

Results for A level, AS, GCSE and the Skills Challenge Certificate in Wales – Summer 2020

Overview



August 2020

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2. Introduction

On 17th August Welsh Government [announced](#) that centre assessment grades will be awarded to learners for GCSE, AS, A level and Welsh Baccalaureate Skills Challenge Certificate qualifications in summer 2020.

This document presents analysis of estimated revised provisional results for A level, AS, GCSE and the Skills Challenge Certificate in Wales. Results published in August are always provisional in that they are prior to reviews and appeals.

Given that AS and A level results day was on 13 August, results for these qualifications had already [been published](#) and issued to learners. A level and AS grades that have already been awarded which are higher than centre assessment grades will stand, and this has been accounted for in this analysis. For A levels, the AS grade will be awarded where it is higher than both the centre assessment grade and the calculated grade. As we do not yet hold final results or data which allows us to match candidates to 2019 results, we are unable to account for this in this analysis.

GCSE calculated grades will be awarded to learners where they exceed the centre assessment grade. This has been accounted for in this analysis. We have not included figures based on the full set of calculated grades that would have been issued this Thursday for GCSE as, although those grades have been calculated, they have not been awarded, published and issued to learners.

3. Data

Figures for revised GCE results in 2020 in this analysis are estimated based on data submitted to Qualifications Wales by awarding bodies prior to the announcement to award centre assessment grades to learners. These results may be calculated using a slightly different subset of results compared to final JCQ published figures for 2020.

Attainment gaps are calculated as the cumulative percentage point difference in results between categories of learners at each grade. So, for example, gender attainment gaps are calculated as the female cumulative percentage results minus male cumulative percentage results. As the attainment gap statistics are calculated from estimated national results, these statistics may need revision once final national results are available.

National results from previous years and the original results published in 2020 for A level and AS are presented from published JCQ tables. For GCSE, the national results and gender attainment gap figures from previous years are from published JCQ tables.

Figures for analysis by eligibility for free school meals are from the Welsh Examination Database and Pupil Level Annual School Census (WEDPLASC) data.

These figures have been calculated using only centres that are common to both historical WEDPLASC data and 2020 awarding body data, so only maintained schools are included. The analysis by eligibility for free school meals has also been carried out only for the main entry cohort by age (16-year-olds for GCSE, 17-year-olds for AS and 18-year-olds for A level) and only for learners for whom there is available free school meal eligibility data to classify them as eligible or not.

4. Definitions

Results labelled as '2020 revised' are the higher of either the centre assessment grades or calculated grade, but for A level do not take account of cases where the AS grade will be used when it is higher than both the centre assessment grade and the calculated grade. We have also used this term for GCSE results, as the published results are calculated on a basis that was changed after the announcement by Welsh Government to use centre assessment grades. These figures may therefore be calculated using a slightly different subset of results compared to final JCQ published figures for 2020.

Results labelled as '2020 published' are the calculated results released on 13 August for A level, AS and the Advanced Skills Challenge Certificate.

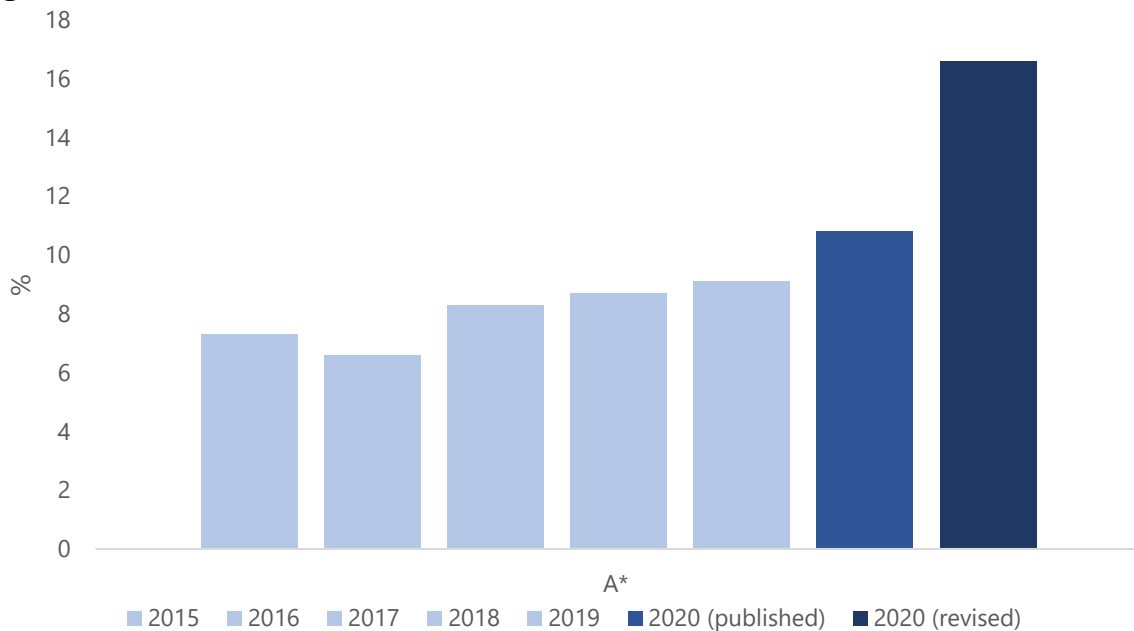
5. A level

National results

Table 5.1 shows that revised results are higher than the calculated A level grades published on Thursday 13 August 2020, and also substantially higher than results between 2015 and 2019.

