

## GCSE Geography results 2010

### Geography

Geography GCSE entries were down by 1419 (-0.7%) compared with 2009. This is slightly less than the fall in the overall cohort which is estimated to be down by 1.7%. It is also much lower than the loss experienced from 2008 to 2009 of 7844 (3.8%).

Total losses in England (-687) were more than in Northern Ireland (-280); (-3.7%) and Wales (-452) but as a proportion of the cohort entries in England were down less (-0.4%) compared with Northern Ireland (-3.9%) and Wales (-3.5%) (table A).

Boys entries fell by 417 (-0.4%) while girls entries fell by 1002 (1.1%). The losses were higher for girls than boys in England and Wales but lower in Northern Ireland (table A).

The ratio of entries by gender stayed at about 55% boys / 45% girls for the UK as a whole which made geography the eighth most gender imbalanced subject in favour of boys. The ratio was about the same in England (55/45) and Northern Ireland (54/46) but more extreme in Wales (58/42) (table A).

**Table A summary of total entries and changes: geography 2010**

	Total entry 2010	Proportion of total entry for each country %	Change in entry 2010-2009	% change in entry 2010-2009
<b>UK Boys</b>	107794	55.4	-417	-0.4
<b>UK Girls</b>	86805	44.6	-1002	-1.1
<b>UK Total</b>	194599	100.0	-1419	-0.7
<b>England Boys</b>	96898	55.3	-118	-0.1
<b>England Girls</b>	78449	44.7	-569	-0.7
<b>England Total</b>	175347	100.0	-687	-0.4
<b>Northern Ireland Boys</b>	3707	53.7	-208	-5.3
<b>Northern Ireland Girls</b>	3202	46.3	-72	-2.2
<b>Northern Ireland Total</b>	6909	100.0	-280	-3.9
<b>Wales Boys</b>	7189	58.2	-91	-1.3
<b>Wales Girls</b>	5154	41.8	-361	-6.5
<b>Wales Total</b>	12343	100.0	-452	-3.5

Overall geography performance for the UK (see table B) improved with:

- 28.2% of pupils achieving an A\* or A grade, an increase of 1.1%; (*all subjects: 22.6%, up 1.0%*)
- 69.5% achieving an A\*-C, an increase of 1.0% (*all subjects 69.1%, up 2.0%*)
- 98.4% achieving A\*-G, up 0.2% (*all subjects 98.7%, up 0.1%*)

Girl's performance for geography increased more than boys so the gender imbalance is greater

- A\*-A Girls 33.0%, up 2.0%; Boys 24.2%, up 0.3%; differential 8.8%, increased by 1.3% (*all subjects Girls 25.5%, up 1.1%; Boys 19.5%, up 0.8%; differential 6.0%, up 0.3%*)
- A\*-C Girls 73.3%, up 1.6%; Boys 66.4%, up 0.5%; differential 6.9%, increased by 1.1% (*all subjects: Girls 72.6%, up 2.1%; Boys 65.4%, up 1.8%; differential 7.2%, up 0.3%*)
- A\*-G Girls 98.6%, static; Boys 98.2%, up 0.2%; differential 0.4%, decreased by 0.2% (*all subjects: Girls 99.0%, up 0.2%; Boys 98.5%, up 0.2%; differential static*)

Table C gives the results for England only – these are slightly different from the UK figures

Table B: Geography results (UK) Total entries and cumulative percentages by grade

**Provisional GCSE (Full Course) Results - June 2010  
(All UK Candidates)**

**CUMULATIVE PERCENTAGES of Subject Results by Grade and by Gender**

The figures in brackets are the equivalent provisional figures for 2009.

