



Provisional November GCSE and Level 1/ Level 2 Certificates Entries for Wales 2017

Highlights, November 2017

30th November 2017

November 2017 GCSE Entries



- There were 54,845 entries for GCSEs in Wales in November.
- 4.5% fewer entries compared to November 2016.

Source: Awarding bodies - Entries by Year Group collection, as at 25th October 2017, Qualifications Wales; 2016 - Ofqual

About this release

This statistical release provides information on the number of entries for GCSEs and Level 1/Level 2 Certificates submitted to awarding bodies ahead of the November 2017 series. GCSE entries this November series were for: Mathematics, Mathematics – Numeracy, English Language and Welsh Language.

This release is based on data collected from awarding bodies, accurate to the 25th October 2017.

Reformed GCSE Entries by Subject



There were **22,670 GCSE Mathematics and 19,730 GCSE Mathematics – Numeracy entries**



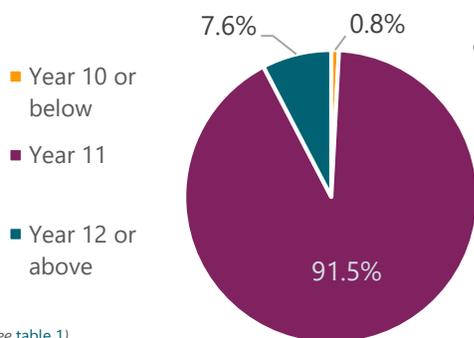
There were **11,870 GCSE English Language entries**



There were **505 GCSE Welsh Language entries**

(See [table 1](#))

November 2017 GCSE Entries by Year Group



- There were 50,190 total GCSE entries from students in Year 11 in November 2017 (91.5% of total entries).

(See [table 1](#))

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INTRODUCTION

Qualifications Wales is the regulator of non-degree qualifications and the qualification system in Wales. Under the Qualifications Wales Act 2015, our principal aims are to ensure that qualifications, and the Welsh qualification system, are effective for meeting the reasonable needs of learners in Wales and to promote public confidence in qualifications and in the Welsh qualifications system.

From academic year 2017/18, we will collect and report on data for Wales for general qualifications. Before the 2017/18 academic year, [Ofqual](#) collected and published data for Wales. Comparisons made in this release are based on data collected and published by Ofqual for November 2016.

In this release, we present data on the number of entries for GCSEs and Level 1/Level 2 certificates in Wales for the November 2017 exam series. The figures represent the number of entries, rounded to the nearest 5, submitted by Awarding Bodies by the 30th October 2017, reflecting the position at 25th October. The figures for entries can change daily up to the day of the exams. The entry figures can contain more than one entry for individual pupils across subjects.

EXTERNAL INFLUENCES

Qualification Reforms

Following a [Welsh Government review of qualifications for 14-19-year-olds](#) in 2012, a new set of reformed qualifications are being introduced in Wales. Information about these changes, and a list of subjects affected can be found [on our website](#).

A limited number of subjects are available in the November series compared to the Summer series. In November 2017, reformed GCSEs in Mathematics, Mathematics – Numeracy, English Language and Welsh Language were taken by learners in Wales. A small number of other qualifications are also being awarded, including resits for the new England 9-1 GCSEs in Mathematics and English, and three country legacy science qualifications.

When we use “reformed GCSEs” we are referring to GCSEs reformed to meet approval criteria specified in Wales.

Welsh Government announcement

Welsh Government made an [announcement](#) on the 16th October 2017 regarding new rules linked to GCSE entry. The Education Secretary has announced that, from summer 2019, only a pupil's first entry to a GCSE examination will count towards school performance measures. Previously the best grade achieved counted.

The announcement means that first grades achieved during the 2017/18 school year by year 10 pupils or younger could be counted towards performance measures. The entries data reported in the release reflects the position at the 25th October 2017. As entries can change up to the day of exams, and because pupils can be withdrawn after entering, this announcement may impact on the number of entries reported in this release that will lead to a certification, particularly for pupils in year 10 or below.

