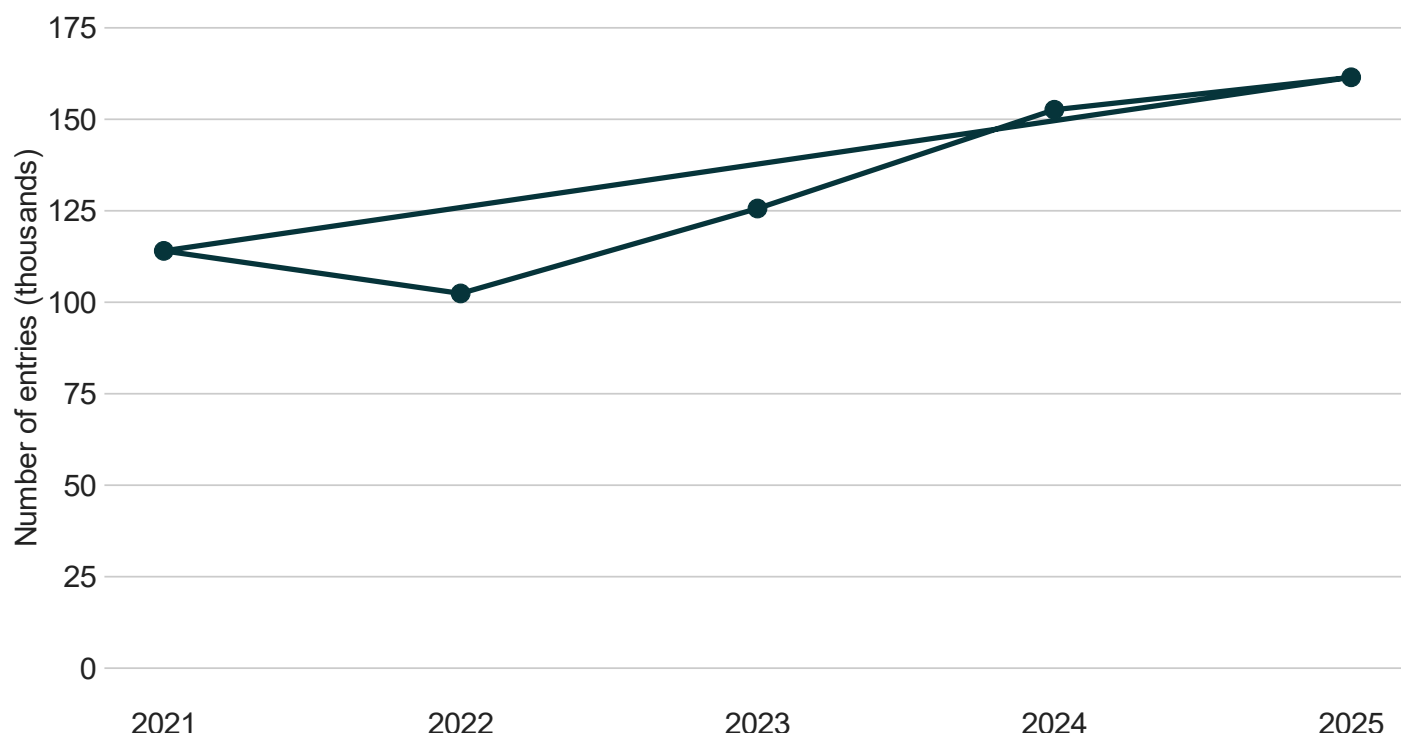


Table 1: GCSE entries from November 2021 to November 2025

Year	Total entries	Percentage change from previous year
2021	114,040	Not applicable
2022	102,405	-10.2%
2023	125,615	22.7%
2024	152,610	21.5%
2025	161,480	5.8%

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

- the alternative awarding arrangements for the [summer 2021](#) series and changes in eligibility criteria for entry in 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](#)

The size of the 16- and 17-year-old cohort (which represents the largest group of students entering for these exams) has also increased by 12.1% from 2021 to 2025 - from 1,274,650 in 2021 to 1,429,122 in 2025, [according to Office for National Statistics \(ONS\) population projections](#). For additional information on how these figures have been retrieved, see the ‘data sources’ section of the [background information](#) accompanying this release. For more information on how population projections are calculated, see [Office for National Statistics: Population projections](#).

November GCSE entries by subject

GCSE English language entries in November 2025 increased by 7.7%, from 77,005 in November 2024 to 82,900 in November 2025.

GCSE mathematics entries in November 2025 increased by 3.9%, from 75,605 in November 2024 to 78,580 in November 2025.

