

# Geography GCSE entries and results 2015



## Overview

### Overall entries and performance

- Geography entries for the UK increased by 2926 to 228,075.
- The 16 year old cohort decreased 1.5% since 2014 but entries increased 1.7%.
- Geography maintained its place as the eighth most popular GCSE subject in 2015.
- Geography had the eighth highest percentage increase (1.3%) of the large entry (over 100,000) subjects. Entries for all subjects increased by 1.7%, largely because of changes to accountability measures – see JCQ statement below.
- A\* grades remained at 9.2% but this still compares favourably with the UK national average of 6.6% for all subjects.
- A grades increased by 0.4% to 17.7%.
- A\*–C grades were up slightly, for all subjects, at 69.1% in line with the UK national average which is 69.0% an increase of 0.2%.

### Entries and performance by gender

- There were more geography entries for both boys (+1194) and girls (+1732).
- Over time the gender imbalance for geography has decreased although there are still slightly more boys entering than girls. In 2015, 53.8% of geography entries were from boys (UK national entries for all subjects = 49.1%) compared to 46.2% entries from girls (UK national entries for all subjects = 50.9%).

### Entries and performance by age

- 6048 (2.7% of the total geography entry) were students aged 15 and under. This was a decrease of 752 (-11.1%) from 2014 which is in line with the overall decrease (-13.4%) nationally. This is attributed to the change in accountability measures (see JCQ statement below).
- Younger students' overall performance continues to be worse, with 5.9% achieving an A\* grade (6.7% in 2014) and 61.0% A\*–C grades (64.5% in 2014).

### Entries and performance by country

- Geography entries increased in England by 3864 (+1.9%).
- Geography entries decreased in Northern Ireland by 219 (-3.2%). This is more than the drop of 0.8% in total entries which was in line with the fall in the cohort.
- Geography entries in Wales fell by 719 (-6.6%). This is more than the 2% drop in the national cohort and total entries.

## JCQ Statement: Overall results and entries

The JCQ news release for all GCSE entries stated:

*There is little change in the UK results compared with last year:*

- *Grade A\* declines marginally 0.1 percentage points to 6.6 per cent*
- *Grades A\*-A follow the same pattern, falling 0.1 percentage points to 21.2 per cent*
- *Grades A\*-C increase 0.2 percentage points to 69.0 per cent*

*The number of GCSEs taken increased 1.2 per cent to 5,277,604:*

- *As expected, 16 year olds make up the greatest proportion of entries, increasing 1.7 per cent to 4,544,077 (the UK 16 year old cohort was down 1.5 per cent year on year)*
- *Significantly, the number of entries from 17 year olds increased 18.2 per cent to 309,846*
- *Entries by 15 year olds dropped 13.4 per cent to 423,681*

*Commenting on this year's GCSE results, JCQ's Director General, Michael Turner said:*

*"Congratulations to students up and down the country who have received their results today and good luck for whichever pathway they chose to continue their education.*

*"At a national level there is very little change in this year's results but we do see educational policies continuing to have an effect on entry patterns and results at a subject level. This is particularly the case in English, Mathematics and the Sciences."*

### **Policy context**

*Today's results and entry patterns must be seen in the context of recent policy changes. In England, GCSEs are now linear with only resits available in the winter and these being limited to English and Mathematics.*

*As of this year, students in England who do not achieve a grade C in either Mathematics or English (or both) continue to study that subject post-16, which explains the rise in 17 year old entries. Nearly 75 per cent of 17 year old entries are in Mathematics and English.*

*The 'first entry counts' policy, which was introduced in England in autumn 2013 and allows only a candidate's first entry in a subject to count towards the school's performance measure, continues to work its way through the system and can, in part, explain the declining number of entries by 15 year olds.*

JCQ (2015b)

## Overall entries and performance

Figure 1: GCSE geography entries and performance, 2012–15. Source: JCQ, 2015a.

