



Strictly Embargoed until 09.30 HRS on Thursday 22 August 2019

Northern Ireland GCSE Results 2019

- **Northern Ireland learners continue to perform well with slight increases at C/4 Grade and above.**
- **The gap between male and female performance narrows.**
- **GCSE Entries have declined by 5.2%.**
- **New A*-G GCSE grading introduced in Northern Ireland.**

Figures released this morning by the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ^{CIC}) show Northern Ireland learners continuing to perform well in GCSE examinations.

GCSE grading has changed across Northern Ireland, England and Wales. English based Awarding Organisations grade GCSEs 9-1 and Wales has maintained the A*-G grading system.

This year is the first full cohort award of the new Northern Ireland GCSE A*-G grading, used in all CCEA GCSE qualifications. The A* grade has been realigned to the 9 grade in England and a new C* grade has been introduced. Today, over 96% of candidates in Northern Ireland will be awarded the new CCEA GCSE grades.

Comparisons can be made across the key grades A/7, C/4 and G/1, as awarding organisations and regulators maintain standards.

Entries for GCSE have declined by 5.2%. This year there are fewer entries by 15 and 17 year olds.

This year, the proportion of entries awarded grade A/7 has increased by 1.1 percentage points to 30.5%. The number of entries achieving A/7-C/4 has also increased by 1.1 percentage points, to 82.2%.

There has been a slight improvement in GCSE English Language and Mathematics. In GCSE English there was an increase of 0.5 percentage points across A/7-C Grades, from 80.2% in 2018 to 80.7% in 2019. GCSE Mathematics saw a 3.2 percentage points increase at A/7 – C/4 Grades, from 68.1% in 2018 to 71.3% in 2019.

Male entries achieving A/7- C/4 grades increased by 1.6 percentage points, to 78.5%. Females achieving A/7- C/4 grades increased by 0.5 percentage points,

to 85.6%. The gap between female and male performance at A/7- C/4 grades has narrowed from 8.2 to 7.1 percentage points.

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Notes to Editors

The data below represent the provisional Northern Ireland GCSE results from five JCQ awarding organisations: - AQA, CCEA, OCR, Pearson and WJEC.

96.6% (155,905) of GCSE grades issued in Northern Ireland were the new A* - C qualifications including C*. 5,469 9-1 grades were awarded to students in Northern Ireland.

Table 1: Northern Ireland GCSE provisional results by gender (combined A*-G/9-1comparable grades)

2019 provisional	NI		
	Overall	Males	Females
% A/7	30.5 (29.4)	25.0 (23.2)	35.7 (35.3)
% C/4	82.2 (81.1)	78.5 (76.9)	85.6 (85.1)
% G/1	98.8 (99.1)	98.6 (98.8)	99.1 (99.4)

Further information on the GCSE grade changes is available at www.ccea.org.uk/grading

The JCQ^{cic} is a membership body and comprises AQA, CCEA, City & Guilds, NCFE, OCR, Pearson, SQA and WJEC – the eight largest providers of qualifications in the UK.

Media contacts: The JCQ's press office can be contacted on: 020 7227 0671/020 7638 4132/07905 683 816

Detailed tabulations of the GCSE Full Course, GCSE Short Course, GCSE Double Award, Entry Level Certification, Level 1 and Level 2 Project are published separately, with the STRICT EMBARGO OF 09.30 HOURS THURSDAY 22 AUGUST 2018 and will be available on the JCQ website from 0930 on 23 August – www.jcq.org.uk

These results are for qualifications taken by students across the UK but predominantly in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

All awarding organisations are regulated by the regulatory authorities - Ofqual (England), Welsh Government (Wales) and CCEA (Northern Ireland) – for examinations standards. The regulatory authorities monitor the awarding bodies' standards. In addition, the awarding organisations themselves conduct a number of comparability studies to compare standards. Maintaining standards within and across all qualifications in order to ensure fairness to all candidates is the paramount concern of the awarding organisations.