

Statistical Release

Appeals for GCSE and A Level: Summer 2015 Exam Series

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Key points

This statistical release provides information on the number of appeals made against results for GCSEs and A levels in England, Wales, Northern Ireland, other UK regions and overseas during the summer 2015 exam series. An appeal is made at unit/component level and can be in relation to one or more candidates.

The key findings for this release are as follows.

- The number of appeals submitted rose by 2 per cent in 2015, compared to 2014 (466 compared to 456).
- The increase in appeals is in the context of an overall increase of less than 0.1 per cent increase in GCSE and A level entries.
- In 2015, less than 1 per cent (49) of the 7,166 qualification grades involved in appeals were changed. This compares to 6,283 qualification grades involved in an appeal in 2014, of which 4 per cent (218) were changed.
- More than 99 per cent of all stage 1 appeals were completed within the target timeline of 50 working days, from the initial receipt of the appeal.
- 33 appeals progressed to stage 2 in 2015. This represents 7 per cent of all appeals made.

Introduction

This statistical release, published on behalf of the qualifications regulators for England, Wales and Northern Ireland, presents data on appeals made to exam boards for the summer 2015 GCSE and A level¹ exam series.

If a school or college is concerned about the accuracy of a candidate's result, it can ask the exam board to review the marking. This is commonly known as an enquiry about a result. A bulletin called *Enquiries about Results for GCSE and A Level: Summer 2015 Exam Series* was published in December 2015.²

If a school or college has gone through the enquiries about results process and is dissatisfied with the outcome, it can make an appeal to the exam board. Further information on appeals can be found in the background notes on page 13.

Five exam boards award GCSE and A level qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland:

- AQA
- Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment (CCEA)
- Oxford Cambridge and RSA Examinations (OCR)
- Pearson
- WJEC.

From 2011 to 2013, International Curriculum and Assessment Agency (Examinations) (ICAA(E)) also awarded GCSEs.

This statistical release:

- gives data for the five exam boards in terms of the two stages for appeals – stage 1 (a review by a senior member of the exam board), and stage 2 (a presentation of the case to an appeals panel);

¹ In this release, AS figures are included in the figures reported for A level since AS units are currently a subset of the A level qualification.

² <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/enquiries-about-results-for-gcse-and-a-level-summer-2015-exam-series>

- gives data on the number of appeals received, the number resulting in qualification grade changes, and the performance of the exam boards in meeting agreed timelines.

All the tables referred to in the text are provided in the appendix.

A glossary of terms is available on page 18 to help you interpret this release.

Key statistics

A school or college can only make an appeal where they have first submitted an enquiry about the result. If they are dissatisfied with the outcome of the enquiry about a result, they can then make an appeal within two weeks of receiving the decision. An appeal is made at unit/component level and can be in relation to one or more candidates.

There were 466 appeals made against GCSE and A level results in 2015; an increase of 2 per cent from 2014, when there were 456 (see below and table 2 in the appendix).

Thirty-one of the summer 2015 appeals resulted in changes³ to candidates' qualification grades, compared with 44 in 2014.

Year	Appeals	The number of appeals resulting in changes to candidates' grades	% of appeals that resulted in grade changes
2013	407	37	9%
2014	456	44	10%
2015	466	31	7%

Note: The number of appeals resulting in changes to candidates' grades is not the same as the total number of qualification grade changes, because an appeal may involve more than one candidate.

Each appeal may refer to more than one qualification grade. There were 7,166 candidates' qualification grades involved in the 466 appeals from summer 2015. Following the appeals, 49 qualification grades (less than 1 per cent of qualification grades challenged) were changed. This is a decrease compared to 2014, where 6,283 candidates' qualification grades were involved in 456 appeals, of which 218 (nearly 4 per cent) were changed (see table 5 and 6).

Year	Number of appeals for GCSE and A level	Total number of qualification grades challenged at appeal	Total number of qualification grade changes	% of qualification grades changed
2013	407	5,140	142	2.8%
2014	456	6,283	218	3.5%
2015	466	7,166	49	0.7%

³ Grades can change up or down. This year, all of the 31 qualification grade changes went up.

