

2015/16 GCSE & A Level subjects

Post-Primary Schools

Northern Ireland and UK

2015-16

Notes

The figures used in this publication are adapted from the annual figures of the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ). All figures are derived from examination entries in the summer of 2016. Equivalent qualifications are not considered.

Summary of examination subjects (2015/16):

GCSE	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	U	Entries	A*-C	A*-B
NI	9.3	19.8	26.1	23.9	11.6	4.9	2.3	1.1	1.0	161,975	79	55
UK	6.5	14.0	21.4	25.0	16.9	8.3	4.2	2.1	1.6	5,240,796	67	42

NI makes up just 3% of the 'UK' GCSE entries and 4% of A Level.
Scotland is not included in these figures.

A Level	A*	A	B	C	D	E	U	Entries	A*-C
NI	7.7	21.8	30.1	23.8	11.0	3.8	1.8	31,828	83
UK	8.1	17.7	27.1	24.7	14.6	5.9	1.9	836,705	78

GCSE notes

- (1) - cover a range of related subjects
- (2) - includes all languages except: French, German, Irish, Spanish and Welsh
- (3) - includes all sciences except: Additional Science, Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Science
- (4) - includes technology-based subjects other than Design & Technology

A Level notes

- (1) - cover a range of related subjects
- (2) - includes all science subjects except Biology, Chemistry and Physics
- (3) - includes all languages except French, German, Irish, Spanish and Welsh
- (4) - Welsh (First Language) and Welsh (Second Language)

GCSE Double Award	NI		UK	
	Entries	A*-C	Entries	A*-C
Business			1615	71.6
Engineering			1264	55.1
Health & Social Care	26	76.9	1272	63.3
Hospitality			353	65.4
ICT	171	85.4	656	73.9
Leisure & Tourism			271	55.7
Manufacturing			12	16.7
Media	13	100.0	851	71.0
Performing Arts	19	89.5	252	87.3
Physical Education	25	96.0	333	83.5
Science- CCEA only	7065	89.8	7065	89.8
All Subjects	7319	89.7	13944	78.7

NI

	Subject	Entries
1	Mathematics	24,827
2	English	22,102
3	Religious Studies	11,953
4	English Literature	10,301
5	ICT	7,862
6	Science	7,026
7	History	6,751
8	Prep. For Life and Work	6,555
9	Geography	6,048
10	French	5,179
11	Biology	4,252
12	Design & Technology	4,238
13	Home Economics	4,229
14	Art and Design subjects (1)	4,225
15	Spanish	3,593
16	Mathematics (Additional)	3,469
17	Business Studies	3,367
18	Chemistry	3,214
19	Physical Education	3,204
20	Physics	2,960
21	Irish	1,901
22	Media / Film / TV Studies (1)	1,771
23	Music	1,582
24	Drama	1,491
25	Additional Science	1,299
26	Business & Comm. Systems	1,190
27	German	1,162
28	Other technology (4)	840
29	Health & Social Care	753
30	Construction	592
31	Computing	519
32	Performing / Expressive Arts	430
33	Statistics	427
34	Engineering	397
35	Other modern languages (2)	359
36	Hospitality	350
37	Other sciences (3)	309
38	All other subjects	279
39	Economics	236
40	Leisure & Tourism	234
41	Social Science subjects (1)	232
42	Classical subjects (1)	137
43	Manufacturing	130
	All subjects with entries	161,975

UK

	Subject	Entries
1	Mathematics	757,296
2	English	513,285
3	English Literature	414,286
4	Science	408,569
5	Additional Science	368,033
6	Religious Studies	296,010
7	History	260,521
8	Geography	244,033
9	Design & Technology	185,279
10	Art and Design subjects (1)	183,085
11	French	144,892
12	Biology	144,148
13	Chemistry	141,245
14	Physics	139,805
15	Physical Education	125,120
16	Business Studies	95,080
17	Spanish	92,681
18	ICT	84,120
19	Drama	72,286
20	Computing	62,454
21	Media / Film / TV Studies (1)	55,228
22	German	50,271
23	Music	45,990
24	Social Science subjects (1)	43,780
25	Statistics	39,034
26	All other subjects	38,301
27	Other modern languages (2)	33,639
28	Home Economics	31,496
29	Health & Social Care	21,469
30	Citizenship Studies	18,720
31	Performing / Expressive Arts	18,676
32	Additional Science (Further)	17,409
33	Classical subjects (1)	15,152
34	Business & Comm. Systems	11,652
35	Welsh: Second Language	10,967
36	Engineering	7,714
37	Other sciences (3)	6,824
38	Prep. For Life and Work	6,555
39	Economics	5,982
40	Welsh: First Language	5,331
41	Leisure & Tourism	5,323
42	Humanities	4,741
43	Welsh Literature	3,705
44	Hospitality	3,497
45	Mathematics (Additional)	3,469
46	Irish	1,905
	All subjects with entries	5,240,796