	Year	Total entry	Change	% change	% of entries achieving grade									
					A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	U	A*–C
	2012	187,022	6285		9.6	18.7	20.4	21.2	15.0	8.0	4.2	2.0	0.9	69.9
	2013	222,852	35,830	19.2	9.5	17.5	20.4	21.6	15.3	8.4	4.3	2.2	0.8	69.0
	2014	225,149	2297	1.0	9.2	17.3	20.7	21.8	15	8.5	4.5	2.2	0.8	69.0
	<b>2015</b>	<b>228,075</b>	<b>2926</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>9.2</b>	<b>17.7</b>	<b>20.7</b>	<b>21.5</b>	<b>14.9</b>	<b>8.6</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>69.1</b>
Boys	2012	103,781	3428		7.0	16.5	19.9	22.3	17.1	9.1	4.8	2.3	1.0	65.7
Boys	2013	119,887	16,106	15.5	7.0	15.4	19.5	23	17.1	9.6	4.9	2.5	1.0	64.9
Boys	2014	121,580	1693	1.4	7.0	15.0	20.0	23.2	16.8	9.4	5.1	2.5	1.0	65.2
<b>Boys</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>122,774</b>	<b>1194</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>6.9</b>	<b>15.5</b>	<b>20.2</b>	<b>22.7</b>	<b>16.6</b>	<b>9.5</b>	<b>5.1</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>65.3</b>
Girls	2012	83,241	2857		12.8	21.5	21.2	19.5	12.5	6.5	3.6	1.7	0.7	75.0
Girls	2013	102,965	19,724	23.7	12.4	20	21.3	20.2	13.1	6.9	3.7	1.8	0.6	73.9
Girls	2014	103,569	604	0.6	11.9	19.9	21.5	20.2	12.9	7.3	3.9	1.8	0.6	73.5
<b>Girls</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>105,301</b>	<b>1732</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>11.9</b>	<b>20.2</b>	<b>21.5</b>	<b>19.9</b>	<b>13.1</b>	<b>7.2</b>	<b>3.8</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>73.5</b>

- The 2926 (+1.3%) increase in geography entries in 2015 was slightly more than in 2014, but increases were limited to England (see below). This increase can be contextualised by a fall in the UK national cohort of 1.5% but an overall increase in UK entries of 1.7%. Much of this increase appears to be the result of policy changes with increases in entries from 17 year olds who now have to continue to study English and mathematics post-16 if they fail to obtain a 'C' grade.
- There was little change in performance from 2014 with 9.2% obtaining an A\*; 26.9% A\*–A; 69.1% A\*–C and 99.2% A\*–G (A\* grades for all subjects average 6.6% and A\*–C 69.0%).
- Entries by girls increased by 1732 (+1.7%) while entries for boys increased by 1194 (+1.0%), which reverses the trend in 2014.
- Girls had a 5.0% (4.9% in 2014) better performance at A\* grade, and a 9.8% difference at A\*–A grades. At A\*–C boys there was a small reduction in the gap in performance to 8.2% (8.3% in 2013).
- Less than 1% of students received a U grade.

## Popularity of geography at GCSE: Top 10 subjects

Figure 2a: Top 10 GCSE subjects in 2015. 2014 rankings shown in brackets. Source JCQ, 2015c.

Ranking	Subject	Number of candidates	% of total
1 (1)	Mathematics	761,230	14.42
2 (2)	English	520,524	9.86
3 (3)	English Literature	436,546	8.27
4 (4)	Science	395,484	7.49
5 (5)	Additional science	332,960	6.31
6 (6)	Religious studies	295,730	5.60
7 (7)	History	247,040	4.68
8 (8)	Geography	228,075	4.32
9 (9)	Design and technology	204,788	3.88
10 (10)	Art and design subjects	194,637	3.69

Figure 2b: Top GCSE full subject increases (entry greater than 100,000). 2014 rankings shown in brackets. Subjects having a year-on-year decrease in 2014 are shown as blank. Source JCQ, 2015c.

