



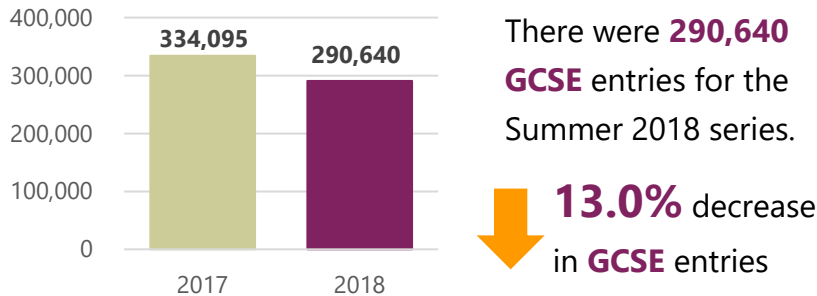
Provisional Summer 2018 exam entries for Wales:

GCSEs, AS, A levels, Skills Challenge Certificate, and Level 1/Level 2 certificates

Highlights, Summer Series 2018

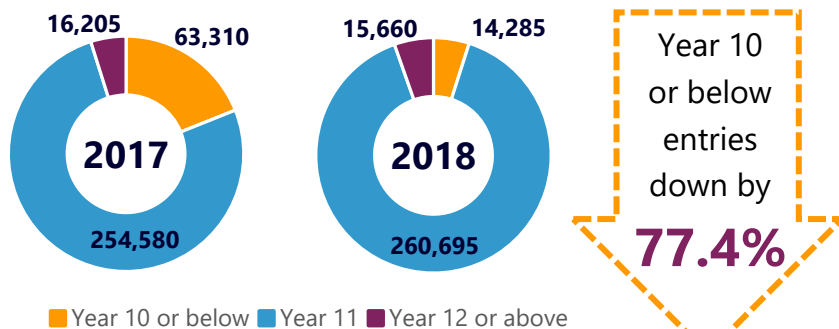
24 May 2018

Summer GCSE entries



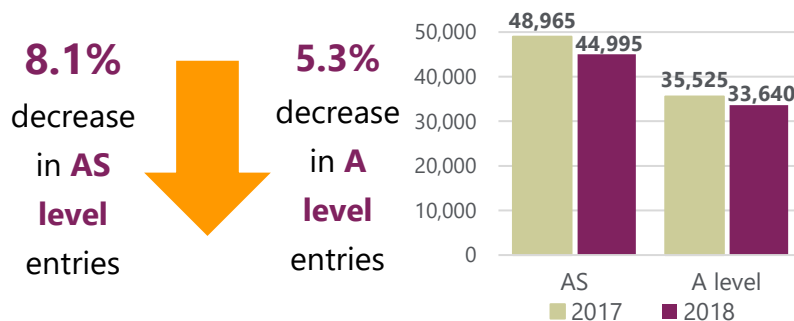
Source: Awarding bodies as at 17th April 2018, Qualifications Wales; 2017 - Ofqual

Summer GCSE entries by year group



Source: Awarding bodies as at 17th April 2018, Qualifications Wales; 2017 - Ofqual

Summer AS and A level entries



Source: Awarding bodies as at 17th April 2018, Qualifications Wales; 2017 - Ofqual

About this release

This statistical release provides information on the provisional number of exam entries in Wales for the summer 2018 series. The release covers GCSE, AS, A level, Level 1/2 certificates and Skills Challenge Certificate entries for centres in Wales. The data was submitted to us by awarding bodies by 18th April ahead of the summer 2018 series.

These statistics have been published under voluntary compliance with the UKSA code of practice. A statement of voluntary compliance has been published alongside this release.

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INTRODUCTION

Qualifications Wales is the regulator of qualifications, other than degrees, and the qualifications system in Wales.

From academic year 2017/18, we will collect and report on data for Wales for general qualifications. Before the 2017/18 academic year, data for Wales was collected and published by Ofqual, the qualifications regulator in England. Comparisons made in this release are based on data collected and published by Ofqual for summer 2017.

In this release, we present data on the number of entries for GCSEs, AS and A levels, Level 1 and Level 2 Certificates and Skills Challenge Certificate in Wales for the summer 2018 exam series. The figures represent the number of qualification entries, rounded to the nearest 5, submitted by awarding bodies by the 18th April 2018, reflecting the position at 17th April 2018. The figures for entries can change daily up to the day of the exams. Individual students would usually have more than one qualification entry across subjects.

EXTERNAL INFLUENCES

There are a number of factors that can influence why entries for year groups might change over time, for example changes to:

- Population size;
- entry behaviour e.g. when learners are entered for their GCSEs;
- the number of qualifications of each type being taken on average;
- the types of qualifications being taken in post-16.

As this release is based on counts of entries at qualification level it is not possible for us to quantify the impact of such factors. We have commented on factors influencing changes in entries only where we are confident that these factors are likely to be associated with a change.

Qualification reforms

Following the Welsh Government's review of qualifications for 14-19-year-olds¹ in 2012, a new set of reformed qualifications for GCSEs, AS, and A levels have been introduced in Wales. These reformed qualifications have been designed specifically to meet the needs of learners in Wales.

The reformed qualifications were introduced for first teaching in three phases. Phase 1 qualifications were taught from September 2015, Phase 2 from September 2016 and Phase 3 from September 2017. Information about these changes, and a list of the subjects included in each phase can be found on our website².

In parallel to the reforms in Wales, new GCSEs, AS and A levels were also introduced for England. In some low take-up subjects, reformed qualifications have been developed for England, but not for Wales. Where this is the case, the qualifications reformed for England can be offered as part of publicly funded courses in Wales.

GCSE, AS and A level qualifications reformed for Wales and for England remain comparable, they are the same size and are accessible to the same range of learners. There are, however, some key design differences between them. GCSE qualifications reformed for Wales continue to be graded A*-G, whereas GCSEs reformed for England have moved to a 9-1 grading system. Results from AS qualifications reformed for Wales contribute 40 per cent towards an A level grade. Results for AS qualifications no longer count towards the new A levels designed for England.

In this release the terms "reformed GCSEs", "reformed AS levels", and "reformed A levels", refer to the new qualifications designed specifically for Wales, unless otherwise stated.

In subjects where GCSEs, AS and A levels have been reformed for Wales, qualifications designed for England are not available for use in Wales on publicly funded courses. There are two main scenarios in which GCSEs, AS and A levels reformed for England could be taken by learners in Wales:

¹ Welsh Government (2014) Review of Qualifications 14-19. [online]. Available from: <http://gov.wales/docs/dcells/publications/150225-successful-futures-en.pdf> [Accessed 17 May 2018].

² <http://qualificationswales.org/english/qualifications/gcses-and-a-levels/gq-reform/what-subjects-are-available/>

- GCSEs, AS and A levels offered in subjects that have not been reformed specifically for Wales are designated as eligible for use on publicly funded learning programmes.
- Where provision is not publicly funded, such as in independent schools, centres may choose to enter learners for qualifications that have been reformed for England even though there is a Welsh reformed equivalent qualification.

Performance measures

Recent changes to performance measures may still be impacting on the number of entries for GCSEs this summer. From 2017, a maximum of two non-GCSE qualifications counted towards all threshold-based measures published by the Welsh Government. Additionally, GCSE English Literature and GCSE Welsh Literature qualifications no longer count towards the literacy elements of the level 2 inclusive or the capped 9 points score. In 2018, Welsh Government will introduce a further change to Key Stage 4 performance measures with only GCSE Science qualifications counting towards the Science element of the capped 9 points score. Previously vocational science qualifications have been allowed to count³.

In October 2017 changes were announced to how Welsh Government calculates performance measures. From summer 2019, only a pupil's first entry to a GCSE exam will count towards school performance measures. Previously the best grade achieved counted. This means that grades achieved during the 2017/18 school year by year 10 pupils or younger could be counted towards performance measures. This is likely to impact on the number of entries reported in this release particularly for pupils in year 10 or below.

Welsh Baccalaureate (Welsh Bacc)

A new Welsh Bacc was introduced for first teaching from September 2015. The reformed Welsh Bacc includes the Skills Challenge Certificate. The Welsh Government has set targets for schools and FE Colleges to gradually increase the proportion of students taking the Welsh Bacc, with the aim that by 2019/20 the vast majority of learners in Wales will be taking it as part of their programme of study. Entries for the Skills Challenge Certificate are included in the statistics in this publication.

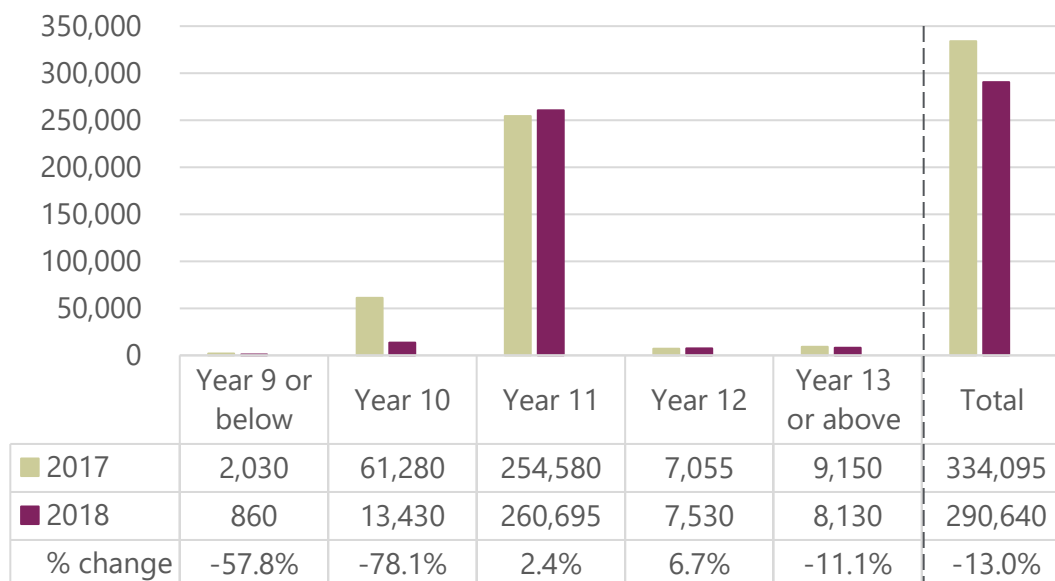
³ Further information on changes to performance measures in Wales can be found at: <https://digitalanddata.blog.gov.wales/2017/12/06/chief-statisticians-update-understanding-changes-to-education-data/>

STATISTICS

GCSE ENTRIES

HOW DO SUMMER GCSE ENTRIES COMPARE TO LAST YEAR?