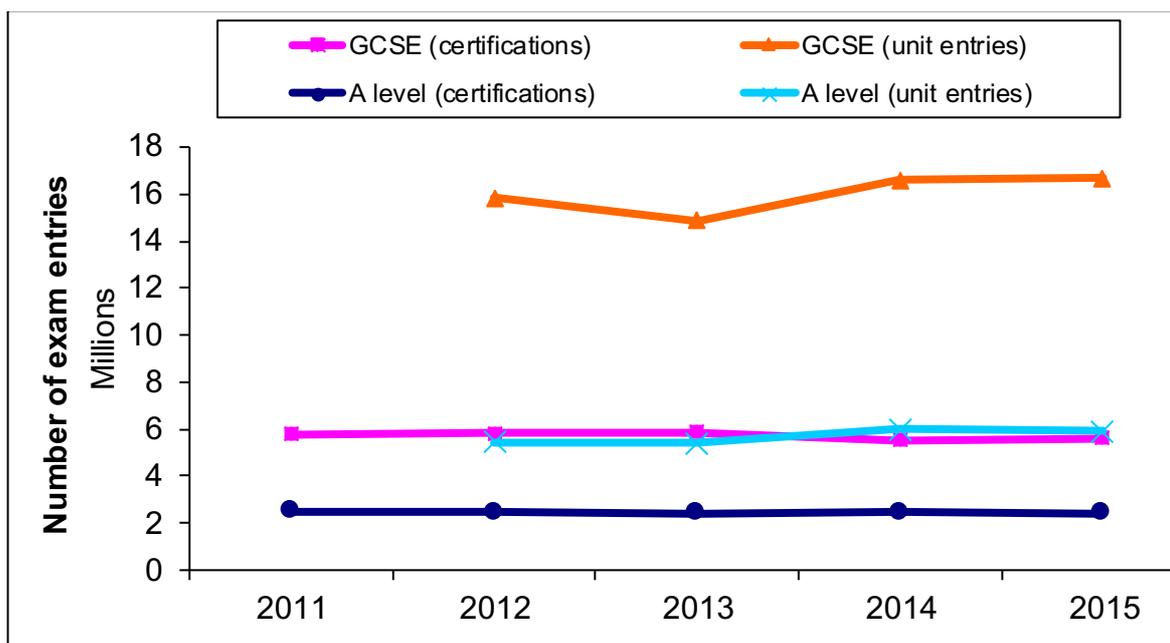
The data shows that 0.00061 per cent of all qualification grades certificated in summer 2015 (over 8 million) were changed as a result of an appeal.

Statistical analysis

Certifications and entries

In the summer 2015 exam series, more than 2.4 million AS and A level certifications⁴ and over 5.6 million GCSE certifications were made in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, other UK regions and overseas.⁵ The number of GCSE and A level certifications has remained fairly constant over the past 5 years (see figure 1).

Figure 1: Total entries for GCSE and A level, summer exam series, 2011–15



Note:

Entry figures were collected differently in 2011, which is why entry data prior to 2012 is not included.

A unit entry is a candidate registering to take a single unit of assessment for a GCSE or A level qualification (for example, an exam or other form of assessment). For linear specifications, units are often referred to as ‘components’. The number of individual unit entries in summer 2014 was higher than in previous years, as a result of changes to the qualifications.

There were 16.6 million GCSE unit entries in summer 2015, an increase of less than 1 per cent from 2014. There were 5.9 million A level unit entries in summer 2015, down 1 per cent from 2014.

⁴ A certification is a formal acknowledgement of a candidate’s achievement.

⁵ These figures include applied subjects.

From 2014, there were no January assessments for AS or A level in England. This means that entries that previously would have been made in January are likely to have been made in the summer, leading to the large rise in entries in the summer of 2014. This year, the number of entries has stabilised.

These changes mean that there are limitations to any conclusions that can be drawn about year-on-year changes over the whole period covered by this report.

Stage 1 and Stage 2 appeals

The procedure for appealing against decisions made by awarding bodies is governed by the Ofqual Code of Practice for GCSE, GCE, Principal Learning and Project qualifications⁶.

As required by the Ofqual Code of Practice, there are two stages in the exam boards' appeals process and JCQ awarding bodies⁷ follow a common approach:

- Stage 1 is a review of the case by a senior member of the exam board who has not been involved previously with the particular case.
- Stage 2 is a presentation of the case to an appeals panel.

A school or college can only take the appeal to stage 2 only after going through stage 1. The majority of appeals occur when a candidate completes a qualification, though there may be some appeals involving candidates who are not certificating⁸.

The number of appeals for GCSEs and A levels in 2015 is shown below

	GCSE appeals	A level appeals	GCSE appeals resulting in at least one grade change	A level appeals resulting in at least one grade change
Stage 1 (review)	161	305	18	13
Stage 2 (appeals panel)	14	19	0	0

Note: The number of appeals resulting in changes to candidates' grades is not the same as the total number of qualification grade changes, because an appeal may involve more than one candidate.

