

## Geography GCSE entries and results 2019

### Overview of Geography entries and performance

- In 2019 Geography remained the 6<sup>th</sup> most popular GCSE subject
- The increase in entries was 8749 (+3.4%) to 265169. The increase was entirely from England with 8853 (+3.7%) extra entries. There was a small reduction in entries in both Northern Ireland and Wales
- Geography had the 8<sup>th</sup> highest percentage (3.4%) increase of the large entry (over 100 000) subjects. There were larger percentage increases in Art and Design, Spanish, History, Double Science, English, Mathematics and English Literature.

### Outcomes

Comparisons over time can only be made at key grades because of the change in the grading system in England. This is the second year of the reformed examinations in England so the only direct comparison can be with 2018. However to ensure that candidates are not penalised Ofqual and the awarding bodies have ensured that there is overall stability at these points. The marks required to obtain these grades will have changed and hopefully awarding bodies will communicate these to schools.

Nationally there was an increase of 0.3% of students obtaining grades at A/7 to 20.8%; C/4 increased 0.4 percentage points to 67.3%; and G/1 stayed the same at 98.3%.

- A\*-A / 7 grades in Geography were up 0.7% to 24.9%. This compares well to the national increase in performance up 0.3% to 20.8%
- A\*-C / 9-4 grades in Geography were up 0.6% to 65.8% from 65.2% in 2018. In 2016 this was 66.3%. This is slightly lower than overall national achievement where there was an increase of 0.4% to 67.3%
- A\*-G / 9-1 grades in geography were 98.4%. Nationally they were 98.3%
- The gender imbalance for geography has shifted slightly towards males 53.9 : 46.1 (M:F). The national pattern is that 50.1% of all entries are from Females
- 2145 (<1% of the total geography entry) were students aged 15 and under. This was a decrease of 96 (-4.3%). Nationally entries for 15-year olds rose by 9713 (+7.9%)

- Younger students' (age 15) performance continued to be higher than the whole cohort, with 28.0% achieving an A\*-A / 7 grades. At A\*-C / 9-4 grades performance fell 0.7 to 72.6% compared to 65.8% overall. This suggests that this small entry group is better targeted or comes from a selective cohort
- The number of older student entries (aged 17+) fell by 213 to 3157 (0.8% of the total geography entry). Performance for this age group is better than the overall entries A\*-A / 7: 26.0% (All 24.9%) and A\*-C / 9-4: 68.5% (All 65.8%); A\*-G / 9-1: 98.5 (All 98.4).

## National Entries

- Reforms are complete in Wales and those in England are complete with the exception of a few lesser taught languages. New GCSEs in Northern Ireland have been awarded for the first time, alongside other reformed GCSEs
- Entries for all subjects increased by 1.4% to 5.55 million
- For all GCSEs the 16-year old population is up 1.5%. National entries for 17 year olds rose by 1.3% (412,550). National entries for 15 year olds were up 7.9 % to 133,316.

The Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) publishes the national examination results for A-level and GCSE each August. It collects this data from the main GCSE and A-level awarding bodies. Their comments include:

### Update on Reforms

Reforms are complete in Wales and those in England are complete with the exception of a few lesser taught languages. New GCSEs in Northern Ireland have been awarded for the first time, alongside other reformed GCSEs.

Working with regulators, JCQ members across England, Northern Ireland and Wales, remain committed to anchoring grade standards of reformed and legacy qualifications at key grades (7/A, 4/C, 1/G). This means that, all things being equal (i.e. no other changes and a similar cohort profile), outcomes are broadly similar to the legacy outcomes.

Dr Philip Wright, Director General of JCQ said: *"Today students across the UK are receiving their GCSE results. They have worked hard for these results and should be proud of their achievements."*

*"Students and teachers have done a great job during a period of reform as this year's results have overall been stable, with small increases in pass rates at 7/A and 4/C. We are seeing more entries and better outcomes in the sciences and in computing from both males and females."*

*"Today students should be celebrating their hard work with their friends, family and teachers as they look forward to the future"*

JCQ (2019a) <https://www.jcq.org.uk/examination-results/gcse/2019/gcse-press-notice-uk-summer-2019>

**This means that national year on year comparisons should be treated with caution and the following comments from JCQ are still relevant.**

### **Reform**

- *Different reforms across countries make comparisons difficult across years; across subjects; and across jurisdictions.*
- *This year's GCSE results include 9-1 grades, which are predominantly taken in England.*
- *The reformed GCSEs have been developed to meet the requirements of Government and the regulator, who wanted more challenging qualifications that enable the better differentiation of students at the top grades. The reformed subjects include an increase in content and external assessment.*
- *The new grade scale cannot be directly compared with the old one, other than cumulatively at A/7; C/4; and G/1. Therefore comparisons across years; across reformed and unreformed subjects and across jurisdictions, can only be made at these grades.*
- *In Wales and Northern Ireland, qualifications remain graded A\*-G. In Northern Ireland an additional grade C\* has been added.*

**NB It is worth reading this important information document on the JCQ website when using the following tables as it explains changes and different grading systems**

[Summer GCSE Results Important Information](#)

Another useful source of data is Ofqual. They have produced a number of documents and analytical tools. The link is below and their key points are reproduced

### [Ofqual guide to GCSE results](#)

#### **Key points**

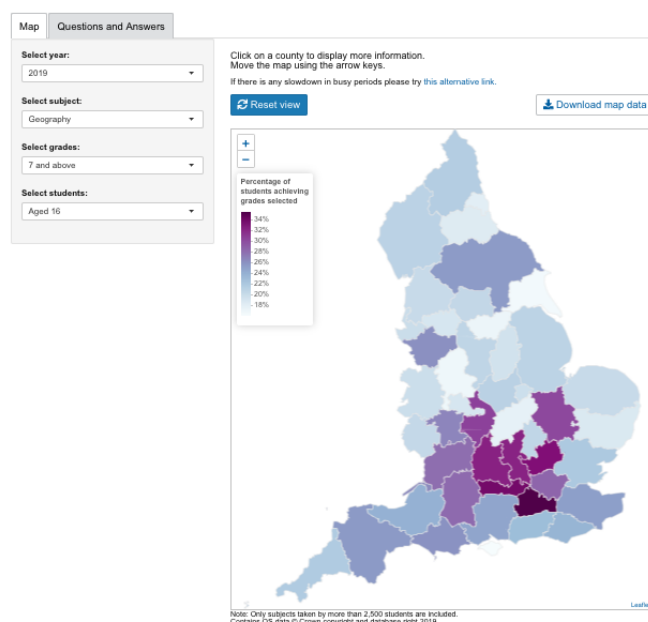
1. The majority of today's results were awarded for reformed GCSEs, with almost all students in England now only receiving numerical grades.
2. Reformed GCSEs were awarded for the first time in 25 more subjects this summer, bringing the total number of reformed subjects to 48. Our focus has been to ensure that standards have been maintained for all qualifications awarded this summer.
3. Overall GCSE outcomes at grade 4/C in England have remained stable in recent years and this trend has continued this year (67.1% in 2019 compared with 66.6% in 2018).
4. The variability in results at centre level is slightly less than in previous years. Even when there are no changes to qualifications, individual schools and colleges will see variation in their year-on-year results; this is normal.