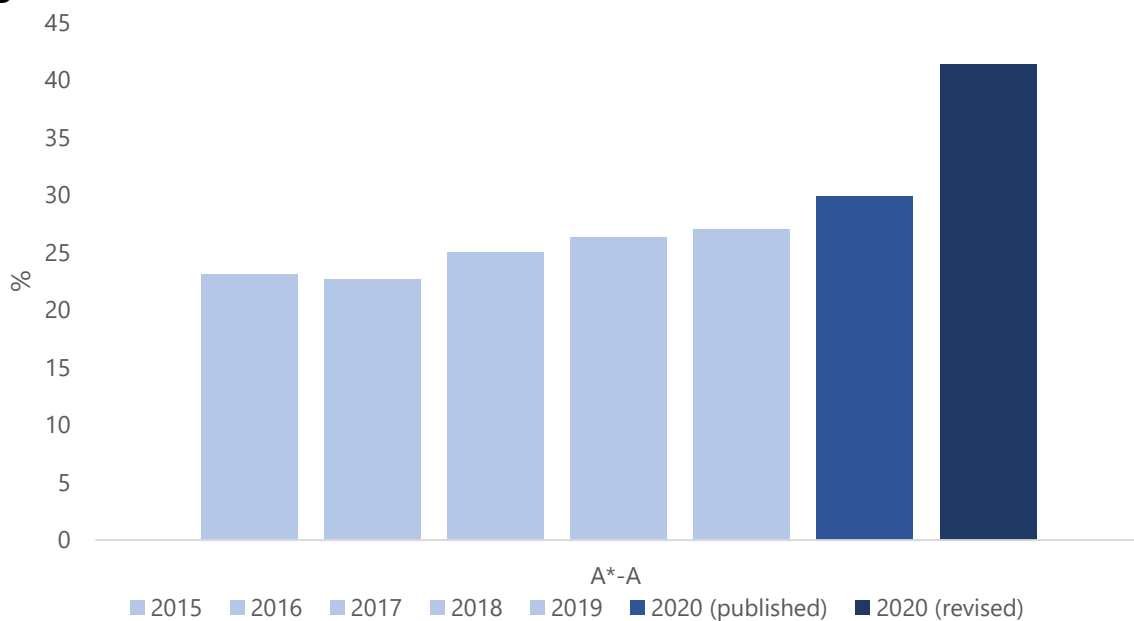
More than 40 per cent of learners will be awarded A* or A in 2020 in the revised results, whereas in 2019 the figure was 27 per cent (which was the highest for the period 2015-2019 inclusive).

Figure 5.1 National A level summer A* results 2015-2020



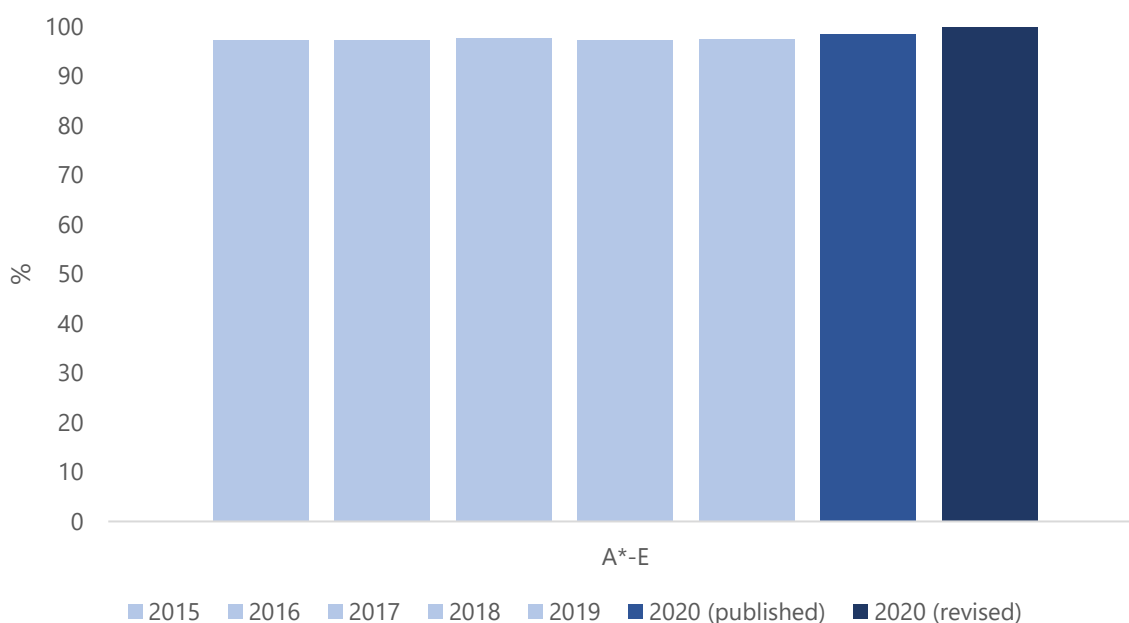
Source: 2015 to 2020 (published): JCQ; 2020 (revised): awarding bodies

Figure 5.2 National A level summer Cumulative A results 2015-2020



Source: 2015 to 2020 (published): JCQ; 2020 (revised): awarding bodies

Figure 5.3 National A level summer Cumulative E results 2015-2020



Source: 2015 to 2020 (published): JCQ; 2020 (revised): awarding bodies

Table 5.1: A level Results 2015-2020 (cumulative percentage)

	A*	A*-A	A*-E	Number of grades
2020 (revised)⁽²⁾	16.6	41.3	99.9	30,410 ⁽¹⁾
2020 (published)⁽²⁾	10.8	29.9	98.6	30,450
2019	9.1	27.0	97.6	31,485
2018	8.7	26.3	97.4	32,445
2017	8.3	25.0	97.7	33,295
2016	6.6	22.7	97.3	35,535
2015	7.3	23.1	97.3	36,035

Source: 2015 to 2020 (published): JCQ; 2020 (revised): awarding bodies

(1) This figure may differ to previously published figures due to differing timing of data extracts.

