

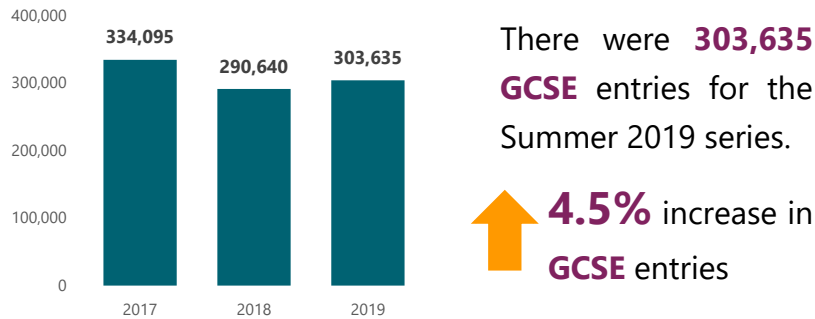
# Provisional Summer 2019 exam entries for Wales:

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

## Highlights, Summer Series 2019

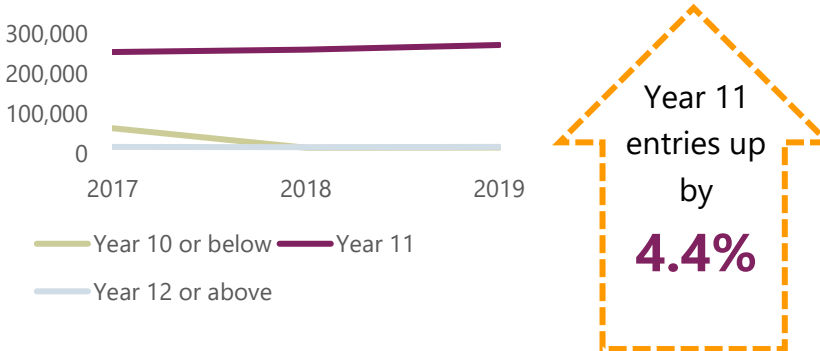
24 May 2019

**Figure 1: Summer GCSE entries**



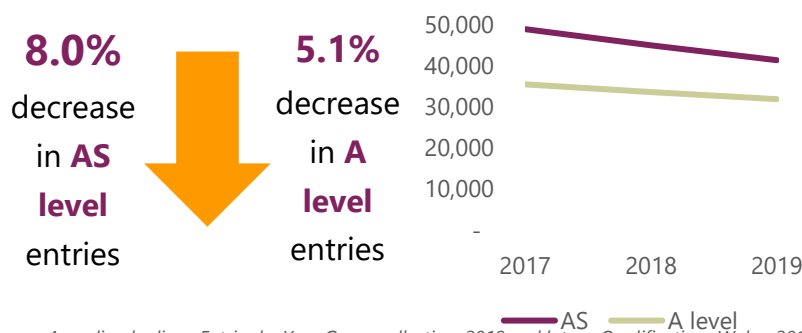
Source: Awarding bodies - Entries by Year Group collection, 2018 and later - Qualifications Wales; 2017 - Ofqual

**Figure 2: Summer GCSE entries by year group**



Source: Awarding bodies - Entries by Year Group collection, 2018 and later - Qualifications Wales; 2017 - Ofqual

**Figure 3: Summer AS and A level entries**



Source: Awarding bodies - Entries by Year Group collection, 2018 and later - Qualifications Wales; 2017 - Ofqual

### About this release

This statistical release provides information on the provisional number of exam entries in Wales for the summer 2019 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 17 April ahead of the summer 2019 series. These statistics have been published as official statistics.

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# INTRODUCTION

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

From summer 2018, we have collected and reported on data for Wales for general qualifications. Before summer 2018, data for Wales was collected and published by Ofqual, the qualifications regulator in England. Data in this release relating to summer 2017 were collected and published by Ofqual.

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 2019 exam series. The figures represent the number of qualification entries, rounded to the nearest 5, submitted by awarding bodies by the 17 April 2019, reflecting the position at 16<sup>th</sup> April 2019. 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, for example, the number of AS levels being studied;
- the types of qualifications being taken in post-16.

The latest available official statistics on the Wales population aged 16, 17 or 18 years old are the population projections published by the Welsh Government<sup>1</sup>. These show a 0.7% increase in the population of 16-year-olds in 2019 compared to 2018 but a 3.8% decrease for 17-year-olds and a 2.1% decrease for 18-year-olds. These changes might mean an upward influence from population on GCSE entries and a downward influence on AS and

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<sup>1</sup> <https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Population-and-Migration/Population/Projections/National/2016-based/populationprojections-by-year-age>

A level entries. The projected increase in 16-year-olds this year follows recent decreases in this age group.

**Table 1: Population Changes**

Year	16-year-olds	17-year-olds	18-year-olds
2019	33,002	32,939	34,685
2018	32,781	34,248	35,447
Change (2019 - 2018)	221	-1,309	-762
Percentage change ((2019 - 2018) / 2018)	0.7%	-3.8%	-2.1%

Source: Welsh Government

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 to 19-year-olds<sup>2</sup> 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 website<sup>3</sup>. This is the last year of the reformed qualifications being awarded for the first time.

In parallel to the reforms in Wales, new GCSEs, AS and A levels were also introduced for England. GCSE, AS and A level qualifications reformed for Wales and for England remain

<sup>2</sup> Welsh Government (2014) Review of Qualifications 14-19. [online]. Available from: [https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2018-02/review-of-qualifications-for-14-to-19-year-olds-in-wales-final-report-and-recommendations\\_0.pdf](https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2018-02/review-of-qualifications-for-14-to-19-year-olds-in-wales-final-report-and-recommendations_0.pdf) [Accessed 17 May 2018].

<sup>3</sup> <http://qualificationswales.org/english/qualifications/gcses-and-a-levels/gq-reform/what-subjects-are-available/>

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% 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 "approved GCSEs", "approved AS levels", and "approved 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:

- 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 counted towards the literacy elements of the level 2 inclusive or the capped 9 points score.

In 2018, Welsh Government introduced 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 count<sup>4</sup>.

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<sup>4</sup> 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/>

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 may impact on the entries for Year 11 in 2019.

There will be other changes made to the calculation of the capped 9 performance measure in 2019. The number of reserved slots for literacy, numeracy and science GCSEs has been reduced from five to three and there will therefore be six unreserved slots for other qualifications that are eligible for public funding in Wales. In the literacy slot, the 'best of the first' grades achieved in the English Language, English Literature, Welsh Language or Welsh Literature GCSE will count. In the numeracy slot, the 'best of the first' grades achieved in the Mathematics or Mathematics-Numeracy GCSE will count. In the science slot, the 'best of the first' grades in the Science GCSEs will count, with the higher grade in the double award qualifications counting.

### **Welsh Baccalaureate (Welsh Bacc)**

A new Welsh Bacc was introduced for first teaching from September 2015. The reformed Welsh Bacc is made up of the Skills Challenge Certificate qualification and supporting qualifications<sup>5</sup>. 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.