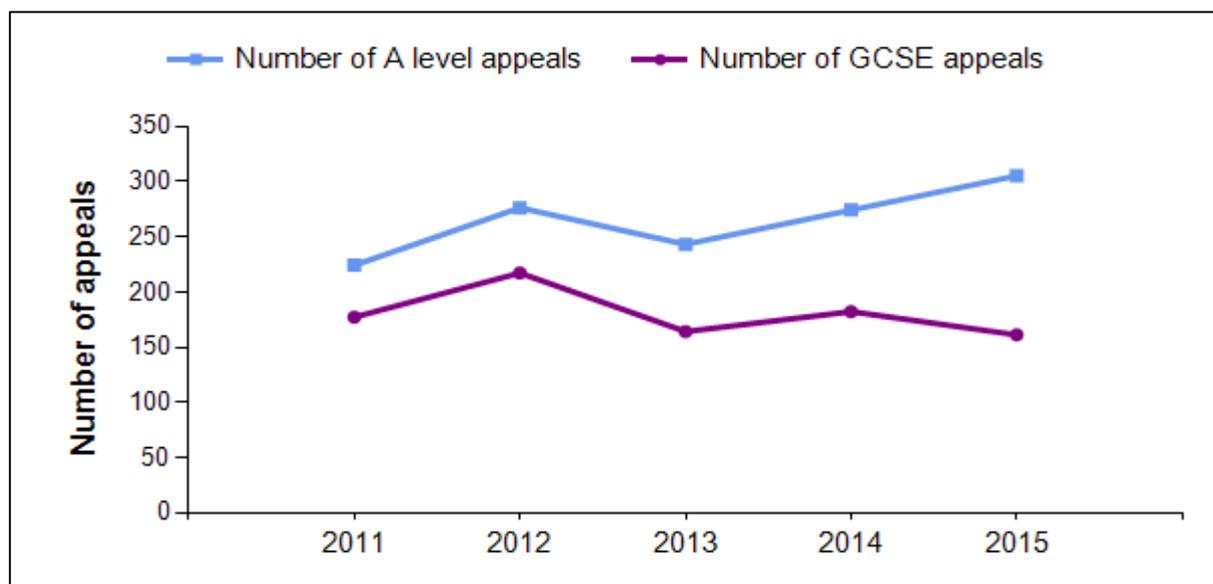
The number of GCSE appeals decreased in summer 2015, from 182 in 2014, to 161 in 2015. A level appeals went up, from 274 in 2014, to 305 in 2015 (see figure 2, table 2 and table 3).

⁶ www.gov.uk/government/publications/gcse-gce-principal-learning-and-project-code-of-practice

⁷ <http://www.jcq.org.uk/examination-system/the-appeals-process>

⁸ Although this does not apply to England as all qualifications are now linear (100% terminal rule).

Figure 2: Number of appeals for GCSE and A level, summer exam series, 2011–15

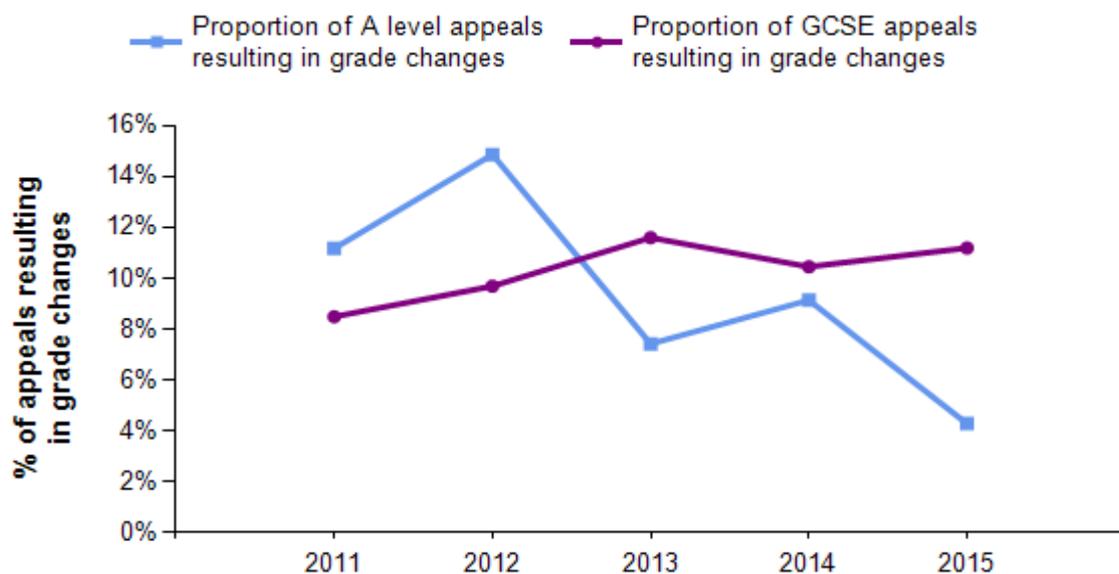


The proportion of GCSE appeals that resulted in changes to qualification grades, went from 10 per cent in 2014 to 11 per cent in 2015 (see figure 3 and table 2).

For A level, the proportion of appeals that resulted in changes to qualification grades went from 9 per cent in summer 2014 to 4 per cent in summer 2015 (see figure 3 and table 2).

Any comparisons over time should be treated with caution, as the numbers are small and structural changes have recently been made to the qualifications.