(2) Published are the calculated results released on 13 August. Revised are the higher of either the centre assessment grades, or calculated grade based on data received from awarding bodies. Final published results may differ from revised estimates.

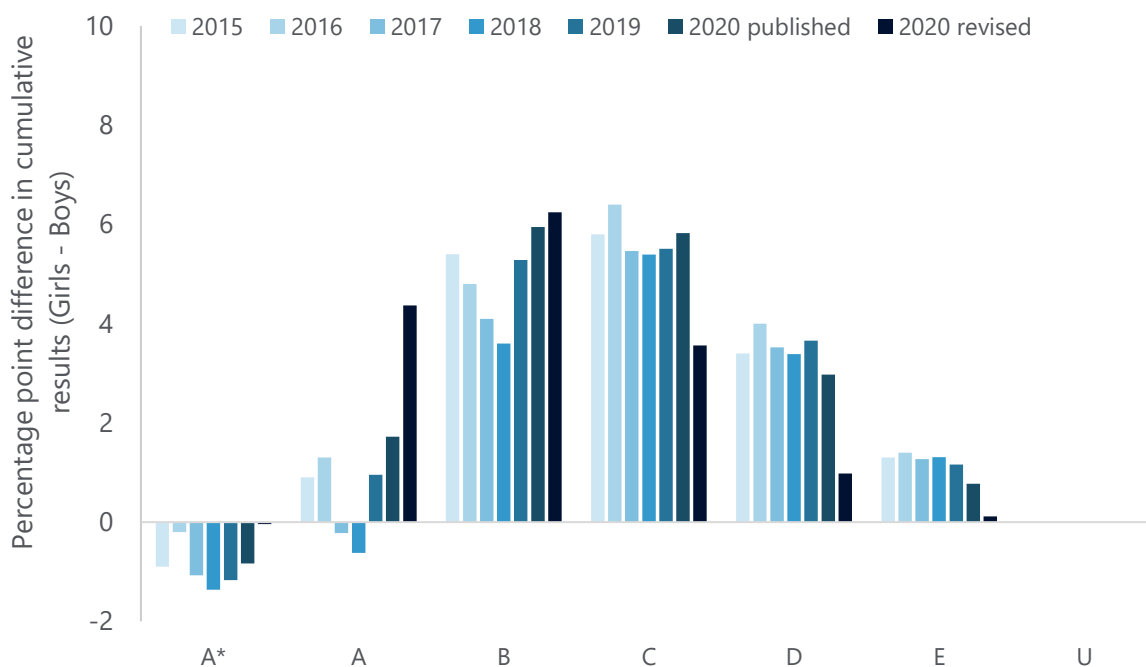
Attainment gap by gender

Figure 5.4 shows that attainment gaps by gender at cumulative A*-A are wider for revised results compared to the calculated A level grades published on Thursday 13 August 2020. They are also wider than the attainment gaps in results between 2015 and 2019.

Attainment gaps by gender at A*, A*-C and A*-E are narrower.

Due to the overall increase in national results, both boys and girls have higher revised results in 2020 than in 2019. However, results for girls have increased by more than results for boys at the top end of the grade distribution.

Figure 5.4: A level Gender Attainment Gap (cumulative percentage)



Sources: 2015-2019 WEDPLASC, 2020 awarding bodies

Table 5.2: A level cumulative percentage results by gender and percentage point attainment gaps

Year	Gender	Grades	A*	A	B	C	D	E	U
2015	Girls	19,960	6.9	23.5	51.4	76.9	91.7	97.9	100.0
2015	Boys	16,075	7.8	22.6	46.0	71.1	88.3	96.6	100.0
2015	Gap (Girls - Boys)		-0.9	0.9	5.4	5.8	3.4	1.3	0.0
2016	Girls	20,030	6.5	23.3	50.2	76.6	91.8	97.9	100.0
2016	Boys	15,510	6.7	22.0	45.4	70.2	87.8	96.5	100.0
2016	Gap (Girls - Boys)		-0.2	1.3	4.8	6.4	4.0	1.4	0.0
2017	Girls	18,615	7.8	24.9	51.9	77.7	92.4	98.2	100.0
2017	Boys	14,675	8.9	25.1	47.8	72.3	88.9	97.0	100.0
2017	Gap (Girls - Boys)		-1.1	-0.2	4.1	5.5	3.5	1.3	0.0
2018	Girls	18,160	8.1	26.0	53.6	78.7	92.5	98.0	100.0
2018	Boys	14,285	9.4	26.6	50.0	73.3	89.1	96.7	100.0
2018	Gap (Girls - Boys)		-1.4	-0.6	3.6	5.4	3.4	1.3	0.0
2019	Girls	17,845	8.6	27.4	54.7	78.7	92.9	98.1	100.0
2019	Boys	13,640	9.8	26.5	49.4	73.2	89.2	96.9	100.0
2019	Gap (Girls - Boys)		-1.2	1.0	5.3	5.5	3.7	1.2	0.0
2020 published	Girls	17,100	10.5	30.7	58.7	82.3	94.8	99.0	100.0
2020 published	Boys	13,345	11.3	28.9	52.8	76.5	91.8	98.2	100.0
2020 published	Gap (Girls - Boys)		-0.8	1.7	5.9	5.8	3.0	0.8	0.0
2020 revised	Girls	17,090	16.6	43.2	72.3	92.4	98.8	99.9	100.0
2020 revised	Boys	13,320	16.6	38.9	66.0	88.9	97.9	99.8	100.0
2020 revised	Gap (Girls - Boys)		0.0	4.4	6.2	3.6	1.0	0.1	0.0

Source: 2015 to 2020 (published): JCQ; 2020 (revised): awarding bodies

NB the attainment gap has been calculated from unrounded figures and therefore may not be exactly equal to the difference between the rounded figures.