Today (22 August 2019) [Ofqual] are publishing:

- a summary of this year's results (below)
- an [infographic](#) about this year's GCSE results
- a [report on variability in GCSE results](#) for schools and colleges, 2017 to 2019
- a [summary of our monitoring](#) of this year's GCSE, AS, A level and level 3 project qualifications
- [interactive analytics](#) of this year's GCSE results

This allows schools to compare patterns of results and performance across the country. A screenshot of an example is given below

Map of GCSE (9 to 1) grade outcomes by county in England



## 1. Results for Geography 2019 (UK – England, Northern Ireland and Wales)

Table 1: Percentages of Subject Results by Grade and Gender 2013-2019

Gender	Year	Total Entry	A* -A / 9-7	B-C / 6-4	D-G / 3-1	U	A*-C / 9-4	Change	% Change
Male	2013	119887	22.4	42.5	34.1	1.0	64.9	16106	15.5
Male	2014	121580	22.0	43.2	33.8	1.0	65.2	1693	1.4
Male	2015	122774	22.4	42.9	33.7	1.0	65.3	1194	1.0
Male	2016	129496	19.9	42.4	36.2	1.5	62.3	6722	5.5
Male	2017	130565	19.4	41.5	37.5	1.6	60.9	1069	0.8
Male	2018	137071	20.9	41.1	35.8	2.2	62.0	6506	5.0
Male	2019	142816	21.4	41.1	35.3	2.2	62.5	5745	4.2
Female	2013	102965	32.4	41.5	25.5	0.6	73.9	19724	23.7
Female	2014	103569	31.8	41.7	25.9	0.6	73.5	604	0.6
Female	2015	105301	32.1	41.4	25.9	0.6	73.5	1732	1.7
Female	2016	114537	29.9	41.0	28.3	0.8	70.9	9236	8.8
Female	2017	115399	28.4	40.7	30.0	0.9	69.1	862	0.8
Female	2018	119349	28.0	40.9	30.2	0.9	68.9	3950	3.4
Female	2019	122353	28.9	40.8	29.3	1.0	69.7	3004	2.5
All	2013	222852	27.0	42.0	30.2	0.8	69.0	35830	19.2
All	2014	225149	26.5	42.5	30.2	0.8	69.0	2297	1.0
All	2015	228075	26.9	42.2	30.1	0.8	69.1	2926	1.3
All	2016	244033	24.6	41.7	32.5	1.2	66.3	15958	7.0
All	2017	245964	23.6	41.2	33.9	1.3	64.8	1931	0.8
All	2018	256420	24.2	41.0	33.2	1.6	65.2	10456	4.3
All	2019	265169	24.9	40.9	32.6	1.6	65.8	8749	3.4

Source: JCQ (2019b)

There was an increase of 8749 (3.4%) entries for Geography in 2019. This was the eighth highest subject increase and was greater than the increase in national cohort size. This is due to policy changes and performance measures introduced since 2010 such as EBacc and Progress 8. While these only apply in England the overwhelming cohort size (94.5%) means that changes in England tend to dominate the overall results.

There was a larger increase for Males of 5745 (+4.2%) than Females at 3004 (+2.5%). Overall this was a 3.4% increase. The gender ratio shifted slightly in favour of males to 53.9 : 46.1 (M:F).

Females continued to outperform Males but the gap has increased slightly.

- 28.9% of Females obtained A/7 grades (up from 28.0% in 2018) compared to 21.4% of Males (up from 20.9% in 2017). This increased the gap to 7.5% at A/7 grades (up from 7.1% in 2018)
- 69.7% (68.9% – 2018) of Females obtained A\*-C / 9-4 grades compared to 62.5% (62.0% - 2018) of Males. The gap has therefore increased to 7.2% from 6.9% in 2018
- The overall picture of small changes reinforces the JCQ assertion that ‘standards’ have been maintained from 2018 to 2019 despite the changes to the examinations.

## 2. Popularity of geography at GCSE: Top 10 subjects 2019

Table 2a: Top 10 GCSE subjects in 2019

Ranking	Subject	% of total	Number of candidates
1 (1)	Science: Double Award	15.1	839,258
2 (2)	Mathematics	14.0	778,858
3 (3)	English	13.8	765,332
4 (4)	English Literature	10.6	587,051
5 (5)	History	5.0	278,759
6 (6)	Geography	4.8	265,169
7 (7)	Religious Studies	4.5	249,022
8 (8)	Art and Design subjects	3.5	195,928
9 (9)	Biology	3.2	177,454
10 (10)	Chemistry	3.1	170,034

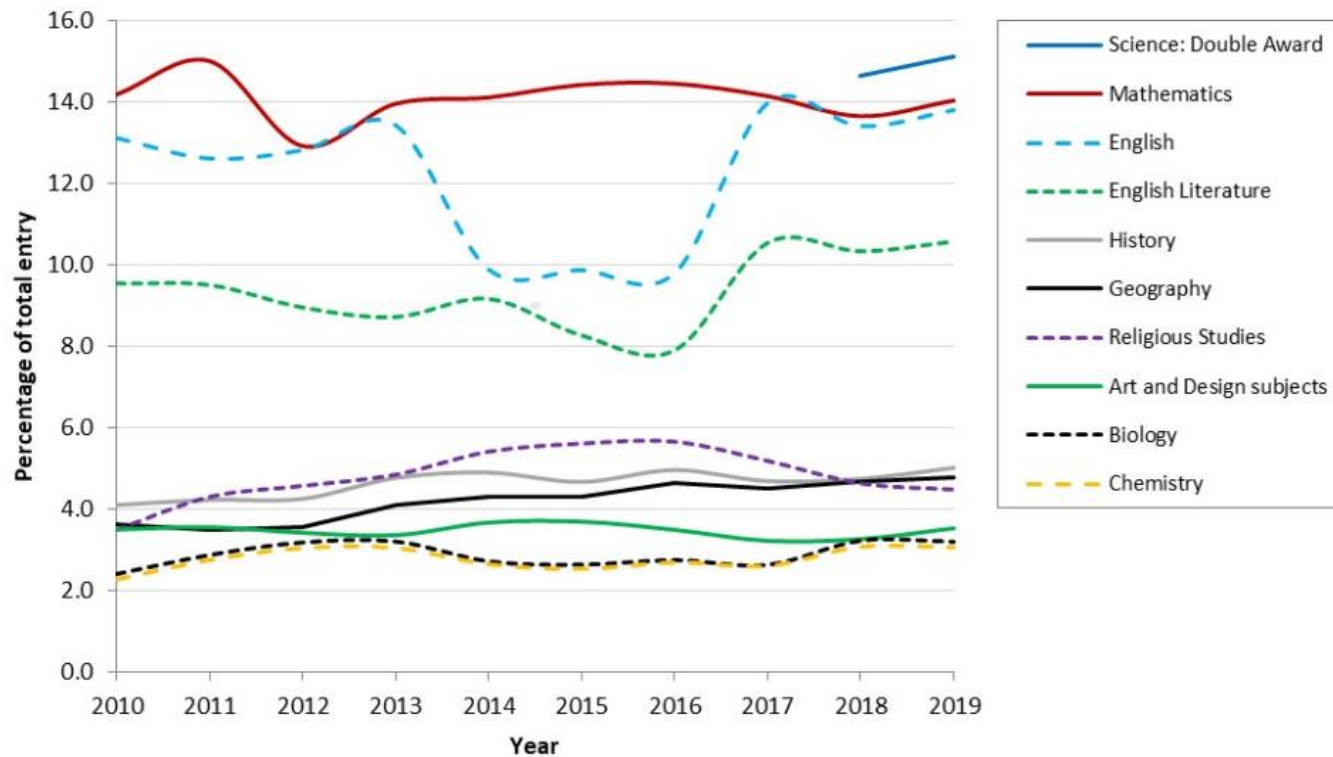
(2018 ranking in brackets)