STATISTICS

GCSE ENTRIES

Table 1: GCSE November 2017 Entries by Year Group

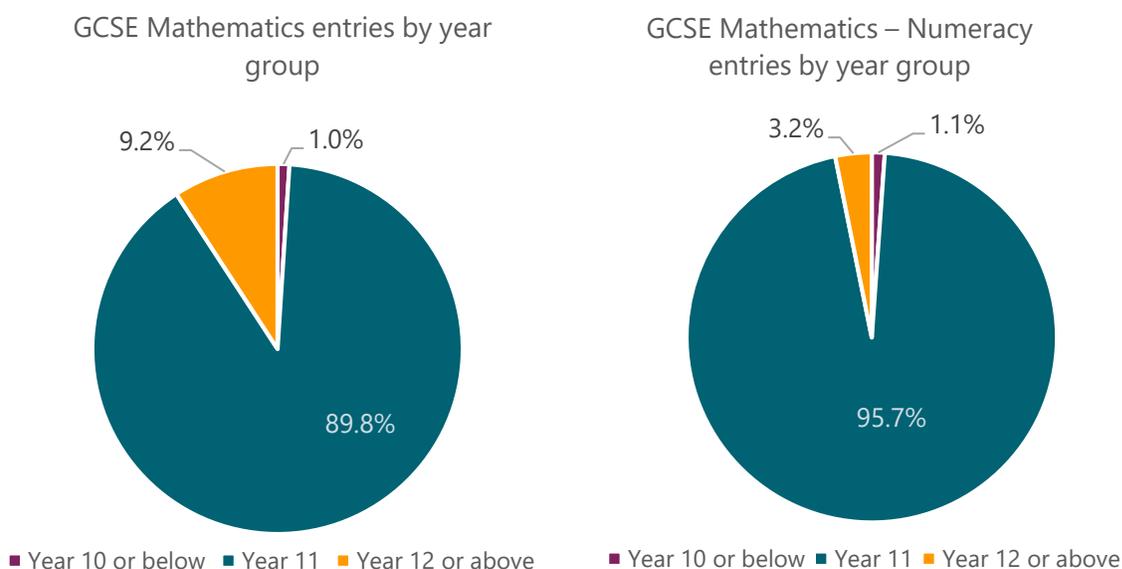
GCSE Subject	Year 9 or below	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12	Year 13 or above	Total
Mathematics	*	230	20,350	1,495	590	22,670
Mathematics – Numeracy	*	220	18,880	495	130	19,730
English Language	*	0	10,480	1,185	205	11,870
Welsh	0	0	485	20	0	505
Other	0	0	0	40	30	70
Total	10	450	50,190	3,240	955	54,845

Source: Awarding bodies - Entries by Year Group collection, as at 25th October 2017, Qualifications Wales

There were 54,845 GCSE entries for the November 2017 series, 54,775 of which were for reformed GCSEs. Qualifications included in the 'Other' category include resits on three country legacy GCSEs in Additional Science A and Science B and new England 9-1 GCSEs in English and Mathematics. These entries may come from independent schools.

Reformed GCSE subject entries by year group, November 2017

GCSE Mathematics and GCSE Mathematics – Numeracy



Source: Awarding bodies - Entries by Year Group collection, as at 25th October 2017, Qualifications Wales

- 89.8% of entries for GCSE Mathematics were for year 11, compared to 95.7% for GCSE Mathematics – Numeracy.
- Year 10 or below entries made up 1.0% and 1.1% of entries for GCSE Mathematics and GCSE Mathematics – Numeracy respectively.
- 9.2% of entries for GCSE Mathematics were from year 12 or above, and 3.2% for GCSE Mathematics – Numeracy.

Table 2: GCSE Mathematics and Mathematics – Numeracy November 2017 entries by year

	Year 9 or below	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12	Year 13 or above	Total
GCSE Mathematics						
2017	*	230	20,350	1,495	590	22,670
2016	0	295	22,575	175	25	23,070
GCSE Mathematics – Numeracy						
2017	*	220	18,880	495	130	19,730
2016	0	335	28,705	145	15	29,205

Source: Awarding bodies - Entries by Year Group collection, as at 25th October 2017, Qualifications Wales; 2016 - Ofqual

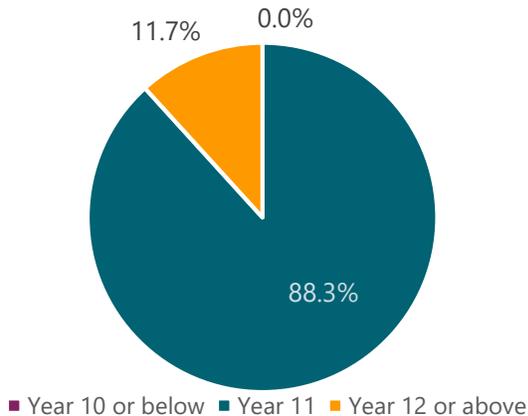
Total entries for GCSE Mathematics decreased in November 2017 by 1.7% compared to Ofqual reported figures for November 2016. GCSE Mathematics – Numeracy saw a larger decrease of 32.4%. Year 11 made up 89.8% of entries of GCSE Mathematics in November 2017, and 95.7% of entries for GCSE Mathematics – Numeracy.