Attainment gap by eligibility for free school meals (18-year-olds)

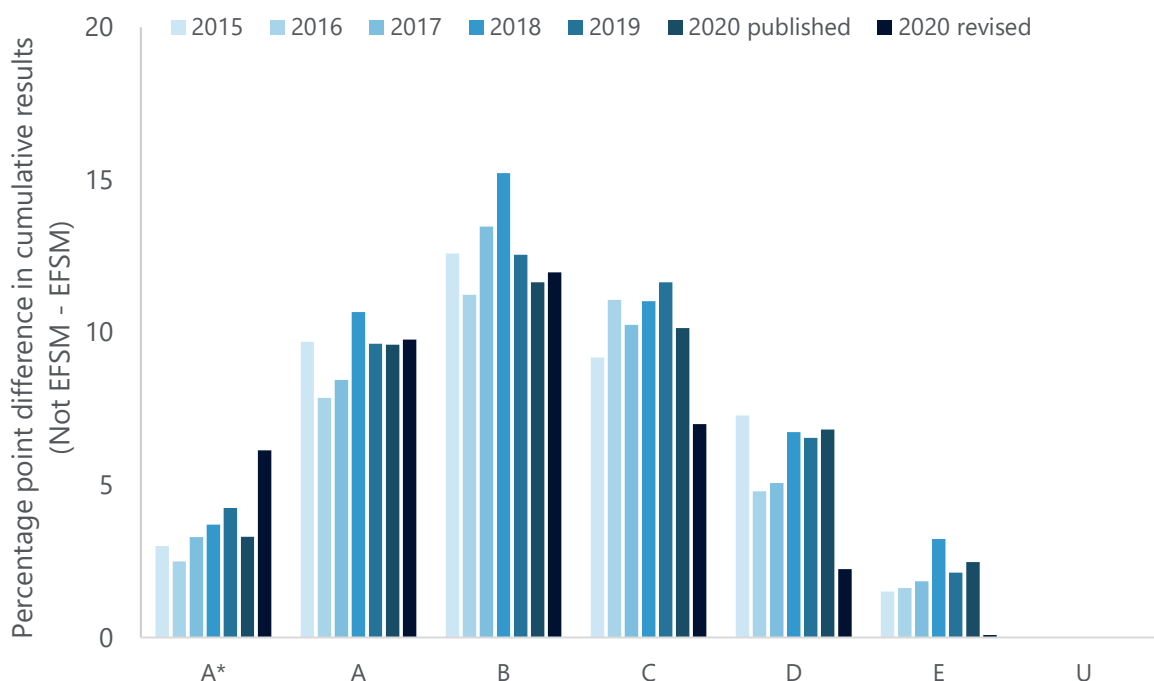
For 18-year-olds, who are the main A level entry cohort, attainment gaps by eligibility for free school meals at A* are higher for revised results compared to the calculated A level grades published on Thursday 13 August 2020. The gap at A* is also wider than in results between 2015 and 2019.

Attainment gaps at cumulative A*-A are similar, whilst the gaps are narrower at cumulative grades A*-C and A*-E.

Due to the overall increase in national results, those eligible for free school meals and those not eligible have higher revised results in 2020 than in 2019. However, increases in A* grades are larger in the revised results for those who are not eligible for free school meals.

It is important to note that the free school meal eligibility data is not available for all learners and where it is available it may not be data from the current year.

Figure 5.5 A level attainment gap by eligibility for free school meals (cumulative percentage), 18-year-olds⁽¹⁾



Sources: 2015-2019 WEDPLASC, 2020 awarding bodies

(1) Includes data only for those centres present in both the 2020 WJEC data and previous WEDPLASC data

Table 5.3: A level cumulative percentage results by free school meal eligibility and percentage point attainment gaps, 18-year-olds

Year	FSM	Grades	A*	A	B	C	D	E	U
2015	Eligible	805	3.5	12.7	36.6	65.6	83.4	96.0	100.0
2015	Non-eligible	20,875	6.5	22.3	49.2	74.8	90.7	97.5	100.0
2015	Gap (NotEFSM - EFSM)		3.0	9.7	12.6	9.2	7.3	1.5	0.0
2016	Eligible	885	3.4	14.0	36.8	63.1	85.3	95.7	100.0
2016	Non-eligible	20,710	5.9	21.9	48.1	74.1	90.1	97.3	100.0
2016	Gap (NotEFSM - EFSM)		2.5	7.9	11.2	11.1	4.8	1.6	0.0
2017	Eligible	920	3.6	14.8	35.6	64.3	85.5	95.9	100.0
2017	Non-eligible	19,750	6.9	23.2	49.0	74.6	90.6	97.7	100.0
2017	Gap (NotEFSM - EFSM)		3.3	8.4	13.5	10.3	5.1	1.8	0.0
2018	Eligible	1,010	4.1	14.5	35.8	64.6	84.1	94.4	100.0
2018	Non-eligible	18,760	7.8	25.1	51.1	75.6	90.8	97.6	100.0
2018	Gap (NotEFSM - EFSM)		3.7	10.7	15.2	11.0	6.7	3.2	0.0
2019	Eligible	780	4.2	16.0	39.0	64.1	84.5	95.5	100.0
2019	Non-eligible	18,450	8.5	25.7	51.6	75.7	91.0	97.6	100.0
2019	Gap (NotEFSM - EFSM)		4.2	9.6	12.5	11.6	6.5	2.1	0.0
2020 published	Eligible	865	5.3	16.6	41.4	67.7	85.9	95.9	100.0
2020 published	Non-eligible	17,775	8.6	26.1	53.1	77.9	92.7	98.4	100.0
2020 published	Gap (NotEFSM - EFSM)		3.3	9.6	11.6	10.1	6.8	2.5	0.0
2020 revised	Eligible	865	8.7	30.0	57.2	84.4	96.4	99.9	100.0
2020 revised	Non-eligible	17,775	14.8	39.7	69.1	91.4	98.6	100.0	100.0
2020 revised	Gap (NotEFSM - EFSM)		6.1	9.8	12.0	7.0	2.2	0.1	0.0