Subject	Gender	Number Sat	% of Total No. Sat	CUMULATIVE PERCENTAGES by Grade									
				A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	U	
Economics	Male	2164 (2077)	0.1 (0.1)	9.8 (9.1)	30.9 (27.0)	56.4 (52.9)	81.3 (76.3)	91.6 (88.9)	95.3 (94.7)	96.8 (96.1)	97.5 (97.2)	100.0 (100.0)	
	Female	910 (824)	0.0 (0.0)	9.5 (6.7)	28.7 (25.5)	55.7 (52.5)	79.9 (77.4)	90.0 (89.3)	94.5 (94.2)	96.0 (96.1)	96.6 (97.0)	100.0 (100.0)	
	Male & Female	3074 (2901)	0.1 (0.1)	9.7 (8.4)	30.3 (26.5)	56.2 (52.8)	80.9 (76.6)	91.2 (89.0)	95.1 (94.6)	96.6 (96.1)	97.2 (97.1)	100.0 (100.0)	
English	Male	358585 (355398)	13.5 (13.2)	3.0 (2.9)	11.7 (11.7)	29.2 (28.7)	57.9 (56.2)	80.5 (78.8)	91.2 (90.6)	96.1 (96.1)	98.3 (98.4)	100.0 (100.0)	
	Female	346655 (345798)	12.7 (12.5)	5.7 (5.4)	20.4 (19.6)	43.3 (41.7)	71.8 (69.3)	89.1 (87.5)	95.5 (94.9)	97.8 (97.7)	98.9 (98.9)	100.0 (100.0)	
	Male & Female	705240 (701196)	13.1 (12.8)	4.3 (4.1)	16.0 (15.6)	36.1 (35.1)	64.7 (62.7)	84.7 (83.1)	93.3 (92.7)	96.9 (96.9)	98.6 (98.7)	100.0 (100.0)	
English Literature	Male	243979 (252385)	9.2 (9.4)	4.3 (4.2)	18.3 (17.5)	42.2 (40.0)	70.3 (67.4)	86.9 (84.4)	94.1 (92.9)	97.0 (96.7)	98.3 (98.2)	100.0 (100.0)	
	Female	269544 (275930)	9.9 (10.0)	7.3 (7.0)	28.3 (26.8)	56.3 (53.7)	81.8 (79.2)	93.1 (91.5)	97.1 (96.5)	98.4 (98.2)	99.0 (98.9)	100.0 (100.0)	
	Male & Female	513523 (528315)	9.6 (9.7)	5.9 (5.6)	23.6 (22.4)	49.6 (47.2)	76.3 (73.5)	90.2 (88.1)	95.7 (94.8)	97.7 (97.5)	98.6 (98.6)	100.0 (100.0)	
French	Male	75705 (81128)	2.9 (3.0)	9.5 (9.8)	23.5 (22.8)	41.9 (40.4)	67.2 (65.1)	85.7 (83.8)	94.4 (93.4)	98.4 (98.0)	99.7 (99.6)	100.0 (100.0)	
	Female	101913 (107560)	3.7 (3.9)	11.9 (12.4)	29.0 (28.9)	50.5 (49.4)	75.4 (73.8)	90.6 (89.3)	96.8 (96.2)	99.1 (98.8)	99.9 (99.8)	100.0 (100.0)	
	Male & Female	177618 (188688)	3.3 (3.4)	10.9 (11.2)	26.7 (26.3)	46.8 (45.5)	71.9 (70.1)	88.5 (86.9)	95.8 (95.0)	98.8 (98.5)	99.8 (99.7)	100.0 (100.0)	
Geography	Male	107794 (108211)	4.1 (4.0)	9.1 (8.9)	24.2 (23.9)	42.3 (41.8)	66.4 (65.9)	84.0 (82.4)	92.3 (91.0)	96.3 (95.7)	98.2 (98.0)	100.0 (100.0)	
	Female	86805 (87807)	3.2 (3.2)	14.0 (12.7)	33.0 (31.0)	51.8 (49.6)	73.3 (71.7)	87.4 (85.7)	93.8 (92.8)	97.1 (96.7)	98.6 (98.6)	100.0 (100.0)	
	Male & Female	194599 (196018)	3.6 (3.6)	11.3 (10.6)	28.2 (27.1)	46.5 (45.3)	69.5 (68.5)	85.5 (83.9)	93.0 (91.8)	96.7 (96.1)	98.4 (98.2)	100.0 (100.0)	

Source: JCQ: <http://www.jcq.org.uk/attachments/published/1317/JCQ%20Results%2024-08-10.pdf>

**Table C: Geography results (UK) Total entries and cumulative percentages by grade**

**Provisional GCSE (Full Course) Results - June 2010  
(England Only)**

**CUMULATIVE PERCENTAGES of Subject Results by Grade and by Gender**

The figures in brackets are the equivalent provisional figures for 2009.