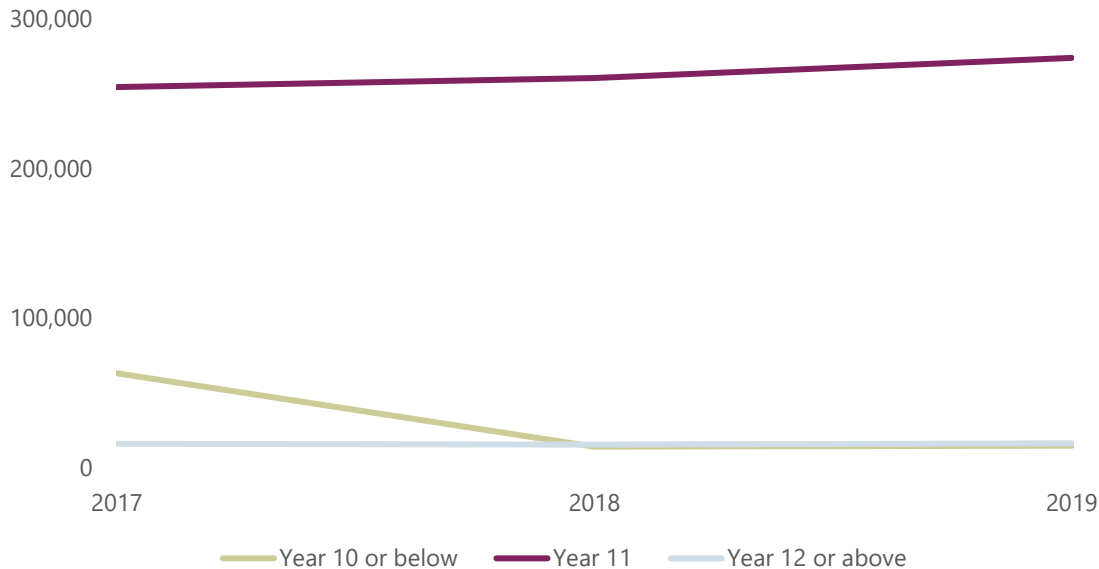
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<sup>5</sup> <https://qualificationswales.org/english/qualifications/welsh-baccalaureate/>

# STATISTICS

## GCSE ENTRIES

**Figure 4: GCSE total entries by year group**



Source: Awarding bodies - Entries by Year Group collection, 2018 and later - Qualifications Wales; 2017 - Ofqual

- There were 303,635 GCSE entries for summer 2019. This is up by 4.5% compared to GCSE entries for summer 2018.
- Year 10 and Year 13 and above were the year groups with the largest proportional increase in GCSE entries this summer compared to last year. However, the main driver for the overall increase in GCSE summer entries this year was the increase in Year 11 entries due to this group accounting for most entries.
- The increase in Year 11 is likely to be a consequence of population change and the Welsh Government announcement made in October 2017 that first grades achieved during the 2017/18 school year by year 10 pupils or younger will be counted towards school performance measures. This increase in Year 11 entries follows a decrease in Year 10 entries seen in 2018.
- Year 11 entries made up most of the GCSE entries for summer 2019 with 89.7% of entries from Year 11 learners. This proportion is unchanged from last summer.
- All approved GCSEs will be awarded this summer. 290,440 (95.7%) of the total summer 2019 entries were for these reformed qualifications.
- Year 10 or below entries contributed to 4.9% of all GCSE entries this summer, unchanged from last summer.
- Year 12 or above entries made up 5.4%, unchanged from last summer.

## APPROVED GCSES

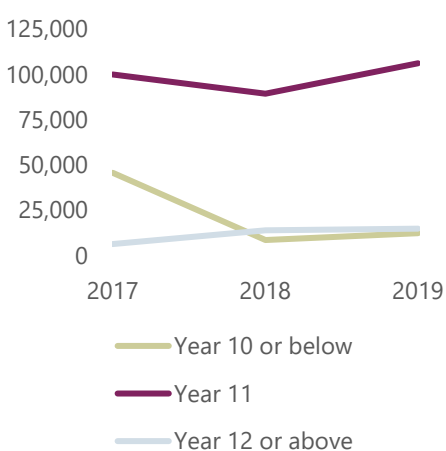
All three phases of approved GCSEs will be awarded this summer.

290,440 (95.7%) of the total summer 2019 GCSE entries were for these 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

Approved phase 1 GCSE entries accounted for 44.0% of total GCSE entries for summer 2019. 2017 was the first summer exam series in which these GCSEs were awarded.

**Figure 5 : Approved phase 1 GCSE entries by year group**



Total entries for approved phase 1 GCSEs increased by 19.1% from 112,060 entries in summer 2018 to 133,500 entries in summer 2019. Each year group saw an increase. There were increases across all subjects compared to summer 2018.

Year 10 entries increased this summer by 43.5% from 8,590 entries in summer 2018 to 12,325 entries in summer 2019. This change is driven by an increase of 4,165 (80.3%) in English Literature.

Source: Awarding bodies - Entries by Year Group collection, 2018 and later - Qualifications Wales; 2017 - Ofqual

**Table 2 : Approved phase 1 GCSE entries by subject**

Year 11 entries increased by 18.8% this summer compared to summer 2018. This could be as a result of population increase and some Year 11 students not entering these qualifications early in summer 2018 or November 2018.

Subject	2019	2018	Percentage change
English Language	36,270	27,475	32.0%
English Literature	29,055	23,835	21.9%
Mathematics	34,570	29,565	16.9%
Mathematics - Numeracy	24,695	23,000	7.4%
Welsh Language	5,220	4,865	7.3%
Welsh Literature	3,695	3,325	11.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>133,500</b>	<b>112,060</b>	<b>19.1%</b>

Source: Awarding bodies - Entries by Year Group collection, Qualifications Wales

Year 12 entries saw an increase of 3.7% from 6,245 entries in summer 2018 to 6,480 entries in summer 2019. This increase is driven by a rise in entries for English Language, many of which are likely to be resits. Learners had the opportunity to resit this qualification in November 2018, however, for this linear subject, all units must be re-taken within the same series, which may have meant more learners waiting until the summer to resit the qualification. Year 13 and above also had an increase of 8.3% this summer compared to last summer.

There were 5,220 entries for Welsh Language this summer, which is a 7.3% increase compared to summer 2018. There were increases across all year groups for total phase 1 entries. Changes for Year 11 entries are likely to be as a result of population increase and changes to performance measures (see [external influences](#)).

Further analysis for English, English Literature, Mathematics and Mathematics – Numeracy is included in the [larger entry GCSE subject breakdown](#) below.



## PHASE 2 REFORM

**Table 3: Approved phase 2 GCSE by subject**

Subject	2019	2018	Percentage change
Applied Science (Double Award)	2,830	3,505	-19.3%
Applied Science (Single Award)	855	510	67.5%
Art and Design	8,875	7,740	14.7%
Biology	7,360	7,065	4.2%
Chemistry	7,250	6,825	6.3%
Drama	2,240	2,300	-2.7%
Food and Nutrition	2,120	1,960	8.3%
French	3,025	3,525	-14.2%
Geography	7,290	7,320	-0.5%
German	570	755	-24.7%
Music	2,185	2,145	1.8%
Physical Education	6,615	6,790	-2.6%
Physics	6,990	6,795	2.8%
Science (Double Award)	40,050	39,050	2.6%
Spanish	1,425	1,100	29.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>99,675</b>	<b>97,385</b>	<b>2.4%</b>

Source: Awarding bodies - Entries by Year Group collection, Qualifications Wales;

(1) 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.

Table 3 shows entries for approved phase 2 GCSEs in summer 2019, which is the second time that learners have the opportunity to achieve a grade in these qualifications. There were 99,675 entries for these qualifications in summer 2019, an increase of 2,290 (2.4%). The majority of these entries (98.3%) were from Year 11 learners. Entries may be affected by population change and the Welsh Government announcement made in October 2017 (see [performance measures](#)).