Source: 2015 to 2019: WEDPLASC; 2020: awarding bodies

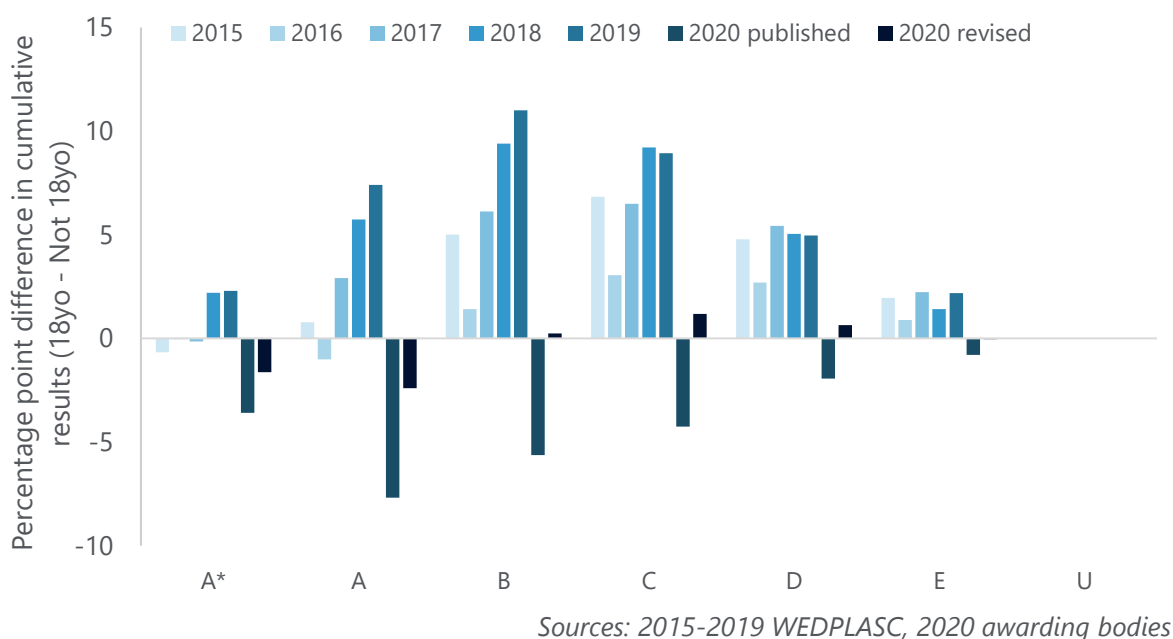
NB the attainment gap has been calculated from unrounded figures and therefore may not be exactly equal to the difference between the rounded figures.

Attainment gap by age

Figure 5.6 presents cumulative attainment gaps by age over time.

Revised 2020 outcomes show different attainment gaps at all grades, both compared to historical data and results published on 13 August 2020. The previously published data showed a notable change in attainment gaps by age, with non-18-year-olds achieving higher outcomes than 18-year-olds at all grades. In previous years, 18-year-olds generally received higher outcomes at all grades, with a handful of exceptions.

Figure 5.6 A level attainment gap by age (cumulative percentage), 18-year-olds⁽¹⁾



(1) Includes data only for those centres present in both the 2020 awarding body data and previous WEDPLASC data

Table 5.4: A level cumulative percentage results by age and percentage point attainment gaps

Year	Age	Grades	A*	A	B	C	D	E	U
2015	18yo	23,485	7.4	24.1	50.7	75.6	90.9	97.6	100.0
2015	Non18yo	2,235	8.0	23.3	45.7	68.8	86.1	95.7	100.0
2015	Gap (18yo - Non18yo)		-0.7	0.8	5.0	6.8	4.8	1.9	0.0
2016	18yo	23,320	6.6	23.4	49.5	74.8	90.4	97.4	100.0
2016	Non18yo	2,275	6.6	24.5	48.1	71.8	87.7	96.5	100.0
2016	Gap (18yo - Non18yo)		0.0	-1.0	1.4	3.0	2.7	0.9	0.0
2017	18yo	20,665	6.7	22.9	48.4	74.1	90.4	97.6	100.0
2017	Non18yo	1,370	6.9	20.0	42.3	67.6	84.9	95.4	100.0
2017	Gap (18yo - Non18yo)		-0.1	2.9	6.1	6.5	5.4	2.2	0.0
2018	18yo	19,770	7.6	24.6	50.3	75.0	90.5	97.4	100.0
2018	Non18yo	1,530	5.4	18.8	40.9	65.8	85.4	96.0	100.0
2018	Gap (18yo - Non18yo)		2.2	5.7	9.4	9.2	5.0	1.4	0.0
2019	18yo	19,230	8.3	25.3	51.1	75.2	90.7	97.6	100.0
2019	Non18yo	1,230	6.0	17.9	40.0	66.3	85.8	95.4	100.0
2019	Gap (18yo - Non18yo)		2.3	7.4	11.0	8.9	5.0	2.2	0.0
2020 published	18yo	20,380	9.6	27.8	54.4	78.4	92.8	98.4	100.0
2020 published	Non18yo	1,725	13.2	35.5	60.0	82.7	94.7	99.2	100.0
2020 published	Gap (18yo - Non18yo)		-3.6	-7.7	-5.6	-4.3	-1.9	-0.8	0.0
2020 revised	18yo	20,380	15.9	41.2	70.1	91.5	98.6	100.0	100.0
2020 revised	Non18yo	1,725	17.5	43.6	69.8	90.3	98.0	100.0	100.0
2020 revised	Gap (18yo - Non18yo)		-1.6	-2.4	0.2	1.2	0.6	0.0	0.0

