

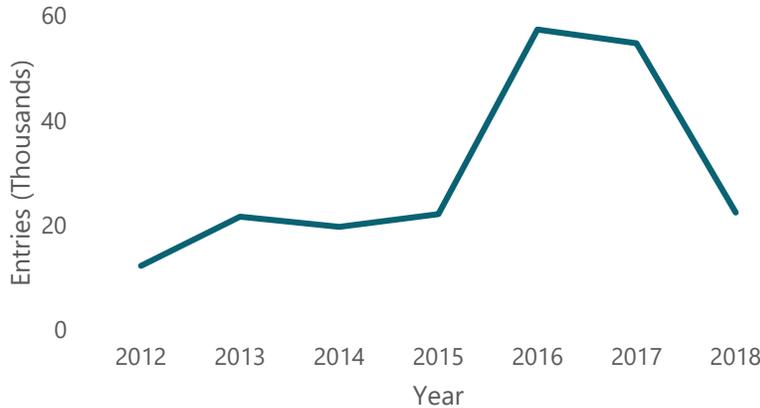


Provisional November GCSE and Level 1/Level 2 Certificates Entries for Wales 2018

Highlights

29 November 2018

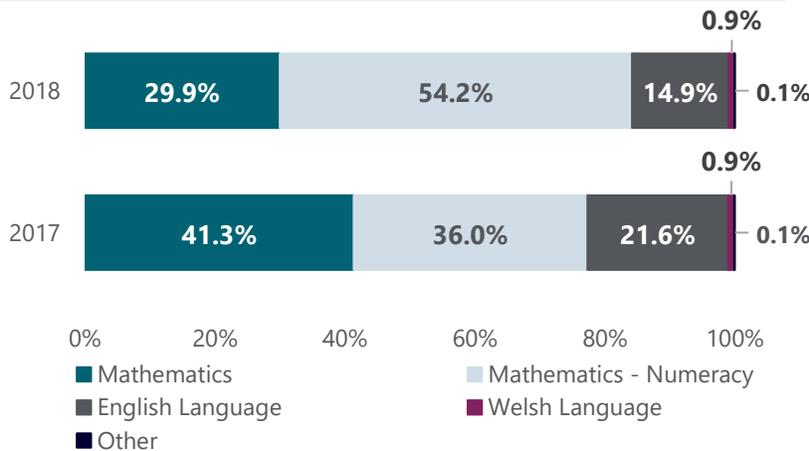
Figure 1: November 2018 GCSE entries



Source: Awarding bodies – Entries by Year Group data collection, 2017 to 2018 Qualifications Wales; pre-2017 Ofqual

There were 22,450 entries for GCSEs in November, down 32,395 (59.1%) from last November. Mathematics – Numeracy entries account for 54.2% compared to 36.0% last November.

Figure 2: November Entries by Subject



Source: Awarding bodies – Entries by Year Group data collection

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 2018 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 26 October 2018.

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INTRODUCTION

Qualifications Wales regulates qualifications, other than degrees, in Wales. Under the Qualifications Wales Act 2015¹, 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 qualification system.

From the academic year 2017-18, we have collected and reported on data for Wales for general qualifications. Before the 2017-18 academic year, Ofqual² collected and published data for Wales. Comparisons made in this release are based on data collected and published by us for November 2017 and by Ofqual prior to this.

In this release, we present data on the number of entries for GCSEs and Level 1/Level 2 certificates in Wales for the November 2018 exam series. The figures represent the number of entries, rounded to the nearest 5, submitted by awarding bodies by the 26 October 2018, reflecting the position at 24 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 review³ 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 website⁴.

A limited number of subjects are available in the November series compared to the summer series. In November 2018, reformed GCSEs in Mathematics, Mathematics – Numeracy, English Language and Welsh Language are taken by learners in Wales. A

¹ <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/anaw/2015/5/contents/enacted>

² <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/changes-to-the-publication-of-geographical-breakdowns-of-data>

³ https://beta.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2018-02/review-of-qualifications-for-14-to-19-year-olds-in-wales-final-report-and-recommendations_0.pdf

⁴ <https://qualificationswales.org/english/qualifications/gcse-and-a-levels/gq-reform/what-subjects-are-available/>

small number of other qualifications are also being awarded, including resits for the new England 9-1 GCSEs in Mathematics and English Language.