Entries to the science suite (Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Science (Double Award), Applied Science (Single Award), Applied Science (Double Award)) were 65,335 up 1,580 (2.5%) on last year. Modern foreign language entries were 5,020 down 360 (6.7%) on last year despite the 29.7% increase for Spanish. Entries for Art and Design were 8,875, up 14.7% on last year.

## PHASE 3 REFORM

**Table 4: Approved phase 3 GCSE by subject**

<b>Subject</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>
Business	2,950	0
Computer Science	1,950	0
Design and Technology	5,460	0
History	9,520	0
Media Studies	1,365	0
Physical Education (Short Course)	430	450
Religious Studies	9,905	0
Religious Studies (Short Course)	6,010	515
Welsh Second Language	19,670	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>57,260</b>	<b>965</b>

*Source: Awarding bodies - Entries by Year Group collection, Qualifications Wales*

Entries into approved phase 3 GCSEs accounted for 18.9% of all GCSE entries this year. Welsh Second Language accounted for 34.4% of the phase 3 entry with 19,670 entries and of those 98.2% were Year 11 candidates. Comparing the summer 2019 entries for the reformed Welsh Second Language qualification with the summer 2018 entries for the legacy Welsh Second Language qualification shows that entries have fallen by 6.7%. This decrease was driven by a fall in entries from candidates in Year 9 or below and Year 10. Religious Studies accounted for 17.3% of phase 3 entries with 9,905 entries and Religious Studies (Short Course) accounted for 10.5% of entries with 6,010 entries.

## GCSE SUMMER TOTAL ENTRIES BY SUBJECT

**Table 5: GCSE total entries by subject, summer 2019 compared to summer 2018**

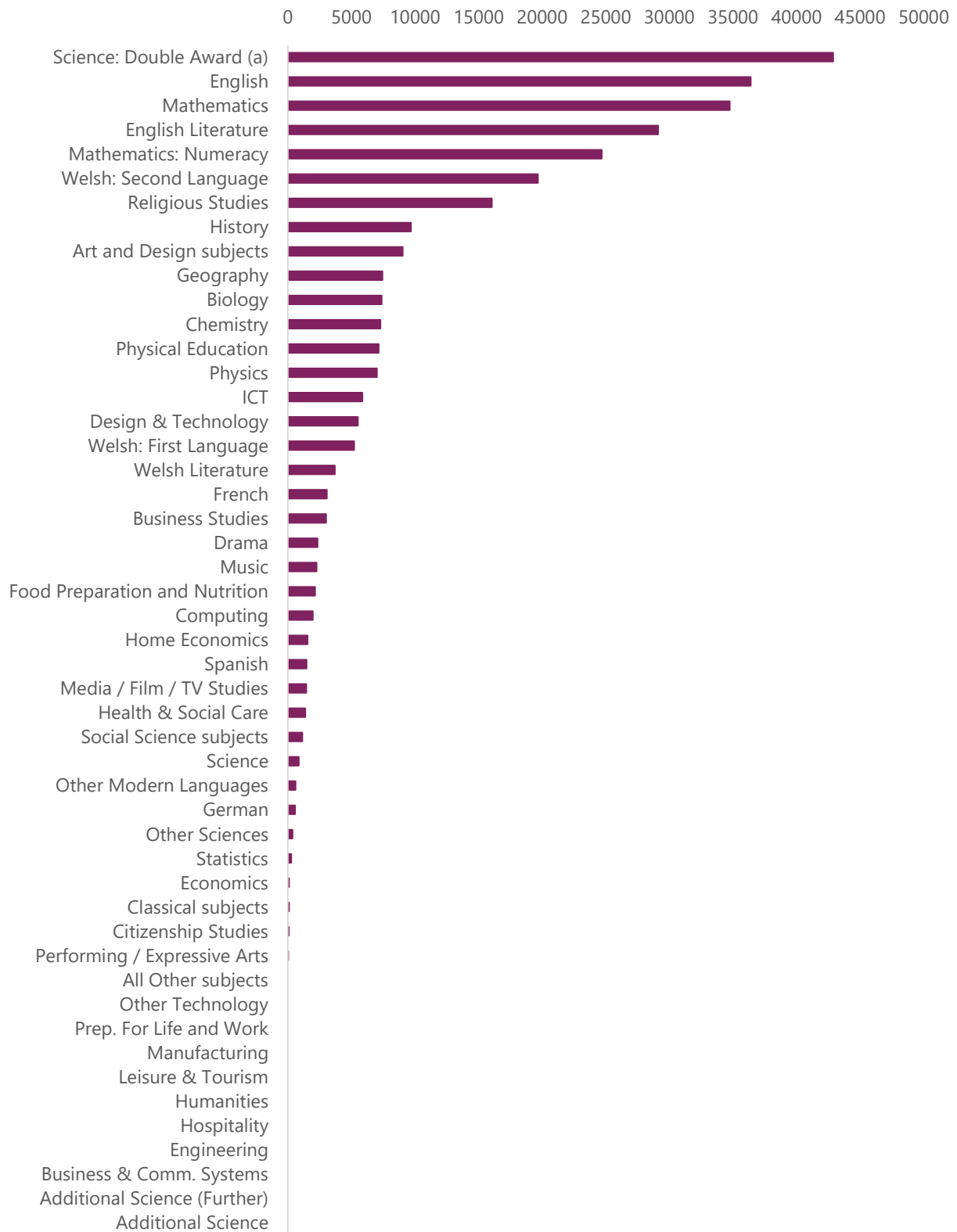
GCSE Subject	2019	2018	Percentage Change
Additional Science	0	0	NA
Additional Science (Further)	0	0	NA
Art and Design subjects	9,045	7,905	14.4%
Biology	7,375	7,275	1.4%
Business & Comm. Systems	0	135	-100.0%
Business Studies	3,010	3,730	-19.3%
Chemistry	7,275	7,030	3.5%
Citizenship Studies	85	35	135.1%
Classical subjects	90	160	-42.9%
Computing	1,965	1,885	4.1%
Design & Technology	5,510	5,800	-4.9%
Drama	2,350	2,390	-1.6%
Economics	95	80	16.0%
Engineering	0	190	-100.0%
English	36,405	27,890	30.5%
English Literature	29,120	24,125	20.7%
Food Preparation and Nutrition	2,135	1,975	8.3%
French	3,060	3,645	-16.0%
Geography	7,435	7,535	-1.3%
German	575	825	-30.3%
Health & Social Care	1,385	1,445	-4.0%
History	9,685	9,090	6.5%
Home Economics	1,550	1,690	-8.2%
Hospitality	0	295	-100.0%
Humanities	0	0	NA
ICT	5,875	6,370	-7.8%
Leisure & Tourism	0	265	-100.0%
Manufacturing	0	0	NA
Mathematics	34,755	29,970	16.0%
Mathematics: Numeracy	24,695	23,000	7.4%
Media / Film / TV Studies	1,460	1,690	-13.8%
Music	2,255	2,240	0.7%
Performing / Expressive Arts	40	25	62.5%
Physical Education	7,140	7,325	-2.6%
Physics	7,000	6,995	0.1%
Prep. For Life and Work	0	0	NA
Religious Studies	16,055	20,940	-23.3%
Science	860	510	68.7%
Science: Double Award (a)	42,895	42,740	0.4%
Social Science subjects	1,140	1,745	-34.5%
Spanish	1,480	1,205	22.9%
Statistics	275	195	40.3%
Welsh Literature	3,695	3,325	11.0%
Welsh: First Language	5,220	4,865	7.3%
Welsh: Second Language	19,670	21,080	-6.7%
Other Modern Languages	600	680	-11.4%
Other Sciences	365	330	11.3%
Other Technology	0	5	-100.0%
All Other subjects	0	*	-100.0%
<b>Total Entries</b>	<b>303,635</b>	<b>290,640</b>	<b>4.5%</b>

Source: Awarding bodies - Entries by Year Group collection, Qualifications Wales

Table 5 compares total summer GCSE entries for 2019 and 2018 by subject. These figures include legacy GCSEs, reformed GCSEs for Wales and reformed GCSEs for England. Twenty-two subjects saw increases, five were unchanged and twenty-two saw decreases in entries. The changes ranged from an increase of 8,515 for English to a decrease of 4,885 for Religious Studies.