Source: 2015 to 2019: WEDPLASC; 2020: awarding bodies

NB the attainment gap has been calculated from unrounded figures and therefore may not be exactly equal to the difference between the rounded figures

6. AS

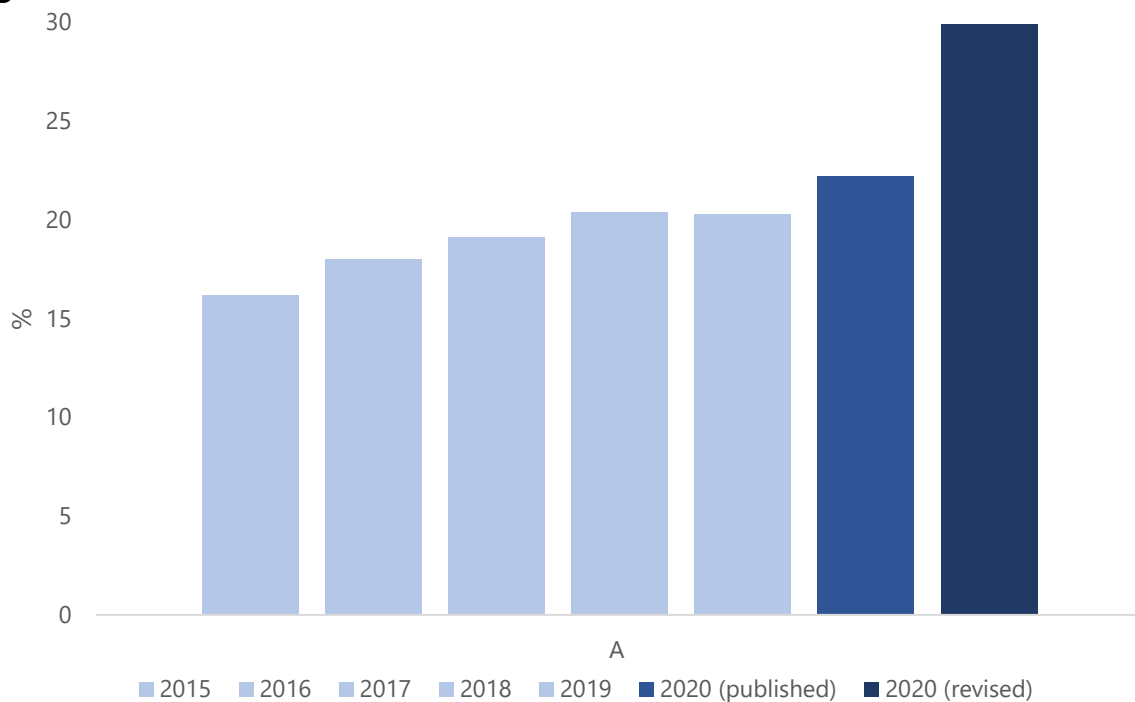
National results

Table 6.1 shows that revised AS results are substantially higher than the calculated grades originally published on Thursday 13 August 2020, and also higher than in results between 2015 and 2019.

Around 30% of learners will be awarded grade A in the revised 2020 results, whereas the figure in the original published results was 22.2%. In 2019, the figure was 20.3%.