Ranking	Subject	Number of candidates 2014	Number of candidates 2015	% change
1 (1)	ICT	96,811	111,934	15.62
2 (2)	Additional science	302,825	332,960	9.95
3 (3)	Physical education	112,971	120,544	6.70
4	Science	374,961	395,484	5.47
5 (4)	Religious studies	282,099	295,730	4.83
6	Mathematics	736,403	761,230	3.37
7 (5)	Art and design subjects	191,398	194,637	1.69
8 (6)	Geography	225,149	228,075	1.30
9	English	515,575	520,524	0.96

- Geography remained the eighth most popular subject at GCSE with an increase in entries of 2926. The figures show the continued dominance of National Curriculum subjects at GCSE, with these subjects also experiencing the greatest growth.
- The influence of government policy (see [www.gov.uk/government/news/gcse-results-show-surge-in-pupils-taking-valuable-stem-subjects](http://www.gov.uk/government/news/gcse-results-show-surge-in-pupils-taking-valuable-stem-subjects)) on entries is reflected in:
  - The growth of ICT and other STEM subjects which have been prioritised in recent years.
  - The introduction of the English Baccalaureate (EBacc) school performance indicator in 2010. The Ebacc is made up of: English; mathematics; history or geography; the sciences; a language. The EBacc measures the percentage of students in a school who achieve 5+ A\*–C grades in these traditionally academic GCSE subjects. In June 2015, the government announced their intention that all students who start year 7 in September 2015 take the EBacc subjects when they reach their GCSEs in 2020. They plan to consult on detailed proposals to achieve this aim in autumn 2015 (see [www.gov.uk/government/publications/english-baccalaureate-ebacc/english-baccalaureate-ebacc](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/english-baccalaureate-ebacc/english-baccalaureate-ebacc)).

## Trends in GCSE geography

Figure 3: Top ten GCSE full courses as a percentage of the total entry 2006–15.

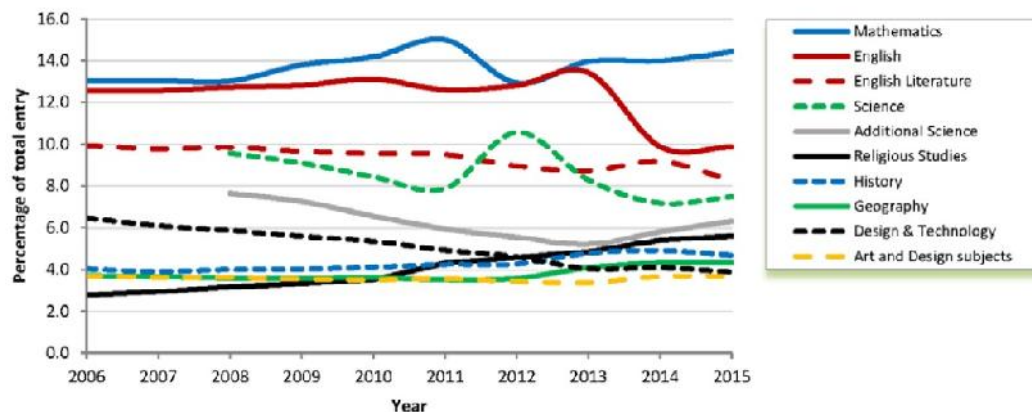


Figure 4: Entries and performance for GCSE geography 2005–15.

Year	Total entry	Change	% of entries achieving grade									
			A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	U	A*–C
2005	216,756	-10,484	9.1	14	17.1	24.3	15.3	9	5.5	3	2.7	64.5
2006	213,469	-3287	9.2	14.9	17.4	24.4	15.3	8.7	5	2.7	2.4	65.9
2007	213,124	-345	9.9	15.3	17.6	24	15.5	8.4	4.7	2.4	2.2	66.8
2008	203,862	-9262	10.4	16.2	18.2	23.4	15.1	8.1	4.4	2.3	1.9	68.2
2009	196,018	-7844	10.6	16.5	18.2	23.2	15.4	7.9	4.3	2.1	1.8	68.5
2010	194,599	-1419	11.3	16.9	18.3	23.0	16.0	7.5	3.7	1.7	1.6	69.5
2011	180,737	-13,862	10.4	18.2	20.0	21.5	14.8	7.8	4.2	2.1	1.0	70.1
2012	187,022	6285	9.6	18.7	20.4	21.2	15.0	8.0	4.2	2.0	0.9	69.9
2013	222,852	35,830	9.5	17.5	20.4	21.6	15.3	8.4	4.3	2.2	0.8	69.0
2014	225,149	2297	9.2	17.3	20.7	21.8	15	8.5	4.5	2.2	0.8	69.0
<b>2015</b>	<b>228,075</b>	<b>2926</b>	<b>9.2</b>	<b>17.7</b>	<b>20.7</b>	<b>21.5</b>	<b>14.9</b>	<b>8.6</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>69.1</b>

- Figure 3 shows that history and geography entries were similar in 2006 (although history entries had been lower than geography entries until 2004), but that history gradually increased the gap until 2013. In 2014 and 2015 increases in geography entries and decreases in history closed the gap.

