

Pupils celebrate results that pave the way for future success

Press release

Over 600,000 pupils will receive their GCSE results, with increases in numbers of pupils taking key subjects like maths, science and Spanish



Pupils around the country have received the GCSE results that will allow them to move on to the next stages of their lives – with 76% of entries getting grades 9-4.

Over 600,000 students will get their results today despite not having taken exams while schools and colleges were closed to stop the spread of coronavirus.

All students have been awarded the centre assessment grade submitted by their school, unless their calculated grade was higher. The centre assessment grades were devised by teachers who know their students best, and signed off by the headteacher or college principal. These grades were based on a range of evidence including mock exams and coursework as well as work in class and homework.

It means on average pupils this year have higher grades than in previous years.

Statistics published today show:

- 76% of entries receive a grade 9-4, compared to 67.1% in 2019
- 99.6% of entries receive a grade 9-1 compared to 98.3% in 2019
- Overall GCSE entries in England rose by 1.9% (to 4.8m) and at age 16 they rose by 2.1% (to 4.3m)
- Entries into individual EBacc subjects rose by 2.2% overall and by 2.5% at age 16
- Entries to English language increased by 3.7% in entries overall, and 3.3% at age 16
- Maths entries rose by 2.0%, and by 1.8% at age 16

- Entries to history saw an increase of 4.7%
- Combined science saw an increase in entries of 4.6% overall
- Entries to Spanish saw an increase of 7.4%.

Education Secretary Gavin Williamson said:

Young people getting their results today can feel incredibly proud of all they've achieved in the face of immense challenge and uncertainty.

This is an exciting day and young people now can look forward to taking their next steps, whether that is returning to schools and colleges in September to do A levels or our brand new T Levels, or taking one of the many other routes available like starting an apprenticeship.

I also want to pay a special tribute to teachers and school leaders this year who have shown dedication, resilience and ingenuity to support their students to get to this moment.

Students receiving their results today will for the first time have the opportunity to study the new pioneering T Levels, starting in September 2020. Alternatively, they can take up an apprenticeship, study A levels or choose from a range of vocational qualifications.

Apprenticeships and Skills Minister Gillian Keegan said:

There are many exciting options for you to choose from to take your next steps.

From September you can choose brand new T Levels, equivalent to A levels, which combine classroom study with a substantial industry placement to get a head start in your career.

Apprenticeships are available at all levels up to degree and are an excellent way to start in a huge range of industries, from health care to engineering. We have also tripled the number of traineeships so more young people have access to valuable work experience to build their confidence.

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Armoured vehicles to test electric technology

Offering improved silent mobility, hybrid and electric drive systems will provide sustainability benefits and deliver potential military advantages, reducing noise and increasing stealth capability. Electric systems will also provide game-changing power off-board, while increased power onboard will allow the vehicles to operate the latest technologies.

The innovative hybrid electric-drive system will be developed by NP Aerospace. The Coventry-based company will work in collaboration with General Dynamics UK, Supacat and Magtec to create prototypes of the Foxhound and Jackal 2 vehicles to test the new technology.

Defence Minister Jeremy Quin, said:

It is vital our armoured vehicles are equipped with the latest technology so we can maintain our battle-winning edge.

These tests will ensure our Armed Forces have the latest, safest and most efficient technology, while continuing to support prosperity across the UK. They represent a potential opportunity to improve our vehicles sustainability and military effectiveness.

Alongside delivering multiple technical and operational enhancements, the introduction of hybrid technology will ultimately reduce the Army's reliance on fossil fuels – a step towards the Government's 2050 net zero goal.

Adopting greener technology into the MOD's equipment fleet is part of the department's strategy to reduce its contributions to carbon and greenhouse gas emissions. Measures like this will be reflected in the department's ongoing Climate Change and Sustainability Review, led by Lt Gen Richard Nugee.

Lt General Richard Nugee said:

It is great to see the Army testing electric vehicles that will benefit not only our world-class personnel, but also our planet. This goes to show how seriously we are incorporating sustainability into our operations, while simultaneously pushing the boundaries of military innovation.

The review will focus on a range of initiatives from the MOD's NZ50 strategy to setting the right baseline for defence's emissions and carbon footprint, with findings set to be published in December 2020.

This next-generation army vehicle technology is being tested under the Protected Mobility Engineering & Technical Support (PMETS) programme, which is ensuring that the UK's cutting-edge fleet of 2,200 armoured vehicles are continuously updated and upgraded.