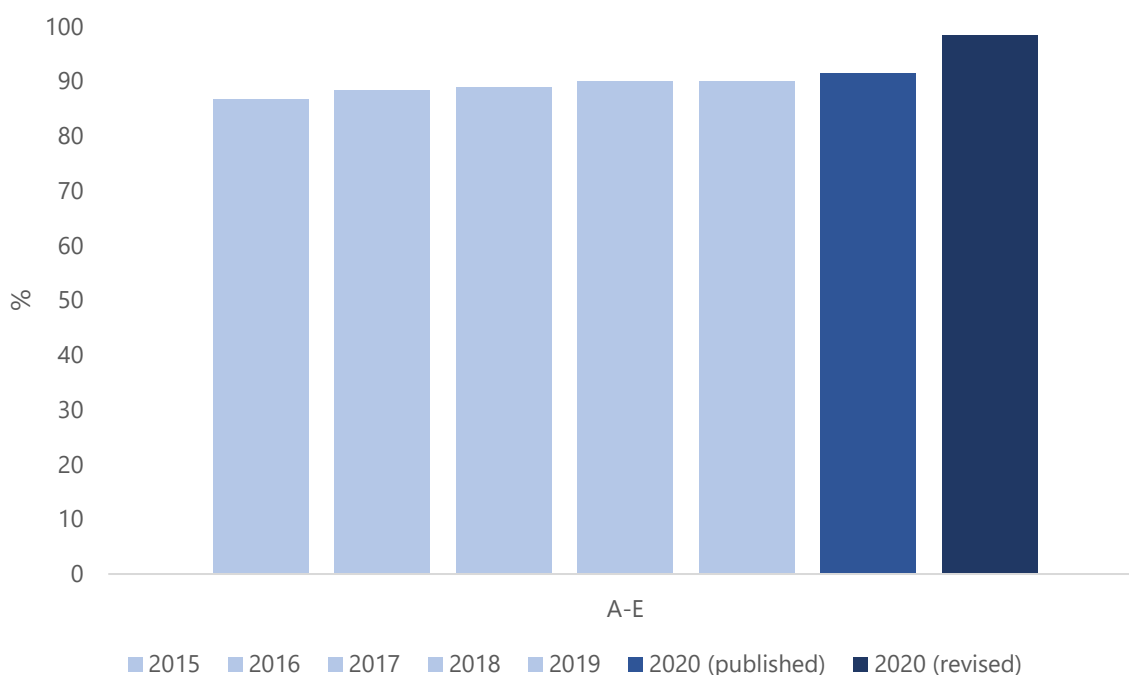
More than 98% of learners will be awarded A-E in the revised results, compared to 91.4% of learners in the original published results. In 2019, the figure was 90%.

Figure 6.1 National AS summer cumulative A results 2015-2020



Source: 2015 to 2020 (published): JCQ; 2020 (revised): awarding bodies

Figure 6.2 National AS summer cumulative E results 2015-2020



Source: 2015 to 2020 (published): JCQ; 2020 (revised): awarding bodies

Table 6.1: AS Results 2015-2020 (cumulative percentage)

	A	A-E	Number of grades
2020 (revised) ⁽²⁾	29.9	98.4	44,775 ⁽¹⁾
2020 (published) ⁽²⁾	22.2	91.4	45,435
2019	20.3	90.0	39,645
2018	20.4	90.0	42,915
2017	19.1	88.9	46,125
2016	18.0	88.3	49,145
2015	16.2	86.8	52,770

Source: 2015 to 2020 (published): JCQ; 2020 (revised): awarding bodies

(1) This figure may differ to previously published figures due to differing timing of data extracts.

(2) Published are the calculated results released on 13 August. Revised are the higher of either the centre assessment grades, or calculated grade based on data received from awarding bodies. Final published results may differ from revised estimates.

Attainment gap by gender

Attainment gaps by gender at cumulative grade A are wider in the revised AS results compared to calculated AS grades published on Thursday 13 August 2020. They are also wider than the gap in results between 2015 and 2019.

The gap is narrower at A – E. Attainment gaps at other grade thresholds are more similar.

Due to the overall increase in national results, both boys and girls have higher revised results in 2020 than in 2019. However, results for girls have increased by more than results for boys at grade A.

Figure 6.2: AS Gender Attainment gap (cumulative percentage)



Table 6.2: AS cumulative percentage results by gender and percentage point attainment gaps

Year	Gender	Grades	A	B	C	D	E	U
2015	Girls	29,120	17.2	38.5	61.5	78.6	89.3	100.0
2015	Boys	23,650	15.0	31.9	52.5	70.5	83.8	100.0
2015	Gap (Girls - Boys)		2.2	6.6	9.0	8.1	5.5	0.0
2016	Girls	27,035	18.3	38.9	61.6	79.0	90.0	100.0
2016	Boys	22,105	17.6	34.8	55.5	73.3	86.1	100.0
2016	Gap (Girls - Boys)		0.7	4.1	6.1	5.7	3.9	0.0
2017	Girls	25,585	19.3	40.6	63.5	80.6	91.1	100.0
2017	Boys	20,540	19.0	35.8	55.8	73.5	86.0	100.0
2017	Gap (Girls - Boys)		0.3	4.8	7.7	7.1	5.1	0.0
2018	Girls	24,045	21.0	42.4	65.2	82.0	91.9	100.0
2018	Boys	18,870	19.6	37.2	57.7	75.5	87.7	100.0
2018	Gap (Girls - Boys)		1.3	5.2	7.5	6.5	4.2	0.0
2019	Girls	22,295	21.2	42.9	65.1	81.5	91.6	100.0
2019	Boys	17,355	19.1	37.2	58.0	75.9	88.0	100.0
2019	Gap (Girls - Boys)		2.0	5.7	7.1	5.6	3.6	0.0
2020 published	Girls	25,675	23.8	47.1	70.2	85.2	93.4	100.0
2020 published	Boys	19,760	20.0	38.3	59.8	77.2	88.9	100.0
2020 published	Gap (Girls - Boys)		3.8	8.9	10.4	8.0	4.5	0.0
2020 revised	Girls	25,280	32.3	60.1	84.1	94.6	98.7	100.0
2020 revised	Boys	19,495	26.8	51.1	76.5	91.1	98.0	100.0
2020 revised	Gap (Girls - Boys)		5.5	9.1	7.6	3.6	0.7	0.0

Source: 2015 to 2020 (published): JCQ; 2020 (revised): awarding bodies

NB the attainment gap has been calculated from unrounded figures and therefore may not be exactly equal to the difference between the rounded figures.