Figure 3: Proportion of appeals resulting in grade changes, summer exam series, 2011–15



Of the 466 stage 1 appeals in 2015, 33 progressed to stage 2. The majority of appeals at stage 1 did not progress to stage 2, with just 7 per cent progressing to stage 2, up slightly on 2014 when it was 6 per cent (see table 3).

There were no qualification grade changes from appeals that progressed to stage 2 in 2015. This is consistent with 2013 and 2014.

Candidate-level analysis

It is important to remember that each appeal may involve multiple candidates grouped into one appeal case. As previously stated, the 466 GCSE and A level appeal cases from the summer 2015 exam series involved 7,166 candidates' qualification grades.

For GCSE, there were 5,968 candidate qualification grades involved in 161 appeals, from the summer 2015 exam series. Less than one per cent (35) of those qualification grades were changed. In 2014, there were 4,712 candidate qualification grades involved in 182 GCSE appeals, of which 4 per cent (189) were changed.

For A level, there were 1,198 candidate qualification grades involved in 305 appeals, from the summer 2015 exam series. Of these, just over 1 per cent (14) of grades were changed. In 2014, there were 1,571 candidate qualification grades involved in 274 appeals, of which, nearly 2 per cent (29) were changed. This information is shown below and in tables 3 to 6.

Year	Number of appeals		Total number of qualification grades challenged		Total number of qualification grade changes		% of qualification grades challenged resulting in a change	
	GCSE	A level	GCSE	A level	GCSE	A level	GCSE	A level
2013	164	243	3,551	1,589	116	26	3.3%	1.6%
2014	182	274	4,712	1,571	189	29	4.0%	1.8%
2015	161	305	5,968	1,198	35	14	0.6%	1.2%

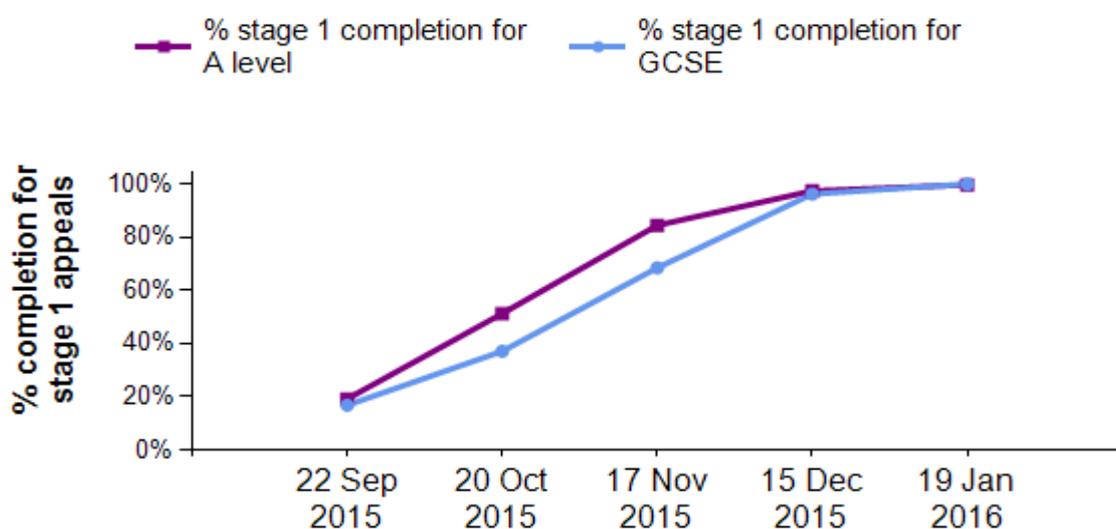
Time taken to complete appeals

The *GCSE, GCE, Principal Learning and Project Code of Practice*⁹ states that when appeals are lodged, awarding organisations must carry out a preliminary appeals process and then – unless the outcome leads the appellant to withdraw the application – conduct a formal appeals hearing and send a decision letter within 50 working days of the lodging of the original request. All of the stage 1 appeals from summer 2015 have now been completed. All but one (465) were completed within 50 working days from the initial receipt of the appeal.

It will usually take longer to complete an appeal that progresses to stage 2, as a formal hearing has to be scheduled. Delays can occur due to limited availability of the parties required to be at the hearings. Of the 33 appeals that progressed to stage 2, 48 per cent (16) were completed within 50 days of receipt and a further nine appeals whilst completed, were not within the required deadline. The remaining eight appeals were still in progress at the time of writing.

Following the summer 2015 exam series, 47 per cent of stage 1 appeals were completed by mid-October. By mid-November, this had risen to 79 per cent, with 97 per cent completed by mid-December (see figure 4 and table 7).

Figure 4: Percentage completion of stage 1 appeals for GCSE and A level, summer 2015 exam series



⁹ www.gov.uk/government/publications/gcse-gce-principal-learning-and-project-code-of-practice

Background notes

In this release, Ofqual presents data on the number of appeals made against grades given for GCSEs and A levels, the number of certificates issued for these qualifications and the number of entries. The data covers England, Wales, Northern Ireland, other UK regions and overseas. In this release, AS figures are included in the figures reported for A level since AS units can be a subset of the A level qualification.