Table 2b Top GCSE full subject increases 2019 (entry greater than 100,000) Changes from 2018-2019

Ranking	Subject	% change	2018 Number of candidates	2019 Number of candidates
1 (6)	Art & Design	9.5	178,891	195,928
2	Spanish	7.5	95,080	102,242
3 (7)	History	7.1	260,204	278,799
4	Science (Double Award)	4.8	801,080	839,258
5	English	4.4	733,085	765,332
6	Mathematics	4.2	747,169	778,858
7	English Literature	3.8	565,791	587,051
8 (5)	Geography	3.4	256,420	265,169
9	French	3.2	126,750	130,831
10 (4)	Physics	1.1	166,462	168,330

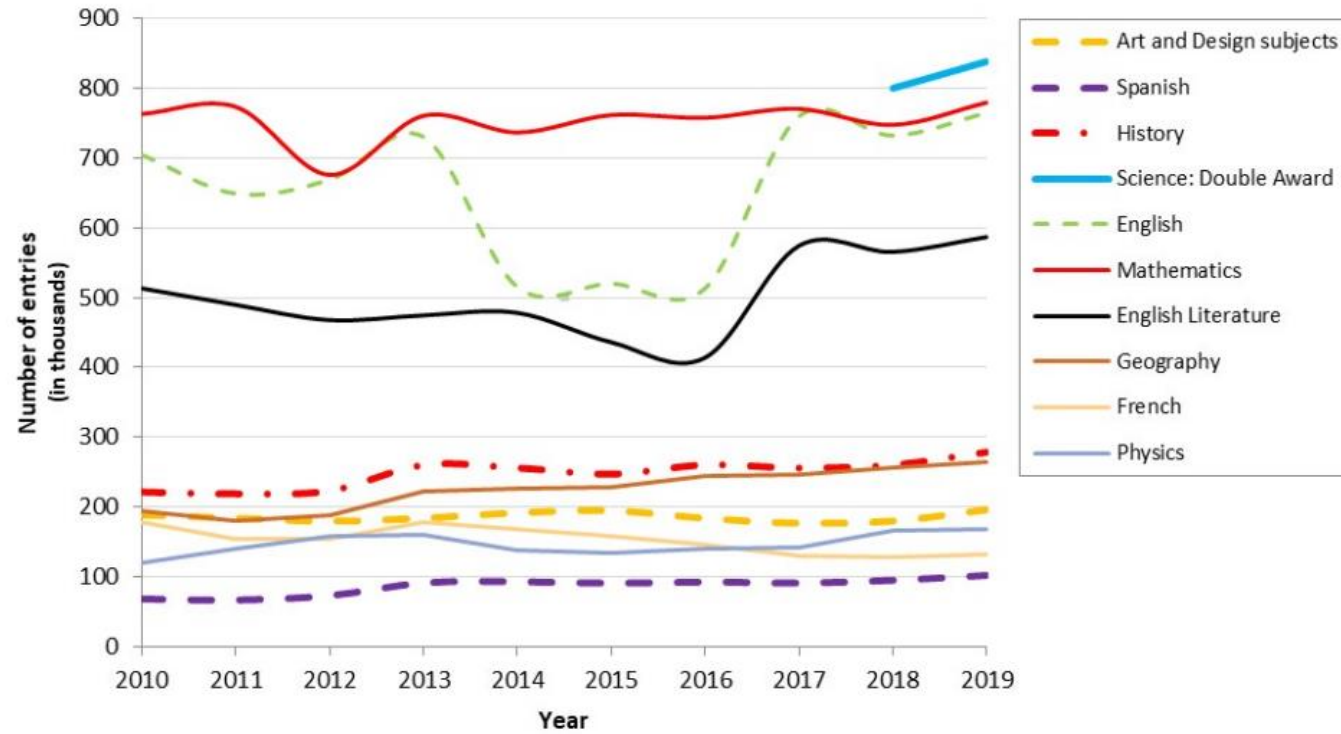
Geography was the 6th most popular subject at GCSE. The gap to History increased by about 10000 entries to (-13630). Geography had the 8th largest increase in entries (8749) a 3.4% increase from 2018. History entries increased by 18,595 to 2278,799 (+7.1%) and in 2019 it remained the 5<sup>th</sup> most popular subject at GCSE. Recent policy changes in England (EBacc / Progress 8) appear to have benefited History and Geography. The push towards STEM subjects is also reflected in these tables.

**Chart 3 Top ten GCSE full course subjects as a percentage of the total entry over the period 2010 to 2019**





**Chart 4 Top GCSE full course subject increases, 2019 (entry greater than 100,000)**



Source: [JCQ \(2019d\) GCSE Additional Charts Summer 2019](#)

### 3. Trends in geography entries over time (2010-2019)

For the seventh year running there was an increase in entries for geography (8749) to 265169 (Table 3a). Entries are still below the high of over 300 000 entries achieved in 1996.

There was a slightly larger increase in entries for Males (5745) (figure 3b) than Females (3004) (figure 3c).

The gender imbalance has increased slightly to 53.9 : 46.1 (M:F).

The numbers obtaining the higher grades were up slightly. A\*-A / 7 grades were up 0.7% to 24.9%; This is lower than the numbers from 2010 to 2015 (range 26.5%-28.6%)

Females continue to outperform Males at A\*-A / 7 grades by 7.5% up from 7.1% in 2018.

The percentage achieving A\*-C / 9-4 grades rose to 65.8%, a rise of 0.6%. Male performance was up by 0.5% to 62.5% while Female performance rose 0.7% to 69.7%

A\*-G grades remained the same at 98.4%. Females outperformed Males with 1.0% failing to obtain a grade compared to 2.2% of Males.