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 announcement⁵ on 16 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 by year 10 pupils or younger will be counted towards performance measures.

⁵ <https://gov.wales/newsroom/educationandskills/2017/changes-to-early-entry-exams-announced/?lang=en>

STATISTICS

GCSE ENTRIES

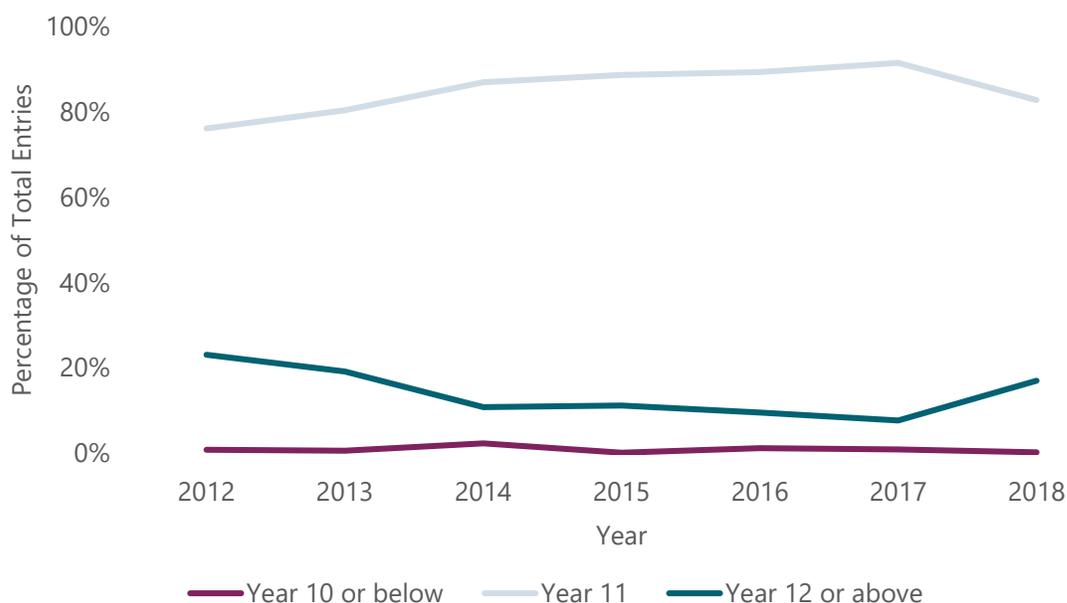
Table 1: GCSE November 2018 entries by year group

| GCSE Subject | Year 9 or below | Year 10 | Year 11 | Year 12 | Year 13 or above | Total |
|------------------------|-----------------|-----------|---------------|--------------|------------------|---------------|
| Mathematics | 10 | 15 | 4,935 | 1,125 | 635 | 6,720 |
| Mathematics - Numeracy | * | 20 | 11,715 | 340 | 95 | 12,170 |
| English Language | 0 | * | 1,760 | 1,005 | 580 | 3,345 |
| Welsh | 0 | 0 | 175 | 15 | * | 195 |
| Other | 0 | 0 | 0 | 10 | 10 | 20 |
| Total | 10 | 35 | 18,585 | 2,495 | 1,325 | 22,450 |

Source: Awarding bodies - Entries by Year Group collection, as at 24 October 2018, Qualifications Wales

There were 22,450 GCSE entries for the November 2018 series, 22,430 of which were for reformed GCSEs. Qualifications included in the 'Other' category include resits of new England 9-1 GCSEs in English Language and Mathematics. These qualifications can be taken in independent schools.

Figure 3: GCSE November entries by year group

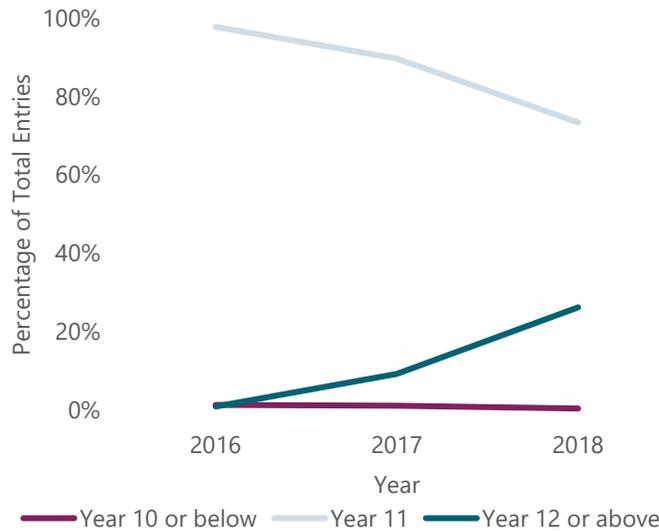


Source: Awarding bodies – Entries by Year Group data collection, 2017 to 2018 Qualifications Wales; pre-2017 Ofqual