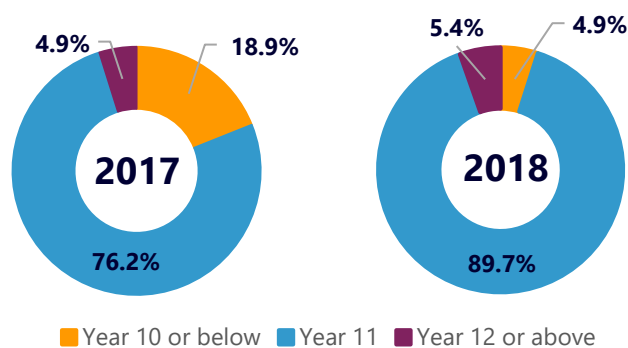
Figure 1: GCSE total entries by year group, summer 2018 compared to summer 2017



Source: Awarding bodies as at 17th April 2018, Qualifications Wales; 2017 - Ofqual

- There were 290,640 GCSE entries for summer 2018. This is down by 13.0 per cent compared to GCSE entries for summer 2017.
- All year groups other than Year 11 and Year 12 saw a decrease this summer.
- Year 10 and Year 9 or below were the year groups with the largest proportional decrease in GCSE entries this summer compared to last year. These decreases were the main driver for the overall decrease in GCSE summer entries this year.
- The decreases in Year 10 or below are likely to be a consequence of the Welsh Government announcement made in October 2017 (see [performance measures](#)). The announcement means that first grades achieved during the 2017/18 school year by Year 10 pupils or younger could be counted towards performance measures.
- Year 11 entries increased by 2.4 per cent compared to last summer. This is likely to be due to the change in structure and hence entry patterns for the reformed science qualifications.

Figure 2: GCSE year group comparisons, summer 2018 compared to summer 2017



Source: Awarding bodies as at 17th April 2018, Qualifications Wales; 2017 - Ofqual

- Year 11 entries made up the majority of all GCSE entries for summer 2018 with 89.7 per cent of entries from Year 11 learners. This proportion has increased compared to 76.2 per cent last summer.
- Year 10 or below entries contributed to 5.4 per cent of all GCSE entries this summer; this compares to 18.9 per cent of entries last summer.
- Year 12 or above entries made up a slightly larger proportion of overall GCSE entries this year (5.4 per cent) compared to last summer (4.9 per cent).

REFORMED GCSES

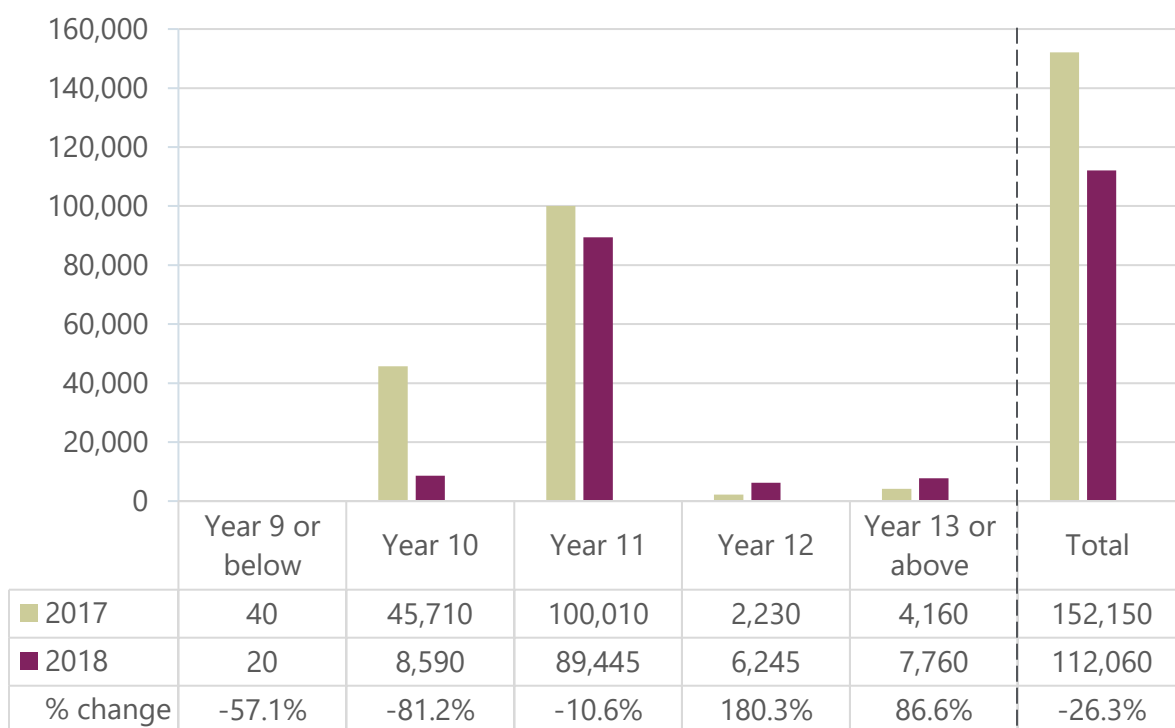
There are two phases of reformed GCSEs approved for use in Wales being awarded this summer.

209,445 (72.1 per cent) of the total summer 2018 entries were for these reformed qualifications. The remainder of the GCSE entries this summer were for legacy qualifications (which may include resits), unreformed subjects or qualifications reformed for use primarily in England (see [qualification reforms](#)).

PHASE 1 REFORM

Phase 1 GCSE entries accounted for 38.6 per cent of total GCSE entries for summer 2018. These qualifications were also awarded in summer 2017.

Figure 3 : Wales approved phase 1 reformed GCSE entries by year group, summer 2018 compared to summer 2017



Source: Awarding bodies as at 17th April 2018, Qualifications Wales; 2017 - Ofqual

Total entries for Wales phase 1 reformed GCSEs fell by 26.3 per cent from 152,150 entries in summer 2017 to 112,060 entries in summer 2018. There were varying increases and decreases across year groups in 2018.

Year 10 entries saw the largest decrease this summer, with an 81.2 per cent decrease from 45,710 entries in summer 2017 to 8,590 entries in summer 2018. This is likely to be as a result of the Welsh Government announcement made in October 2017 (see [performance measures](#)). This year group is the main driver for the overall entry decrease for phase 1 reformed subjects.

Year 11 entries fell by 10.6 per cent this summer compared to summer 2017. This could be as a result of some Year 11 students entering these qualifications early in summer 2017 or November 2017 and not resitting this summer.

Year 12 entries saw an increase of 4,015 entries in summer 2018 compared to summer 2017. This increase is driven by a rise in entries for English Language, Mathematics and Mathematics – Numeracy, many of which are likely to be resits. Learners had the

opportunity to resit these qualifications in November 2017, however, for these linear subjects, all units must be re-taken within the same series when doing so, which may have meant more learners waiting until the summer to resit the qualification. Year 13 and above also had a large increase of 3,605 entries this summer compared to last summer.

Table 1 : Wales approved phase 1 reformed GCSE entries by subject, summer 2018 compared to summer 2017

Subject	2017	2018	Percentage difference
English	55,385	27,475	-50.4% ↓
English Literature	16,510	23,835	+44.3% ↑
Mathematics	37,325	29,565	-20.8% ↓
Mathematics - Numeracy	33,170	23,000	-30.7% ↓
Welsh Literature	3,330	3,325	-0.0% ↓
Welsh: First Language	6,430	4,865	-24.3% ↓
Total	152,150	112,060	-26.3% ↓

Source: Awarding bodies as at 17th April 2018, Qualifications Wales; 2017 - Ofqual

Table 1 shows the Wales approved phase 1 reformed GCSE entries by subject for summer 2018 and summer 2017. There were large decreases across all subjects compared to summer 2017, with the exception of English Literature, which increased by 44.3 per cent and Welsh Literature, which decreased slightly.

There were 4,865 entries for Welsh: First Language this summer, which is a 24.3 per cent fall compared to summer 2017. There were decreases across all year groups but the largest proportional fall was for Year 10 learners of 76.4 per cent (see table 6 in the corresponding excel data tables). These changes for Year 10 and below learners are likely to be as a result of Welsh Government’s announcement that the first grades achieved by Year 10 pupils or younger from the 2017/18 academic year, will count towards school performance measures rather than the best grade achieved (which was the case in previous years).

Further analysis for English, English Literature, Mathematics and Mathematics – Numeracy is included in the [larger entry GCSE subject breakdown](#) below (although phase 1 reform entries made up all or the majority of these total entries).