**Table 3a: Entries for geography by all candidates 2010-2019 (Cumulative percentages)**

Year	Total Entry	Change	% change	A*-A / 9-7	A*-C / 9-4	A*- G / 9-1	A*-U	Gender balance M/ F
2010	194599	-1419	-0.7	28.2	69.5	98.4	100.0	55.4 / 44.6
2011	180737	-13862	-7.1	28.6	70.1	99.0	100.0	55.5 / 44.5
2012	187022	6285	3.5	28.3	69.9	99.1	100.0	55.5 / 44.5
2013	222852	35830	19.2	27.0	69.0	99.2	100.0	53.8 / 46.2
2014	225149	2297	1.0	26.5	69	99.2	100.0	54.0 / 46.0
2015	228075	2926	1.3	26.9	69.1	99.2	100.0	53.8 / 46.2
2016	244033	15958	7.0	24.6	66.3	98.8	100.0	53.1 / 46.9
2017	245964	1931	0.8	23.6	64.8	98.7	100.0	53.1 / 46.9
2018	256420	10456	4.3	24.2	65.2	98.4	100.0	53.5 / 46.5
2019	265169	8749	3.4	24.9	65.8	98.4	100.0	53.9/46.1

**Table 3b: Male entries for geography 2010-2019 (Cumulative percentages)**

Year	Total Entry	change	% change	A*-A / 9-7	A*-C / 9-4	A*- G / 9-1	A*-U	% Male entries
2010	107794	-417	-0.4	24.2	66.4	98.2	100.0	55.4
2011	100353	-7441	-6.9	23.9	66.0	98.9	100.0	55.5
2012	103781	3428	3.4	23.5	65.7	99.0	100.0	55.5
2013	119887	16106	15.5	22.4	64.9	99.0	100.0	53.8
2014	121580	1693	1.4	22.0	65.2	99.0	100.0	54.0
2015	122774	1194	1.0	22.4	65.3	99.0	100.0	53.8
2016	129496	6722	5.5	19.9	62.3	98.5	100.0	53.1
2017	130565	1069	0.8	19.4	60.9	98.4	100.0	53.1
2018	137071	6506	5.0	20.9	62.0	97.8	100.0	53.5
<b>2019</b>	<b>142816</b>	<b>5745</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>21.4</b>	<b>62.5</b>	<b>97.8</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>53.9</b>

**Table 3c: Female entries for geography 2010-2019 (Cumulative percentages)**

Year	Total Entry	change	% change	A*-A / 9-7	A*-C / 9-4	A*- G / 9-1	A*-U 9-U	% Female entries
2010	86805	-1002	-1.1	33.0	73.3	98.6	100.0	44.6
2011	80384	-6421	-7.4	34.4	75.1	99.2	100.0	44.5
2012	83241	2857	3.6	34.3	75.0	99.3	100.0	44.5
2013	102965	19724	23.7	32.4	73.9	99.4	100.0	46.2
2014	103569	604	0.6	31.8	73.5	99.4	100.0	46.0
2015	105301	1732	1.7	32.1	73.5	99.4	100.0	46.2
2016	114537	9236	8.8	29.9	70.9	99.2	100.0	46.9
2017	115399	862	0.8	28.4	69.1	99.1	100.0	46.9
2018	119349	3950	3.4	28.0	68.9	99.1	100.0	46.5
<b>2019</b>	<b>122353</b>	<b>3004</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>28.9</b>	<b>69.7</b>	<b>99.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>46.1</b>

#### 4. Performance by gender

Females continued to outperform Males (table 4). The gender differential in performance has increased slightly this year although both Females and Males overall performed slightly better. The change to number grades in England means it is no longer possible to make comparisons at the A\* / 9 grade.

The gender differentials in favour of females were:

- A\*-A / 9-7 7.5% This was an increase of 0.4% from 2018
- A\*-C / 9-4 7.2% This was an increase of 0.2% from 2018
- A\*-G / 9-1 1.2% This was an decrease of 0.1% from 2018

**Table 4: Gender differentials in performance by cumulative grade for geography 2010 - 2019 (UK)**

	A*	A*	A*	A*-A / 9-7	A*-A / 9-7	A*-A / 9-7	A*-C 9-4	A*-C 9-4	A*-C 9-4	A*-G 9-1	A*-G 9-1	A*-G 9-1
Differential Female - Male	Female	Male	Female - Male	Female	Male	Female - Male	Female	Male	Female - Male	Female	Male	Female - Male
2010	14.0	9.1	4.9	33.0	24.2	8.8	73.3	66.4	6.9	98.6	98.2	0.4
2011	13.4	7.9	5.5	34.4	23.9	10.5	75.1	66.0	9.1	99.2	98.9	0.3
2012	12.8	7.0	5.8	34.3	23.5	10.8	75.0	65.7	9.3	99.3	99.0	0.3
2013	12.4	7.0	5.4	32.4	22.4	10.0	73.9	64.9	9.0	99.4	99.0	0.4
2014	11.9	7.0	4.9	31.8	22.0	9.8	73.5	65.2	8.3	99.4	99.0	0.4
2015	11.9	6.9	5.0	32.1	22.4	9.7	73.5	65.3	8.2	99.4	99.0	0.4
2016	11.0	6.0	5.0	29.9	19.9	10.0	70.9	62.3	8.6	99.2	98.5	0.7
2017	10.7	6.1	4.6	28.4	19.4	9.0	69.1	60.9	8.2	99.1	98.4	0.7
2018	na	na	na	28.0	20.9	7.1	68.9	62.0	6.9	99.1	97.8	1.3
2019	na	na	na	28.9	21.4	7.5	69.7	62.5	7.2	99.0	97.8	1.2

## 5 Entries for geography by age

Three categories were reported – Aged 15 and under; Aged 16; Aged 17 and over.

A summary of performance at different grades is given in table 5a. Full performance tables are shown in figures 5b to 5g. The change to number grades in England means that performance can only now be compared at Key Grades so new tables 5b, d and f have been produced to show the trends over time. Historical tables (5c, e and g) have been included to show the performance from 2012-2017 using the historical (for England) letter grades.

- The numbers entering aged 15 and under stabilised with a decrease of -96 (-4.3 %) from 2018. This entry is now only 0.8% of the total entry for geography. Performance by these students is higher than for those aged 16 (Table 5a) suggesting that entries were being targeted better and the penalties for early entry for this selected cohort was limited. Male entries were higher than for female candidates.
- Almost all entries (98.0 %) are from candidates aged 16. There was a large increase in entries this year (9058 (+3.6 %) and performance at the key grades was maintained in line with 2018.
- Age 17 and over numbers were down by 213 (-6.3) from 2017 but performance for this cohort improved overall. A\*-A/ 9-7 up 0.3% and A\*-C (9-4) up 0.5%.

**Table 5a: Entries by age for geography 2019 (UK)**

Grade	Age 15 and under	Change from 2018	Age 16	Change from 2018	Age 17 and over	Change from 2018
Entries	2145	-4.3%	259867	9058 (+3.6%)	3157	-213 (-6.3%)
% of geog entry	0.8%	-0.1%	98.0%	+0.2%	1.2%	-0.1%
A* - A / 9- 7	28.0%	-2.4%	24.8%	+0.7%	26.0%	+0.3%
A* - C / 9 - 4	72.6%	-0.7%	65.8%	+0.7%	68.5%	+0.5%
A* - G / 9 - 1	99.1%	0.0%	98.4%	0.0%	98.5%	-0.9%