Reformed GCSE subject entries by year group, November 2018

GCSE Mathematics and GCSE Mathematics – Numeracy

Figure 4: GCSE Mathematics November entries by year group



Source: Awarding bodies – Entries by Year Group data collection, 2017 to 2018 Qualifications Wales; pre-2017 Ofqual

There were 6,720 entries for Mathematics, down 15,950 (70.4%). There were 12,170 entries for Mathematics – Numeracy, down 7,560 (38.3%). 73.4% of entries for GCSE Mathematics were for year 11 students, compared to 96.3% for GCSE Mathematics – Numeracy.

Year 10 or below entries made up 0.4% and 0.2% of entries for GCSE Mathematics and GCSE Mathematics – Numeracy respectively.

26.2% of entries for GCSE Mathematics were from year 12 or above, and 3.6% for GCSE Mathematics – Numeracy.

Figure 5: GCSE Mathematics – Numeracy November entries by year group

Total entries for GCSE Mathematics decreased in November 2018 by 70.4% compared to the previous November. GCSE Mathematics – Numeracy saw a decrease of 38.3%.

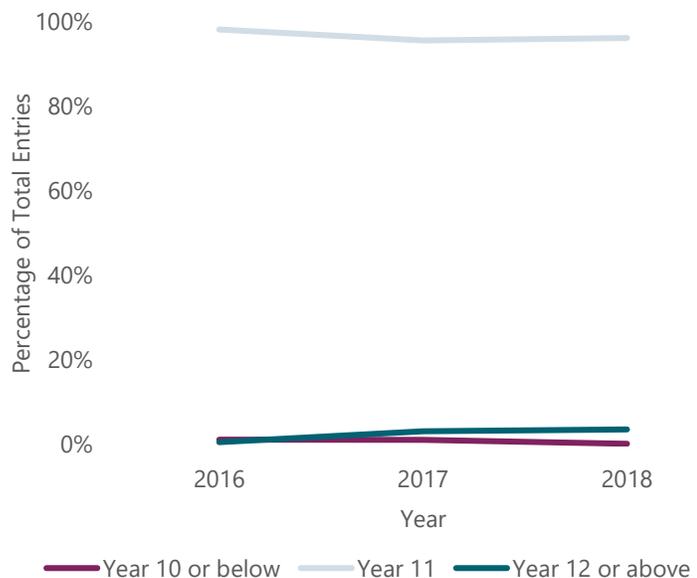


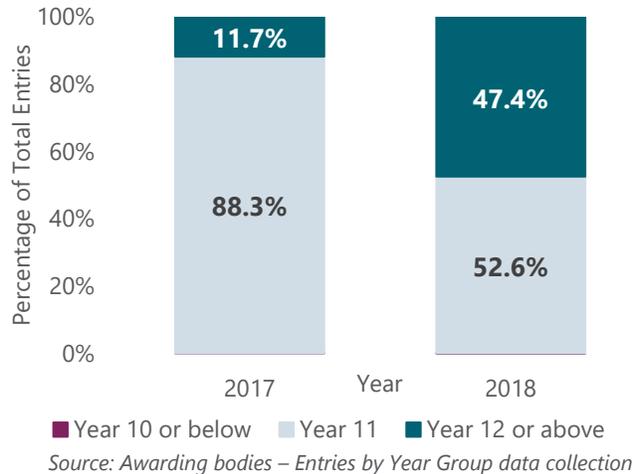
Table 2: GCSE Mathematics and Mathematics – Numeracy November entries by year group

| | Year 9 or below | Year 10 | Year 11 | Year 12 | Year 13 or above | Total |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------------------|---------------|
| GCSE Mathematics | | | | | | |
| 2018 | 10 | 15 | 4,935 | 1,125 | 635 | 6,720 |
| 2017 | * | 230 | 20,350 | 1,495 | 590 | 22,670 |
| 2016 | 0 | 295 | 22,575 | 175 | 25 | 23,070 |
| GCSE Mathematics - Numeracy | | | | | | |
| 2018 | * | 20 | 11,715 | 340 | 95 | 12,170 |
| 2017 | * | 220 | 18,880 | 495 | 130 | 19,730 |
| 2016 | 0 | 335 | 28,705 | 145 | 15 | 29,205 |