In 2019, there were 42,895 entries into Science: Double Award, with entries being counted twice. Entries into Biology, Chemistry and Physics are larger in 2019 than they were in 2018.

**Figure 6: Summer 2019 GCSE total entries broken down by subject**



Source: Awarding bodies - Entries by Year Group collection, Qualifications Wales

## LARGER ENTRY GCSE SUBJECT TOTAL ENTRIES BY YEAR GROUP, SUMMER 2019

As shown in figure 6 the top 5 GCSE entry subjects in summer 2019 were Science: Double Award, Mathematics, English, English Literature, and Mathematics: Numeracy. Below we look at these subjects in more detail.

### Science: Double Award

This summer is the second award of the approved Science: Double Award qualifications. Entries into Science: Double Award qualifications are counted as two entries in this release. This is because the qualification size of the approved 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.

**Figure 7: GCSE Science: Double Award year group comparisons**



Source: Awarding bodies - Entries by Year Group collection, Qualifications Wales

**Table 6: GCSE Science: Double Award by year group**

Science: Double Award	Year 9 or below	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12	Year 13 or above	Total
2019	0	*	42,560	315	20	42,895
2018	0	10	42,510	220	5	42,740

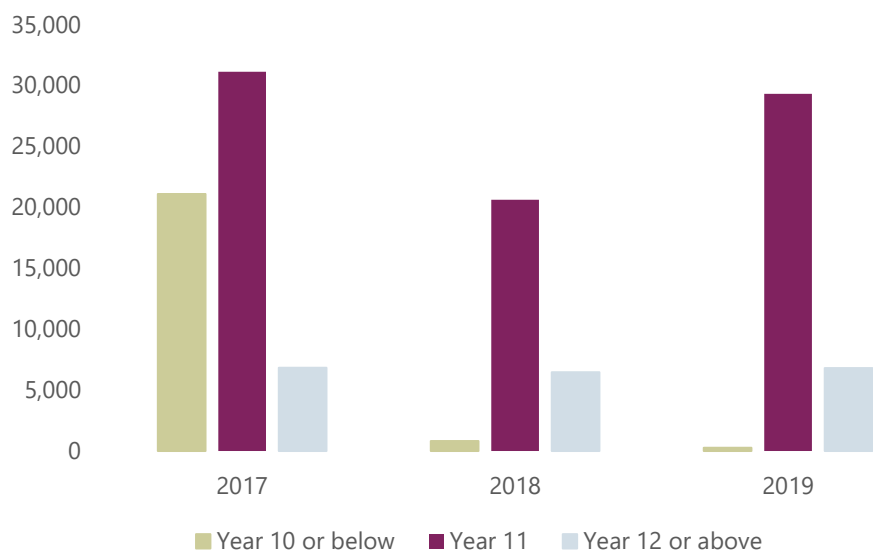
Source: Awarding bodies - Entries by Year Group collection, Qualifications Wales

GCSE Science: Double Award had 42,895 entries for summer 2019. These qualifications are part of a suite which replaces 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 2019 compared to summer 2018; Biology (1.4%), Chemistry (3.5%) and Physics (0.1%) (see table 5).

## GCSE English

**Figure 8: GCSE English year group comparisons**



Source: Awarding bodies - Entries by Year Group collection, 2018 and later - Qualifications Wales; 2017 - Ofqual

**Table 7: English Entries by year group**

English	Year 9 or below	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12	Year 13 or above	Total
2019	10	270	29,320	2,980	3,830	36,405
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 - Entries by Year Group collection, 2018 and later - Qualifications Wales; 2017 - Ofqual

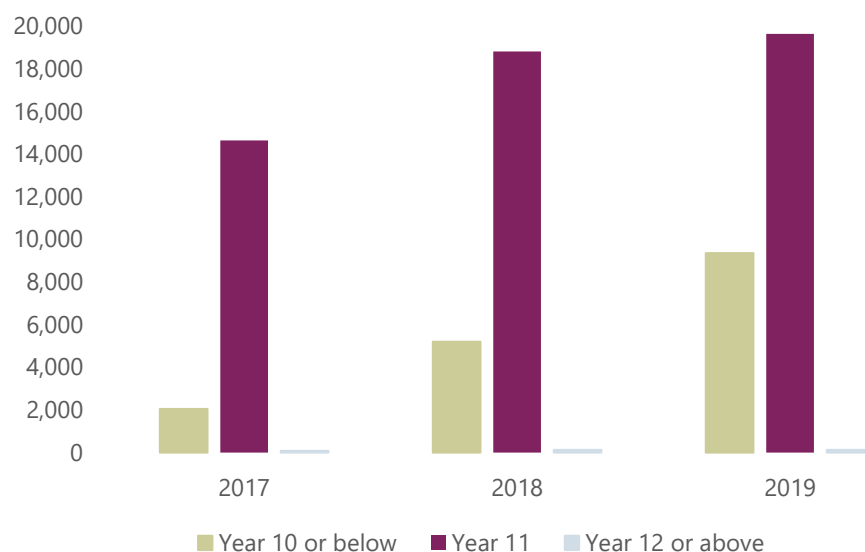
The first summer award (2017) of approved GCSE English had a large Year 10 entry, many of whom did not return in summer 2018. The November 2017 series was a resit series only, with only those who had sat the exam in summer 2017 able to enter in the November. There was a much smaller Year 10 entry in summer 2018, likely as a result of changes to performance measures meaning first grades will count.

- There were 36,405 entries for GCSE English in summer 2019, an increase of 8,515 (30.5%).

- The announcement regarding calculation of school performance measures using first grade achieved (see [performance measures](#)) is may have contributed to changes in Year 10 entries.
- Year 10 or below entries made up 2.9% of entries for GCSE English last summer series, and only 0.8% of entries for summer 2019.
- Year 11 entries make up 80.5% of the total entry this year compared to 73.9% last year.
- The proportion of entries accounted for by Year 12 or above is also lower this year, making up 18.7% of entries, compared to 23.2% of entries last year.

## GCSE English Literature

**Figure 9: GCSE English Literature year group comparisons**



Source: Awarding bodies - Entries by Year Group collection, 2018 and later - Qualifications Wales; 2017 - Ofqual

**Table 8: English Literature Entries by year group**

English Literature	Year 9 or below	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12	Year 13 or above	Total
2019	*	9,355	19,630	120	10	29,120
2018	*	5,195	18,805	105	20	24,125
2017	*	2,055	14,640	75	10	16,780

Source: Awarding bodies - Entries by Year Group collection, 2018 and later - Qualifications Wales; 2017 - Ofqual

Approved GCSE English Literature counts towards the literacy elements of school performance measures from summer 2019. GCSE English Literature may only be entered



for and awarded during the summer series<sup>6</sup>, therefore this summer is the third opportunity to sit the reformed GCSE.