Subject	Gender	Number Sat	% of Total No. Sat	CUMULATIVE PERCENTAGES by Grade									
				A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	U	
Economics	Male	1976 (1878)	0.1 (0.1)	9.7 (8.4)	30.4 (25.7)	55.3 (51.5)	80.8 (74.5)	91.4 (88.1)	95.2 (94.3)	96.9 (95.8)	97.5 (97.0)	100.0 (100.0)	
	Female	751 (688)	0.0 (0.0)	7.3 (4.7)	25.6 (21.9)	52.2 (48.1)	77.0 (74.3)	88.5 (87.9)	93.6 (93.6)	95.5 (95.8)	96.1 (96.8)	100.0 (100.0)	
	Male & Female	2727 (2566)	0.1 (0.1)	9.0 (7.4)	29.0 (24.7)	54.5 (50.6)	79.8 (74.4)	90.6 (88.1)	94.8 (94.1)	96.5 (95.8)	97.1 (97.0)	100.0 (100.0)	
English	Male	327805 (324372)	13.6 (13.2)	3.1 (3.0)	11.9 (11.9)	29.4 (28.9)	58.0 (56.2)	80.6 (78.8)	91.3 (90.5)	96.1 (96.0)	98.3 (98.4)	100.0 (100.0)	
	Female	315496 (314527)	12.7 (12.5)	5.8 (5.4)	20.5 (19.6)	43.3 (41.7)	71.8 (69.2)	89.2 (87.4)	95.5 (94.9)	97.8 (97.7)	98.9 (98.9)	100.0 (100.0)	
	Male & Female	643301 (638899)	13.1 (12.8)	4.4 (4.2)	16.1 (15.7)	36.2 (35.2)	64.8 (62.6)	84.8 (83.0)	93.3 (92.7)	96.9 (96.8)	98.6 (98.6)	100.0 (100.0)	
English Literature	Male	225670 (234035)	9.3 (9.5)	4.3 (4.2)	18.5 (17.6)	42.5 (40.2)	70.4 (67.3)	86.9 (84.2)	94.0 (92.8)	96.9 (96.6)	98.2 (98.2)	100.0 (100.0)	
	Female	247819 (254292)	10.0 (10.1)	7.3 (6.9)	28.5 (26.8)	56.6 (53.8)	81.9 (79.1)	93.2 (91.4)	97.1 (96.4)	98.4 (98.2)	98.9 (98.9)	100.0 (100.0)	
	Male & Female	473489 (488327)	9.7 (9.8)	5.9 (5.6)	23.8 (22.4)	49.9 (47.3)	76.4 (73.4)	90.2 (88.0)	95.6 (94.7)	97.7 (97.4)	98.6 (98.6)	100.0 (100.0)	
French	Male	70061 (75010)	2.9 (3.0)	9.5 (9.8)	23.5 (22.6)	41.6 (40.0)	67.0 (64.8)	85.5 (83.5)	94.3 (93.2)	98.4 (97.9)	99.7 (99.6)	100.0 (100.0)	
	Female	93222 (98594)	3.8 (3.9)	11.8 (12.2)	28.7 (28.4)	49.9 (48.7)	75.0 (73.4)	90.4 (89.0)	96.6 (96.0)	99.0 (98.8)	99.9 (99.7)	100.0 (100.0)	
	Male & Female	163283 (173604)	3.3 (3.5)	10.8 (11.1)	26.4 (25.9)	46.3 (44.9)	71.6 (69.7)	88.3 (86.7)	95.6 (94.8)	98.8 (98.4)	99.8 (99.7)	100.0 (100.0)	
Geography	Male	96898 (97016)	4.0 (3.9)	9.4 (9.1)	24.5 (24.3)	42.6 (42.2)	66.4 (65.8)	84.0 (82.3)	92.3 (90.9)	96.3 (95.6)	98.2 (98.0)	100.0 (100.0)	
	Female	78449 (79018)	3.2 (3.1)	14.1 (12.9)	33.2 (31.3)	51.9 (49.8)	73.1 (71.6)	87.3 (85.6)	93.8 (92.8)	97.1 (96.7)	98.6 (98.6)	100.0 (100.0)	
	Male & Female	175347 (176034)	3.6 (3.5)	11.5 (10.8)	28.4 (27.4)	46.8 (45.6)	69.4 (68.4)	85.5 (83.8)	93.0 (91.8)	96.7 (96.1)	98.4 (98.2)	100.0 (100.0)	