The post-results process

Enquiries about results

Every year, the GCSE and A level exam boards publish information and guidance for schools and colleges on the post-results services following exams and the issue of results.

Exam boards issue results for summer exams in August. If a school or college is concerned about the accuracy of a candidate's result, it can ask the exam board to investigate the marking. This is known as an enquiry about result.

Appeals

If a school or college has gone through the enquiries about results process and is dissatisfied with the outcome, it can make an appeal to the exam board. An appeal can be in relation to the grades of one or more candidates, if they are all thought to be affected by the same issue. Appeals are usually made about the results of assessments or in regard to the exam boards' processes when a centre is not satisfied with the outcome of an Enquiry about a Result. Appeals can also be made in relation to an exam board's decisions made about malpractice, or in regard to access arrangements and special consideration.

A school or college can make an appeal within two calendar weeks of receiving the outcome of the enquiry about a result.

The exam boards have put in place a two stages appeals process:

- Stage 1 is a review of the case by a senior member of the exam board who has not been involved previously with the particular case.
- Stage 2 is a presentation of the case to an appeals panel. The exam board convenes the panel. It will comprise at least three members, one of whom must be independent (that means someone who is not, and has not at any time during the previous five years, been a member of the board or its committees,

or an employee or examiner at the exam board,). A school or college can take the appeal to stage 2 only after going through stage 1.

Both stages should usually be completed within 50 working days of the appeal being lodged with the exam board. In some cases, appeals are not resolved until after 50 days from the initial receipt of the appeal. Sometimes, this occurs to allow a fair appeal hearing with appropriate evidence, and for individuals to be present from both the school or college and the exam board.

The Examination Procedures Review Service

If a school or college is still dissatisfied with the outcome following an appeal, it can apply to the Examination Procedures Review Service within three weeks of receiving the outcome from the exam board. The Examination Procedures Review Service is provided by Ofqual. Ofqual will review each application and arrange a review hearing if appropriate. Ofqual will look at whether the exam board has followed the appropriate procedures and used them properly and fairly. Ofqual will only look at whether or not the rules about the exam, how it was marked and how the qualification was graded, have been properly followed. Where there is a strong case and Ofqual is not confident that the published results are appropriate, the exam board will be asked to reconsider the case or make other recommendations. An observer may be appointed to monitor the reconsideration of a case. Otherwise, the original decision of the exam board will be upheld. Where appropriate, Ofqual can offer wider recommendations to exam boards or other regulatory authorities.

You can find further details of the Examination Procedures Review Service on Ofqual's website.¹⁰

¹⁰ www.gov.uk/appeal-exam-results-for-schools-colleges-and-private-candidates

Data source

Exam boards provide the data for the GCSEs and A levels that they have awarded in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Data also include entries in other UK regions such as the Isle of Man and overseas entries for these qualifications.

Limitations of data

There is potential for error in the information provided by exam boards, therefore, Ofqual cannot guarantee that the information received is correct. Ofqual compares the data over time and checks for systematic issues. Summary data are sent back to exam boards for checking and confirmation.

Quality assurance procedures are carried out, as explained in the *Quality Assurance Framework for Statistical Publications*¹¹ and the *Data Audit Framework – Statistical Information*,¹² to ensure the accuracy of the data, and where necessary, opportunity to challenge or question it. Ofqual continuously manages this process by:

- ensuring that data providers are clear about what is required of them – a process helped by ensuring that providers 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;
- having a proportionate data auditing framework in place, allowing for auditing of providers' information collection, collation and delivery processes as necessary and using a wide range of tools from questionnaires to on-site process audits.

Publication might be deferred if the statistics are not considered fit for purpose.

Comparisons in this statistical release are made with data from the previous five years, where available.

¹¹ https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/387637/2014-12-16-quality-assurance-framework-for-statistical_publications.pdf

¹² www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/382776/2014-09-30-data-audit-framework-statistical-information.pdf

Geographical coverage

In this statistical release, Ofqual presents data on appeals for all GCSEs and A levels. The majority of GCSEs and A levels are taken in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. However, this release does include entries in other UK regions and overseas.

Revisions

Once published, data are not usually subject to revision, although subsequent releases might be revised to insert late data or to correct an error. Ofqual's *Corrections and Revisions Policy for Official Statistics*¹³ is available online.

No figures have been revised in this statistical release.

Completeness of the data

The exam boards send data to Ofqual annually. Any provider that does not return a complete set of data within the collection period is contacted to make sure that the data are as complete as possible. For this statistical release, Ofqual received complete data from all the exam boards.

Confidentiality and rounding

To ensure confidentiality of the published accompanying data, and for ease of use, some of the figures have been rounded. The figures in table 1 have been rounded to the nearest 50. Ofqual's *Statement on Confidentiality*¹⁴ and *Rounding Policy*¹⁵ are available online.