- The total number of entries for GCSE English Literature was 29,120 (20.7% increase in summer 2019 compared to summer 2018).
- All year groups except Year 13 or above saw an increase in entries in summer 2019 compared to summer 2018.
- The smaller Year 11 entry in summer 2017 was because a substantial proportion of the cohort had entered the legacy qualification in summer 2016, when they were in Year 10<sup>7</sup>.
- The Year 11 entry for GCSE English Literature is substantially smaller than the Year 11 entry for GCSE English Language. This has been true for each summer from summer 2017 onwards.
- Year 11 entries made up 67.4% of total English Literature entries for summer 2019, this compared to 78.0% in summer 2018.
- Year 12 or above entries made up 0.4% for summer 2019, down slightly from 0.5% last year.
- The proportion of Year 10 or below entries rose in summer 2019, making up 32.1% of total English Literature entries this year, compared to 21.5% of entries last year.
- The largest increase was for Year 10, with an increase of 4,165 entries (80.2%).

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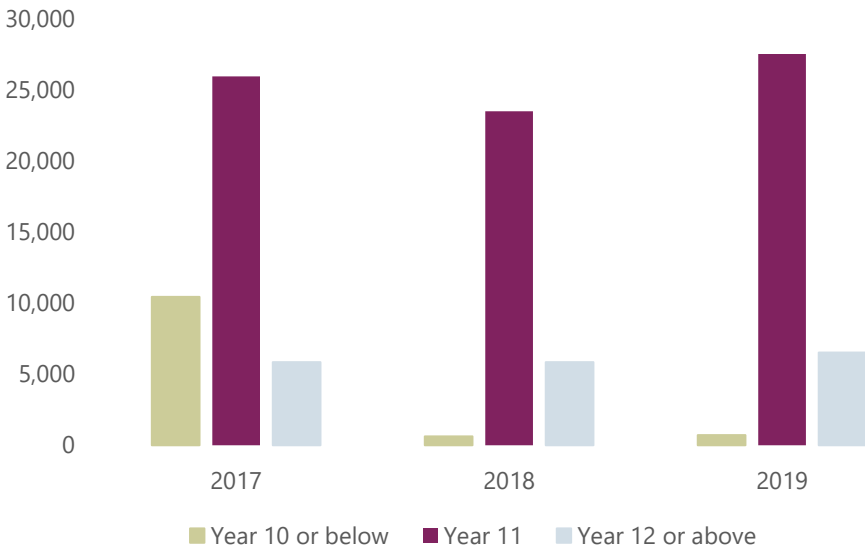
<sup>6</sup> Reformed GCSE English Literature is unitised, and there is a unit available to be entered in the January series

<sup>7</sup> 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 % (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](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

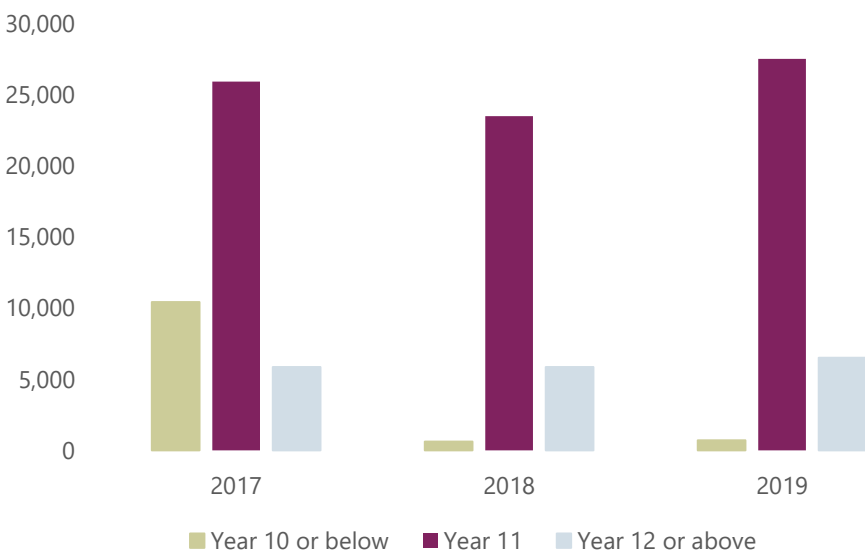
GCSE Mathematics had the third largest number of provisional GCSE entries in summer 2019, with a total of 34,755 entries. Mathematics: Numeracy had the fifth highest number of provisional entries with 24,695 entries.

**Figure 10: GCSE Mathematics year group comparisons**



Source: Awarding bodies - Entries by Year Group collection, 2018 and later - Qualifications Wales; 2017 - Ofqual

**Figure 11: GCSE Mathematics: Numeracy year group comparisons**



Source: Awarding bodies - Entries by Year Group collection, 2018 and later - Qualifications Wales; 2017 - Ofqual

- For summer 2019, Year 11 learners made up 79.2% of entries for GCSE Mathematics and 86.2% for GCSE Mathematics: Numeracy. This compares to 78.4% and 85.1% in summer 2018 respectively.
- Year 10 or below entries made up 2.0% and 7.9% of entries for GCSE Mathematics and GCSE Mathematics: Numeracy respectively in summer 2019. This has changed from 2.1% and 7.7% respectively in summer 2018.
- 18.8% of entries for GCSE Mathematics were from Year 12 or above, and 5.9% for GCSE Mathematics: Numeracy. This compares to 19.5% and 7.2% in summer 2018.

**Table 9: GCSE Mathematics and Mathematics: Numeracy entries by year group**

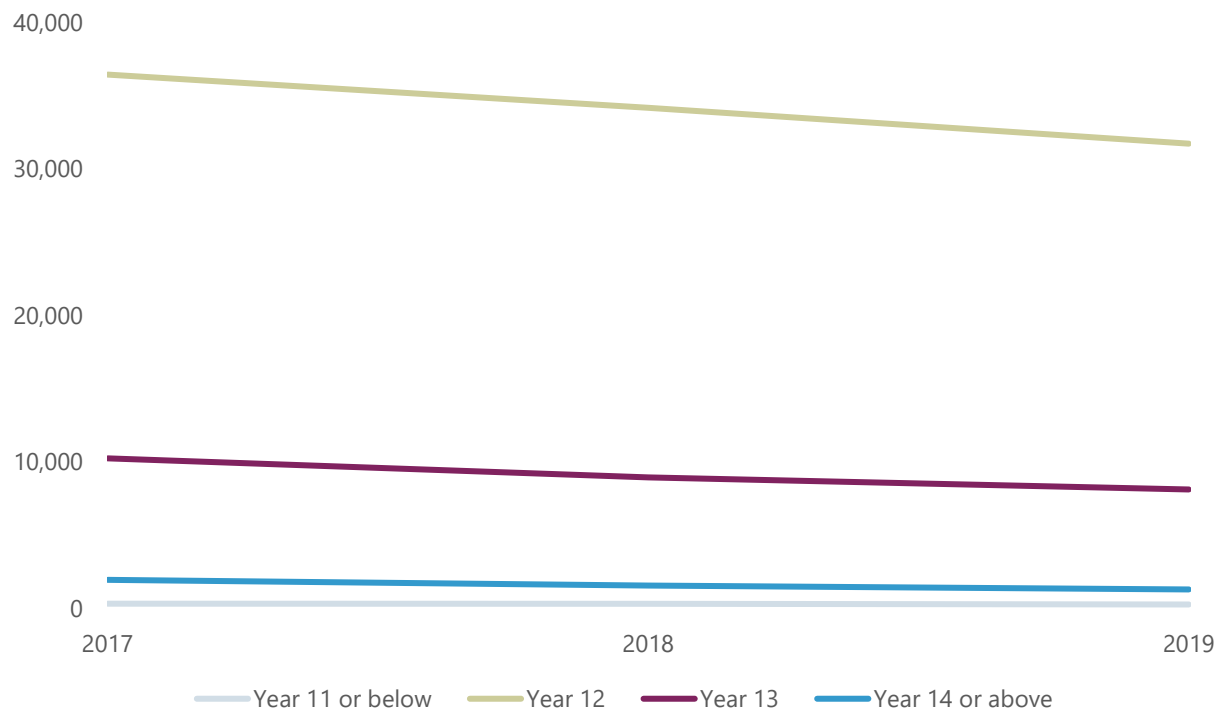
Subject	Year	Year 9 or below	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12	Year 13 or above	Total
<b>Mathematics</b>							
	2019	25	690	27,530	2,750	3,765	34,755
	2018	10	610	23,495	2,770	3,085	29,970
	2017	20	10,415	25,940	2,240	3,610	42,230
<b>Mathematics: Numeracy</b>							
	2019	*	1,940	21,285	645	820	24,695
	2018	*	1,765	19,565	715	950	23,000
	2017	10	11,135	20,455	520	1,050	33,170