GCSE entries increased in English language and mathematics in November 2025 compared with November 2024

GCSE English language and mathematics entries from November 2021 to November 2025

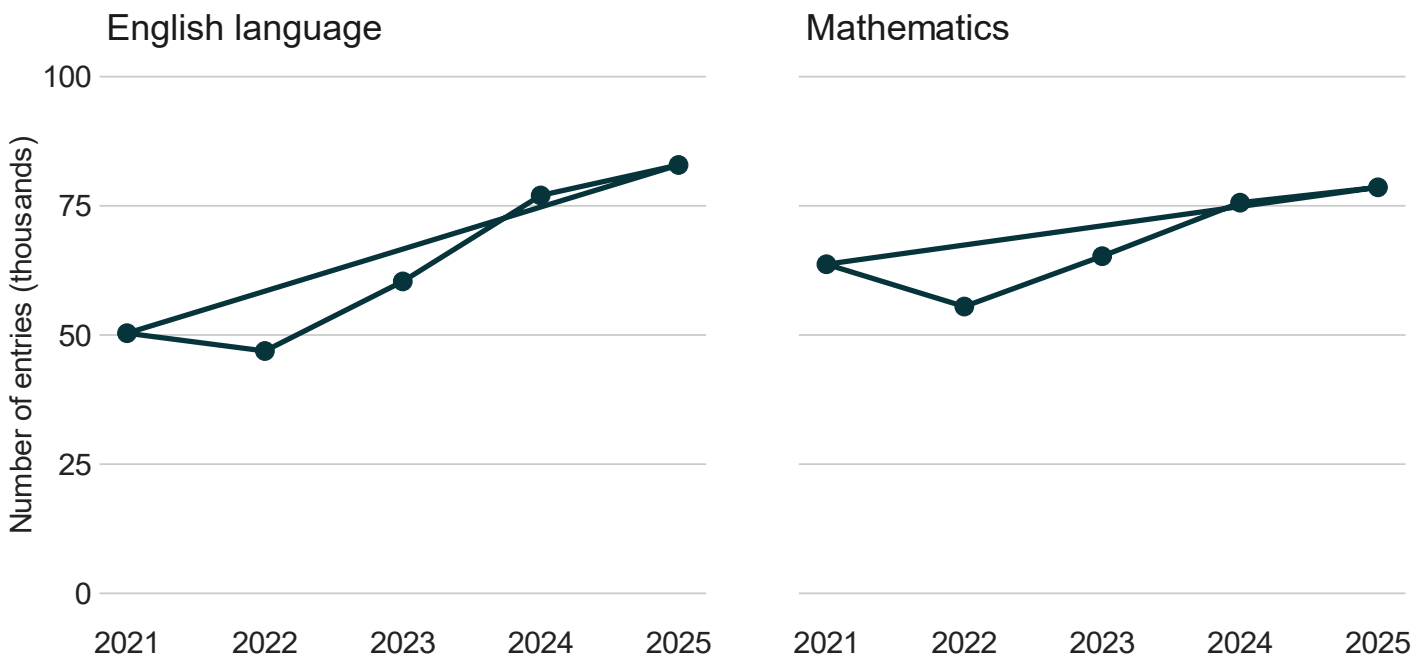


Table 2: GCSE English language and mathematics entries from November 2021 to November 2025

Year	Subject	Total	Percentage change from previous
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		entries	year
2021	English language	50,345	Not applicable
2022	English language	46,900	-6.8%
2023	English language	60,365	28.7%
2024	English language	77,005	27.6%
2025	English language	82,900	7.7%
2021	Mathematics	63,695	Not applicable
2022	Mathematics	55,500	-12.9%
2023	Mathematics	65,250	17.6%
2024	Mathematics	75,605	15.9%
2025	Mathematics	78,580	3.9%

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. Grades 5 to 1 are available on the foundation tier. Grades 9 to 4 are available on the higher; students who narrowly miss a grade 4 on the higher tier are awarded a grade 3. The November entries followed a similar pattern to previous years with the majority (95.5%) 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 2021 to November 2025