The £63m PMETS contract was awarded to NP Aerospace in 2019, supporting 100 jobs in Coventry and 250 jobs across the UK supply chain until 2024.

The hybrid electric drives project is known as Technology Demonstrator 6 (TD6), which sees the Army prototype hybrid drives and assess the benefits. The initial stages of TD6 is expected to be showcased at the Defence Vehicle Dynamics 20 (DVD20) in November.

[Guide to GCSE results for England, 2020](#)

Today (20 August 2020) we are publishing:

Summer 2020 grading

We [announced on 17 August 2020](#) that, for GCSEs, AS and A levels, extended project qualifications and advanced extension awards, students would be awarded their centre assessment grade or calculated grade, whichever is higher.

Following this announcement, exam boards have been working hard to provide schools, colleges and UCAS with amended final grades. Therefore, to provide a national picture, we have calculated overall results for each qualification based on the grades awarded to students. We have also calculated outcomes by subject, using the JCQ subject groupings. The results are for all students in England, and for GCSE, we have also published outcomes for 16-year-olds only. While the data we have used to calculate these outcomes is nearly complete, there may be some minor differences compared to any subsequent figures that are published by JCQ. We expect that JCQ will publish final results data in the next few weeks.

GCSE results

We have [published GCSE results](#) based on students being awarded their centre assessment grade or calculated grade, whichever is higher. The outcomes are presented overall and by subject compared to the 2019 outcomes published by JCQ, for all students and 16-year-olds. There are separate data tables showing the outcomes at the key grades (7, 4 and 1), and the outcomes at all grades for those qualifications that were graded 9 to 1 in both 2019 and 2020. There are separate data tables for full course and short course GCSEs.

National Reference Test and grading standards in GCSE French and German

Prior to the summer, we [announced that we would make an adjustment to the grading standards in GCSE French and German](#), to provide better alignment with GCSE Spanish. We implemented this by making an adjustment to the statistical predictions that were used as part of the standardisation process. Although some students will have been awarded their centre assessment grade rather than the calculated grade, our approach still means that the adjustment has been taken into account – because students have either been awarded the calculated grade (which had this adjustment taken into account) or the centre assessment grade (if higher than the calculated grade). We will keep under review the grading standards in GCSE French and German in future series.

We have also published [information relating to the National Reference Test \(NRT\)](#). This includes the results of the 2020 NRT and our annual statement setting out how we have taken account of NRT evidence. As for GCSE French and German, the upward adjustment we have made in GCSE maths based on NRT evidence has been taken into account given the approach to awarding grades. This is because students have been awarded the higher of their centre assessment grade or calculated grade.

AS and A level results

We have also [published updated results for AS and A level](#) following our announcement – that is, the final results based on the centre assessment grades or calculated grades, whichever is higher. The outcomes are presented overall and by subject compared to 2019 outcomes and include all students.

[Ensuring progress on the Constitutional Committee and protecting the people of Syria](#)

Thank you, Mr President, and thank you to Special Envoy Pedersen for his briefing.

I would like to start by once again mourning the loss of life due to the tragic events in Lebanon on the 4th of August, which sadly included a large number of Syrian refugees and, as we have just heard, Deputy Special Envoy Matar. I would like to join others in wishing her a speedy recovery. All of this is a reminder of the magnitude of the Beirut tragedy, but also of how generous Lebanon has been in responding to the crisis in neighbouring Syria.

We are deeply concerned by the escalating Covid-19 situation in Syria. There are now over 1,650 confirmed cases, with cases in regime-held areas more than doubling in the first 10 days of August and those in northeast Syria growing rapidly. We understand the actual number of cases to be far greater. This Council has feared a dramatic rise in cases in Syria, and it appears that this may well have now begun. It remains incumbent on us all to ensure that the necessary medical and humanitarian assistance reaches all of those in need.

We are also deeply concerned by the fragile nature of the ceasefire in northwest Syria, particularly in the context of an increase in Covid-19 cases. We strongly supported the ceasefire, agreed by the Presidents of Russia and Turkey on the 5th of March, and welcomed the fact that it appeared to have been broadly holding. This granted millions of Syrians in Idlib some respite and allow hundreds of thousands to return to their homes. We are therefore concerned at the apparent erosion of the ceasefire in recent weeks – in particular, an uptick in appalling attacks by extremist groups, notably on joint Russian-Turkish patrols, as well as repeated airstrikes by Russian and regime forces.