- For the fourth year running there was an increase in entries (2926) for geography. There was a decline in geography entries between 1996 (over 300,000) and 2011 (180,737) as schools prioritised other subjects to boost school performance indicators.
- The introduction of the EBacc in 2010 is reflected in the large increase in entries in 2013 as many schools returned to offering either geography or history in their option blocks rather than having more broadly based subject choices.
- Performance at the higher grades was largely the same as 2014.

## Entries and performance by gender

Figure 5a: Boys' entries and performance for GCSE geography 2005–15.

Year	Total entry	Change	% of male geography entries	% of entries achieving grade									
				A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	U	A*–C
2005	121,892	-5715	56.2	7.2	12.6	16.6	25.1	16.3	9.9	6	3.2	3.1	61.5
2006	118,849	-3043	55.7	7.6	13.4	16.7	25.3	16.5	9.4	5.5	2.9	2.7	63
2007	117,811	-1038	55.3	8.2	14	17.2	24.6	16.6	9.1	5.1	2.7	2.5	64
2008	113,078	-4733	55.5	8.7	14.8	17.8	24.2	16.3	8.9	4.7	2.5	2.1	65.5
2009	108,211	-4867	55.2	8.9	15	17.9	24.1	16.5	8.6	4.7	2.3	2	65.9
2010	107,794	-417	55.4	9.1	15.1	18.1	24.1	17.6	8.3	4.0	1.9	1.8	66.4
2011	100,353	-7441	55.5	7.9	16.0	19.4	22.7	16.8	8.8	4.8	2.5	1.1	66.0
2012	103,781	3428	55.5	7.0	16.5	19.9	22.3	17.1	9.1	4.8	2.3	1.0	65.7
2013	119,887	16,106	53.8	7.0	15.4	19.5	23.0	17.1	9.6	4.9	2.5	1.0	64.9
2014	121,580	1693	54.0	7.0	15.0	20.0	23.2	16.8	9.4	5.1	2.5	1.0	65.2
<b>2015</b>	<b>122,774</b>	<b>1194</b>	<b>53.8</b>	<b>6.9</b>	<b>15.5</b>	<b>20.2</b>	<b>22.7</b>	<b>16.6</b>	<b>9.5</b>	<b>5.1</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>65.3</b>

Figure 5b: Girls' entries and performance for GCSE geography 2005–15.

Year	Total entry	Change	% of female geography entries	% of entries achieving grade									
				A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	U	A*–C
2005	94,864	-5361	43.8	11.5	15.8	17.9	23.2	13.8	8.1	4.8	2.7	2.2	68.4
2006	94,620	-244	44.3	11.2	16.8	18.2	23.3	13.8	7.9	4.3	2.4	2.1	69.5
2007	95,313	693	44.7	12	16.9	18	23.3	14.1	7.5	4.2	2.2	1.8	70.2
2008	90,784	-4529	44.5	12.4	18	18.7	22.3	13.7	7.3	3.8	2.1	1.7	71.4
2009	87,807	-2977	44.8	12.7	18.3	18.6	22.1	14	7.1	3.9	1.9	1.4	71.7
2010	86,805	-1002	44.6	14.0	19.0	18.8	21.5	14.1	6.4	3.3	1.5	1.4	73.3
2011	80,384	-6421	44.5	13.4	21.0	20.8	19.9	12.5	6.5	3.4	1.7	0.8	75.1
2012	83,241	2857	44.5	12.8	21.5	21.2	19.5	12.5	6.5	3.6	1.7	0.7	75.0
2013	102,965	19,724	46.2	12.4	20.0	21.3	20.2	13.1	6.9	3.7	1.8	0.6	73.9
2014	103,569	604	46.0	11.9	19.9	21.5	20.2	12.9	7.3	3.9	1.8	0.6	73.5
<b>2015</b>	<b>105,301</b>	<b>1732</b>	<b>46.2</b>	<b>11.9</b>	<b>20.2</b>	<b>21.5</b>	<b>19.9</b>	<b>13.1</b>	<b>7.2</b>	<b>3.8</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>73.5</b>

Figure 6: Gender differentials in performance by cumulative grade for geography 2015 (UK).