Users of these statistics

The statistics in this release are of particular interest to the qualifications regulators for England, Wales and Northern Ireland, and the Department for Education. The regulators use these statistics to ensure that GCSEs and A levels are fit for purpose and meet expected standards. Central government officials use the statistics for policy implementation and ministerial briefings.

¹³ https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/380965/2014-02-14-corrections-revisions-policy-for-official-statistics.pdf

¹⁴ www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/380973/2014-02-14-statement-on-confidentiality.pdf

¹⁵ www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/380971/2014-02-14-rounding-policy.pdf

Related statistics and publications

A number of other statistical releases and publications relate to this one:

- *Statistical Release: Enquiries about Results for GCSE and A Level: Summer 2015 Exam Series*,¹⁶ published by Ofqual.
- *Statistical First Release: Revised GCSE and Equivalent Results in England, 2014 to 2015*,¹⁷ published by the Department for Education, covers students' achievements in GCSEs and the equivalent regulated qualifications in schools at the end of Key Stage 4.
- *Statistical First Release: A Level and other Level 3 Results 2014/15 (Revised)*,¹⁸ published by the Department for Education, provides information on achievements in advanced level examinations.

Useful information

A glossary of terms is available on page 18 to help you interpret this release.

You can find the publication schedule for the next releases on Ofqual's website.¹⁹

User feedback

Ofqual is running a rolling series of online surveys to make sure its statistical releases meet your needs.

Ofqual would like to invite you to take part in the online survey for this release.

<http://surveys.ofqual.gov.uk/s3/Appeals>

It will take about ten minutes to complete the online survey. Your responses will remain entirely confidential in any reports published about the survey.

If you have any questions or would prefer a paper or large-type copy of the survey, please contact us at: statistics@ofqual.gov.uk.

¹⁶ www.gov.uk/government/statistics/enquiries-about-results-for-gcse-and-a-level-summer-2015-exam-series

¹⁷ www.gov.uk/government/statistics/revised-gcse-and-equivalent-results-in-england-2014-to-2015

¹⁸ www.gov.uk/government/statistics/a-level-and-other-level-3-results-2014-to-2015-revised

¹⁹ www.gov.uk/government/statistics/announcements

Glossary of terms

A levels – also known as General Certificates of Education, are available as advanced level qualifications (A levels) and advanced subsidiary (AS). They are the main qualifications that young people use to gain entry to university.

Appeal – A process through which an exam board may be challenged on the outcome of an enquiry about results, or where appropriate, other procedural decisions affecting a centre or individual candidates.

Certificate/certification – a formal acknowledgement of a student's achievement.

GCSEs – General Certificates of Secondary Education are the main school-leaving qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. They are available in a range of subjects and can be studied alongside other qualifications. They are generally sat by 15- to 18-year-olds in schools and colleges, but are open to anyone who wishes to gain a qualification.

Appendix

Table 1	Total entries for GCSE and A level, summer exam series, 2011–15
Table 2	Appeals that resulted in a grade change for GCSE and A level, summer exam series, 2011–15
Table 3	Appeals for GCSE and A level by appeal type, summer exam series, 2011–15
Table 4	Total appeals by exam board for GCSE and A level, summer exam series, 2011–15
Table 5	Grades challenged through appeals by exam board for GCSE, summer exam series, 2011–15
Table 6	Grades challenged through appeals by exam board for A level, summer exam series, 2011–15
Table 7	Percentage completion within deadline for stage 1 appeals, for GCSE and A level, summer exam series, 2012–15