Source: Awarding bodies – Entries by Year Group data collection, 2017 to 2018 Qualifications Wales; pre-2017 Ofqual

GCSE English Language

**Figure 6: GCSE English Language
November entries by year group**

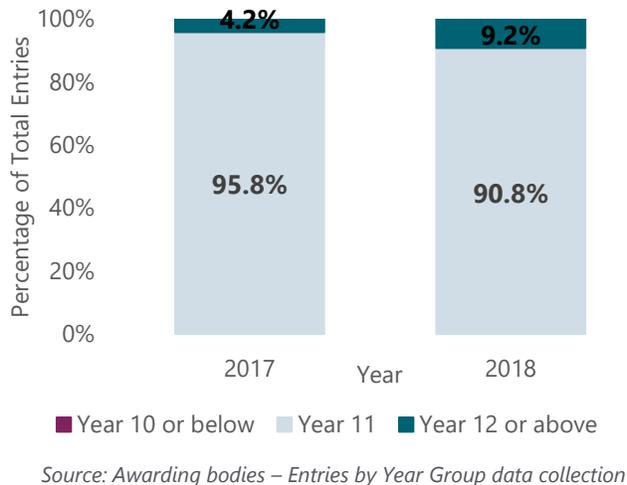


There were 3,345 entries in November 2018, a decrease of 71.8%. There were 1,760 entries (52.6% of all entries) from year 11 students, down from 10,480 (88.3% of all entries) last November.

1,585 entries (47.4% of all entries) were from year 12 or above, up from 1,395 (11.7% of all entries) last November. In both years entries for Year 10 or below accounted for less than 0.1% of total entries.

GCSE Welsh Language

**Figure 7: GCSE Welsh Language
November entries by year group**



There were 195 November entries in November 2018, a decrease of 61.3%. There were 175 entries (90.8% of all entries) from year 11 students, down from 485 (95.8% of all entries) last November. 20 entries (9.2% of all entries) were from year 12 or above, no change from last November in absolute number but proportionally more (4.2% of all entries). In both years entries for Year 10 or below accounted for less than 0.1% of total entries.

LEVEL 1/LEVEL 2 CERTIFICATE ENTRIES

The total number of entries for Level 1/Level 2 certificate entries in November 2018 for Wales are too low to disclose for this release, in line with our interim statistical outputs policy⁶.

⁶ <https://qualificationswales.org/media/2860/171018-interim-statistical-outputs-policy.pdf>

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 31 August 2018.

Year 11

Students who are aged 16 by 31 August 2018.

Year 12

Students who are aged 17 by 31 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 21 November 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. Qualifications Wales operates in compliance with the UK Statistics Authority Code of Practice for Official Statistics⁷ and has published this statistical release as 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 2018. 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 prior to the November 2017 series was collected by and reported by Ofqual⁸.

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.

⁷ <https://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/code-of-practice/>

⁸ <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/gcse-and-level-1level-2-certificates-entries-in-england-november-2016>

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 26 October 2018. 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

From 2017/18 awarding bodies submitted 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 2018 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 England⁹ (with corresponding Wales data in excel tables for historical academic years) published by Ofqual.
- The annual 'Schools' census results' release, published by Welsh Government¹⁰.

Useful information

A glossary of terms is available on page 8 to help you interpret this release. You can find information about future publications on the Welsh Government website¹¹.

The QiW register¹² gives information on approved and designated qualifications which are eligible for public funding in Wales.

Next update

November 2019 (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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⁹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics?departments%5B%5D=ofqual>

¹⁰ <https://gov.wales/statistics-and-research/schools-census/?lang=en>

¹¹ <https://gov.wales/statistics-and-research/?upcoming=true&lang=en>

¹² <https://www.qiw.wales/>