Grade	Girls	Change from 2014	Boys	Change from 2014	Differential	Change from 2014
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					<b>Girls: Boys</b>	<b>(Girls-Boys)</b>
A*	11.9%	0.0%	6.9%	-0.1%	5.0%	0.1%
A*/A	32.1%	0.3%	22.4%	0.4%	9.7%	-0.1%
A*-C	73.5%	0.0%	65.3%	0.1%	8.2%	-0.1%
A*-G	99.4%	0.0%	99.0%	0.0%	0.4%	0.0%
Total entries	105,301	+1732 (1.7%)	122,774	+1194 (1.0%)		

- Entries for geography have traditionally been higher for boys but this imbalance decreased slightly in 2013.
- Girls continued to outperform boys at the higher grades although the gender differential in performance was variable at different grades. There was a gender differential of 5.0% in favour of girls at A\*; 9.7% at A\*/A; 8.2% at A\*-C and 0.4% at A\*-G. These were largely unchanged from 2014.

## Entries and performance by age

**Figure 7: Entries for GCSE geography by age 2015 (UK)**

Grade	Age 15 and under	Change from 2014	Age 16	Change from 2014	Age 17 and over	Change from 2014
Entries	6048	-752 (-11.1%)	218,685	+3870 (+1.8%)	3342	-192 (-5.4%)
% of total entry for geography	2.7%	-0.3%	95.9%	+0.5%	1.4%	-0.2%
A*	5.9%	-0.8%	9.3%	-0.1%	8.1%	+0.9%
A*/A	20.7%	+0.2%	27.1%	+0.4%	25.6%	+0.7%
A*–C	61.0%	-4.1%	69.3%	+0.1%	68.1%	+1.9%
A*–G	98.3%	-0.4%	99.2%	0%	98.7%	-0.1%

**Figure 8a: Entries and performance for GCSE geography by students aged 15 and under, 2012–15 (UK). Source: JCQ, 2015d.**

Gender	Year	Total entry	Change	% change	% of entries achieving grade									
					A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	U	A*–C
Boys	2012	4586			3.6	11.8	16	22.5	20.8	11.9	8	3.7	1.7	53.9
Boys	2013	5875	1289	28.1	4.5	10.8	15.6	24.2	20.2	12.9	6.5	3.6	1.7	55.1
Boys	2014	3644	-2231	-38.0	5	11.7	18.6	24.2	18.6	11.2	5.6	3.4	1.7	59.5
<b>Boys</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>3279</b>	<b>-365</b>	<b>-10.0</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>13.3</b>	<b>18.2</b>	<b>21.8</b>	<b>17.3</b>	<b>11.6</b>	<b>7.1</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>57.7</b>
Girls	2012	3876			7.3	16.7	19.9	21.2	16.2	8.9	5.8	2.9	1.1	65.1
Girls	2013	5230	1354	34.9	7.5	15.3	18.6	22.6	16.9	9.2	5.8	3	1.1	64
Girls	2014	3156	-2074	-39.7	8.6	16.3	22.8	22.5	14.5	8.1	4.2	2.2	0.8	70.2
<b>Girls</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2769</b>	<b>-387</b>	<b>-12.3</b>	<b>7.8</b>	<b>16.4</b>	<b>20.1</b>	<b>20.7</b>	<b>14.2</b>	<b>8.8</b>	<b>7.3</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>65</b>
Both	2012	8462			5.3	14	17.8	21.9	18.7	10.6	6.9	3.4	1.4	59
Both	2013	11,105	2643	31.2	5.9	12.9	17.1	23.4	18.6	11.2	6.1	3.4	1.4	59.3
Both	2014	6800	-4305	-38.8	6.7	13.8	20.5	23.5	16.7	9.7	5	2.8	1.3	64.5
<b>Both</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>6048</b>	<b>-752</b>	<b>-11.1</b>	<b>5.9</b>	<b>14.8</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>21.3</b>	<b>15.9</b>	<b>10.3</b>	<b>7.2</b>	<b>3.9</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>61</b>