Source: Awarding bodies - Entries by Year Group collection, 2018 and later - Qualifications Wales; 2017 - Ofqual

- Total entries for GCSE Mathematics increased in summer 2019 by 16.0% compared to summer 2018. GCSE Mathematics: Numeracy saw a smaller increase of 7.4%.
- GCSE Mathematics Year 11 entries saw the largest increase this summer, with a 17.2% increase. GCSE Mathematics: Numeracy Year 12 or above saw the largest decrease with 12.0% fewer entries.
- Mathematics has a higher proportion of entries in Year 12 or above than Mathematics: Numeracy. This has been the case since 2017.

## AS LEVEL ENTRIES

**Figure 12: AS level total entries by year group**



Source: Awarding bodies - Entries by Year Group collection, 2018 and later - Qualifications Wales; 2017 - Ofqual

- There were 41,415 AS level entries for summer 2019 in Wales, 8.0% fewer than for summer 2018 (44,995 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 in 2017<sup>8</sup> and our previous report showing 48,965 entries in 2017.
- Year 12 had the largest number of entries, with 31,730 entries in summer 2019 accounting for 76.6% of all entries.
- All year groups saw a decrease in entries this summer compared to summer 2018.
- There are several factors that can cause these changes in entries (see external influences)

<sup>8</sup> 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>

## **REFORMED AS LEVEL**

39,890 entries (96.3%) of the total summer 2019 entries were for approved qualifications. These only include qualifications provided by WJEC, who are the only awarding body offering approved AS levels. 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 2019 would be for legacy qualifications and England reformed qualifications.

## PHASE 1 REFORM

Approved phase 1 AS levels will be awarded for the fourth time this summer and account for 60.1% of total AS level entries for summer 2019.

Table 10 illustrates the percentage change in entries for approved phase 1 AS level between summer 2019 and summer 2018. Total entries for these qualifications fell by 3.4% from 25,765 entries in summer 2018 to 24,895 entries in summer 2019.

**Table 10: Approved phase 1 AS level entries by subject, summer 2019 compared to summer 2018**

Subject	2019	2018	Percentage change
Art and Design	2,085	2,440	-14.5%
Biology	3,645	3,600	1.2%
Business	1,835	1,795	2.1%
Chemistry	3,195	3,190	0.2%
Computer Science	645	610	6.1%
Economics	630	745	-15.5%
English Language	355	415	-13.8%
English Language and Literature	865	915	-5.0%
English Literature	1,690	2,065	-18.2%
History	2,550	2,760	-7.6%
Physics	2,325	2,250	3.4%
Psychology	2,885	2,715	6.2%
Sociology	1,920	1,980	-3.0%
Welsh First Language	260	280	-7.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>24,895</b>	<b>25,765</b>	<b>-3.4%</b>

Source: Awarding bodies - Entries by Year Group collection, Qualifications Wales

- Psychology had the largest proportional increase in entries at 6.2%.
- English Literature had the largest proportional decrease of entries at 18.2%.

## PHASE 2 REFORM

Table 10 shows the change in entries for approved phase 2 AS levels between summer 2019 and summer 2018. This summer is the third time that these AS levels will be awarded and entries for these qualifications account for 14.1% of total AS level entries for summer 2019.

**Table 11: Approved phase 2 AS level entries by subject, summer 2019 and summer 2018**

<b>Subject</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>Percentage change</b>
Drama and Theatre	575	615	-6.4%
French	380	445	-14.3%
Geography	1,560	1,750	-11.0%
German	85	100	-13.3%
Music	390	405	-3.7%
Physical Education	835	900	-7.0%
Religious Studies	1,495	1,815	-17.8%
Spanish	185	220	-15.6%
Welsh Second Language	350	490	-28.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,855</b>	<b>6,735</b>	<b>-13.1%</b>

Source: Awarding bodies - Entries by Year Group collection, Qualifications Wales

- Total entries decreased by 13.1% from 6,735 in summer 2018 to 5,855 entries in summer 2019.
- Entries decreased for all these qualifications.

### PHASE 3 REFORM

Approved phase 3 AS levels will be awarded for the second time this summer. These qualifications accounted for 22.1% of total AS level entries for summer 2019.

**Table 12: Approved phase 3 AS level entries by subject, summer 2019 and summer 2018<sup>9</sup>**

<b>Subject</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>Percentage change</b>
Design and Technology	775	770	0.6%
Further Mathematics	460	325	42.6%
Government and Politics	415	490	-15.5%
ICT	875	855	2.3%
Law	1,025	925	10.8%
Mathematics	4,640	3,770	23.0%
Media Studies	950	1,025	-7.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,140</b>	<b>8,160</b>	<b>12.0%</b>

*Source: Awarding bodies - Entries by Year Group collection, Qualifications Wales*

Table 12 shows the change in entries for approved phase 3 AS levels between summer 2019 and summer 2018.

- Total entries increased by 12.0% from 8,160 in summer 2018 to 9,140 entries in summer 2019.
- Changes at the subject level ranged from a decrease of 15.5% for Government and Politics to an increase of 42.6% in Further Mathematics.
- Mathematics makes up 50.8% of entries (up from 46.2% last summer).

<sup>9</sup> ICT has been included as a reformed qualification in this release in line with JCQ classification