PHASE 2 REFORM

Table 2: Wales approved phase 2 reformed GCSE entries by year group and subject, summer 2018⁴

Subject	Year 9 or below	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12	Year 13 or above	Total
Art and Design	*	100	7,525	60	50	7,740
Biology	0	20	6,870	60	110	7,065
Chemistry	0	10	6,745	45	20	6,825
Drama	*	55	2,225	10	*	2,300
Food and Nutrition	0	35	1,905	15	*	1,960
French	15	15	3,480	10	*	3,525
Geography	0	25	7,265	30	*	7,320
German	*	10	735	*	0	755
Music	*	15	2,110	15	*	2,145
Physical Education	0	40	6,725	25	*	6,790
Physics	0	10	6,740	40	10	6,795
Applied Science Single Award	0	10	455	15	30	510
Science: Double Award	0	5	42,330	210	5	42,555
Spanish	15	25	1,045	10	5	1,100
Total	45	385	96,160	550	245	97,385

Source: Awarding bodies as at 17th April 2018, Qualifications Wales

Table 2 shows entries for Wales phase 2 reformed GCSEs in summer 2018, which is the first time that learners have the opportunity to achieve a grade in these qualifications⁵. There were 97,385 entries for these qualifications in summer 2018, which account for 33.5 per cent of total GCSE entries. The majority of these entries (98.7 per cent) were from Year 11 learners. Year 12 and Year 13 and above entries are low because this is the first time these qualifications have been awarded and therefore there are no learners resitting. Year 9 and Year 10 entries may be low as a result of the Welsh Government announcement made in October 2017 (see [performance measures](#)).

All science subjects have been reformed for Wales in this second phase. Learners can enter single sciences (Chemistry, Physics, Biology), Science: Double Award (includes Double Applied Science) or Science (reformed Single Applied Science). Science: Double Award replaces the two separate legacy GCSEs, Science and Additional Science. These changes coincide with the Welsh Government announcement for the 2018 series that two Science GCSEs will count towards performance measures and vocational science

⁴ Science: Double Award includes Science (Double Award) and Applied Science (Double Award).

⁵ However, some GCSEs are unitised and learners may have completed one or more units before entering the qualification as a whole this summer.

qualifications will no longer count. Entries into Science: Double Award qualifications are counted as two entries in this release. This is because the qualification size of the reformed qualifications is equivalent to two GCSEs. The approach is also consistent with how entry data for the reformed GCSEs within the 'Science: Double Award' subject group will be reported elsewhere.

GCSE SUMMER TOTAL ENTRIES BY SUBJECT

Table 3: GCSE total entries by subject, summer 2018 compared to summer 2017⁶

GCSE Subject	2017	2018	% change	
Additional Science	16,460	0	-	
Additional Science (Further)	390	0	-	
Art and Design subjects	8,290	7,905	-5%	↓
Biology	6,540	7,275	+11%	↑
Business & Comm. Systems	290	135	-53%	↓
Business Studies	3,580	3,730	+4%	↑
Chemistry	6,405	7,030	+10%	↑
Citizenship Studies	85	35	-57%	↓
Classical subjects	130	160	+22%	↑
Computing	1,825	1,885	+3%	↑
Construction	0	0	-	
Design & Technology	7,000	5,800	-17%	↓
Drama	2,200	2,390	+9%	↑
Economics	65	80	+21%	↑
Engineering	290	190	-35%	↓
English	59,045	27,890	-53%	↓
English Literature	16,780	24,125	+44%	↑
Food Preparation & Nutrition	N/A	1,975	N/A	
French	3,845	3,645	-5%	↓
Geography	8,125	7,535	-7%	↓
German	830	825	-0%	↓
Health & Social Care	1,305	1,445	+11%	↑
History	9,735	9,090	-7%	↓
Home Economics	2,315	1,690	-27%	↓
Hospitality	255	295	+17%	↑
Humanities	180	0	-100%	↓
ICT	6,885	6,370	-7%	↓
Irish	0	0	-	
Leisure & Tourism	315	265	-15%	↓
Manufacturing	0	0	-	
Mathematics	42,230	29,970	-29%	↓
Mathematics: Numeracy	33,170	23,000	-31%	↓
Mathematics (Additional)	0	0	-	
Media / Film / TV Studies	1,855	1,690	-9%	↓
Music	2,440	2,240	-8%	↓
Performing / Expressive Arts	585	25	-96%	↓
Physical Education	7,395	7,325	-1%	↓
Physics	6,380	6,995	+10%	↑
Prep. For Life and Work	30	0	-100%	↓
Religious Studies	29,865	20,940	-30%	↓
Science	5,275	510	-90%	↓
Science: Double Award	0	42,740	-	
Social Science subjects	2,275	1,745	-23%	↓
Spanish	1,580	1,205	-24%	↓
Statistics	250	195	-22%	↓
Welsh Literature	3,330	3,325	-0%	↓
Welsh: First Language	6,455	4,865	-25%	↓
Welsh: Second Language	25,165	21,080	-16%	↓
Other Modern Languages	650	680	+4%	↑
Other Sciences	470	330	-30%	↓
Other Technology	20	5	-61%	↓
All Other subjects	1,510	*	-100%	↓
Total	334,095	290,640	-13%	↓

Source: Awarding bodies as at 17th April 2018, Qualifications Wales; 2017 - Ofqual

⁶ N/A is used where there is no JCQ subject grouping available. Food preparation and nutrition was available for the first time this year.

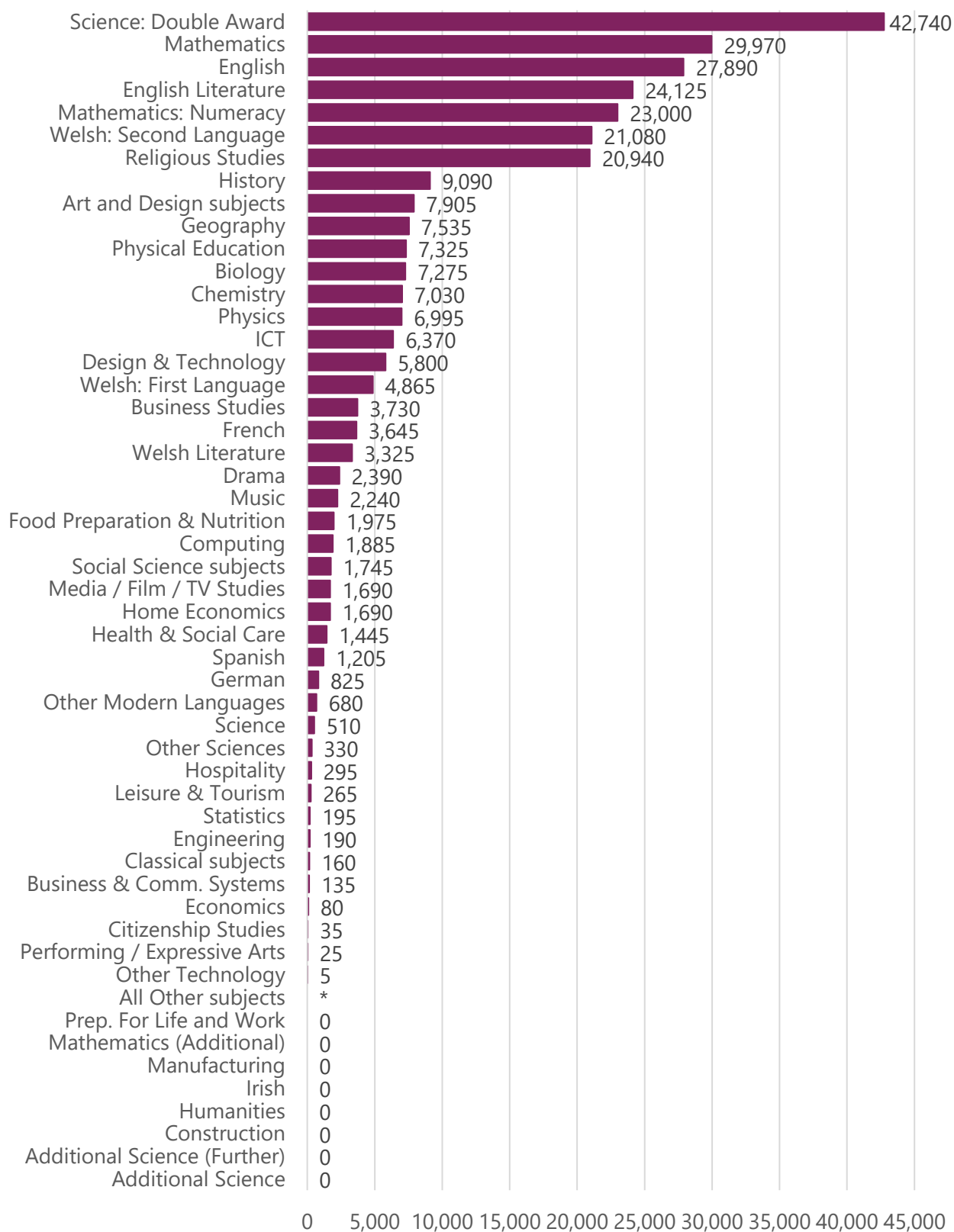
Table 3 compares total summer GCSE entries for 2018 and 2017 by subject. These include legacy GCSEs, reformed GCSEs for Wales and reformed GCSEs for England. Only entries for 12 subjects increased when compared to last summer with English Literature having the largest proportional increase of 44 per cent.

The entries for Science and Additional Science have fallen in 2018 due to these legacy Science GCSEs no longer being available to learners.

In 2018, there were 42,740 entries into Science: Double Award, with entries being counted twice. Entries into Biology, Chemistry and Physics are larger in 2018 than they were in 2017. These changes coincide with Welsh Government's announcement that two Science GCSEs count towards their performance measures (see [performance measures](#)).

Entries for Welsh: Second Language have fallen by 16 per cent to 21,080 entries for summer 2018. This decrease was driven by a fall in entries from candidates in Year 9 or below and Year 10. This could be as a result of learners' first grades achieved counting towards performance measures from the 2017/18 academic year onwards.