**Figure 8b: Entries and performance for GCSE geography by students aged 16, 2012–15 (UK). Source: JCQ, 2015d.**

Gender	Year	Total entry	Change	% change	% of entries achieving grade									
					A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	U	A*–C
Boys	2012	97,335			7.2	16.8	19.9	22.4	16.9	9	4.6	2.2	1	66.3
Boys	2013	112,137	14,802	15.2	7.2	15.6	19.8	22.9	16.9	9.4	4.8	2.4	1	65.5
Boys	2014	115,910	3773	3.4	7.1	15.1	20.1	23.1	16.7	9.4	5.1	2.5	0.9	65.4
<b>Boys</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>117,624</b>	<b>1714</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>15.6</b>	<b>20.2</b>	<b>22.7</b>	<b>16.6</b>	<b>9.5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>65.5</b>
Girls	2012	77,984			13.1	21.7	21.2	19.5	12.4	6.4	3.4	1.7	0.6	75.5
Girls	2013	96,310	18,326	23.5	12.7	20.3	21.3	20.1	12.9	6.8	3.6	1.7	0.6	74.4
Girls	2014	98,905	2595	2.7	12	20.1	21.4	20.1	12.9	7.2	3.9	1.8	0.6	73.6
<b>Girls</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>101,061</b>	<b>2156</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>20.3</b>	<b>21.5</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>7.2</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>73.8</b>
Both	2012	175,319			9.8	19	20.5	21.1	14.9	7.8	4.1	2	0.8	70.4
Both	2013	208,447	33,128	18.9	9.7	17.8	20.5	21.6	15.1	8.2	4.2	2.1	0.8	69.6
Both	2014	214,815	6368	3.1	9.4	17.3	20.8	21.7	14.9	8.5	4.4	2.2	0.8	69.2
<b>Both</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>218,685</b>	<b>3870</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>9.3</b>	<b>17.8</b>	<b>20.8</b>	<b>21.4</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>8.4</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>69.3</b>

**Figure 8c: Entries and performance for GCSE geography by students aged 17 and over, 2012–15 (UK). Source: JCQ, 2015d.**

Gender	Year	Total entry	Change	% change	% of entries achieving grade									
					A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	U	A*–C
Boys	2012	1860			5.9	15.7	21.2	23.1	16	8.8	5.3	2.7	1.3	65.9
Boys	2013	1875	15	0.8	5	14.3	20.2	21.7	17.9	10.4	5.5	3.7	1.3	61.2
Boys	2014	2026	151	8.1	4.9	15.6	19.2	22.2	17.5	10.3	5.8	3.1	1.4	61.9
<b>Boys</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>1871</b>	<b>-155</b>	<b>-7.7</b>	<b>5.8</b>	<b>15.5</b>	<b>20.1</b>	<b>23.7</b>	<b>16.4</b>	<b>9.1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>65.1</b>
Girls	2012	1381			11.7	23.5	20.6	17.6	11.2	7.4	3.8	2.4	1.8	73.4
Girls	2013	1425	44	3.2	10.5	22	22.9	20.5	11.1	6.1	4	1.5	1.4	75.9
Girls	2014	1508	83	5.8	10.1	20.7	21.3	19.8	12.8	7.1	4.2	3.2	0.8	71.9
<b>Girls</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>1471</b>	<b>-37</b>	<b>-2.5</b>	<b>11.1</b>	<b>19.9</b>	<b>21.2</b>	<b>19.7</b>	<b>12.6</b>	<b>7.2</b>	<b>4.8</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>71.9</b>
Both	2012	3241			8.4	19	20.9	20.8	14	8.2	4.6	2.6	1.5	69.1
Both	2013	3300	59	1.8	7.4	17.6	21.4	21.2	14.9	8.6	4.8	2.7	1.4	67.6
Both	2014	3534	234	7.1	7.2	17.7	20.1	21.2	15.4	9	5.1	3.1	1.2	66.2
<b>Both</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>3342</b>	<b>-192</b>	<b>-5.4</b>	<b>8.1</b>	<b>17.5</b>	<b>20.5</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>14.7</b>	<b>8.3</b>	<b>4.9</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>68.1</b>

- This was the fourth year that entries have been analysed by age. Three categories were reported: Aged 15 and under; Aged 16; Aged 17 and over.
- Most entries were for students aged 16 (95.9%).
- Geography entries decreased for students aged 15 and under (down 11.1% to 6048). Performance by these students was lower than for those aged 16. At A\* the gap was 3.4%; At A\*-A it was 6.4%; A\*-C 8.3%; A\*-G 0.9%. This suggests there continues to be penalties for some students in early entry.