**Table 13: AS level total entries (legacy and all phases) by subject, summer 2019 compared to summer 2018**

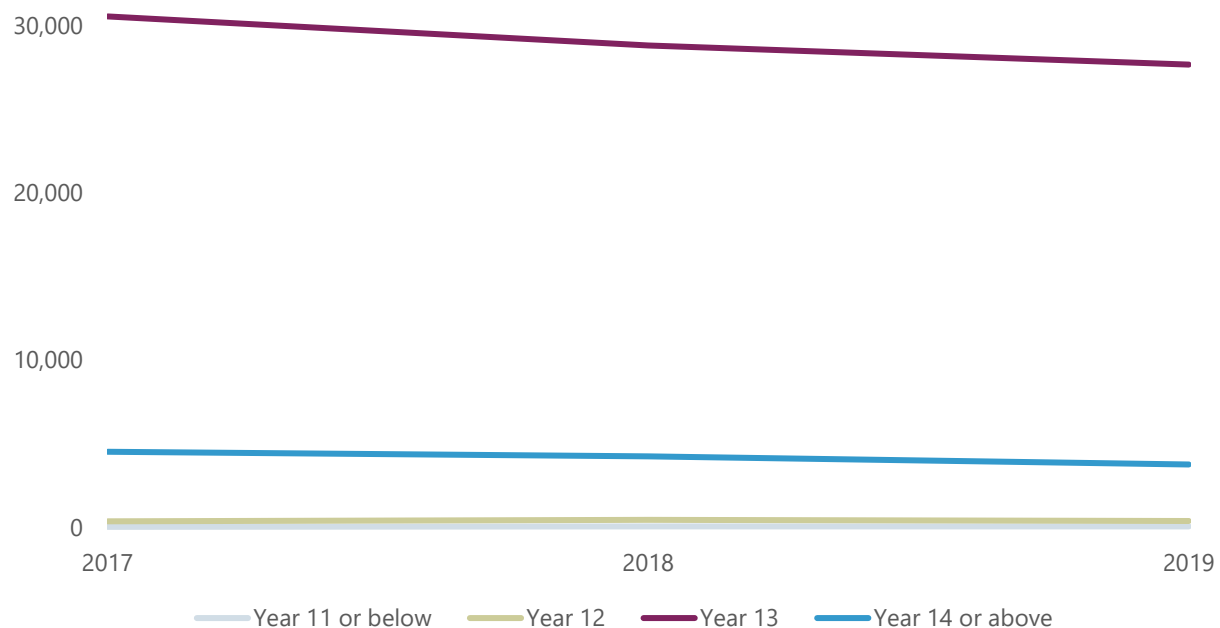
<b>AS Subject</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>Percentage Change</b>
Art & Design subjects	2,090	2,480	-15.8%
Biology	3,655	3,665	-0.4%
Business Studies	1,835	1,820	0.7%
Chemistry	3,200	3,285	-2.6%
Classical subjects	55	120	-55.4%
Computing	650	620	4.2%
Design and Technology	775	905	-14.4%
Drama	575	620	-7.0%
Economics	635	805	-21.3%
English Language	360	430	-16.6%
English Language & Literature	865	915	-5.0%
English Literature	1,695	2,090	-18.8%
French	385	455	-16.0%
Geography	1,570	1,780	-11.6%
German	85	100	-15.0%
Health & Social Care	765	790	-3.2%
History	2,565	2,790	-8.0%
ICT	880	1,100	-19.9%
Law	1,025	1,030	-0.6%
Mathematics	4,730	4,815	-1.7%
Mathematics (Further)	470	605	-22.5%
Media / Film / TV Studies	1,090	1,265	-14.1%
Music	415	470	-11.7%
Performing / Expressive Arts	0	*	-100.0%
Physical Education	835	910	-7.8%
Physics	2,340	2,355	-0.8%
Political Studies	425	570	-24.8%
Psychology	2,885	2,730	5.6%
Religious Studies	1,500	1,840	-18.6%
Sociology	1,920	1,980	-2.9%
Spanish	185	225	-17.6%
Travel & Tourism	*	10	-88.9%
Welsh First Language	260	280	-7.1%
Welsh Second Language	350	490	-28.4%
Other Modern Languages	110	210	-46.6%
Other Sciences	175	275	-35.2%
All other subjects	60	165	-65.3%
<b>Total Entries</b>	<b>41,415</b>	<b>44,995</b>	<b>-8.0%</b>

Source: Awarding bodies - Entries by Year Group collection, Qualifications Wales

Table 13 compares total AS summer entries for 2019 and 2018 by subject. These figures include legacy AS, approved AS for Wales and reformed AS for England. Most 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 Psychology had the highest percentage increase in entries this summer compared to last year, with an increase of 5.6% in entries.

## A LEVEL ENTRIES

Figure 13: A level total entries by year group



Source: Awarding bodies - Entries by Year Group collection, 2018 and later - Qualifications Wales; 2017 - Ofqual

- There were 31,925 A level entries for summer 2019, 5.1% fewer than in summer 2018 (33,640 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 in 2017<sup>10</sup> and in our previous release we reported 35,525 entries in 2017.
- Year 13 entries have decreased by 4.0% in summer 2019 (27,670 entries) compared to summer 2018 (28,810 entries).
- All year groups saw a decrease compared to summer 2018.
- There are several factors that can cause these changes in entries (see external influences). This will include a decrease in AS entries of 8.1% between summer 2017 and summer 2018.

<sup>10</sup> 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>

## **REFORMED A LEVEL ENTRIES**

28,595 entries (89.6%) of the total summer 2019 entries were for approved qualifications. These only include qualifications provided by WJEC who are the only awarding body offering approved A levels. 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 2019 will make up legacy qualifications and England reformed qualifications. All three phases of approved A levels are being awarded this summer.

## PHASE 1 REFORM

This summer is the third time these A levels will be awarded. Entries into these subjects account for 56.3% of total A level entries for summer 2019.

**Table 14: Approved phase 1 A level entries by subject, summer 2019 compared to summer 2018**

<b>Subject</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>Percentage change</b>
Art and Design	1,780	1,900	-6.3%
Biology	2,480	2,365	4.8%
Business	1,180	1,245	-5.4%
Chemistry	2,155	1,965	9.6%
Computer Science	335	335	0.9%
Economics	460	440	4.3%
English Language	280	240	17.0%
English Language and Literature	635	705	-9.4%
English Literature	1,610	1,605	0.3%
History	2,225	2,370	-6.1%
Physics	1,495	1,345	11.1%
Psychology	1,800	1,565	15.0%
Sociology	1,250	1,340	-6.6%
Welsh First Language	280	255	9.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>17,975</b>	<b>17,680</b>	<b>1.7%</b>

*Source: Awarding bodies - Entries by Year Group collection, Qualifications Wales*

Table 14 shows the percentage change in entries for Wales approved phase 1 reformed A level entries between summer 2019 and summer 2018.

- Entries for phase 1 A levels increased 1.7% from 17,680 last summer to 17,975 this summer.
- English Language had the largest proportional increase of entries at 17.0%.
- English Language & Literature had the largest proportional decrease of entries at 9.4%.

## PHASE 2 REFORM

These A levels will be awarded for the second time this summer. They accounted for 14.6% of total A level entries for summer 2019.

**Table 15: Approved phase 2 A level entries by subject, summer 2019 compared to summer 2018**

<b>Subject</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>Percentage change</b>
Drama and Theatre	495	615	-19.5%
French	285	305	-6.6%
Geography	1,265	1,250	1.3%
German	65	55	12.5%
Music	305	325	-5.9%
Physical Education	625	585	6.1%
Religious Studies	1,245	1,325	-6.2%
Spanish	140	135	6.8%
Welsh Second Language	250	275	-9.8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,670</b>	<b>4,870</b>	<b>-4.1%</b>

*Source: Awarding bodies - Entries by Year Group collection, Qualifications Wales*

Table 15 shows the percentage change in entries for approved phase 2 A level entries between summer 2019 and summer 2018.

- Total entries decreased 4.1% from 4,870 last summer to 4,670 this summer.
- Modern Foreign Languages (French, German and Spanish) entries decreased by 5 entries (0.8%)
- Welsh Second Language saw a decrease of 9.8%.
- Drama had the largest proportional decrease of entries at 19.5%.

## PHASE 3 REFORM

These A levels will be first awarded in summer 2019 with the exception of Mathematics, which was awarded in 2018 largely to 17-year-olds. This was so learners could sit the both AS and A level Mathematics in their first year of study (2018) and then progress to AS and A level Further Mathematics in their second year (2019).