The number of year 11 entries in GCSE Mathematics decreased by 9.9% in November 2017 compared to figures reported by Ofqual for November 2016. Year 11 entries for GCSE Mathematics – Numeracy saw a larger decrease of 34.2%. These decreases may be related to the fact that the current year 11 had the opportunity to sit these exams for the first time in Summer 2017. The previous year 11 did not have the same opportunity in Summer 2016. [Provisional Summer 2017 entries](#) reported by Ofqual showed that 24.7% of entries for GCSE Mathematics, and 33.6% of entries for Mathematics – Numeracy were for year 10.

There were larger entries in year 12 and year 13 or above in November 2017 compared to the figures reported by Ofqual in November 2016.

GCSE English Language

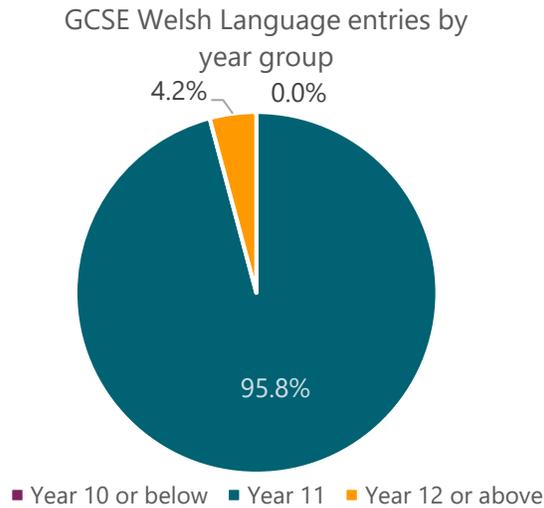
GCSE English Language entries by year group



- For GCSE English Language, November 2017 is a resit series only.
- There were 11,870 November entries for GCSE English Language
- 88.3% of GCSE English Language November entries were from year 11
- 11.7% of November entries for GCSE English Language were from year 12 or above

Source: Awarding bodies - Entries by Year Group collection, as at 25th October 2017, Qualifications Wales

GCSE Welsh Language



Source: Awarding bodies - Entries by Year Group collection, as at 25th October 2017, Qualifications Wales

- All entries for GCSE Welsh Language in November 2017 are resits only.
- There were 505 November entries for GCSE Welsh Language
- 95.8% of GCSE Welsh Language November entries were from year 11
- 4.2% of November entries for GCSE Welsh Language were from year 12 or above

LEVEL 1/LEVEL 2 CERTIFICATE ENTRIES

There were entries for Level 1/Level 2 Certificates in Geography and History. The total number of entries for Level 1/Level 2 certificate entries in November 2017 for Wales are too low to disclose for this release, in line with our [interim statistical outputs policy](#).

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Awarding Body

An organisation that develops qualifications, specifies and monitors assessments and issues awards to learners, formally recognising the learning outcomes (knowledge, skills and/or competences), following an assessment and validation procedure.

In other parts of the UK these are known as Awarding Organisations or Exam Boards.

GCSEs

General Certificates of Secondary Education are available in a wide range of subjects.

GCSEs are the main Level 1 and Level 2 general qualifications at age 14-16 in Wales.

They can be used as a basis for higher level study or training, or direct entry into employment.

Cash - in

Schools and colleges enter students who are completing a qualification and want to claim their final grade in that exam session.

Year 10

Students who are aged 15 by 31st August 2018.

Year 11

Students who are aged 16 by 31st August 2018.

Year 12

Students who are aged 17 by 31st August 2018.

Centre

A body undertaking the delivery of an assessment (and potentially other activities) to learners on behalf of an awarding body. Centres are typically educational institutions, training providers, or employers.

Linear

Linear GCSEs are designed so that all assessment in a subject is completed at the end of the programme of learning. This means that every time a pupil is entered by their school or college to be awarded a grade, they need to sit all assessment components for the qualification (examinations, and for some subjects, other forms of controlled assessment).