## Entries and performance by country

Figure 9: Entries and performance for GCSE geography by country (England, Northern Ireland, Wales) 2015. Source: JCQ, 2015a.

Grade	England	Change from 2014	Northern Ireland	Change from 2014	Wales	Change from 2014	UK	4
Entries	211,721	+3864 (1.9%)	6588	-219 (-3.2%)	9766	-719 (-6.9%)	228,075	+2926 (1.3%)
% of total GCSE entries	4.4	0	3.8	-0.1	3.6	-0.2	4.3	0
% of total GCSE geography entries	92.8	+0.5	2.9	-0.1	4.3	-0.4	100	100
% of entries achieving A*	9.3	0	9.8	+1.4	7.2	-0.7	9.3	0
% of entries achieving A*/A	26.9	+0.4	33.3	+0.8	22.8	-1.2	26.9	+0.4
% of entries achieving A*–C	68.9	+0.1	79.4	+0.6	66.6	-0.8	68.9	+0.1
% of entries achieving A*–G	99.2	0	99.3	-0.3	99.3	-0.1	99.2	0

Figure 10a: Entries and performance for GCSE geography in England 2012–15. Source: JCQ, 2015a.

Gender	Year	Total entry	Change	% change	% of entries achieving grade									
					A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	U	A*–C
Boys	2012	93,850			7.1	16.6	19.8	22.1	17	9.2	4.9	2.3	1	65.6
Boys	2013	109,494	15,644	16.7	7	15.5	19.5	22.7	17.1	9.6	5.1	2.5	1	64.7
Boys	2014	111,796	2302	2.1	7.1	14.9	19.9	23	16.9	9.5	5.1	2.6	1	64.9
<b>Boys</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>113,617</b>	<b>1821</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>15.5</b>	<b>20.1</b>	<b>22.6</b>	<b>16.5</b>	<b>9.6</b>	<b>5.2</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>1821</b>
Girls	2012	76,118			12.9	21.4	21.1	19.4	12.6	6.5	3.6	1.8	0.7	74.8
Girls	2013	95,003	18,885	24.8	12.4	19.9	21.1	20.2	13.1	7.1	3.8	1.8	0.6	73.6
Girls	2014	96,061	1058	1.1	11.9	19.7	21.4	20.2	13	7.4	3.9	1.9	0.6	73.2
<b>Girls</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>98,104</b>	<b>2043</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>11.9</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21.4</b>	<b>19.9</b>	<b>13.1</b>	<b>7.4</b>	<b>3.9</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>2043</b>
Both	2012	169,968			9.7	18.8	20.3	20.9	15	8.1	4.2	2.1	0.9	69.7
Both	2013	204,497	34,529	20.3	9.6	17.5	20.2	21.6	15.2	8.4	4.5	2.2	0.8	68.9
Both	2014	207,857	3360	1.6	9.3	17.2	20.5	21.8	15	8.6	4.5	2.3	0.8	68.8
<b>Both</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>211,721</b>	<b>3864</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>9.3</b>	<b>17.6</b>	<b>20.6</b>	<b>21.4</b>	<b>14.9</b>	<b>8.6</b>	<b>4.6</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>68.9</b>