Figure 4: Summer 2018 GCSE total entries broken down by subject



Source: Awarding bodies as at 17th April 2018, Qualifications Wales

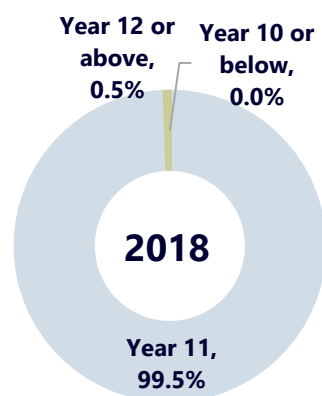
LARGER ENTRY GCSE SUBJECT TOTAL ENTRIES BY YEAR GROUP, SUMMER 2018

As shown in figure 4 the top 5 GCSE entry subjects in summer 2018 were Science: Double Award, Mathematics, English Language, English Literature, and Mathematics – Numeracy. Below we look at these subjects in more detail.

Science: Double Award

This summer is the first award of the reformed Science: Double Award qualifications. Therefore, we cannot make comparisons to last summer.

Figure 9: GCSE Science: Double Award year group comparisons



- Nearly all entries (99.5 per cent) in Summer 2018 were for Year 11.
- 0.5 per cent of entries were for Year 12 or above.

Source: Awarding bodies as at 17th April 2018, Qualifications Wales

Table 7: GCSE Science: Double Award by year group, summer 2018

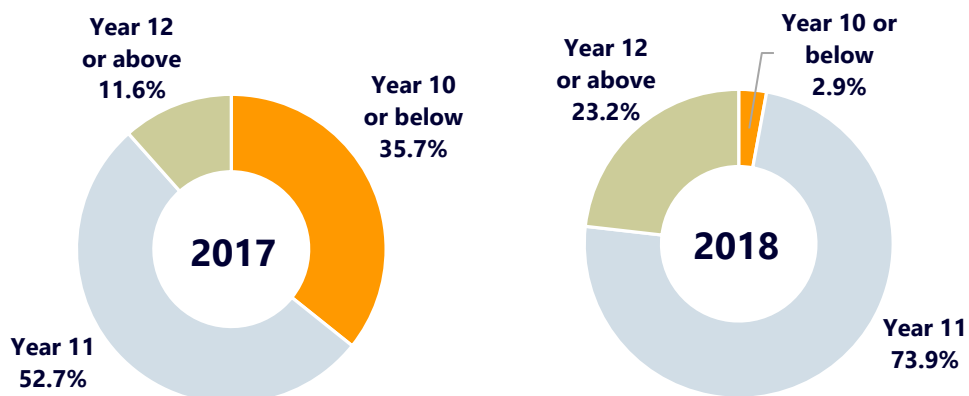
Science: Double Award	Year 9 or below	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12	Year 13 or above	Total
2018	0	10	42,510	220	5	42,740

Source: Awarding bodies as at 17th April 2018, Qualifications Wales

GCSE Science: Double Award had 42,740 entries for summer 2018. These qualifications replace the legacy Science and Additional Science GCSEs, for which the final resit opportunity was in January 2018. All of the separate sciences saw increases in entries in summer 2018 compared to summer 2017; Biology (11 per cent), Chemistry (10 per cent) and Physics (10 per cent) (see table 3).

GCSE English Language

Figure 5: GCSE English Language year group comparisons



Source: Awarding bodies as at 17th April 2018, Qualifications Wales; 2017 - Ofqual

Table 4: English Language Entries by year group, summer series 2018 and 2017

English Language	Year 9 or below	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12	Year 13 or above	Total
2018	5	805	20,610	2,730	3,735	27,890
2017	10	21,090	31,115	2,945	3,885	59,045

Source: Awarding bodies as at 17th April 2018, Qualifications Wales; 2017 - Ofqual

Summer 2017 was the first time that the reformed GCSE English Language approved for use in Wales was awarded. The November 2017 series was a resit series only, with only those who had sat the exam in summer 2017 able to enter in November. The Year 11 cohort in 2018 would have had the opportunity to sit English Language in the summer 2017 series (as Year 10s) and the November 2017 series (as a resit).

The previous Year 11 cohort could only enter in the summer 2017 series as this was when the qualification was first awarded. This difference in entry opportunities could explain the extent of the change in Year 11 entries between 2017 and 2018.

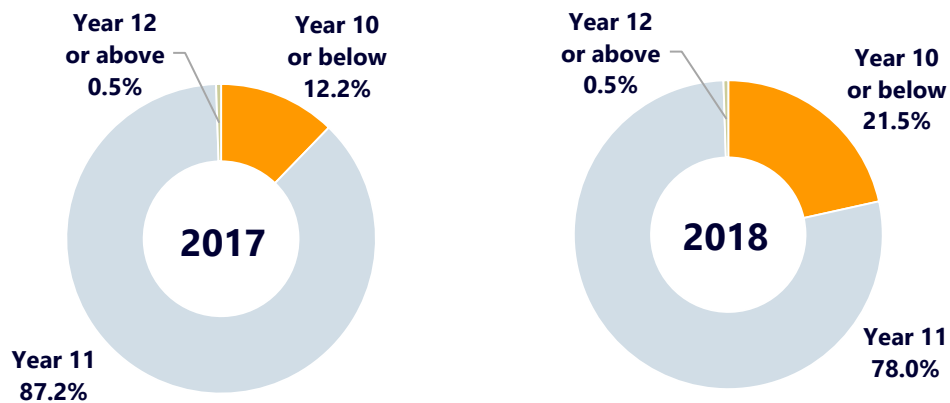
- There were 27,890 entries for GCSE English Language in summer 2018, less than half the total entries compared to summer 2017 (59,045 entries).
- English Language counts towards the threshold performance measures, so the announcement regarding calculation of performance measures using first grade achieved (see [performance measures](#)) is likely to have contributed to the large

decrease in Year 10 entry this year, with just 805 entries this summer, compared to 21,090 last year.

- Year 10 or below entries made up 35.7 per cent of entries for GCSE English Language last summer series, and only 2.9 per cent of entries for summer 2018.
- However, due to the large decrease in the number of Year 10 entries this year, the proportion of overall entries in summer 2018 accounted for by Year 11 has increased, making up 73.9 per cent of summer 2018 entries compared to 52.7 per cent of entries last summer.
- The proportion of entries accounted for by Year 12 or above is also higher this year, making up 23.2 per cent of entries, compared to 11.6 per cent of entries last year. This may be due partly to the reduction in Year 10 entries and partly because this series is the first summer series in which Year 12 learners could resit the reformed English Language GCSE.

GCSE English Literature

Figure 6: GCSE English Literature year group comparisons



Source: Awarding bodies as at 17th April 2018, Qualifications Wales; 2017 – Ofqual

Table 5: English Literature Entries by year group, summer series 2018 and 2017

English Literature	Year 9 or below	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12	Year 13 or above	Total
2018	*	5,195	18,805	105	20	24,125
2017	*	2,055	14,640	75	10	16,780

Source: Awarding bodies as at 17th April 2018, Qualifications Wales; 2017 – Ofqual

Summer 2017 was the first time that the reformed GCSE English Literature approved for use in Wales was awarded. GCSE English Literature may only be entered for and awarded during the summer series⁷, therefore this summer is the second opportunity to sit the reformed GCSE. GCSE English Literature did not count towards the literacy elements of the Level 2 Inclusive or the Capped 9 Points Score performance measures from summer 2017.

- The total number of entries for GCSE English Literature were 24,125 (43.7 per cent increase in summer 2018 compared to summer 2017).
- All year groups saw an increase in entries in summer 2018 compared to summer 2017.
- In summer 2017, there was a decrease in Year 11 entries. This was because a substantial proportion of the cohort had entered the legacy qualification in summer 2016, when they were in Year 10⁸.
- This decrease in summer 2017 Year 11 entries is the main reason for the apparent increase in Year 11 entries this summer (18,805 entries) compared to last summer (14,640 entries).
- Year 11 entries made up 78.0 per cent of total English Literature entries for summer 2018, this compared to 87.2 per cent in summer 2017.
- The proportion of Year 12 or above entries remained the same for both summer series, making up only 0.5 per cent for both years.
- Despite the early entry announcement, the proportion of Year 10 or below entries rose in summer 2018, making up 21.5 per cent of total English Literature entries this year, compared to 12.2 per cent of entries last year.
- The largest increase was for Year 10, with an increase of 3,140 entries. There were 5,195 entries for summer 2018, over double the number of entries last year.

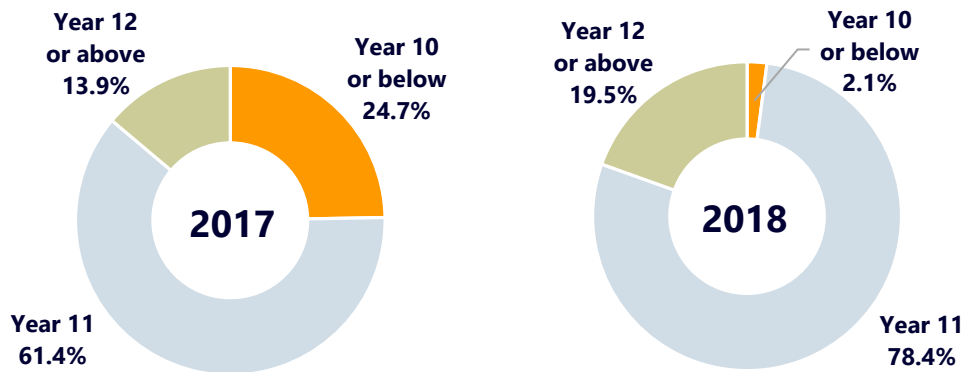
⁷ Reformed GCSE English Literature is unitised, and there is a unit available to be entered in the January series

⁸ Ofqual figures showed that there was a higher number of year 10 and below entries in Summer 2016 (7,570 entries), with the proportion of year 10 and below in Summer 2016 being approximately 25 per cent (See Ofqual (2017) *Provisional entries for summer 2017 series for Wales*. [online]. Available from: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/619382/Summer_2017_exam_entries_GCSEs_Level_1_2_AS_and_A_levels_Wales.xlsx [Accessed 17 May 2018].)

