



Joint Council for  
Qualifications<sup>CIC</sup>

# **Notes for users of the JCQ results tables**

GCSE November 2022 Series

## GCSE November 2022: Notes for users of the JCQ results tables

These notes put the results in context and explain some year-on-year changes in reporting and outcomes. The notes should be read before consulting the results tables.

The notes do not, however, attempt to outline the detail of every change that may influence results or entries in some way. The relevant government and regulatory websites give a more extensive overview of the approach to examinations.

### Regulator links

#### England

<https://gov.uk/government/organisations/ofqual>

#### Wales

<https://qualificationswales.org/english/>

<https://qualificationswales.org/cymraeg/>

### Education Department links

#### England

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/departments-for-education>

#### Wales

<http://gov.wales/topics/educationandskills/?lang=en>

## England

GCSE English Language and Mathematics are routinely available for assessment in an annual November exam series. The November series is usually restricted to students aged at least 16 by the end of the preceding August. Alternative arrangements were in place for November 2020 and 2021 when the series was open to any student the Exam Boards believe had intended to enter in the summer but were unable to do so or chose not to do so when exams were cancelled. The cancellation of summer exams likely impacted entries in November 2020 and 2021.

As the November series is typically a resit series, Exam Boards were asked to align standards in subjects with summer 2022 (when grading aimed to reflect a midpoint between summer 2019 and summer 2021). However, this does not mean that the cumulative percentage outcomes at each grade will be in line with those in summer 2022, as the cohort of students in November is very different from those in summer.

Advance Information, or exam aids available in the summer series, were also provided for students sitting exams in the November series. The Advance Information for November 2022 differed from the summer series. It related specifically to the content of the November resit exams. It provided Information about the focus of some of the content included in the November exam papers to help students manage their exam preparation.

In England, students who do not achieve a GCSE grade 4 in English Language and/or Mathematics at age 16 must continue studying these subjects. This is a condition of 16-19 funding.

All GCSE specifications are graded 9 to 1.

## Wales

GCSE English Language, Mathematics, Mathematics-Numeracy and Welsh Language are routinely available for assessment in an annual November exam series. Although summer exams were cancelled in 2020 and 2021, the November exam series went ahead in both years. The cancellation of summer exams likely impacted entries in November 2020 and 2021.

In Wales, entry to the November series is not restricted, and therefore, there is a high proportion of 16-year-old students who enter for these qualifications as well as those re-sitting. For this reason, the approach to the November 2022 series was similar to the planned approach for the summer 2023 series. The standard set in both series will represent a point broadly midway between the summer 2019 and 2022 series.

Advance Information was available for students sitting exams in the November series. This was released in summer 2022.

GCSEs in Wales are graded A\* to G. A few non-maintained centres may offer 9-to-1 specifications.

## Interpreting the tables (England and Wales)

Comparisons of outcomes in November 2022 to any other series are complicated by changing entry patterns and different assessment arrangements over the last few years due to the pandemic. Therefore it is not possible to make meaningful comparisons between results this year and previous examination series.

A set of key tables has been made available in a machine-readable format allowing an overview of results from November 2019, 2021, and 2022. An additional set of results tables comparing 2022 results to 2019 has also been made available.

The JCQ tables calculate ages as of August 2023. Post-16 tables include all students in the age group and are not limited to those enrolled on 16-19 full-time study programs.

## Data Suppression

To protect candidate anonymity, data suppression (indicated by 0~) is applied to the results tables when the combined number of male and female students that entered a subject is fewer than 10.

## Limitations

JCQ conducts quality assurance checks to ensure that the data received is accurate to the best of our knowledge.

The results tables are provisional, and results are updated after this point to include changes such as reviews of marking. Whilst provisional, we do not anticipate significant changes to outcomes to occur.