As I said last month, we know what the humanitarian impact of a breakdown in the ceasefire would be: the 7th of July Commission of Inquiry report found evidence of widespread, indiscriminate attacks by regime and pro-regime forces on civilians, hospitals and schools with reasonable grounds to believe that war crimes had been committed by the regime and Hayat Tahrir Al-Sham. The UK therefore calls for immediate and sustained cessation of hostilities by all parties in line with requests by the UN Secretary-General and the UN Special Envoy. Neither Syria nor the region can cope with another entirely unnecessary humanitarian disaster on top of a significant Covid-19 outbreak.

This Council is meeting just before the resumption of Constitutional Committee talks in Geneva. It is vital that all parties engage genuinely and properly with this process and that they refrain from re-imposing unnecessary conditions like those pushed in November. The representatives of the regime and opposition and independent figures meeting in Geneva need to make progress on the real issues facing the country. All parties need to be driven by the urgency of the appalling situation in Syria. Ordinary Syrians, whether they are struggling at home or living difficult lives as refugees, don't have weeks, months or years to waste. They want the war to end and a negotiated political solution which enables reconciliation and reconstruction of the country.

We must also remember that the Constitutional Committee is just one part of the wider political process set out in Security Council Resolution 2254. Progress on the Constitutional Committee must be accompanied by immediate action on other issues, such as the widespread release of political prisoners and vulnerable people; making medical care available for those in detention; and making progress in building the conditions for the safe and voluntary return of refugees and internally displaced persons. Now is the time to seize this opportunity.

We would also like to take this opportunity to remind all actors of the

importance of ensuring the meaningful participation of women in the UN-facilitated political process for Syria, as the Security Council made clear in resolution 2254.

Finally, I would like to say a word on sanctions. Our sanctions are targeted and impose asset freezes and travel bans against specific individuals and asset freezes on specific entities. Those targeted are responsible for human rights abuses against ordinary Syrians, such as repression, arbitrary detention and violence against demonstrators, and who support or benefit from the Assad regime, including enriching themselves through luxury housing complexes built on land appropriated from Syrians who have fled, been arrested or killed. A separate EU sanctions regime targets those involved in the proliferation of chemical weapons. In addition, we apply some trade and sectoral restrictions designed to restrain the Assad regime's ability to fund and wage war against its own people, including through the use of chemical and biological weapons.

These sanctions do not apply to food, medicine, medical equipment or medical assistance. Humanitarian exemptions apply to other equipment where this is needed, further mitigating the impact of sanctions on humanitarian programmes. We will continue to work with organisations and individuals to ensure that measures do not affect humanitarian operations in Syria and that organisations and individuals are able to import non-conflict-related goods.

It is not the case that our opposition to sanctions language in the recent cross-border resolution is evidence that sanctions are a problem. As we have said repeatedly, our sanctions on the Syrian regime have wide humanitarian exemptions. The reason we objected to this language in the cross-border resolution is because we do not accept any false equivalence between the disastrous effects of regime policies and Chinese and Russian refusal to allow more than one cross-border crossing on the humanitarian situation in Syria, with our targeted sanctions regime.

The reason why the Syrian people lack the humanitarian and medical aid they need is not because of our sanctions or because of any lack of generosity on the part of the UK and other international donors. It is, I am sad to say, because of the deliberate policies by the Syrian regime and its supporters to perpetuate the conflict rather than seek reconciliation; to limit humanitarian access; to cut cross-border assistance to make a political point; to make access to aid a political tool; and to spend the state's resources not on improving the welfare of its people, but rather on waging war.

Put another way, the problem facing Syria's health sector is not sanctions, but the fact that the regime is more intent on bombing hospitals than building them.

Thank you, Mr President.

Mali: UK statement on military coup

Press release

The UK has issued a statement following a session of the UN Security Council on Mali.



Following the coup in Mali, FCO Minister James Duddridge said:

Along with our partners in the UN Security Council, the UK made clear today that it opposes the removal of Mali's elected government by force.

I call on all parties to maintain calm, ensure full respect for human rights, and engage in constructive dialogue to ease tensions. All those detained during these tumultuous events must be released immediately.

I support the efforts of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the African Union and the United Nations to encourage a resolution to this crisis. We must focus our attention on re-establishing a civilian government in Mali as soon as possible. Only a democratically elected government can meet the needs and aspirations of the Malian people, including by delivering progress on the Mali peace process.

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