**Table 5b Entries for geography by students aged 15 and under 2012-2019 (key grade boundaries)**

Gender	Year	Total Entry	A*-A / 9-7	A*-C /9-4	A*- G / 9-1	A*-U	Change	% change	Gender balance M/ F
Male	2012	4586	15.4	53.9	98.3	100.0			54.2
Male	2013	5875	15.3	55.1	98.3	100.0	1289	28.1	52.9
Male	2014	3644	16.7	59.5	98.3	100.0	-2231	-38.0	53.6
Male	2015	3279	17.7	57.7	97.9	100.0	-365	-10.0	54.2
Male	2016	2649	18.5	65.1	98.8	100.0	-630	-19.2	53.9
Male	2017	1033	22.7	67.9	98.7	100.0	-1616	-61.0	51.9
Male	2018	1140	27.0	71.4	98.7	100.0	107	10.4	50.9
Male	2019	1146	26.8	72.9	99.0	100.0	6		53.4
Female	2012	3876	24.0	65.1	98.9	100.0			45.8
Female	2013	5230	22.8	64.0	98.9	100.0	1354	34.9	47.1
Female	2014	3156	24.9	70.2	99.2	100.0	-2074	-39.7	46.4
Female	2015	2769	24.2	65.0	98.8	100.0	-387	-12.3	45.8
Female	2016	2270	25.9	70.2	99.4	100.0	-499	-18.0	46.1
Female	2017	958	37.0	76.7	99.7	100.0	-1312	-57.5	48.1
Female	2018	1101	34.0	75.2	99.5	100.0	143	14.9	49.1
Female	2019	999	29.4	72.4	99.2	100.0	-102	-9.3	46.6
All	2012	8462	19.3	59.0	98.6	100.0			
All	2013	11105	18.8	59.3	98.6	100.0	2643	31.2	
All	2014	6800	20.5	64.5	98.7	100.0	-4305	-38.8	
All	2015	6048	20.7	61.0	98.3	100.0	-752	-11.1	
All	2016	4919	21.9	67.4	99.1	100.0	-1129	-18.7	
All	2017	1991	29.5	72.1	99.3	100.0	-2928	-59.5	
All	2018	2241	30.4	73.3	99.1	100.0	250	12.6	
All	2019	2145	28.0	72.6	99.1	100.0	-96	-4.3	100

**Table 5c Age 15 and under Entries for geography by students aged 15 and under: 2012-2017 (UK) letter grades**

Gender	Year	Total Entry	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	U	A*-C	Change	% change
Male	2012	4586	3.6	11.8	16.0	22.5	20.8	11.9	8.0	3.7	1.7	53.9		
Male	2013	5875	4.5	10.8	15.6	24.2	20.2	12.9	6.5	3.6	1.7	55.1	1289	28.1
Male	2014	3644	5.0	11.7	18.6	24.2	18.6	11.2	5.6	3.4	1.7	59.5	-2231	-38.0
Male	2015	3279	4.4	13.3	18.2	21.8	17.3	11.6	7.1	4.2	2.1	57.7	-365	-10.0
Male	2016	2649	5.6	12.9	21.1	25.5	15.9	8.6	6.0	3.2	1.2	65.1	-630	-19.2
Male	2017	1033	7.1	15.6	24.0	21.2	14.8	8.1	5.5	2.4	1.3	67.9	-1616	-61.0
Female	2012	3876	7.3	16.7	19.9	21.2	16.2	8.9	5.8	2.9	1.1	65.1		
Female	2013	5230	7.5	15.3	18.6	22.6	16.9	9.2	5.8	3.0	1.1	64.0	1354	34.9
Female	2014	3156	8.6	16.3	22.8	22.5	14.5	8.1	4.2	2.2	0.8	70.2	-2074	-39.7
Female	2015	2769	7.8	16.4	20.1	20.7	14.2	8.8	7.3	3.5	1.2	65.0	-387	-12.3
Female	2016	2270	8.9	17.0	22.7	21.6	14.2	7.8	4.6	2.6	0.6	70.2	-499	-18.0
Female	2017	958	16.4	20.6	22.5	17.2	11.8	6.5	3.4	1.3	0.3	76.7	-1312	-57.5
All	2012	8462	5.3	14.0	17.8	21.9	18.7	10.6	6.9	3.4	1.4	59.0		
All	2013	11105	5.9	12.9	17.1	23.4	18.6	11.2	6.1	3.4	1.4	59.3	2643	31.2
All	2014	6800	6.7	13.8	20.5	23.5	16.7	9.7	5.0	2.8	1.3	64.5	-4305	-38.8
All	2015	6048	5.9	14.8	19.0	21.3	15.9	10.3	7.2	3.9	1.7	61.0	-752	-11.1
All	2016	4919	7.1	14.8	21.8	23.7	15.2	8.2	5.4	2.9	0.9	67.4	-1129	-18.7
All	2017	1991	11.6	17.9	23.3	19.3	13.4	7.3	4.5	2.0	0.7	72.1	-2928	-59.5

**Table 5d Age 16: Entries for geography by students aged 16: 2012-2018 Key grades (UK)**

Gender	Year	Total Entry	A*-A / 9-7	A*-C / 9-4	A*- G / 9-1	A*-U	Change	% change	Gender balance M/ F
Male	2012	97335	24.0	66.3	99.0	100.0			55.5
Male	2013	112137	22.8	65.5	99.0	100.0	14802	15.2	53.8
Male	2014	115910	22.2	65.4	99.1	100.0	3773	3.4	54.0
Male	2015	117624	22.6	65.5	99.0	100.0	1714	1.5	53.8
Male	2016	124987	20.0	62.2	98.5	100.0	7363	6.3	53.0
Male	2017	127701	19.4	60.9	98.4	100.0	2714	2.2	53.1
Male	2018	134112	20.9	61.9	97.8	100.0	6411	5.0	53.5
Male	2019	139908	21.4	62.4	97.8	100.0	5796	4.3	53.8
Female	2012	77984	34.8	75.5	99.4	100.0			44.5
Female	2013	96310	33.0	74.4	99.4	100.0	18326	23.5	46.2
Female	2014	98905	32.1	73.6	99.4	100.0	2595	2.7	46.0
Female	2015	101061	32.3	73.8	99.4	100.0	2156	2.2	46.2
Female	2016	110831	29.9	70.9	99.2	100.0	9770	9.7	47.0
Female	2017	112915	28.3	69.0	99.1	100.0	2084	1.9	46.9
Female	2018	116697	27.9	68.8	99.1	100.0	3782	3.3	46.5
Female	2019	119959	26.8	69.7	99.0	100.0	3262	2.8	46.2
All	2012	175319	28.8	70.4	99.2	100.0			
All	2013	208447	27.5	69.6	99.2	100.0	33128	18.9	
All	2014	214815	26.7	69.2	99.2	100.0	6368	3.1	
All	2015	218685	27.1	69.3	99.2	100.0	3870	1.8	
All	2016	235818	24.7	66.3	98.8	100.0	17133	7.8	
All	2017	240616	23.6	64.7	98.7	100.0	4798	2.0	
All	2018	250809	24.1	65.1	98.4	100.0	10193	4.2	
All	2019	259867	24.8	65.8	98.4	100.0	9058	3.6	