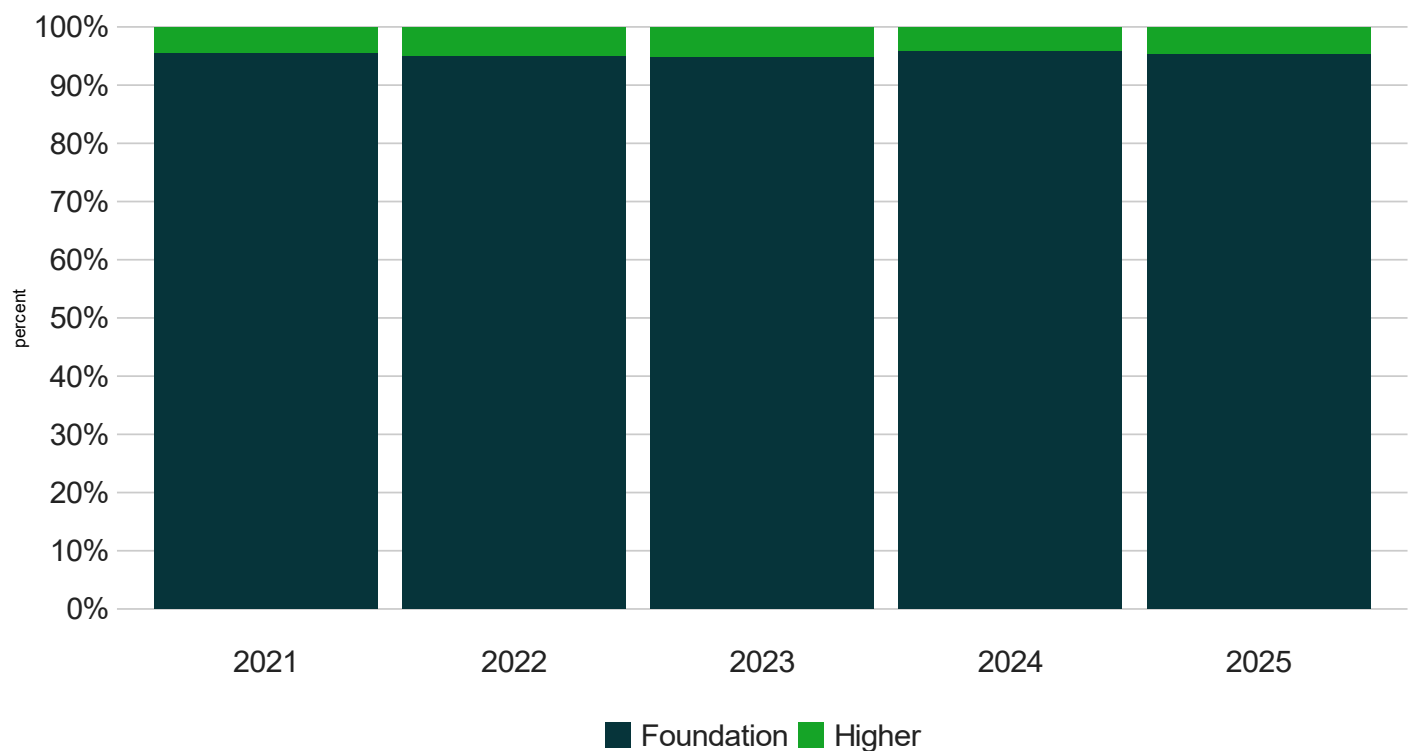


Table 3: GCSE mathematics entry by tier from November 2021 to November 2025

Exam series	Foundation tier entries	Higher tier entries	Percentage of foundation tier entries	Percentage of higher tier entries
November 2021	60,910	2,785	95.6%	4.4%
November 2022	52,755	2,750	95.0%	5.0%
November 2023	61,955	3,295	94.9%	5.1%
November 2024	72,510	3,095	95.9%	4.1%
November 2025	75,045	3,535	95.5%	4.5%

GCSE entries by year group

Year 12 entries increased by 4.3% from 85,725 in November 2024 to 89,405 in November 2025.

Year 13 and above entries increased by 7.8% from 66,880 in November 2024 to 72,070 in November 2025.

Year 11 and below entries were lower in November 2022 to November 2025 compared with November 2021. This is a result of the entry arrangements for the November 2021 series, following the alternative assessment arrangements that were in place in summer 2021.

GCSE entries by students in year 12 and year 13 and above increased in November 2025 when compared with November 2024

