

# GCSE Results 2012 (provisional report)

Rise in take up of languages and separate sciences as overall top grades dip

GCSE results, published today, show the number of entries increased 1.4 per cent from 5.1m to 5.2m despite the national cohort of 16 year olds being down 0.5 per cent. Rises in English and Science are major factors in the overall increase in entries.

The number of entries achieving the A\* grade is down 0.5 percentage points, with girls significantly outperforming boys (girls 8.7 per cent; boys 6.0 per cent). At A\*-C, the proportion securing these grades is down 0.4 percentage points with girls outperforming boys by a greater margin year-on-year (7.5 percentage point margin in 2011 and 7.9 percentage points in 2012).

**This year's results show** a rise in entries in History and Geography, with these subjects showing increases of 2.0 per cent and 3.5 per cent respectively. In 2011, entries for History were down 1.2 per cent and for Geography down 7.1%. Religious Studies continues to grow in popularity, rising by 7.7 per cent (17.6 per cent rise last year).

JCQ News Release [http://www.jcq.org.uk/national\\_results/news\\_releases/2012\\_1/](http://www.jcq.org.uk/national_results/news_releases/2012_1/)

Results for Geography (All – England, Northern Ireland and Wales)

Geography	2012	% change	2011	% change	2010	% change	2009	% change	2008	% change	2007	% change	2006	% change	2005	% change	2004	% change	2003	% change
Male	103781	4.0	100353	(7.9)	7.0	23.5	43.4	65.7	82.8	91.9	96.7	99.0	100.0							
Female	83241	3.1	80384	(3.1)	12.8	34.3	55.5	75.0	87.5	94.0	97.6	99.3	100.0							
Male & Female	187022	3.6	180737	(3.5)	9.6	28.3	48.7	69.9	84.9	92.9	97.1	99.1	100.0							

There was an increase of 6285 entries for Geography (3.5% increase). 3428 males (3.4% increase) 2857 females (3.6% increase).

	2012	2011	Change 2011-12	% change
Males	103781	100353	3428	3.4
Females	83241	80384	2857	3.6
All	187022	180737	6285	3.5

The increases were largely the result of changes in England where there were 6364 extra entries. Northern Ireland had an increase of 20 and Wales a loss of 99 although there were variations between boys and girls.

## Top 10 subjects

This moved geography up one place in the league table of subjects for 2012.

There was an increase of 3395 entries for history from 218588 in 2011 to 222983 entries in 2012.

Top 10 GCSE subjects in 2012

Rank	Subject	% of total	Number of candidates
1	(1) Mathematics	12.93	675789
2	(2) English	12.81	669534
3	(4) Science	10.57	552504
4	(3) English Literature	8.96	468196
5	(5) Additional Science	5.55	289950
6	(6) Design & Technology	4.61	240704
7	(7) Religious Studies	4.58	239123
8	(8) History	4.27	222983
9	(10) Geography	3.58	187022
10	(9) Art and Design subjects	3.42	178895

(2011 ranking in brackets)

Source JCO: <http://www.jcq.org.uk/attachments/published/1731/Appendix%20-%20GCSE%2C%20Project%20and%20Entry%20Level%20Trends.pdf>

Geography had the 6<sup>th</sup> largest increase in numbers in 2012.

**Table B Top GCSE full course subject increases (entry greater than 100,000)**  
(Changes from 2011-2012)

Rank	Subject	% change	2011 Number of candidates	2012 Number of candidates
1	Science	36.09	405977	552504
2	(4) Biology	12.35	147904	166168
3	(3) Chemistry	12.28	141724	159126
4	(2) Physics	12.27	140183	157377
5	(1) Religious Studies	7.73	221974	239123
6	Geography	3.48	180737	187022
7	English	3.08	649553	669534
8	History	2.01	218588	222983

(2011 ranking in brackets. Subjects having a year-on-year decrease in 2011 are shown as blank.)

**NB** Science includes the legacy and new GCSE Science specifications. The new specifications entirely account the year-on-year increase.

Source JCO: <http://www.jcq.org.uk/attachments/published/1731/Appendix%20-%20GCSE%2C%20Project%20and%20Entry%20Level%20Trends.pdf>

Paul Weeden (August 2012)