

# Geography A-level and AS results 2012

## Overview

Entries for geography A-level increased by 779 despite a 0.6 drop in total entries for all A-levels. Female entries increased more than male entries with the result that the gender imbalance was 48:52 females : males instead of 46:54 that was prevalent up until 2010. Girls performed better at A\*-A grades (34.7% female: 24.1% male) and slightly widened the performance gap. A-level entries were 71% of the 2011 AS entries.

Entries for geography AS increased by 621 (1.4%) despite a 4.4% decrease in total AS entries. Again the increase was the result of more entries from girls (873) while there was a decrease in boys entries (-252).

These changes may reflect the increased entries in STEM subjects (Maths and Sciences) that are favoured by boys and the decrease in subjects such as Modern Foreign Languages, Media Studies, Performing Arts and Drama that are favoured by girls.

## Changes between 2006 and 2012

### A-level geography

Entries	All students	% of all entries	A*	A	B	C	D	E	A*-E	A*-A
2006	32522	4.0		25.6	27.2	24.2	15.3	6.4	98.7	25.6
2007	31653	3.9		27.3	27.5	23.7	14.4	5.8	98.7	27.3
2008	31714	3.8		28.6	27.7	23.7	13.7	5.1	98.8	28.6
2009	32227	3.8		27.3	27.5	23.7	14.4	5.8	98.7	27.3
2010	32063	3.8	6.8	23.4	27.6	23.1	13.4	4.5	98.8	30.2
2011	31226	3.6	7.1	23.0	27.9	23.6	13.3	4.1	99.0	30.1
2012	32005	3.6	6.3	22.8	29.0	24.6	12.6	3.9	99.2	29.1

### Geography

- The overall number of A-level geography entries was relatively stable during this period. Annual fluctuations were less than + 900 entries.
- However because the total number of A-level entries has also fluctuated the proportion of geography entries decreased from 4.0% to 3.6%.
- The A\*-A pass rate increased from 25.6 to 30.1 in 2011 but dropped by 1% to 29.1 in 2012

### Key points 2011-2012

- Total geography entries increased by 779. This was the 4<sup>th</sup> largest increase in entries after Mathematics, Physics and Chemistry. It was the 9<sup>th</sup> largest increase as a percentage of total entries.
- Geography is the 11<sup>th</sup> most popular A-level subject. (History is 5<sup>th</sup> with 51652 entries)
- The A\*-A geography pass rate dropped by 1% to 29.1 in 2012
- There were increases in the B (1.1%) and C (1.0%) grades.
- The A\*-E geography pass rate increased by 0.2% to 99.2%

## Geography entries by country

Year	England	Northern Ireland	Wales	Total
2008	28029	1915	1770	31714
2009	28360	2001	1866	32227
2010	28525	1806	1732	32063
2011	27604	1878	1744	31226
2012	28430	1868	1707	32005

- The increase in entries in 2012 was in England (826) with small falls in Northern Ireland (10) and Wales (37)

## Geography entries by gender A-level

### Males

Year	Entries	% OF TOTAL ENTRY	A*	A	B	C	D	E	A-E	A*-A	% male
2007	17343	4.2		22.8	26.6	25.2	16.8	7	98.4	22.8	54.8
2008	17195	4.5	0	24.6	26.9	25.3	15.5	6.2	98.5	24.6	54.2
2009	17531	4.5	0	25.2	27.8	24.6	15.2	6.1	98.9	25.2	54.4
2010	17333	4.4	5.1	20.7	27.2	24.9	15.3	5.4	98.6	25.8	54.1
2011	16739	4.2	5.5	19.8	27.9	25.3	15.3	5	98.8	25.3	53.6
2012	16784	4.2	4.7	19.4	28.1	27.2	14.9	4.6	98.9	24.1	52.4

### Females

Year	Entries	% OF TOTAL ENTRY	A*	A	B	C	D	E	A-E	A*-A	% female
2007	14310	3.3	0	32.7	28.8	21.9	11.5	4.2	99.1	32.7	45.2
2008	14519	3.2	0	33.3	28.7	21.7	11.7	3.8	99.2	33.3	45.8
2009	14696	3.2	0	35.9	28.3	20.7	10.9	3.5	99.3	35.9	45.6
2010	14730	3.2	8.8	26.6	28.1	21	11.1	3.6	99.2	35.4	45.9
2011	14487	3.1	9	26.5	28.1	21.7	10.9	3.2	99.4	35.5	46.4
2012	15221	3.3	8.1	26.6	30	21.6	10.2	3	99.5	34.7	47.6

- Entries for girls have been consistently lower over time but the last two years has seen a decrease in the imbalance so that 47.6% of entries were female, an increase of 1.2% on 2011. It should be noted that females accounted for 54.1% of all A-level entries.
- Girls consistently outperform boys in geography with 10%+ more A\*-A grades
- 71% of those who sat AS level in 2011 continued to do A-level.