GCSE Mathematics and GCSE Mathematics – Numeracy

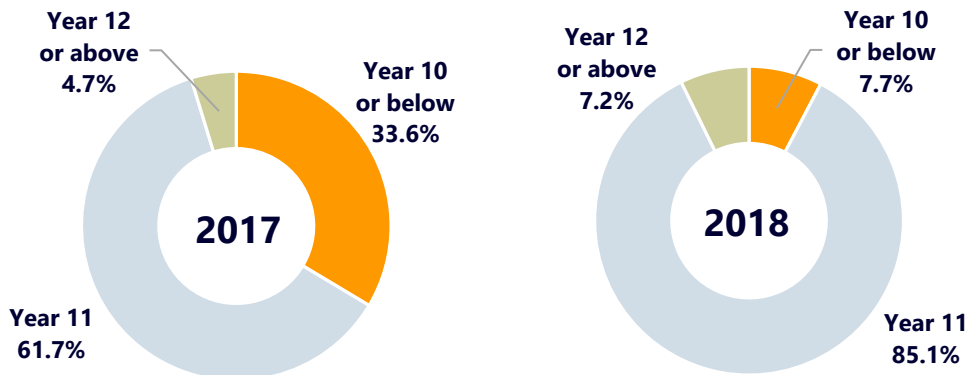
GCSE Mathematics had the largest number of provisional GCSE entries in summer 2018, with a total of 29,970 entries. Mathematics – Numeracy had the fourth highest number of provisional entries with 23,000 entries.

Figure 7: GCSE Mathematics year group comparisons



Source: Awarding bodies as at 17th April 2018, Qualifications Wales; 2017 – Ofqual

Figure 8 : GCSE Mathematics – Numeracy year group comparisons



Source: Awarding bodies as at 17th April 2018, Qualifications Wales; 2017 – Ofqual

- For summer 2018, Year 11 learners made up 78.4 per cent of entries for GCSE Mathematics and 85.1 per cent for GCSE Mathematics – Numeracy. This compares to 61.4 and 61.7 per cent in summer 2017 respectively.
- Year 10 or below entries made up 2.1 and 7.7 per cent of entries for GCSE Mathematics and GCSE Mathematics – Numeracy respectively in summer 2018.

This has decreased from 24.7 and 33.6 per cent respectively in summer 2017. The announcement regarding calculation of performance measures using first grade achieved (see [performance measures](#)) is likely to have contributed to the large decrease in Year 10 entry this year.

- 19.5 per cent of entries for GCSE Mathematics were from Year 12 or above, and 7.2 per cent for GCSE Mathematics – Numeracy. This compares to 13.9 and 4.7 per cent in summer 2017. The higher proportion of Year 12 entries in GCSE Mathematics compared to GCSE Mathematics – Numeracy may be partly due to more resits this summer, in that subject, in addition to the reduction in Year 10 entries.

Table 6: GCSE Mathematics and Mathematics – Numeracy entries by year group, summer 2018 compared to summer 2017

	Year 9 or below	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12	Year 13 or above	Total
GCSE Mathematics						
2018	10	610	23,495	2,770	3,085	29,970
2017	20	10,415	25,940	2,240	3,610	42,230
<i>% difference</i>	-52.4%	-94.1%	-9.4%	23.5%	-14.5%	-29.0%
GCSE Mathematics - Numeracy						
2018	*	1,765	19,565	715	950	23,000
2017	10	11,135	20,455	520	1,050	33,170
<i>% difference</i>	-66.7%	-84.1%	-4.4%	37.7%	-9.5%	-30.7%

Source: Awarding bodies as at 17th April 2018, Qualifications Wales; 2017 – Ofqual

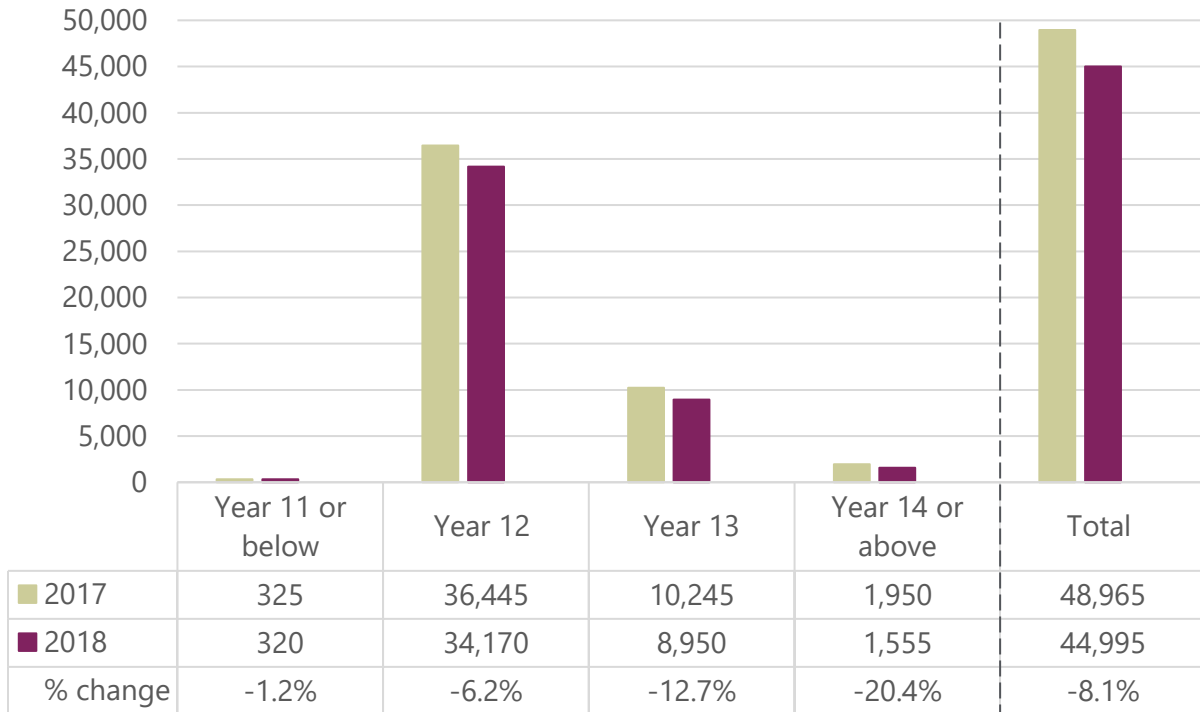
- Total entries for GCSE Mathematics decreased in summer 2018 by 29.0 per cent compared to summer 2017. GCSE Mathematics – Numeracy saw a slightly larger decrease of 30.7 per cent.
- Year 10 entries saw the largest change this summer, with a 94.1 per cent decrease for GCSE Mathematics and an 84.1 per cent decrease for GCSE Mathematics – Numeracy.
- Mathematics has a higher number of entries in Year 12 than Mathematics- Numeracy. This further supports the point made above that this may be due to more resits being taken in Mathematics.

- The number of Year 11 entries in GCSE Mathematics decreased by 9.4 per cent in summer 2018 compared to summer 2017. Year 11 entries for GCSE Mathematics – Numeracy saw a smaller decrease of 4.4 per cent.
- These decreases may be related to the fact that the current Year 11 had the opportunity to sit these exams in previous series: summer 2017 (as Year 10s) and November 2017 (as Year 11s). The previous Year 11 did not have the same opportunity to sit in summer 2016 when they were in Year 10.
- This is supported by the fact that for November 2017 series, we reported that there were 22,670 GCSE Mathematics entries, 20,350 of which were for Year 11. This compares to 19,730 entries for GCSE Mathematics-Numeracy, with 18,880 entries for Year 11 (see [Provisional November Entries for Wales](#)).
- This means that a large proportion of the Year 11 entries this summer may have entered previously, but some may not have entered until now.

AS LEVEL ENTRIES

HOW DO TOTAL SUMMER AS LEVEL ENTRIES COMPARE TO LAST YEAR?

Figure 10: AS level total entries by year group, summer 2018 compared to summer 2017



Source: Awarding bodies as at 17th April 2018, Qualifications Wales; 2017 – Ofqual

- There were 44,995 AS level entries for summer 2018 in Wales, 8.1 per cent fewer than for summer 2017 (48,965 entries).
- This continues the decreasing trend for AS level entries in Wales since summer 2015, with Ofqual reporting 57,030 entries in summer 2015, and 52,620 entries in summer 2016 in their Summer Exam Entries release last year⁹.
- Year 12 had the largest number of entries, with 34,170 entries in summer 2018.
- Year 11 or below was the year group with the lowest number of entries, with just 320 entries for summer 2018 (similar to 325 entries in summer 2017).
- All year groups saw a decrease in entries this summer compared to summer 2017.
- There are a number of factors that can cause these changes in entries (see [external influences](#))

⁹ Ofqual (2017) *Summer 2017 exam entries: GCSEs, level 1 / 2 certificates, AS and A levels in England*. [online]. Available from: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/summer-2017-exam-entries-gcses-level-1-2-certificates-as-and-a-levels-in-england>

HOW DO TOTAL AS LEVEL ENTRIES FOR SUBJECTS COMPARE?