**Table 5e Entries for geography by students aged 16: letter grades 2012-2017**

Gender	Year	Total Entry	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	U	A*-C	Change	% change
Male	2012	97335	7.2	16.8	19.9	22.4	16.9	9.0	4.6	2.2	1.0	66.3		
Male	2013	112137	7.2	15.6	19.8	22.9	16.9	9.4	4.8	2.4	1.0	65.5	14802	15.2
Male	2014	115910	7.1	15.1	20.1	23.1	16.7	9.4	5.1	2.5	0.9	65.4	3773	3.4
Male	2015	117624	7.0	15.6	20.2	22.7	16.6	9.5	5.0	2.4	1.0	65.5	1714	1.5
Male	2016	124987	6.0	14.0	19.4	22.8	17.0	10.2	6.0	3.1	1.5	62.2	7363	6.3
Male	2017	127701	6.1	13.3	18.9	22.6	17.1	10.8	6.4	3.2	1.6	60.9	2714	2.2
Female	2012	77984	13.1	21.7	21.2	19.5	12.4	6.4	3.4	1.7	0.6	75.5		
Female	2013	96310	12.7	20.3	21.3	20.1	12.9	6.8	3.6	1.7	0.6	74.4	18326	23.5
Female	2014	98905	12.0	20.1	21.4	20.1	12.9	7.2	3.9	1.8	0.6	73.6	2595	2.7
Female	2015	101061	12.0	20.3	21.5	20.0	13.0	7.2	3.7	1.7	0.6	73.8	2156	2.2
Female	2016	110831	11.0	18.9	20.9	20.1	13.4	7.9	4.7	2.3	0.8	70.9	9770	9.7
Female	2017	112915	10.7	17.6	20.5	20.2	14.1	8.6	5.0	2.4	0.9	69.0	2084	1.9
All	2012	175319	9.8	19.0	20.5	21.1	14.9	7.8	4.1	2.0	0.8	70.4		
All	2013	208447	9.7	17.8	20.5	21.6	15.1	8.2	4.2	2.1	0.8	69.6	33128	18.9
All	2014	214815	9.4	17.3	20.8	21.7	14.9	8.5	4.4	2.2	0.8	69.2	6368	3.1
All	2015	218685	9.3	17.8	20.8	21.4	15.0	8.4	4.4	2.1	0.8	69.3	3870	1.8
All	2016	235818	8.4	16.3	20.1	21.5	15.3	9.1	5.4	2.7	1.2	66.3	17133	7.8
All	2017	240616	8.3	15.3	19.6	21.5	15.7	9.8	5.7	2.8	1.3	64.7	4798	2.0

**Table 5f Age 17 and over Entries for geography by students aged 17 and over: 2012-2018 key grades (UK)**

Gender	Year	Total Entry	A*-A / 9-7	A*-C / 9-4	A*- G / 9-1	A*-U	Change	% change	Gender balance M/ F
Male	2012	1860	21.6	65.9	98.7	100.0			57.4
Male	2013	1875	19.3	61.2	98.7	100.0	15	0.8	56.8
Male	2014	2026	20.5	61.9	98.6	100.0	151	8.1	57.3
Male	2015	1871	21.3	65.1	98.6	100.0	-155	-7.7	56.0
Male	2016	1860	19.1	63.7	98.7	100.0	-11	-0.6	56.4
Male	2017	1831	18.8	60.9	98.1	100.0	-29	-1.6	54.5
Male	2018	1819	20.3	64.8	98.4	100.0	-12	-0.7	54.0
Male	2019	1762	19.5	64.6	98.1	100.0	-57	-3.1	55.8
Female	2012	1381	35.2	73.4	98.2	100.0			42.6
Female	2013	1425	32.5	75.9	98.6	100.0	44	3.2	43.2
Female	2014	1508	30.8	71.9	99.2	100.0	83	5.8	42.7
Female	2015	1471	31.0	71.9	98.9	100.0	-37	-2.5	44.0
Female	2016	1436	32.5	72.9	98.8	100.0	-35	-2.4	43.6
Female	2017	1526	29.0	69.8	98.4	100.0	90	6.3	45.5
Female	2018	1551	32.0	68.0	98.6	100.0	25	1.6	46.0
Female	2019	1395	34.2	73.5	98.5	100.0	-156	-10.1	44.2
All	2012	3241	27.4	69.1	98.5	100.0			
All	2013	3300	25.0	67.6	98.6	100.0	59	1.8	
All	2014	3534	24.9	66.2	98.8	100.0	234	7.1	
All	2015	3342	25.6	68.1	98.7	100.0	-192	-5.4	
All	2016	3296	24.9	67.7	98.8	100.0	-46	-1.4	
All	2017	3357	23.4	64.9	98.2	100.0	61	1.9	
All	2018	3370	25.7	68.0	99.6	100.0	13	0.4	
All	2019	3157	26.0	68.5	98.5	100.0	-213	-6.3	

**Table 5g: Entries for geography by students aged 17 and over: Age 17 letter grades 2012-2017**

Gender	Year	Total Entry	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	U	A*-C	Change	% change
Male	2012	1860	5.9	15.7	21.2	23.1	16.0	8.8	5.3	2.7	1.3	65.9		
Male	2013	1875	5.0	14.3	20.2	21.7	17.9	10.4	5.5	3.7	1.3	61.2	15	0.8
Male	2014	2026	4.9	15.6	19.2	22.2	17.5	10.3	5.8	3.1	1.4	61.9	151	8.1
Male	2015	1871	5.8	15.5	20.1	23.7	16.4	9.1	5.0	3.0	1.4	65.1	-155	-7.7
Male	2016	1860	4.7	14.4	21.2	23.4	17.3	10.6	4.4	2.7	1.3	63.7	-11	-0.6
Male	2017	1831	5.1	13.7	19.9	22.2	17.6	10.2	6.2	3.2	1.9	60.9	-29	-1.6
Female	2012	1381	11.7	23.5	20.6	17.6	11.2	7.4	3.8	2.4	1.8	73.4		
Female	2013	1425	10.5	22.0	22.9	20.5	11.1	6.1	4.0	1.5	1.4	75.9	44	3.2
Female	2014	1508	10.1	20.7	21.3	19.8	12.8	7.1	4.2	3.2	0.8	71.9	83	5.8
Female	2015	1471	11.1	19.9	21.2	19.7	12.6	7.2	4.8	2.4	1.1	71.9	-37	-2.5
Female	2016	1436	12.0	20.5	22.0	18.4	12.4	7.8	3.3	2.4	1.2	72.9	-35	-2.4
Female	2017	1526	10.2	18.8	22.1	18.7	12.1	9.0	5.1	2.4	1.6	69.8	90	6.3
All	2012	3241	8.4	19.0	20.9	20.8	14.0	8.2	4.6	2.6	1.5	69.1		
All	2013	3300	7.4	17.6	21.4	21.2	14.9	8.6	4.8	2.7	1.4	67.6	59	1.8
All	2014	3534	7.2	17.7	20.1	21.2	15.4	9.0	5.1	3.1	1.2	66.2	234	7.1
All	2015	3342	8.1	17.5	20.5	22.0	14.7	8.3	4.9	2.7	1.3	68.1	-192	-5.4
All	2016	3296	7.9	17.0	21.6	21.2	15.2	9.4	3.9	2.6	1.2	67.7	-46	-1.4
All	2017	3357	7.4	16.0	21.0	20.5	15.2	9.6	5.7	2.8	1.8	64.9	61	1.9

## 6: Entries by Country

England as the largest country dominates the overall patterns of entries (table 6a). England was the only country to experience an increase in entries, 8853, (+3.7%), compared with a loss of 79 (-1.3%) in Northern Ireland and a loss of 7 (-0.0%) in Wales. This may continue to reflect the policy and reporting changes in England that have influenced entries over the last five years.

Performance varies between countries with England having poorer results at the top performance measures. Grades are awarded independently by the regulatory authorities in each country.