Table 1: Total entries for GCSE and A level, summer exam series, 2011–15

England, Wales, Northern Ireland, other UK regions and overseas								
	Year	AQA	Pearson	OCR	CCEA	WJEC	ICAA(E)	Total
GCSE	2011	2,552,650	1,377,650	1,059,350	149,300	622,550	16,200	5,777,700
	2012	2,513,350	1,435,000	1,053,650	141,050	677,150	1,950	5,822,100
	2013	2,529,150	1,570,150	950,050	136,000	685,850	850	5,872,050
	2014	2,314,900	1,546,650	857,550	144,100	665,550		5,528,750
	2015	2,347,900	1,622,000	826,800	147,200	666,650		5,610,550
A level	2011	1,048,050	581,650	630,600	54,700	199,050		2,514,050
	2012	1,013,350	585,150	588,550	63,050	197,400		2,447,500
	2013	1,008,250	586,400	569,100	63,650	197,000		2,424,450
	2014	1,027,950	592,350	548,450	65,500	206,300		2,440,550
	2015	1,033,350	571,800	532,500	69,100	209,200		2,416,000
Total	2011	3,600,700	1,959,300	1,690,000	204,000	821,600	16,200	8,291,700
	2012	3,526,700	2,020,150	1,642,200	204,100	874,550	1,950	8,269,650
	2013	3,537,400	2,156,550	1,519,150	199,700	882,850	850	8,296,500
	2014	3,342,850	2,139,000	1,406,000	209,600	871,850		7,969,300
	2015	3,381,250	2,193,800	1,359,350	216,300	875,850		8,026,550
GCSE (entries)	2012	6,897,000	3,695,450	2,938,150	335,500	1,942,450	1,950	15,810,450
	2013	6,532,250	3,540,650	2,433,700	424,050	1,943,450	850	14,874,900
	2014	6,712,050	4,281,800	2,799,000	423,450	2,353,150		16,569,450
	2015	6,856,800	4,339,750	2,684,400	433,750	2,346,750		16,661,450
A level (entries)	2012	2,075,650	1,464,800	1,333,500	144,700	423,200		5,441,800
	2013	2,072,700	1,459,600	1,311,500	147,100	424,350		5,415,300
	2014	2,389,950	1,542,650	1,436,400	157,500	473,500		6,000,000
	2015	2,403,300	1,470,000	1,384,700	173,550	491,800		5,923,350
Total entries	2012	8,972,600	5,160,250	4,271,650	480,200	2,365,650	1,950	21,252,250
	2013	8,605,000	5,000,250	3,745,200	571,150	2,367,800	850	20,290,250
	2014	9,102,000	5,824,450	4,235,400	580,950	2,826,650		22,569,450
	2015	9,260,100	5,809,750	4,069,100	607,300	2,838,550		22,584,750

Notes:

1. Data are supplied by exam boards.
2. All figures are rounded to the nearest 50. Figures have been rounded independently so may not add up to the total.
3. ICAA(E) offered GCSEs from 2011 to 2013, so have no figures for 2014 and 2015.
4. Entry figures were collected differently in 2011, which is why entry data for that year are not included.

Table 2: Appeals that resulted in a grade change for GCSE and A level, summer exam series, 2011–15

England, Wales, Northern Ireland, other UK regions and overseas

	Year	Total number of appeals received	Number of appeals resulting in qualification grade changes			
			Stage 1	Stage 2	Total	%
GCSE	2011	177	12	3	15	8%
	2012	217	21	0	21	10%
	2013	164	19	0	19	12%
	2014	182	19	0	19	10%
	2015	161	18	0	18	11%
A level	2011	224	22	3	25	11%
	2012	276	40	1	41	15%
	2013	243	18	0	18	7%
	2014	274	25	0	25	9%
	2015	305	13	0	13	4%
Total	2011	401	34	6	40	10%
	2012	493	61	1	62	13%
	2013	407	37	0	37	9%
	2014	456	44	0	44	10%
	2015	466	31	0	31	7%

Note:

1. Data are supplied by exam boards.

Table 3: Appeals for GCSE and A level by appeal type, summer exam series, 2011–15

England, Wales, Northern Ireland, other UK regions and overseas

Number of appeals										
	Year	Stage 1 appeals received	Stage 1 appeals completed within 50 days of receipt	% of stage 1 appeals completed within 50 days of receipt	Appeals progressing to stage 2	% of appeals progressing to stage 2	Stage 2 appeals completed within 50 days of receipt	Stage 2 Appeals still in progress or exceeded 50 working days	% of stage 2 appeals completed within 50 days of receipt	% of all appeals completed within 50 days of receipt
GCSE	2011	177		0%	16	9%	9	7	56%	5%
	2012	217		0%	19	9%	13	6	68%	6%
	2013	164		0%	14	9%	11	3	79%	6%
	2014	182	179	98%	8	4%	4	4	50%	96%
	2015	161	161	100%	14	9%	4	10	29%	94%
A level	2011	224		0%	24	11%	19	5	79%	8%
	2012	276		0%	22	8%	17	5	77%	6%
	2013	243		0%	18	7%	14	4	78%	5%
	2014	274	268	98%	21	8%	14	7	67%	96%
	2015	305	304	100%	19	6%	13	6	68%	98%
Total	2011	401		0%	40	10%	28	12	70%	6%
	2012	493		0%	41	8%	30	11	73%	6%
	2013	407		0%	32	8%	25	7	78%	6%
	2014	456	447	98%	29	6%	18	11	62%	96%
	2015	466	465	100%	33	7%	17	16	52%	97%

Notes:

1. Data are supplied by exam boards.
2. Percentages are rounded to the nearest whole number.

Table 4: Total appeals by exam board for GCSE and A level, summer exam series, 2011–15