Unitised

Unitised qualifications are designed so that assessment units can be taken by pupils at different points during the course, with a final grade 'cashed-in' at the end of the programme of learning once a pupil has completed all units. For GCSE, learners must complete a minimum amount of the assessment for a qualification in the series where they are cashing in.

BACKGROUND NOTES

On November 21st 2017 the National Assembly for Wales approved the Official Statistics (Wales) Order 2017 which named Qualifications Wales as one of the bodies that are in scope of the Statistics and Registration Services Act 2007. However given that we are still developing our processes to ensure we are fully meeting our obligations as an official statistics producer, this statistical release has not formally been published as an official statistic at this time. Nevertheless in preparing the release, Qualifications Wales is aiming as far as possible to operate in compliance with the [UK Statistics Authority Code of Practice for Official Statistics](#).

Data Source

The awarding bodies that provide GCSEs and Level 1/Level 2 certificates have submitted information to Qualifications Wales about the number of entries for each qualification available in November 2017. The entries are only for centres located in Wales, regardless of the type of centre. This release covers the number of entries broken down by subject and age of students in Wales based on school year groups (Year 11 is the academic year where students become 16 years old).

Data relating to the [November 2016](#) series was collected by and reported by Ofqual.

Limitations of data

There is potential error in the information provided by awarding bodies. Therefore, Qualifications Wales cannot guarantee that the information received is correct. Qualifications Wales compares the data over time and checks for systematic issues. Quality assurance procedures are carried out to ensure the accuracy of the data and challenge or question it, where necessary. Qualifications Wales continuously manages this process by:

- Ensuring that data providers are clear about what is required of them and are fully consulted during the initial design and any subsequent change phases;
- Reminding all providers (if appropriate) that, as a condition of them being regulated, all data must be completely accurate;
- Being alert to unexpected changes in the data submitted by comparing individual returns over time from the same provider;
- Actively challenging any unexpected results with the data providers.

The publication may be deferred if the statistics are not considered fit for purpose.

Data has been collected at an appropriate point when it is reasonably complete. For GCSE and the Level 1/Level 2 certificate this was 25th October 2017. However, schools can continue to make late entries right up to the data of the exam, so the total entry numbers will change to provisional entries. For this reason, the title of this release refers to provisional entries.

Comparisons

For 2017/18 awarding bodies will be submitting data to Qualifications Wales rather than Ofqual. Comparisons to historical Ofqual data should be interpreted with caution.

Geographical Coverage

This release presents data on the number of entries for GCSEs and Level 1/Level 2 certificates for the November 2017 exam series for centres located in Wales. This release does **not** include GCSEs and Level 1/Level 2 certificates taken outside of Wales.

Revisions

Once published, data on the number of entries is not usually subject to revision, although subsequent releases may be revised to insert late data or correct an error.

Completeness of the data

Awarding bodies send Qualifications Wales entry data for all regulated qualifications classified as GCSEs or Level 1/Level 2 certificates. Qualifications Wales contacts any awarding body that does not return a complete set of data within the collection period, to make sure the data is as complete as possible. A levels and AS levels are not awarded in the November series.

Rounding and Confidentiality

To protect confidentiality, and in accordance with Qualifications Wales's interim statistical outputs policy, all figures for the number of certificates issued are rounded. In the commentary and tables, they are rounded to the nearest 5. Figures fewer than 5 but greater than 0 are replaced with a *. This is to ensure that data does not reveal an individual candidate. All percentages within the commentary are based on actual figures. Figures have been rounded independently and therefore may not sum to the total.

Users of these statistics

These statistics are likely to be of interest to Qualifications Wales, Ofqual, awarding bodies, and the Welsh Government. We welcome feedback from users, so expect to gain a better understanding of who our users are over time. Qualifications Wales uses these statistics to inform understanding of entry patterns.

Related statistics and publications

A number of statistical releases relate to this one, including:

- November entries, and summer entries statistical [release](#) for England (with corresponding Wales data in excel tables for historical academic years) published by Ofqual.
- The annual '[Schools' census results'](#) release, published by Welsh Government.

Useful information

A glossary of terms is available on page 5 to help you interpret this release. You can find information about future publications on the Welsh Government [website](#).

The [QiW register](#) gives information on approved and designated qualifications which are eligible for public funding in Wales.

Next update

November 2018 (provisional).

User feedback

We welcome any feedback on any aspect of these statistics which can be provided by email to statistics@qualificationswales.org

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