**Figure 10b: Entries and performance for GCSE geography in Northern Ireland 2012–15. Source: JCQ, 2015a.**

Gender	Year	Total entry	Change	% change	% of entries achieving grade									
					A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	U	A*–C
Boys	2012	3853			5.9	18.9	24.9	23.6	13.9	7.1	3.3	1.6	0.8	73.3
Boys	2013	3852	-1	0.0	5.1	18.7	25.2	24.4	14.8	6.9	2.9	1.4	0.6	73.4
Boys	2014	3753	-99	-2.6	5.5	19.6	26.3	22.4	13.4	7	3.5	1.9	0.4	73.8
<b>Boys</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>3624</b>	<b>-129</b>	<b>-3.4</b>	<b>6.1</b>	<b>19.9</b>	<b>25.2</b>	<b>23.5</b>	<b>13.1</b>	<b>6.8</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>74.7</b>
Girls	2012	3002			12.5	27.1	23.5	18.9	10	4.5	2	1.1	0.4	82.0
Girls	2013	3278	276	9.2	11.7	27.7	26.2	18.3	9.3	4.5	1.4	0.6	0.3	83.9
Girls	2014	3054	-224	-6.8	12.1	29.4	27.1	16.4	9	3.5	1.5	0.6	0.4	85.0
<b>Girls</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2964</b>	<b>-90</b>	<b>-2.9</b>	<b>14.4</b>	<b>27.8</b>	<b>25.5</b>	<b>17.4</b>	<b>7.9</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>85.1</b>
Both	2012	6855			8.8	22.5	24.3	21.6	12.1	6	2.7	1.4	0.6	77.2
Both	2013	7130	275	4.0	8.1	22.9	25.6	21.6	12.3	5.8	2.2	1	0.5	78.2
Both	2014	6807	-323	-4.5	8.4	24.1	26.6	19.7	11.5	5.4	2.6	1.3	0.4	78.8
<b>Both</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>6588</b>	<b>-219</b>	<b>-3.2</b>	<b>9.8</b>	<b>23.5</b>	<b>25.4</b>	<b>20.7</b>	<b>10.8</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>79.4</b>

**Figure 10c: Entries and performance for GCSE geography in Wales 2012–15. Source: JCQ, 2015a.**

Gender	Year	Total entry	Change	% change	% of entries achieving grade									
					A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	U	A*–C
Boys	2012	6078			5.9	13.7	18.1	25.3	18.9	10.1	4.8	2.4	0.8	63.0
Boys	2013	6541	463	7.6	6.1	13.3	17.4	25.7	18.6	10.4	5.1	2.2	1.2	62.5
Boys	2014	6031	-510	-7.8	5.9	13.9	19.4	25.2	18.1	9.7	4.7	2.3	0.8	64.4
<b>Boys</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>5533</b>	<b>-498</b>	<b>-8.3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>13.1</b>	<b>18.5</b>	<b>25.5</b>	<b>19.3</b>	<b>10.3</b>	<b>5.1</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>62.1</b>
Girls	2012	4121			11.3	19.1	20.1	22.7	14.3	7.1	3.3	1.3	0.8	73.2
Girls	2013	4684	563	13.7	12.2	17.5	20	22.3	15	7	3.5	1.8	0.7	72.0
Girls	2014	4454	-230	-4.9	10.6	19.1	19.9	21.8	14.4	7.9	3.9	1.8	0.6	71.4
<b>Girls</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>4233</b>	<b>-221</b>	<b>-5.0</b>	<b>10.1</b>	<b>18.7</b>	<b>20.5</b>	<b>23.3</b>	<b>15.4</b>	<b>6.4</b>	<b>3.4</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>72.6</b>
Both	2012	10199			8.1	15.8	19	24.2	17.1	8.8	4.2	2	0.8	67.1
Both	2013	11225	1026	10.1	8.7	15	18.5	24.3	17.1	9	4.4	2	1	66.5
Both	2014	10485	-740	-6.6	7.9	16.1	19.6	23.8	16.5	8.9	4.4	2.1	0.7	67.4
<b>Both</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>9766</b>	<b>-719</b>	<b>-6.9</b>	<b>7.2</b>	<b>15.6</b>	<b>19.3</b>	<b>24.5</b>	<b>17.7</b>	<b>8.6</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>66.6</b>

- As the largest country, England accounts for 92.8% of the total geography entries. England was the only country to experience an increase in entries (1.9%), compared with losses of 3.8% in Northern Ireland and 6.9% in Wales. This appears to reflect the pressure on schools in England to teach geography as part of the English Baccalaureate which is a school performance indicator.
- Performance varies between countries with Northern Ireland outperforming the other countries at all grades. Students in Wales obtained fewer A\* grades (7.2%) and A\*–A grades (22.8%) and A\*–C grades (66.6%). The much smaller numbers of entries for Northern Ireland and Wales mean that annual fluctuations are likely to be much larger than for England.
- Differential gender performance is much the same between the three countries with girls outperforming boys by similar amounts.

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