GCSE entries by year group from November 2021 to November 2025

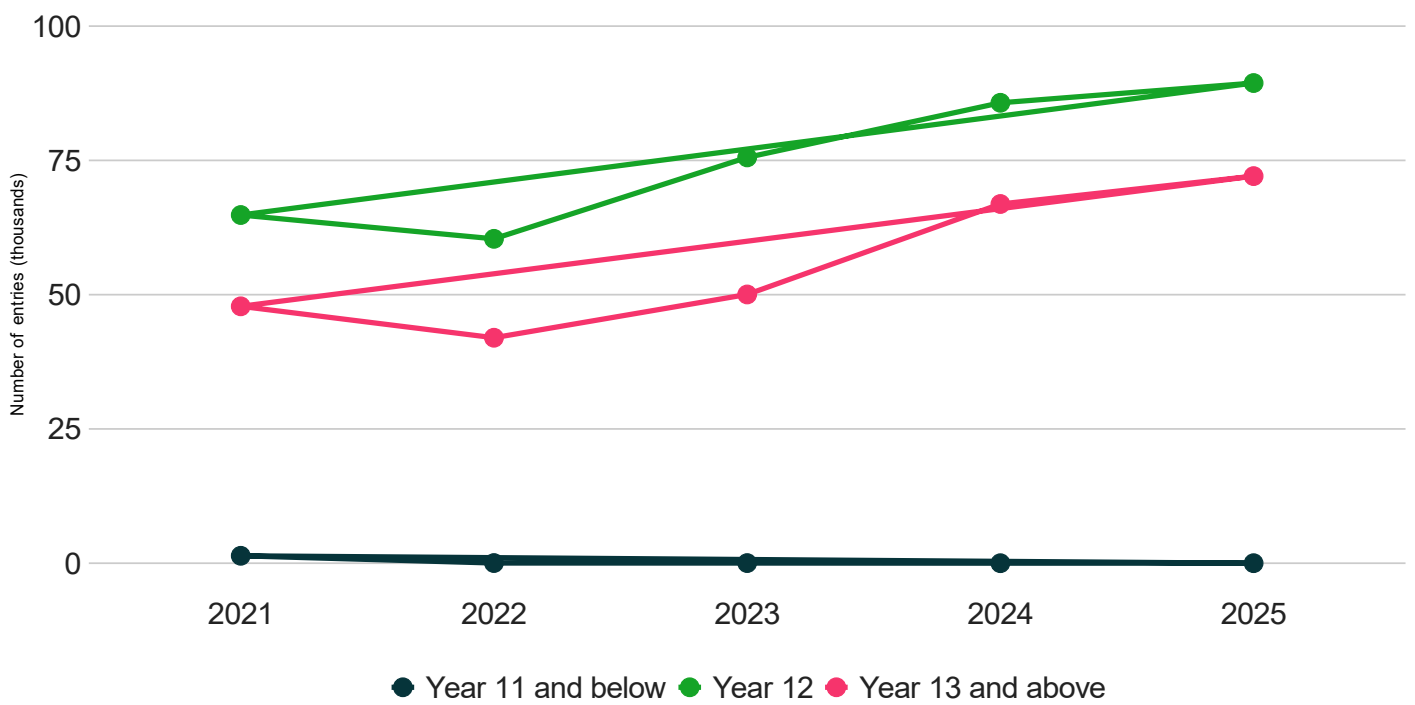


Table 4: GCSE entries by year group from November 2021 to November 2025

Year group	November 2021	November 2022	November 2023	November 2024	November 2025
Year 11 and	1,380	30	25	Fewer than	5

below	5				
Year 12	64,830	60,395	75,555	85,725	89,405
Year 13 and above	47,830	41,980	50,035	66,880	72,070
Total entry	114,040	102,405	125,615	152,610	161,480

English language entries in November 2025 increased by 5.6% for students in year 12 and increased by 10.6% for students in year 13 and above, when compared with November 2024.

Mathematics entries in November 2025 increased by 2.9% for students in year 12 and increased by 5.2% for students in year 13 and above, when compared with November 2024.

Table 5: GCSE English language and mathematics entries by year group in November 2024 and November 2025

Subject	Year group	November 2024	November 2025
English language	Year 11 and below	Fewer than 5	Fewer than 5
English language	Year 12	45,220	47,735
English language	Year 13 and above	31,785	35,165
Mathematics	Year 11 and below	Fewer than 5	Fewer than 5
Mathematics	Year 12	40,505	41,670
Mathematics	Year 13 and above	35,095	36,905

Contextual information

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. Note that entries from students younger than 16 are allowed for disabled students as a reasonable adjustment under certain circumstances. In 2021, any students, including younger students, who were entered in the summer and wished to do so could sit the November exams. The 2021 series was also open to students the exam boards believed had intended to enter in the summer but were unable to do so.

The figures for entries can change daily until the exam date. 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 exam boards by 23 October 2025.

To ensure confidentiality, the entry data in this report has been rounded in line with [Ofqual's rounding policy](#).

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

Head of profession: Ben Cuff

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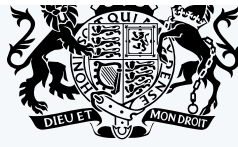
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