Table 8: AS level total entries by subject, summer 2018 compared to summer 2017

AS Level Subject	2017	2018	% Change
Art & Design subjects	2,820	2,480	-12% ↓
Biology	3,755	3,665	-2% ↓
Business Studies	1,985	1,820	-8% ↓
Chemistry	3,310	3,285	-1% ↓
Classical subjects	150	120	-19% ↓
Communication Studies	0	0	-
Computing	635	620	-2% ↓
Critical Thinking	0	0	-
Design and Technology	1,015	905	-11% ↓
Drama	765	620	-19% ↓
Economics	750	805	+8% ↑
Engineering	0	0	-
English Language	435	430	-2% ↓
English Language & Literature	1,050	915	-13% ↓
English Literature	2,180	2,090	-4% ↓
French	530	455	-14% ↓
General Studies	0	0	-
Geography	2,020	1,780	-12% ↓
German	125	100	-19% ↓
Health & Social Care	865	790	-9% ↓
History	3,020	2,790	-8% ↓
ICT	1,340	1,100	-18% ↓
Irish	0	0	-
Law	1,195	1,030	-14% ↓
Leisure	0	0	-
Mathematics	5,515	4,815	-13% ↓
Mathematics (Further)	505	605	+19% ↑
Media / Film / TV Studies	1,610	1,265	-21% ↓
Music	560	470	-16% ↓
Performing / Expressive Arts	20	*	-89% ↓
Physical Education	925	910	-2% ↓
Physics	2,385	2,355	-1% ↓
Political Studies	635	570	-10% ↓
Psychology	2,570	2,730	+6% ↑
Religious Studies	2,075	1,840	-11% ↓
Science	25	0	-100% ↓
Sociology	2,075	1,980	-5% ↓
Spanish	235	225	-4% ↓
Travel & Tourism	145	10	-94% ↓
Welsh First Language	270	280	+4% ↑
Welsh Second Language	510	490	-4% ↓
Other Modern Languages	225	210	-7% ↓
Other sciences	350	275	-22% ↓
All other subjects	390	165	-57% ↓
Total	48,965	44,995	-8% ↓

Source: Awarding bodies as at 17th April 2018, Qualifications Wales; 2017 – Ofqual

Table 8 compares total AS summer entries for 2018 and 2017 by subject. These include legacy AS, reformed AS for Wales and reformed AS for England. The majority of AS level subjects saw a decrease in entries this summer compared to last year. There were a small number of exceptions that saw an increase. AS level Further Mathematics had the highest percentage increase in entries this summer compared to last year, with an increase of 19 per cent in entries. Economics, Psychology and Welsh First Language also had increases in entries of 8 per cent, 6 per cent, and 4 per cent respectively.

REFORMED AS LEVEL

All three phases of reformed AS levels approved for use in Wales are being awarded this summer.

40,660 entries (90.4 per cent) of the total summer 2018 entries were for reformed qualifications approved for use in Wales. These only include qualifications provided by WJEC, who are the only awarding body offering reformed AS levels designed for use in Wales. Therefore, this does not include entries for AS levels that were reformed for use primarily in England provided by other awarding bodies (see [qualification reforms](#)).

The remainder of entries for summer 2018 would be for legacy qualifications and England reformed qualifications.

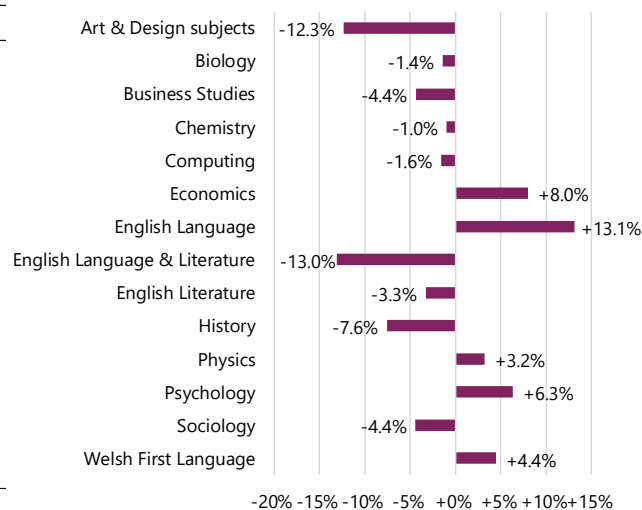
PHASE 1 REFORM

Wales approved Phase 1 reformed AS levels will be awarded for the third time this summer and account for 57.3 per cent of total AS level entries for summer 2018.

Total entries for Wales phase 1 reformed AS levels fell by 2.6 per cent from 26,460 entries in summer 2017 to 25,765 entries in summer 2018. Table 7 in the corresponding excel data tables shows the range of decreases across all year groups for AS level entries in summer 2018 compared to summer 2017.

Figure 11: Wales approved phase 1 reformed AS level entries by subject, summer 2018 compared to summer 2017

Subject	2017	2018	Difference
Art & Design	2,785	2,440	-12.3% ↓
Biology	3,655	3,600	-1.4% ↓
Business Studies	1,880	1,795	-4.4% ↓
Chemistry	3,220	3,190	-1.0% ↓
Computing	620	610	-1.6% ↓
Economics	690	745	+8.0% ↑
English Language	365	415	+13.1% ↑
English Language & Literature	1,050	915	-13.0% ↓
English Literature	2,135	2,065	-3.3% ↓
History	2,990	2,760	-7.6% ↓
Physics	2,180	2,250	+3.2% ↑
Psychology	2,555	2,715	+6.3% ↑
Sociology	2,070	1,980	-4.4% ↓
Welsh First Language	270	280	+4.4% ↑
Total	26,460	25,765	-2.6% ↓



Source: Awarding bodies as at 17th April 2018, Qualifications Wales; 2017 – Ofqual

Figure 11 illustrates the percentage change in entries for Wales approved phase 1 reformed AS level entries between summer 2018 and summer 2017.

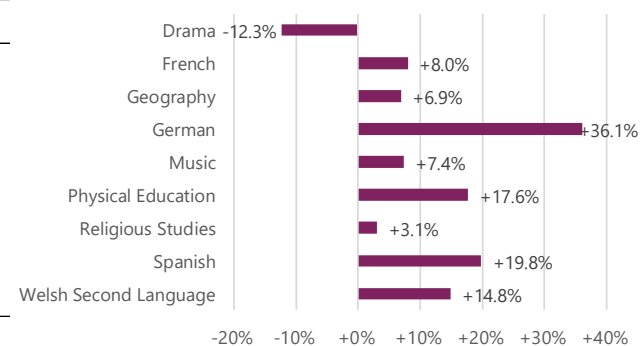
- English Language had the largest proportional increase in entries at 13.1 per cent.
- English Language & Literature had the largest proportional decrease of entries at 13.0 per cent, closely followed by Art & Design subjects at 12.3 per cent.

PHASE 2 REFORM

This summer is the second time Wales approved phase 2 reformed AS levels will be awarded and entries for these qualifications account for 15.0 per cent of total AS level entries for summer 2018.

Figure 12: Wales approved phase 2 reformed AS level entries by subject, summer 2018 and summer 2017

Subject	2017	2018	Difference
Drama	700	615	-85 ↓
French	415	445	+35 ↑
Geography	1,635	1,750	+115 ↑
German	70	100	+25 ↑
Music	380	405	+30 ↑
Physical Education	765	900	+135 ↑
Religious Studies	1,765	1,815	+55 ↑
Spanish	180	220	+35 ↑
Welsh Second Language	425	490	+65 ↑
Total	6,335	6,735	+400 ↑



Source: Awarding bodies as at 17th April 2018, Qualifications Wales; 2017 – Ofqual

Figure 12 shows the change in entries for phase 2 reformed AS levels between summer 2018 and summer 2017.

- Total phase 2 reformed AS level entries rose by 6.3 per cent from 6,335 in summer 2017 to 6,735 entries in summer 2018.
- AS level entries increased for all these reformed qualifications with the exception of Drama.

These increases were largely driven by a rise in entries by Year 13 learners. This is likely to be as a result of summer 2018 being the first opportunity for learners to resit the assessments.

PHASE 3 REFORM

Wales approved Phase 3 reformed AS levels will be awarded for the first time this summer. Therefore we cannot compare these entries to last summer. These qualifications accounted for 18.1 per cent of total AS level entries for summer 2018.

Table 9: Wales approved phase 3 reformed AS level entries by year group and subject, summer 2018¹⁰

Subject	Year 11 or below	Year 12	Year 13	Year 14 or above	Total
Design and Technology	0	710	55	*	770
ICT	0	765	80	10	855
Law	0	790	110	20	925
Mathematics	15	3,285	405	60	3,770
Further Mathematics	*	280	30	10	325
Media Studies	0	880	115	30	1,025
Government and Politics	*	415	60	15	490
Total	20	7,135	850	155	8,160

Source: Awarding bodies as at 17th April 2018, Qualifications Wales

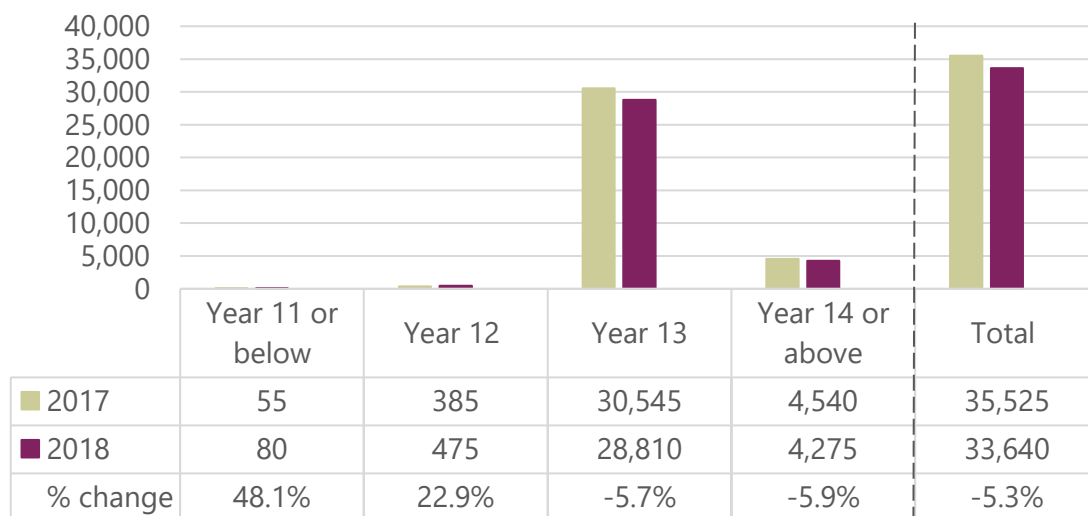
Table 9 shows the phase 3 reformed AS level entries for summer 2018. The subject with the highest entries this summer was Mathematics with 3,770 entries.