- A\*-A/7 England 24.5%; Northern Ireland 34.7%; Wales 24.9%
- A\*-C/4 England 65.2%; Northern Ireland 81.6%; Wales 72.3%

The much smaller 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 Females outperforming Males by similar amounts as shown in the detailed tables 6b-f.

Gender entry imbalance is greatest in Wales where the ratio is 55.8 : 44.2 (M:F). In England it is 53.8 : 46.2 (M/F) and in Northern Ireland it is 53.7 : 46.3 (M:F)

**Table 6a: Entries by country for geography 2019 (UK)**

Grade	England	England change from 2018	Northern Ireland	NI change from 2018	Wales	Wales change from 2018	UK	UK change from 2017
Entries	251121	+8853 (+3.7%)	5766	-79 (-2.3)	7493	-7 (-0.0%)	265169	+8749 (3.4%)
% of UK geography entry	94.7	+0.2%	2.2%	0.0%	2.8%	-0.1%	100%	0.0%
A*	na	na	8.5%	-1.2%	9.2%	+0.4%	na	na
A* - A / 7	24.5%	+0.7%	34.7%	+1.3%	27.4%	+0.5%	24.9%	+0.7%
A* - C / 4	65.2%	+0.6%	81.6%	+1.6%	72.3%	+0.1%	65.8%	+0.2%
A* - G / 1	98.3%	0.0%	99.0%	-0.4%	99.4%	-0.0%	98.4%	0.0%
Gender balance (M/F)	53.8:46.2	53.4:46.6	53.7:46.3	51.6:48.4	55.8:44.2	55.5:44.5	53.9:46.1	53.5:46.5

**Table 6b: England Entries for geography 2012-2019 (Key Grades)**

Gender	Year	Total Entry	A*-A / 9-7	A*-C / 9-4	A*- G / 9-1	A*-U	Change	% change	Gender balance M/ F
Male	2012	93850	23.7	65.6	99.0	100.0			55.2
Male	2013	109494	22.5	64.7	99.0	100.0	15644	16.7	53.5
Male	2014	111796	22.0	64.9	99.0	100.0	2302	2.1	53.8
Male	2015	113617	22.5	65.2	99.0	100.0	1821	1.6	53.7
Male	2016	120868	19.8	61.8	98.5	100.0	7251	6.4	52.9
Male	2017	122409	19.2	60.3	98.4	100.0	1541	1.3	52.9
Male	2018	129412	20.7	61.5	97.7	100.0	7003	5.7	53.4
Male	2019	135054	21.3	61.9	97.7	100.0	5642	4.4	53.8
Female	2012	76118	34.3	74.8	99.3	100.0			44.8
Female	2013	95003	32.3	73.6	99.4	100.0	18885	24.8	46.5
Female	2014	96061	31.6	73.2	99.4	100.0	1058	1.1	46.2
Female	2015	98104	31.9	73.2	99.3	100.0	2043	2.1	46.3
Female	2016	107595	29.5	70.3	99.1	100.0	9491	9.7	47.1
Female	2017	108888	27.9	68.4	99.0	100.0	1293	1.2	47.1
Female	2018	112856	27.4	68.2	99.0	100.0	3968	3.6	46.6
Female	2019	116067	28.3	69.0	99.0	100.0	3211	2.8	46.2
All	2012	169968	28.5	69.7	99.1	100.0			
All	2013	204497	27.1	68.9	99.2	100.0	34529	20.3	
All	2014	207857	26.5	68.8	99.2	100.0	3360	1.6	
All	2015	211721	26.9	68.9	99.2	100.0	3864	1.9	
All	2016	228463	24.4	65.8	99.8	100.0	16742	7.9	
All	2017	231297	23.3	64.1	98.7	100.0	2834	1.2	
All	2018	242268	23.8	64.6	98.3	100.0	10971	4.7	
All	2019	251121	24.5	65.2	98.3	100.0	8853	3.7	

**Table 6c: England Entries for geography 2017-2019 (Number Grades)**

Gender	Year	Total Entry	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	9-7	6-4	3-1
Male	2018	129412	3.8	6.7	10.2	13.4	14.0	13.4	16.5	12.0	7.7	20.7	40.8	36.2
Male	2019	135054	3.7	7.0	10.6	13.6	14.1	12.9	17.3	11.6	6.9	21.3	40.6	35.8
Female	2018	112856	6.0	9.4	12.0	14.3	14.0	12.5	15.2	10.2	5.4	27.4	40.8	30.8
Female	2019	116067	6.1	9.6	12.6	14.6	13.9	12.2	15.4	9.8	4.8	28.3	40.7	30.0
All	2018	242268	4.8	8.0	11.0	13.8	14.0	13.0	27.1	11.2	6.6	23.8	40.8	33.7
All	2019	251121	4.8	11.5	14.1	14.0	12.6	16.4	10.8	5.9	1.7	24.5	40.7	33.1

**Table 6d: England Entries for geography 2013-2017 (Letter Grades)**

Gender	Year	Total Entry	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	U	A*-A	B-C	D-G
Male	2013	109494	7.0	15.5	19.5	22.7	17.1	9.6	5.1	2.5	1.0	22.5	42.2	34.3
Male	2014	111796	7.1	14.9	19.9	23.0	16.9	9.5	5.1	2.6	1.0	22	42.9	34.1
Male	2015	113617	7.0	15.5	20.1	22.6	16.5	9.6	5.2	2.5	1.0	22.5	42.7	33.8
Male	2016	120868	5.9	13.9	19.4	22.6	17.0	10.4	6.1	3.2	1.5	19.8	42.0	36.7
Male	2017	122409	6.1	13.1	18.6	22.5	17.2	11.0	6.6	3.3	1.6	19.2	41.1	38.1
Female	2013	95003	12.4	19.9	21.1	20.2	13.1	7.1	3.8	1.8	0.6	32.3	41.3	25.8
Female	2014	96061	11.9	19.7	21.4	20.2	13.0	7.4	3.9	1.9	0.6	31.6	41.6	26.2
Female	2015	98104	11.9	20.0	21.4	19.9	13.1	7.4	3.9	1.7	0.7	31.9	41.3	26.1
Female	2016	107595	10.9	18.6	20.8	20.0	13.6	8.1	4.8	2.3	0.9	29.5	40.8	28.8
Female	2017	112856	6.0	12.0	14.3	14.3	8.8	5.1	2.4	1.0	14.3	27.9	40.5	30.6
All	2013	204497	9.6	17.5	20.2	21.6	15.2	8.4	4.5	2.2	0.8	27.1	41.8	30.3
All	2014	207857	9.3	17.2	20.5	21.8	15.0	8.6	4.5	2.3	0.8	26.5	42.3	30.4
All	2015	211721	9.3	17.6	20.6	21.4	14.9	8.6	4.6	2.2	0.8	26.9	42.0	30.3
All	2016	228463	8.3	16.1	20	21.4	15.4	9.3	5.5	2.8	1.2	24.4	41.4	33.0
All	2017	242268	4.8	11.0	13.8	21.4	15.8	10.0	5.9	2.9	1.3	23.3	40.8	34.6