NI

	Subject	Entries
1	Mathematics	3,376
2	Biology	3,107
3	History	2,322
4	English	2,148
5	Religious Studies	2,066
6	Chemistry	1,864
7	Geography	1,864
8	ICT	1,479
9	Business Studies	1,461
10	Physics	1,414
11	Media / Film / TV Studies (1)	1,250
12	Political Studies	1,005
13	Design and Technology	987
14	All other subjects	928
15	Art and Design subjects (1)	921
16	Sociology	914
17	Psychology	600
18	Physical Education	537
19	Spanish	524
20	French	503
21	Drama	463
22	Economics	381
23	Music	358
24	Irish	331
25	Computing	245
26	Mathematics (Further)	189
27	Performing / Expressive Arts	120
28	Classical subjects (1)	108
29	Other sciences (2)	107
30	German	102
31	Other modern languages (3)	92
32	Law	62
	All subjects with entries	31,828

UK

	Subject	Entries
1	Mathematics	92,163
2	English	84,710
3	Biology	62,650
4	Psychology	59,469
5	History	54,731
6	Chemistry	51,811
7	Art and Design subjects (1)	43,242
8	Geography	36,363
9	Physics	35,344
10	Sociology	33,980
11	Economics	29,385
12	Business Studies	28,208
13	Media / Film / TV Studies (1)	28,140
14	Religious Studies	27,032
15	Political Studies	15,540
16	Mathematics (Further)	15,257
17	Design and Technology	12,477
18	Drama	12,373
19	General Studies	11,759
20	Physical Education	11,627
21	Law	11,272
22	All other subjects	10,948
23	French	9,672
24	Other modern languages (3)	9,209
25	ICT	8,737
26	Spanish	8,460
27	Music	7,089
28	Classical subjects (1)	6,581
29	Computing	6,242
30	German	3,842
31	Other sciences (2)	3,304
32	Performing / Expressive Arts	2,179
33	Communication Studies	1,851
34	Welsh (4)	610
35	Irish	331
36	Critical Thinking	117
	All subjects with entries	836,705

NI

	Subject	%
1	Irish	97
2	Physics	96
3	Other modern languages (2)	95
4	Mathematics (Additional)	94
5	Chemistry	94
6	Economics	94
7	English Literature	93
8	Biology	92
9	Music	91
10	Spanish	90
11	Classical subjects (1)	86
12	Computing	86
13	German	86
14	French	86
15	Drama	86
16	Art and Design subjects (1)	83
17	Construction	82
18	ICT	81
19	Other sciences (3)	81
20	Business Studies	81
21	Physical Education	81
22	Additional Science	81
23	History	81
24	Geography	80
25	All other subjects	80
26	Design & Technology	79
27	Prep. For Life and Work	78
28	Home Economics	78
29	English	78
30	Religious Studies	78
31	Media / Film / TV Studies (1)	77
32	Health & Social Care	73
33	Statistics	72
34	Social Science subjects (1)	70
35	Science	67
36	Engineering	66
37	Performing / Expressive Arts	65
38	Mathematics	65
39	Business & Comm. Systems	65
40	Hospitality	64
41	Manufacturing	62
42	Other technology (4)	55
43	Leisure & Tourism	50
	All subject performance	79

UK

	Subject	%
1	Irish	97
2	Mathematics (Additional)	94
3	Physics	91
4	Biology	91
5	Chemistry	90
6	Classical subjects (1)	89
7	Other modern languages (2)	89
8	Construction	82
9	Welsh: Second Language	79
10	Economics	78
11	Prep. For Life and Work	78
12	Additional Science (Further)	77
13	Art and Design subjects (1)	76
14	Music	75
15	English Literature	75
16	Welsh Literature	74
17	German	74
18	Welsh: First Language	74
19	Drama	73
20	Religious Studies	72
21	Spanish	71
22	Statistics	70
23	French	70
24	Physical Education	68
25	Performing / Expressive Arts	68
26	ICT	68
27	Media / Film / TV Studies (1)	66
28	Geography	66
29	History	66
30	Business Studies	64
31	Citizenship Studies	63
32	Business & Comm. Systems	61
33	Mathematics	61
34	Design & Technology	61
35	Social Science subjects (1)	61
36	Computing	60
37	English	60
38	Other sciences (3)	60
39	Additional Science	60
40	Home Economics	58
41	Hospitality	57
42	All other subjects	55
43	Health & Social Care	54
44	Other technology (4)	53
45	Science	53
46	Manufacturing	51
	All subject performance	67