¹⁰ ICT has been included as a reformed qualification in this release in line with JCQ classification

A LEVEL ENTRIES

HOW DO TOTAL SUMMER A LEVEL ENTRIES COMPARE TO LAST YEAR?

Figure 13: A level total entries by year group, summer 2018 compared to summer 2017



Source: Awarding bodies as at 17th April 2018, Qualifications Wales; 2017 – Ofqual

- There were 33,640 A level entries for summer 2018, 5.3 per cent fewer than in summer 2017 (35,525 entries).
- This continues the decreasing trend for A level entries in Wales since summer 2015, with Ofqual reporting 38,480 entries in summer 2015, and 37,640 entries in summer 2016 in their Summer Exam Entries release last year¹¹.
- Year 13 entries have decreased by 5.7 per cent in summer 2018 (28,210 entries) compared to summer 2017 (30,545 entries).
- Year 14 or above also saw a decrease of 5.9 per cent in entries compared to last year.
- Year 11 or below, and Year 12 both saw increases in the number of entries for summer 2018 of 48.1 per cent and 22.9 per cent respectively compared to summer 2017.
- There are a number of factors that can cause these changes in entries (see [external influences](#)).

¹¹ Ofqual (2017) *Summer 2017 exam entries: GCSEs, level 1 / 2 certificates, AS and A levels in England*. [online]. Available from: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/summer-2017-exam-entries-gcse-level-1-2-certificates-as-and-a-levels-in-england>

HOW DO TOTAL A LEVEL ENTRIES FOR SUBJECTS COMPARE?

Table 10: A level total entries by subject, summer 2018 compared to summer 2017

A Level Subject	2017	2018	% Change	
Art & Design subjects	1,910	1,980	+4%	↑
Biology	2,465	2,565	+4%	↑
Business Studies	1,500	1,305	-13%	↓
Chemistry	2,180	2,135	-2%	↓
Classical subjects	100	85	-15%	↓
Communication Studies	0	0	-	
Computing	345	360	+3%	↑
Critical Thinking	0	0	-	
Design and Technology	655	680	+4%	↑
Drama	640	635	-1%	↓
Economics	560	495	-11%	↓
Engineering	*	0	-100%	↓
English Language	345	285	-17%	↓
English Language & Literature	755	705	-7%	↓
English Literature	1,875	1,685	-10%	↓
French	360	340	-6%	↓
General Studies	*	0	-100%	↓
Geography	1,550	1,355	-13%	↓
German	105	70	-34%	↓
Health & Social Care	680	605	-11%	↓
History	2,650	2,465	-7%	↓
ICT	955	800	-16%	↓
Irish	0	0	-	
Law	665	645	-3%	↓
Leisure	0	0	-	
Mathematics	3,965	3,950	-0%	↓
Mathematics (Further)	610	610	+0%	↑
Media / Film / TV Studies	1,065	1,060	-1%	↓
Music	415	385	-7%	↓
Performing / Expressive Arts	55	15	-70%	↓
Physical Education	615	625	+1%	↑
Physics	1,585	1,545	-2%	↓
Political Studies	435	415	-5%	↓
Psychology	1,590	1,600	+1%	↑
Religious Studies	1,755	1,380	-21%	↓
Science	180	0	-100%	↓
Sociology	1,385	1,365	-2%	↓
Spanish	180	160	-12%	↓
Travel & Tourism	115	130	+11%	↑
Welsh First Language	235	255	+8%	↑
Welsh Second Language	335	285	-15%	↓
Other Modern Languages	215	295	+37%	↑
Other sciences	260	205	-21%	↓
All other subjects	220	165	-25%	↓
Total	35,525	33,640	-5%	↓

Source: Awarding bodies as at 17th April 2018, Qualifications Wales; 2017 – Ofqual

Table 10 compares total A level summer entries for 2018 and 2017 by subject. These include legacy A level, reformed A level for Wales and reformed A level for England. The majority of A level subjects saw a decrease in entries this summer compared to last year. There were a small number of exceptions that saw an increase. Other Modern Languages had the highest percentage increase in entries this summer compared to last year, with an increase of 37 per cent in entries.

REFORMED A LEVEL ENTRIES

22,690 entries (67.4 per cent) of the total summer 2018 entries were for reformed qualifications approved for use in Wales. These only include qualifications provided by WJEC who are the only awarding body offering reformed A levels designed for use in Wales. Therefore, this does not include entries for A levels that were reformed for use primarily in England provided by other awarding bodies (see [qualification reforms](#)). The remainder of entries for summer 2018 will make up legacy qualifications and England reformed qualifications.

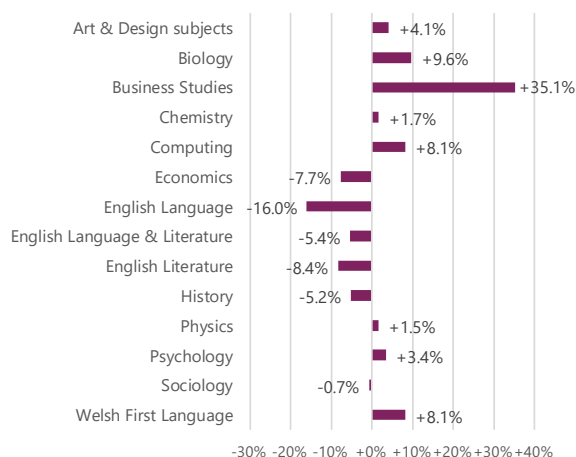
There are three phases of reformed A levels approved for use in Wales being awarded this summer.

PHASE 1 REFORM

This summer is the second time the approved Phase 1 reformed A levels in Wales will be awarded. Entries into these subjects account for 52.6 per cent of total A level entries for summer 2018.

Figure 14: Wales approved phase 1 reformed A level entries by subject, summer 2018 compared to summer 2017

Subject	2017	2018	Difference
Art & Design	1,825	1,900	+75 ↑
Biology	2,160	2,365	+210 ↑
Business Studies	925	1,245	+325 ↑
Chemistry	1,935	1,965	+30 ↑
Computing	310	335	+25 ↑
Economics	480	440	-35 ↓
English Language	285	240	-45 ↓
English Language & Literature	745	705	-40 ↓
English Literature	1,755	1,605	-145 ↓
History	2,500	2,370	-130 ↓
Physics	1,325	1,345	+20 ↑
Psychology	1,515	1,565	+50 ↑
Sociology	1,350	1,340	-10 ↓
Welsh First Language	235	255	+20 ↑
Total	17,340	17,680	+345 ↑



Source: Awarding bodies as at 17th April 2018, Qualifications Wales; 2017 – Ofqual

Figure 14 illustrates the percentage change in entries for Wales approved phase 1 reformed A level entries between summer 2018 and summer 2017.

- Despite an overall decrease in entries for A level, the total number of entries for reformed phase 1 subjects increased by 345 compared to last summer.
- Business Studies had the largest proportional increase of entries at 35.1 per cent. Business Studies also represented the largest absolute increase of 325 entries between summer 2017 and summer 2018.
- English Language had the largest proportional decrease of entries at 16.0 per cent. English Literature and English Language & Literature also had a decrease in entries this summer of 8.4 per cent and 5.4 per cent respectively.

PHASE 2 REFORM

Wales approved Phase 2 reformed A levels will be awarded for the first time this summer and therefore is the first time learners will be able to sit these assessments. These accounted for 14.5 per cent of total A level entries for summer 2018.

Table 11: Wales approved Phase 2 Reformed A level entries by year group and subject, summer 2018

Subject	Year 11 or below	Year 12	Year 13	Year 14 or above	Total
Drama	0	0	590	25	615
French	*	*	285	15	305
Geography	0	*	1,165	80	1,250
German	*	*	50	*	55
Music	0	0	300	20	325
Physical Education	0	0	555	30	585
Religious Studies	0	0	1,235	90	1,325
Spanish	*	*	125	5	135
Welsh Second Language	0	5	260	10	275
Total	5	15	4,565	285	4,870

Source: Awarding bodies as at 17th April 2018, Qualifications Wales

Table 11 shows the phase 2 reformed A level entries for summer 2018. Religious Studies (1,325 entries), and Geography (1,250 entries) had the highest number of entries.

PHASE 3 REFORM

Wales approved phase 3 reformed A levels will be first awarded in summer 2019 with the exception of Mathematics, which will be awarded this summer for the first time. This is so learners can sit the both AS and A level Mathematics in their first year of study and then progress to AS and A level Further Mathematics in their second year. There were 135 entries for A level Mathematics in summer 2018, with 125 of these from Year 12 learners (see table 8 in corresponding data excel tables published alongside this release).

LEVEL 1/LEVEL 2 CERTIFICATE ENTRIES

Table 12: Level 1/Level 2 Entries by year group and subject, summer 2018 and summer 2017¹²

	Year 9 or below	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12	Year 13 or above	Total
2018						
Total entries	25	110	3,355	85	15	3,590
<i>Additional Maths</i>	15	95	3,065	30	0	3,205
<i>Other Subjects</i>	10	15	290	55	15	385
2017						
Total entries	20	60	3,225	80	10	3,395
<i>Additional Maths</i>	5	20	2,525	20	*	2,575
<i>Other Subjects</i>	15	40	700	65	5	820

Source: Awarding bodies as at 17th April 2018, Qualifications Wales; 2017 - Ofqual

Table 12 shows there were 3,590 entries for Level 1/2 qualifications in 2018, 5.7 per cent higher than the number of entries in summer 2017 (3,395 entries).