**Table 6e: Northern Ireland Entries for geography 2012-2019**

Gender	Year	Total Entry	A*	A	B	C*	C	D	E	F	G	U	A*-A	A*-C	A*-G
Male	2012	3853	5.9	18.9	24.9		23.6	13.9	7.1	3.3	1.6	0.8	24.8	73.3	99.2
Male	2013	3852	5.1	18.7	25.2		24.4	14.8	6.9	2.9	1.4	0.6	23.8	73.4	99.4
Male	2014	3753	5.5	19.6	26.3		22.4	13.4	7	3.5	1.9	0.4	25.1	73.8	99.6
Male	2015	3624	6.1	19.9	25.2		23.5	13.1	6.8	3.2	1.4	0.8	26.0	74.7	99.2
Male	2016	3191	5.9	19.0	24.8		24.6	14.7	6.4	2.5	1.1	1.0	24.8	74.3	99.0
Male	2017	3161	6.0	20.4	25.9		23.8	12.8	6.3	2.6	1.3	0.9	26.4	76.1	99.1
Male	2018	2948	5.7	18.2	25.0		25.2	15.0	5.8	3.1	1.3	0.7	23.9	74.1	99.3
Male	2019	3092	4.7	21.6	19.7	17.0	13.9	11.2	5.8	3.1	2.0	1.0	26.3	76.9	99.0
Female	2012	3002	12.5	27.1	23.5		18.9	10	4.5	2	1.1	0.4	39.6	82.0	99.6
Female	2013	3278	11.7	27.7	26.2		18.3	9.3	4.5	1.4	0.6	0.3	39.4	83.9	99.7
Female	2014	3054	12.1	29.4	27.1		16.4	9	3.5	1.5	0.6	0.4	41.5	85.0	99.6
Female	2015	2964	14.4	27.8	25.5		17.4	7.9	4	1.6	0.9	0.5	42.2	85.1	99.5
Female	2016	2857	13.5	28.2	25.9		18.5	8.2	3.5	1.3	0.5	0.4	41.7	86.1	99.6
Female	2017	2665	13.3	27.9	26.2		17.5	9.1	3.6	1.3	0.6	0.5	41.2	84.9	99.5
Female	2018	2766	14.0	29.5	25.7		17.0	8.5	3.0	1.4	0.5	0.4	43.5	86.2	99.6
Female	2019	2674	15.0	31.4	19.8	12.9	10.1	7	3.2	1.2	0.6	0.9	46.4	89.2	99.1
All	2012	6855	8.8	22.5	24.3		21.6	12.1	6	2.7	1.4	0.6	31.3	77.2	99.4
All	2013	7130	8.1	22.9	25.6		21.6	12.3	5.8	2.2	1	0.5	31.0	78.2	99.5
All	2014	6807	8.4	24.1	26.6		19.7	11.5	5.4	2.6	1.3	0.4	32.5	78.8	99.6
All	2015	6588	9.8	23.5	25.4		20.7	10.8	5.5	2.4	1.2	0.7	33.3	79.4	99.3
All	2016	6048	9.5	23.3	25.4		21.7	11.6	5	2	0.8	0.7	32.8	79.9	99.3
All	2017	5826	9.4	23.8	26.0		20.9	11.1	5.1	2.0	1.0	0.7	33.2	80.1	99.3
All	2018	5714	9.7	23.7	25.3		21.3	11.8	4.5	2.2	0.9	0.6	33.4	80.0	99.4
All	2019	5766	8.5	26.2	19.7	15.1	12.1	9.3	4.6	2.2	1.3	1.0	34.7	81.6	99.0

**Table 6f: Wales Entries for geography 2012-2019**

Gender	Year	Total Entry	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	U	A*-A	A*-C	A*-G
Male	2012	6078	5.9	13.7	25.3	18.9	18.9	10.1	4.8	2.4	0.8	19.6	63.0	99.2
Male	2013	6541	6.1	13.3	25.7	18.6	18.6	10.4	5.1	2.2	1.2	19.4	62.5	98.8
Male	2014	6031	5.9	13.9	25.2	18.1	18.1	9.7	4.7	2.3	0.8	19.8	64.4	99.2
Male	2015	5533	5	13.1	25.5	19.3	19.3	10.3	5.1	2.3	0.9	18.1	62.1	99.1
Male	2016	5437	7.3	12.4	27.8	17.3	17.3	8.9	4.6	2	1.1	19.7	66.1	98.9
Male	2017	4564	6.2	13.8	26.4	17.6	17.6	8.9	3.9	1.9	0.8	20.0	66.9	99.2
Male	2018	4059	6.4	15.9	22.5	14.3	14.3	9.5	5.3	2.1	0.6	19.0	64.9	99.4
Male	2019	4057	6.6	14.7	22.2	23.7	15.9	9.5	4.6	1.9	0.8	21.3	67.2	99.2
Female	2012	4121	11.3	19.1	22.7	14.3	14.3	7.1	3.3	1.3	0.8	30.4	73.2	99.2
Female	2013	4684	12.2	17.5	22.3	15	15	7	3.5	1.8	0.7	29.7	72.0	99.3
Female	2014	4454	10.6	19.1	21.8	14.4	14.4	7.9	3.9	1.8	0.6	29.7	71.4	99.4
Female	2015	4233	10.1	18.7	23.3	15.4	15.4	6.4	3.4	1.6	0.6	28.8	72.6	99.4
Female	2016	4085	12.7	17.9	23.7	13.3	13.3	6.6	2.9	1.2	0.5	30.6	75.5	99.5
Female	2017	3543	12.6	20.3	23.3	11.7	11.7	7.1	3.0	1.0	0.2	32.9	77.0	99.8
Female	2018	3255	11.9	20.7	19.2	11.4	11.4	6.6	2.9	1.4	0.5	23.1	67.7	99.5
Female	2019	3213	12.4	22.6	23.9	19.8	10.9	6.3	2.5	1.1	0.5	35.0	78.7	99.5
All	2012	10199	8.1	15.8	24.2	17.1	17.1	8.8	4.2	2	0.8	23.9	67.1	99.2
All	2013	11225	8.7	15	24.3	17.1	17.1	9	4.4	2	1	23.7	66.5	99.0
All	2014	10485	7.9	16.1	23.8	16.5	16.5	8.9	4.4	2.1	0.7	24.0	67.4	99.3
All	2015	9766	7.2	15.6	24.5	17.7	17.7	8.6	4.3	2	0.8	22.8	66.6	99.2
All	2016	9522	9.6	14.8	26	15.6	15.6	7.9	3.9	1.7	0.8	24.4	70.1	99.5
All	2017	8107	9.0	16.6	25.0	15.0	15.0	8.1	3.6	1.5	0.5	25.6	71.3	99.4
All	2018	7314	8.8	18.1	21.1	13.0	13.0	8.2	4.2	1.8	0.6	26.9	72.2	99.4
All	2019	7270	9.2	18.2	22.9	13.7	13.7	8.1	3.7	1.6	0.6	27.4	72.3	99.4

Total entries nationally: Male: 4057; Female: 3260; All: 7394 – the discrepancy is because some independent schools entered students for examinations graded 9-1



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## **Appendix 1: Summer GCSE Results Important Information**

**It is worth reading this document when using these tables as it explains changes and different grading systems**

<https://www.jcq.org.uk/examination-results/gcse/2019/summer-gcse-results-important-information>