**Table 16: Approved phase 3 A level entries by subject, summer 2019 compared to summer 2018**

<b>A level subject</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>
Design and Technology	590	0
Further Mathematics	460	0
Government and Politics	340	0
Law	600	0
Mathematics	3,180	135
Media Studies	780	0
<b>Total Entries</b>	<b>5,950</b>	<b>135</b>

*Source: Awarding bodies - Entries by Year Group collection, Qualifications Wales*

Table 16 shows the percentage change in entries for approved phase 3 A level entries between summer 2019 and summer 2018.

- Mathematics made up 53.5% of the entries.

**Table 17: A level total entries (legacy and all phases) by subject, summer 2019 compared to summer 2018**

A level Subject	Percentage		
	2019	2018	Change
Art & Design subjects	1,855	1,980	-6.3%
Biology	2,570	2,565	0.3%
Business Studies	1,215	1,305	-7.0%
Chemistry	2,235	2,135	4.6%
Classical subjects	65	85	-25.3%
Communication Studies	0	0	NA
Computing	380	360	5.6%
Critical Thinking	0	0	NA
Design and Technology	620	680	-9.0%
Drama	515	635	-19.1%
Economics	490	495	-1.0%
Engineering	0	0	NA
English Language	285	285	0.0%
English Language & Literature	640	705	-9.5%
English Literature	1,665	1,685	-1.0%
French	300	340	-11.8%
General Studies	0	0	NA
Geography	1,325	1,355	-2.1%
German	65	70	-5.7%
Health & Social Care	605	605	-0.3%
History	2,255	2,465	-8.4%
ICT	660	800	-17.8%
Law	615	645	-5.1%
Leisure	0	0	NA
Mathematics	3,625	3,950	-8.3%
Mathematics (Further)	550	610	-9.4%
Media / Film / TV Studies	930	1,060	-12.4%
Music	365	385	-5.2%
Performing / Expressive Arts	20	15	11.8%
Physical Education	640	625	2.6%
Physics	1,525	1,545	-1.3%
Political Studies	365	415	-12.1%
Psychology	1,815	1,600	13.2%
Religious Studies	1,275	1,380	-7.4%
Science	0	0	NA
Sociology	1,270	1,365	-6.8%
Spanish	155	160	-1.9%
Travel & Tourism	5	130	-94.6%
Welsh First Language	280	255	9.9%
Welsh Second Language	250	285	-12.9%
Other Modern Languages	245	295	-16.9%
Other sciences	190	205	-7.3%
All other subjects	60	165	-63.6%
<b>Total Entries</b>	<b>31,925</b>	<b>33,640</b>	<b>-5.1%</b>

Source: Awarding bodies - Entries by Year Group collection, Qualifications Wales



Table 17 compares total A level summer entries for 2019 and 2018 by subject. These include legacy A level, approved A level and reformed A level for England. Most 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. Psychology had the highest percentage increase in entries this summer compared to last year, with an increase of 13.2%.

## LEVEL 1/LEVEL 2 CERTIFICATE ENTRIES

**Table 18: Level 1/Level 2 Entries by year group and subject, summer 2019 and summer 2018<sup>11</sup>**

	Year 9 or below	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12	Year 13 or above	Total
<b>2019</b>						
Total entries	30	30	3,020	70	20	3,170
<i>Additional Maths</i>	*	15	2,840	25	*	2,880
<i>Other Subjects</i>	30	15	180	45	20	290
<b>2018</b>						
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
<b>2017</b>						
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 - Entries by Year Group collection, 2018 and later - Qualifications Wales; 2017 - Ofqual

Table 18 shows there were 3,170 entries for Level 1/2 qualifications in 2019, 11.7% lower than the number of entries in summer 2018 (3,590 entries).

In 2019, Additional Maths entries made up 90.9% of total Level 1/2 entries, this compares to 89.2% in 2018. Year 11 entries in this qualification decreased by 335 (10.0%) and this may be influenced by the reduction in the number of candidates sitting GCSE Mathematics or GCSE mathematics – Numeracy early.

<sup>11</sup> 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

**Table 19: Skills Challenge Certificate entries by year group, summer 2019 and summer 2018**

	Number of Candidates Summer 2019				Number of Candidates Summer 2018			
	Year 11 or below	Year 12	Year 13 or above	Total	Year 11 or below	Year 12	Year 13 or above	Total
Advanced Skills Challenge Certificate	0	*	11,995	11,995	0	10	13,220	13,230
Foundation (post 16) Skills Challenge Certificate	0	0	0	0	0	50	10	65
National (post 16) Skills Challenge Certificate	0	35	20	55	0	85	40	125
National/Foundation Skills Challenge Certificate	27,890	135	5	28,030	27,630	155	*	27,790
<b>Total</b>	<b>27,890</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>12,020</b>	<b>40,080</b>	<b>27,630</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>13,275</b>	<b>41,205</b>

*Source: Awarding bodies - Entries by Year Group collection, Qualifications Wales*

Table 19 shows the number of entries for the Skills Challenge Certificate by year group for summer 2019 and summer 2018.

- Total entries decreased 1,125 (2.7%).
- National/Foundation Skills Challenge Certificate (KS4) accounted for 69.9% of all entries, up from 67.4% last summer. There were 28,030 entries, up 240 (0.9%).
- The Advanced Skills Challenge Certificate saw 11,995 entries, down 1,230 (9.3%).

# 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 2019.

### **Year 11**

Students who are aged 16 by 31st August 2019.

### **Year 12**

Students who are aged 17 by 31st August 2019.

### **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 21 November 2017 the National Assembly for Wales approved the Official Statistics (Wales) Order 2017<sup>12</sup> which named Qualifications Wales as one of the bodies that are in scope of the Statistics and Registration Services Act 2007<sup>13</sup>. Qualifications Wales operates in compliance with the UK Statistics Authority Code of Practice for Official Statistics<sup>14</sup> and has published this statistical release as Official Statistics.

## 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 2019. 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.

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

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<sup>12</sup> [http://www.legislation.gov.uk/wsi/2017/1142/pdfs/wsi\\_20171142\\_mi.pdf](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/wsi/2017/1142/pdfs/wsi_20171142_mi.pdf)

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2007/18/contents>

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

Data has been collected at an appropriate point when it is reasonably complete, this was the 17<sup>th</sup> April 2019 for the summer 2019 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**

From 2017/18 awarding bodies submitted 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 2019 exam series for centres located in Wales. This release does **not** include A levels, AS levels, GCSEs, the Skills Challenge Certificate and Level1/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 2018 release<sup>15</sup>.
- The annual 'Schools' census results' release<sup>16</sup>, published by Welsh Government.
- Entries for GCSE, AS and A level in England<sup>17</sup>.

## Useful information

You can find information about future publications on the Welsh Government website<sup>18</sup> and our website<sup>19</sup>. The QiW register<sup>20</sup> gives information on approved and designated qualifications which are eligible for public funding in Wales.

## Next update

May 2020 (provisional).

## User feedback

We welcome any feedback on any aspect of these statistics which can be provided by email to [statistics@qualificationswales.org](mailto:statistics@qualificationswales.org)

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<sup>15</sup> <https://qualificationswales.org/english/publications/an-annual-report-which-presents-provisional-data-on-november-2018-gcse-and-level-1level-2-certificates-entries-for-wales/>

<sup>16</sup> <https://gov.wales/schools-census-results-january-2018>

<sup>17</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/entries-for-gcse-as-and-a-level-summer-2018-exam-series>

<sup>18</sup> <https://gov.wales/statistics-and-research/upcoming>

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

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