In 2018, Additional Maths entries made up 89.2 per cent of total Level 1/2 entries (3,205 in 2018), this compares to 75.9 per cent in 2017. Additional Maths is the driver for the total increase in entries between summer 2018 and summer 2017, with entries for Other Subjects falling.

¹² Other subjects include Art and Design Subjects, Biology, Business Studies, Chemistry, Classical subjects, English, French, Geography, German, History, ICT, Music, Other Modern Languages, Physics and Spanish.

WELSH BACCALAUREATE SKILLS CHALLENGE CERTIFICATE

Qualifications Wales collected Skills Challenge Certificate data for the summer 2018 entries collection for the first time this April. We can therefore not make comparisons to summer 2017. Certifications for the Welsh Baccalaureate Framework and Skills Challenge Certificate are currently published in our vocational quarterly statistics¹³.

Table 13: Skills Challenge Certificate entries by year group, summer 2018

	Year 11 or below	Year 12	Year 13	Year 14 or above	Total
Advanced Skills Challenge Certificate	0	10	10,955	2,270	13,230
Foundation (post 16) Skills Challenge Certificate	0	50	5	5	65
National (post 16) Skills Challenge Certificate	0	85	15	25	125
National/Foundation Skills Challenge Certificate	27,630	155	0	*	27,790
Total	27,630	300	10,975	2,300	41,205

Source: Awarding bodies as at 17th April 2018, Qualifications Wales

Table 13 shows the number of entries for the Skills Challenge Certificate by year group for summer 2018. The majority of entries (27,630) were for Year 11 or below learners taking the National/Foundation Skills Challenge Certificate. This qualification is typically taken during compulsory secondary school.

¹³ Qualifications Wales (2018) *Vocational and Other Qualifications Quarterly: Quarter 4 (October-December 2017) for Wales*. [Online]. Available from: <http://www.qualificationswales.org/english/publications/vocational-quarterly-statistics/> [Accessed 17 May 2018].

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Awarding Body

An organisation that develops qualifications, specifies and monitors assessments and issues awards to learners, formally recognising the learning outcomes (knowledge, skills and/or competences), following an assessment and validation procedure.

In other parts of the UK these are known as Awarding Organisations or Exam Boards.

GCSEs

General Certificates of Secondary Education are available in a wide range of subjects.

GCSEs are the main Level 1 and Level 2 general qualifications at age 14-16 in Wales.

They can be used as a basis for higher level study or training, or direct entry into employment.

A level

General Certificate of Education Advanced Level, also known as a GCE A level.

Qualifications taken, after GCSEs, in a range of subjects, usually taken at age 16-18 and typically a two-year course of study. They are used as a basis for admissions to higher education, further training or entry into employment.

Advanced Subsidiary (AS)

A qualification that forms the first part of an A level qualification. It may be taken as a free-standing qualification. In Wales and Northern Ireland it contributes to the A level result. In England, AS qualifications cannot contribute to A levels.

Skills Challenge Certificate

The qualification which forms the central part of the Welsh Baccalaureate (see below).

Learners need to complete four assessments as part of the Skills Challenge Certificate:

- An individual Project
- Enterprise and Employability Challenge
- Global Citizenship Challenge
- Community Challenge

Welsh Baccalaureate (Welsh Bacc)

The Welsh Bacc is a composite qualification that includes a Skills Challenge Certificate; this assesses the skills that young people need for college, university, employment and life. Alongside the Skills Challenge Certificate, learners take a selection of GCSE, AS and

A level and vocational qualifications appropriate to their needs in order to be awarded the Welsh Bacc.

Cash - in

Schools and colleges enter students who are completing a qualification and want to claim their final grade in that exam session.

Year 10

Students who are aged 15 by 31st August 2018.

Year 11

Students who are aged 16 by 31st August 2018.

Year 12

Students who are aged 17 by 31st August 2018.

Centre

A body undertaking the delivery of an assessment (and potentially other activities) to learners on behalf of an awarding body. Centres are typically educational institutions, training providers, or employers.

Linear

Linear GCSEs are designed so that all assessment in a subject is completed at the end of the programme of learning. This means that every time a pupil is entered by their school or college to be awarded a grade, they need to sit all assessment components for the qualification (examinations, and for some subjects, other forms of controlled assessment).

Unitised

Unitised qualifications are designed so that assessment units can be taken by pupils at different points during the course, with a final grade 'cashed-in' at the end of the programme of learning once a pupil has completed all units. For GCSE, learners must complete a minimum amount of the assessment for a qualification in the series where they are cashing in.

BACKGROUND NOTES

On November 21st, 2017 the National Assembly for Wales approved the Official Statistics (Wales) Order 2017 which named Qualifications Wales as one of the bodies that are in scope of the Statistics and Registration Services Act 2007. However, given that we are still developing our processes to ensure we are fully meeting our obligations as an official statistics producer, this statistical release has not formally been published as an official statistic at this time. Nevertheless in preparing the release, Qualifications Wales is aiming as far as possible to operate in compliance with the UK Statistics Authority Code of Practice for Statistics¹⁴.

Data Source

The awarding bodies that provide AS, A level, GCSEs, the Skills Challenge Certificate and Level 1/Level 2 certificates have submitted information to Qualifications Wales about the number of entries for each qualification available in summer 2018. The entries are only for centres located in Wales, regardless of the type of centre. This release covers the number of entries broken down by subject and age of students in Wales based on school year groups (year 11 is the academic year where students become 16 years old).

Limitations of data

There is potential error in the information provided by awarding bodies. Therefore, Qualifications Wales cannot guarantee that the information received is correct. Qualifications Wales compares the data over time and checks for systematic issues. Quality assurance procedures are carried out to ensure the accuracy of the data and challenge or question it, where necessary. Qualifications Wales continuously manages this process by:

- Ensuring that data providers are clear about what is required of them and are fully consulted during the initial design and any subsequent change phases;
- Reminding all providers (if appropriate) that, as a condition of them being regulated, all data must be completely accurate;
- Being alert to unexpected changes in the data submitted by comparing individual returns over time from the same provider;
- Actively challenging any unexpected results with the data providers.

¹⁴ See <https://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/code-of-practice/>

The publication may be deferred if the statistics are not considered fit for purpose.

Data has been collected at an appropriate point when it is reasonably complete, this was the 18th April 2018 for the summer 2018 series data in this release. However, schools can continue to make late entries right up to the data of the exam, so the total entry numbers will change to provisional entries. For this reason, the title of this release refers to provisional entries.

Comparisons

For 2017/18 awarding bodies will be submitting general qualifications data to Qualifications Wales rather than Ofqual. Comparisons to historical Ofqual data should be interpreted with caution.

Geographical Coverage

This release presents data on the number of entries for A Levels, AS Levels, GCSEs, the Skills Challenge Certificate and Level 1/Level 2 certificates for the summer 2018 exam series for centres located in Wales. This release does **not** include A levels, AS levels, GCSEs, the Skills Challenge Certificate and Level 1/Level 2 certificates taken outside of Wales.

Revisions

Once published, data on the number of entries is not usually subject to revision, although subsequent releases may be revised to insert late data or correct an error.

Completeness of the data

Awarding bodies send Qualifications Wales entry data for all regulated qualifications classified as AS, A level, GCSE, the Skills Challenge Certificate or Level 1/Level 2 certificates. Qualifications Wales contacts any awarding body that does not return a complete set of data within the collection period, to make sure the data is as complete as possible.

Rounding and Confidentiality

To protect confidentiality, and in accordance with Qualifications Wales's interim statistical outputs policy, all entry figures are rounded. In the commentary and tables, they are rounded to the nearest 5. Figures fewer than 5 but greater than 0 are replaced with a *. This is to ensure that data does not reveal an individual candidate. All percentages within the commentary are based on actual figures. Figures have been rounded independently and therefore may not sum to the total.

Users of these statistics

These statistics are likely to be of interest to Qualifications Wales, Ofqual, awarding bodies, and the Welsh Government. We welcome feedback from users, so expect to gain a better understanding of who our users are over time. Qualifications Wales uses these statistics to inform understanding of entry patterns.

Related statistics and publications

A number of statistical releases relate to this one, including:

- Our Provisional November GCSE and Level 1/Level 2 Certificates Entries for Wales 2017 release¹⁵.
- Summer entries statistical release¹⁶ for England (with corresponding Wales data in excel tables for historical academic years) published by Ofqual.
- The annual 'Schools' census results' release¹⁷, published by Welsh Government.

Useful information

A glossary of terms is available on page 33 to help you interpret this release. You can find information about future publications on the Welsh Government website¹⁸ and our website¹⁹. The QiW register²⁰ gives information on approved and designated qualifications which are eligible for public funding in Wales.

Next update

May 2019 (provisional).

User feedback

We welcome any feedback on any aspect of these statistics which can be provided by email to statistics@qualificationswales.org

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¹⁵ See <http://qualificationswales.org/media/2894/entries-publication-final.pdf>

¹⁶ See <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/summer-2017-exam-entries-gcses-level-1-2-certificates-as-and-a-levels-in-england>

¹⁷ See <http://gov.wales/statistics-and-research/schools-census/?lang=en><http://gov.wales/statistics-and-research/schools-census/?lang=en>

¹⁸ See <http://gov.wales/statistics-and-research/?upcoming=true&lang=en>

¹⁹ See <http://qualificationswales.org/english/our-work/research-and-statistics/upcoming-publications/>

²⁰ See <https://www.qiw.wales/?lang=en>