### Other subjects

- PE, Physics, Chemistry and Mathematics have a larger male entry
- Sociology, Psychology, English, MFL and Religious Studies have a larger female entry.

### Other Subjects

#### Top ten A-level subjects in 2012

<b>Ranking</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>% of total</b>	<b>Number of candidates</b>
1 (1)	English	10.40	89638
2 (2)	Mathematics	9.95	85714
3 (3)	Biology	7.32	63074
4 (4)	Psychology	6.55	56486
5 (5)	History	5.99	51652
6 (6)	Chemistry	5.71	49234
7 (7)	Art and Design Subjects	5.39	46483
8 (8)	General Studies	4.13	35558
9 (10)	Physics	4.00	34509
10 (9)	Media / Film / TV Studies	3.73	32111

(2011 ranking in brackets)

- STEM subjects (Mathematics, Biology, Physics and Chemistry) all increased entries.
- Psychology, history and English also had small increases in entries.
- General Studies, PE and Media Studies all declined in entries
- MFL has continued to decline in entries

#### Trends over time

- Mathematics has increased by 35000 since 2005.
- Chemistry has increased by 13000 since 2003.
- Physics has increased by 7000 since 2006
- General studies has declined rapidly since 2006 (23000 entries)

## AS results

### All geography entries

Year	total	% OF TOTAL ENTRY	A	B	C	D	E	A-E
2006	37031	3.4	22.6	19.8	20.0	16.9	11.5	90.8
2007	36777	3.3	23.0	20.0	20.3	16.3	11.2	90.8
2008	37413	3.3	23.3	19.8	20.3	16.1	11.3	90.8
2009	38253	3.2	24.5	19	19.3	16	11.6	90.4
2010	36819	3.1	24.4	19.3	19.9	16.1	11.1	90.8
2011	45302	3.7	23.7	19.5	20	16.1	10.6	89.4
2012	45923	3.8	23.9	19.7	20.1	15.6	10.6	89.4

The number of grades issued for AS increased by 17.9 per cent (1,197,490 in 2010 to 1,411,919 in 2011). The dramatic increase was expected and was explained by a change to the funding rules in England. Geography entries increased by 23.0% (8483).

	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	Change 2011-2012
AS Males	24080	24332	19842	20814	20362	19982	-252
AS Females	21843	20970	16978	17439	17051	16795	873
AS Total	45923	45302	36819	38253	37413	36777	621

- 1.4 % increase in entries for geography AS level overall (621)
- This was the 7<sup>th</sup> largest % increase for AS levels.
- Geography is now the 11<sup>th</sup> largest AS subject moving above Business Studies and Media Studies
- Males decreased (-252) while females increased (873)
- The gender ratios of entries have therefore shifted slightly 53% males 47% females (54:46 in 2010)
- % obtaining A grades has increased by 0.2%. Females obtained more A grades (9.8%) Males (19.2% - Females 29.0%)
- The share of total entries has increased 0.1% to 3.8 % of total AS levels sat
- Overall number of AS entries declined by 60000 (4.4%)

### Other Subjects

- *History AS entries decreased by 1252*
- *General Studies decreased by about 19000*
- *Other subjects with significant decreases included PE, Media Studies, Performing Arts, Drama, ICT and Music.*

Press release and results at: <http://www.jcq.org.uk/>

Data: <http://www.jcq.org.uk/attachments/published/1716/GCE%20Results%20-%20Data%20for%20Regions%20-%20v2.pdf>

Press releases and Analysis: [http://www.jcq.org.uk/national\\_results/news\\_releases/2012\\_1/](http://www.jcq.org.uk/national_results/news_releases/2012_1/)

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