Humanities 47, Engineering 41, Leisure & Tourism 41

NI

	Subject	%
1	Other modern languages (2)	85
2	Mathematics (Additional)	82
3	Physics	82
4	Chemistry	81
5	Irish	78
6	Economics	77
7	Biology	75
8	English Literature	73
9	Music	72
10	Classical subjects (1)	70
11	Computing	70
12	Spanish	67
13	Drama	64
14	German	62
15	French	61
16	Construction	60
17	Religious Studies	60
18	Other sciences (3)	59
19	History	59
20	ICT	59
21	Geography	58
22	Physical Education	58
23	Business Studies	57
24	Design & Technology	55
25	Art and Design subjects (1)	55
26	Home Economics	53
27	Prep. For Life and Work	51
28	Media / Film / TV Studies (1)	51
29	Additional Science	50
30	English	50
31	All other subjects	49
32	Social Science subjects (1)	47
33	Engineering	42
34	Performing / Expressive Arts	42
35	Business & Comm. Systems	39
36	Health & Social Care	39
37	Mathematics	38
38	Hospitality	36
39	Statistics	35
40	Manufacturing	33
41	Science	32
42	Other technology (4)	27
43	Leisure & Tourism	27
	All subject performance	55

UK

	Subject	%
1	Mathematics (Additional)	82
2	Other modern languages (2)	80
3	Classical subjects (1)	79
4	Irish	78
5	Biology	71
6	Chemistry	70
7	Physics	70
8	Construction	60
9	Economics	58
10	Additional Science (Further)	57
11	Music	56
12	Religious Studies	53
13	Welsh: Second Language	52
14	Prep. For Life and Work	51
15	English Literature	49
16	Drama	48
17	History	48
18	Art and Design subjects (1)	47
19	Spanish	47
20	Welsh Literature	47
21	German	46
22	ICT	45
23	Geography	45
24	Performing / Expressive Arts	43
25	French	42
26	Other sciences (3)	42
27	Business Studies	41
28	Physical Education	41
29	Media / Film / TV Studies (1)	41
30	Statistics	41
31	Computing	41
32	Welsh: First Language	40
33	Social Science subjects (1)	40
34	Citizenship Studies	38
35	Design & Technology	38
36	Business & Comm. Systems	37
37	Home Economics	35
38	English	34
39	Hospitality	33
40	Mathematics	33
41	All other subjects	30
42	Health & Social Care	30
43	Additional Science	30
44	Manufacturing	29
45	Other technology (4)	27
46	Humanities	26
	All subject performance	42

Science 23, Leisure & Tourism 22, Engineering 18

NI

	Subject	%
1	Mathematics (Further)	97
2	Irish	95
3	Other modern languages (3)	92
4	Performing / Expressive Arts	90
5	Spanish	90
6	Art and Design subjects (1)	90
7	Drama	89
8	Religious Studies	88
9	French	88
10	Mathematics	87
11	Classical subjects (1)	86
12	Other sciences (2)	86
13	Business Studies	86
14	Political Studies	86
15	Media / Film / TV Studies (1)	85
16	German	85
17	All other subjects	85
18	Geography	85
19	Economics	85
20	Music	84
21	Chemistry	84
22	English	83
23	History	83
24	Biology	81
25	Physics	81
26	Design and Technology	78
27	Computing	78
28	ICT	78
29	Physical Education	77
30	Sociology	68
31	Psychology	66
32	Law	42
	All subject performance	83

UK

	Subject	%
1	Irish	95
2	Other modern languages (3)	92
3	Mathematics (Further)	88
4	German	87
5	Spanish	86
6	Classical subjects (1)	85
7	Performing / Expressive Arts	85
8	French	84
9	Art and Design subjects (1)	84
10	History	83
11	Communication Studies	82
12	Economics	82
13	Geography	82
14	English	81
15	Media / Film / TV Studies (1)	80
16	Religious Studies	80
17	Political Studies	80
18	Mathematics	80
19	Other sciences (2)	78
20	Drama	78
21	Chemistry	77
22	Sociology	75
23	Welsh (4)	73
24	Business Studies	73
25	Music	73
26	Biology	73
27	Psychology	72
28	Physics	71
29	All other subjects	70
30	Law	69
31	Design and Technology	68
32	Physical Education	65
33	Computing	62
34	Critical Thinking	62
35	General Studies	59
36	ICT	59
	All subject performance	78

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