England, Wales, Northern Ireland, other UK regions and overseas

GCSE					GCE		
Year	Stage 1 appeals received	Appeals progressing to stage 2	Number of appeals that resulted in changes to candidates' qualification grades		Stage 1 appeals received	Appeals progressing to stage 2	Number of appeals that resulted in changes to candidates' qualification grades
AQA	2011	51	9	1	29	9	0
	2012	56	14	2	30	6	2
	2013	41	11	5	54	4	3
	2014	53	3	8	67	8	3
	2015	41	0	7	93	6	4
Pearson	2011	88	4	3	111	6	11
	2012	105	1	14	147	6	20
	2013	72	2	3	98	5	1
	2014	52	2	1	84	4	2
	2015	56	4	4	79	4	0
OCR	2011	30	3	7	73	9	9
	2012	33	4	1	80	10	11
	2013	19	1	2	71	8	11
	2014	39	3	6	81	7	11
	2015	20	3	2	96	6	2
CCEA	2011	7	0	4	9	0	3
	2012	11	0	3	16	0	8
	2013	10	0	3	17	1	3
	2014	12	0	0	21	1	7
	2015	12	0	4	24	2	6
WJEC	2011	1	0	0	2	0	2
	2012	12	0	1	3	0	0
	2013	22	0	6	3	0	0
	2014	26	0	4	21	1	2
	2015	32	7	1	13	1	1
ICAAE	2011	0	0	0			
	2012	0	0	0			
Total	2011	177	16	15	224	24	25
	2012	217	19	21	276	22	41
	2013	164	14	19	243	18	18
	2014	182	8	19	274	21	25
	2015	161	14	18	305	19	13

Notes:

1. Data are supplied by exam boards.
2. Grades may go up or down following an appeal.
3. ICAA(E) did not offer A levels, so have a blank.

Table 5: Grades challenged through appeals by exam board for GCSE, summer exam series, 2011–15

England, Wales, Northern Ireland, other UK regions and overseas

		Appeals	
	Year	Total candidate grades challenged at appeal	Total qualification grade changes at appeal
AQA	2011	-	-
	2012	-	-
	2013	1,448	27
	2014	2,595	142
	2015	1,024	15
Pearson	2011	-	-
	2012	-	-
	2013	1,719	19
	2014	1,224	37
	2015	2,224	11
OCR	2011	-	-
	2012	-	-
	2013	149	20
	2014	586	6
	2015	271	4
CCEA	2011	-	-
	2012	-	-
	2013	10	3
	2014	12	0
	2015	19	4
WJEC	2011	-	-
	2012	-	-
	2013	225	47
	2014	295	4
	2015	2,430	1
ICAAE	2011	-	-
	2012	-	-
Total	2011	-	-
	2012	-	-
	2013	3,551	116
	2014	4,712	189
	2015	5,968	35

Notes:

1. Data are supplied by exam boards.
2. - signifies data not previously collected.
3. Grades may go up or down following an appeal.

Table 6: Grades challenged through appeals by exam board for A level, summer exam series, 2011–15

England, Wales, Northern Ireland, other UK regions and overseas			
Appeals			
	Year	Total candidate grades challenged at appeal	Total qualification grade changes at appeal
AQA	2011	-	-
	2012	-	-
	2013	385	5
	2014	488	7
	2015	525	4
Pearson	2011	-	-
	2012	-	-
	2013	580	1
	2014	349	2
	2015	253	0
OCR	2011	-	-
	2012	-	-
	2013	598	17
	2014	657	11
	2015	289	2
CCEA	2011	-	-
	2012	-	-
	2013	17	3
	2014	31	7
	2015	27	7
WJEC	2011	-	-
	2012	-	-
	2013	9	0
	2014	46	2
	2015	104	1
Total	2011	-	-
	2012	-	-
	2013	1,589	26
	2014	1,571	29
	2015	1,198	14

Notes:

1. Data are supplied by exam boards.
2. - signifies data not previously collected.
3. Grades may go up or down following an appeal.

Table 7: Percentage completion within deadline for stage 1 appeals, for GCSE and A level, summer exam series, 2012–15

England, Wales, Northern Ireland, other UK regions and overseas

		Sep		Oct		Nov		Dec		Jan	
	Year	Stage 1 appeals	% completed								
GCSE	2012	18	33%	139	42%	203	80%	207	96%	218	99%
	2013	34	50%	115	39%	149	76%	160	95%	161	99%
	2014	24	54%	106	36%	167	67%	184	91%	186	98%
	2015	12	17%	100	37%	155	68%	157	96%	158	100%
A level	2012	95	23%	225	52%	267	79%	273	97%	274	99%
	2013	65	20%	176	49%	230	72%	242	90%	244	93%
	2014	86	31%	205	58%	262	75%	274	93%	274	97%
	2015	84	19%	252	51%	295	84%	304	97%	306	100%
Total	2012	113	25%	364	49%	470	79%	480	96%	492	99%
	2013	99	30%	291	45%	379	74%	402	92%	405	95%
	2014	110	36%	311	50%	429	72%	458	92%	460	98%
	2015	96	19%	352	47%	450	79%	461	97%	464	100%

Notes:

1. Data are supplied by exam boards.
2. Percentages are rounded to the nearest whole number.

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