## The national picture

Every year the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ)<sup>1</sup> produces an overview and analysis of the examination results for GCSE. This is published the same day as the examination results and is available on the JCQ website. Their summary for 2010 was:

### **Increased entries for separate sciences and improved performance in English and mathematics**

*The GCSE results for 2010 show continued movement into separate sciences, with biology up 28.3 per cent (from 100,905 in 2009 to 129,464), chemistry up 32.2 per cent (from 92,246 in 2009 to 121,988) and physics up 32.1 per cent (from 91,179 in 2009 to 120,455).*

*Performance in English and mathematics has improved. Grades A\*-C are up by 2.0 per cent (from 62.7 per cent to 64.7 per cent) in English and by 1.2 per cent (from 57.2 per cent to 58.4 per cent) in mathematics.*

*Overall, performance improved by 1.0 percentage point at grades A\*-A (from 21.6 to 22.6 per cent) and 2.0 percentage points at grades A\*-C (from 67.1 to 69.1 per cent).*

*There were 5,374,490 grades published for GCSE this year, down 1.7 per cent (5,469,260 in 2009), in line with the estimated reduction in the 16-year-old cohort<sup>2</sup>.*

*Entries in modern foreign languages continue to decline with French down by 11,070 or 5.9 per cent (from 188,688 to 177,618). However, French still remains the most popular language choice. German is down by 3,300 or 4.5 per cent (from 73,469 to 70,169), but entries in Spanish are up by 0.9 per cent (from 67,070 to 67,707).*

*Other modern languages are also down by 414 or 1.3 per cent (from 33,111 to 32,697) reversing a long-term trend. However, entries in Chinese are up by 5.2 per cent (from 3,468 to 3,648), Portuguese up by 9.6 per cent (from 1,671 to 1,832) and Polish up by 12 per cent (from 3,649 to 4,087).*

*Information and communication technology has further declined by 12,497 or 17.0 per cent (from 73,519 to 61,022). Design and Technology is also down by 18,108 or 5.9 per cent (from 305,809 to 287,701).*

*However, religious studies and history reverse the recent downward trend in entries for humanities subjects, with increases of 6,416 or 3.5 per cent (from 182,288 to 188,704) and 1,472 or 0.7 per cent (from 219,809 to 221,281) respectively.*

Source: JCQ 2010 <http://www.jcq.org.uk/attachments/published/1319/GCSE%20News%20Release.pdf>

**Table D Top 10 GCSE full course subjects**

Subject			2010	
(2009 ranking in brackets)			% of total	Number of candidates
1	(1)	Mathematics	14.19	762792
2	(2)	English	13.12	705240
3	(3)	English Literature	9.55	513523
4	(4)	Science	8.37	449697
5	(5)	Additional Science	6.56	352469
6	(6)	Design & Technology	5.35	287701
7	(7)	History	4.02	221281
8	(8)	Geography	3.62	194599
9	(11)	Religious Studies	3.51	188704
10	(9)	Art	3.50	188193

Source: JCQ 2010 <http://www.jcq.org.uk/attachments/published/1320/Appendix%20-%20GCSE~AppGCSE%20Tables.pdf>

<sup>1</sup> The JCQ consists of AQA, CCEA, City & Guilds, Edexcel, OCR, SQA and WJEC, the seven largest providers of qualifications in the UK, offering GCSE, GCE, AEA, Entry Level, Vocational and vocationally-related qualifications.

<sup>2</sup> JCQ data suggests there were about 692000 16 year olds in the 2010 cohort.

## **Other Subjects**

### **Increased entry**

History increased its entry by 1472 of which 1140 were in England.

Religious Studies increased by 6,416 (3.5%) and moved from 11<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> place in entries for GCSE.

Three Science (Biology, Chemistry and Physics) entries increased by around 29000 but there were slight variations in total numbers.

### **Decreased entry**

Science and additional science entries declined by about 44000 which probably reflects the switch to three sciences and the fall in the overall cohort.

Modern Foreign Languages were down again: French lost 11070 (5.9%) and German 3300 (4.5%).

Design Technology lost 18108 (5.9%) and ICT lost 12497 (17.0%)

PE lost 12724 (9.3%) of their entry;

Business Studies lost 6031 (7.2%)

Drama lost 5683 (6.1%)

Other larger losers with smaller entries were Business and Communication Systems; Statistics, Performing / Expressive Arts and Humanities

**Paul Weeden  
September 2010**