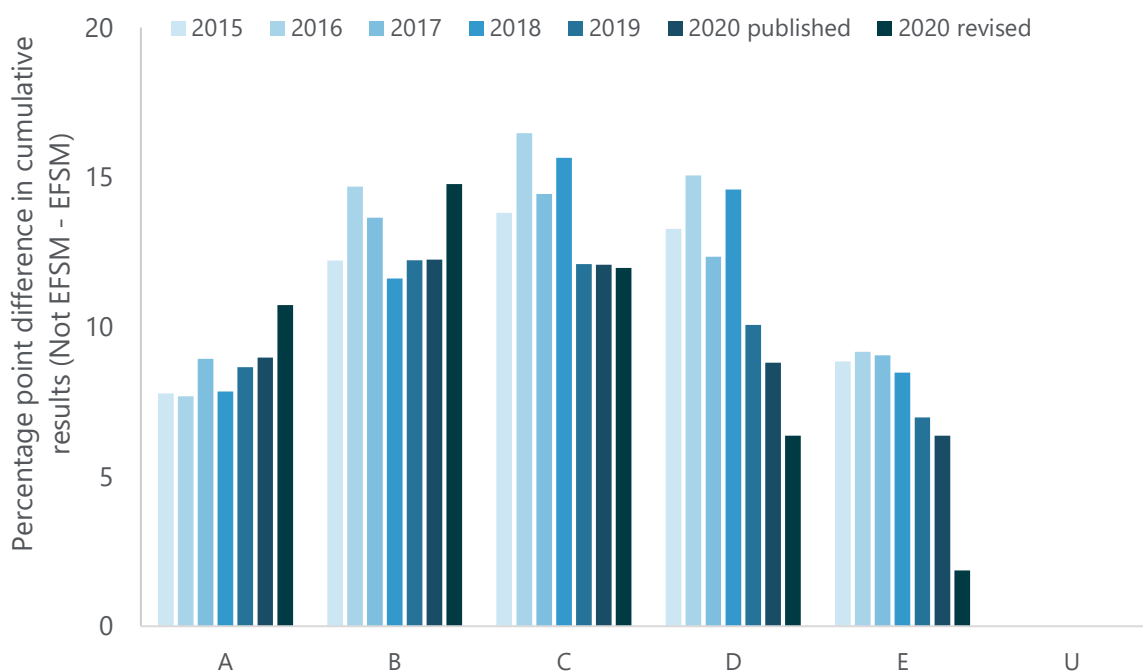
Attainment gap by free school meal eligibility (17-year-olds)

For 17-year-olds, who are the main entry cohort for AS, attainment gaps by free school meal eligibility at cumulative grade A are wider in the revised results compared to the calculated AS grades published on Thursday 13 August 2020. They are also wider than the attainment gap in AS results between 2015 and 2019.

The gap is narrower at A – E.

Due to the overall increase in national results, both those eligible for free school meals and those not eligible have higher revised results in 2020 than in either the original published grades for 2020 or 2019. However, the increases in A grades are larger in the revised results for those who are not eligible for free school meals.

Figure 6.3 AS attainment gap by free school meal eligibility (cumulative percentage), 17-year-olds⁽¹⁾



Source: 2015 to 2020 (published): JCQ; 2020 (revised): awarding bodies

(1) Includes data only for those centres present in both the 2020 WJEC data and previous WEDPLASC data

Table 6.3: AS FSM attainment gaps (cumulative percentage), 17-year-olds⁽¹⁾

Year	FSM	Grades	A	B	C	D	E	U
2015	Eligible	1,385	8.1	23.0	43.0	60.8	77.2	100.0
2015	Non-eligible	26,995	15.9	35.2	56.8	74.1	86.0	100.0
2015	Gap (NotEFSM - EFSM)		7.8	12.2	13.8	13.3	8.8	0.0
2016	Eligible	1,385	9.7	21.3	40.9	59.7	77.9	100.0
2016	Non-eligible	23,505	17.4	36.0	57.3	74.8	87.0	100.0
2016	Gap (NotEFSM - EFSM)		7.7	14.7	16.5	15.1	9.2	0.0
2017	Eligible	1,425	9.5	23.6	43.8	63.1	78.5	100.0
2017	Non-eligible	21,990	18.4	37.2	58.3	75.5	87.6	100.0
2017	Gap (NotEFSM - EFSM)		8.9	13.6	14.4	12.3	9.1	0.0
2018	Eligible	1,395	11.3	26.8	44.3	62.4	80.3	100.0
2018	Non-eligible	21,210	19.1	38.4	59.9	77.0	88.8	100.0
2018	Gap (NotEFSM - EFSM)		7.8	11.6	15.6	14.6	8.5	0.0
2019	Eligible	1,090	10.7	26.4	47.2	66.1	81.3	100.0
2019	Non-eligible	19,535	19.4	38.6	59.3	76.2	88.3	100.0
2019	Gap (NotEFSM - EFSM)		8.6	12.2	12.1	10.1	7.0	0.0
2020 published	Eligible	1,395	13.4	32.3	54.8	73.0	84.8	100.0
2020 published	Non-eligible	24,985	22.4	44.5	66.9	81.8	91.2	100.0
2020 published	Gap (NotEFSM - EFSM)		9.0	12.3	12.1	8.8	6.4	0.0
2020 revised	Eligible	1,395	20.2	43.3	70.9	87.9	97.3	100.0
2020 revised	Non-eligible	24,985	30.9	58.1	82.8	94.2	99.1	100.0
2020 revised	Gap (NotEFSM - EFSM)		10.7	14.8	12.0	6.4	1.9	0.0

Source: 2015 to 2019: WEDPLASC; 2020: awarding bodies

(1) This figure may differ to previously published figures due to differing timing of data extracts.

NB the attainment gap has been calculated from unrounded figures and therefore may not be exactly equal to the difference between the rounded figures.

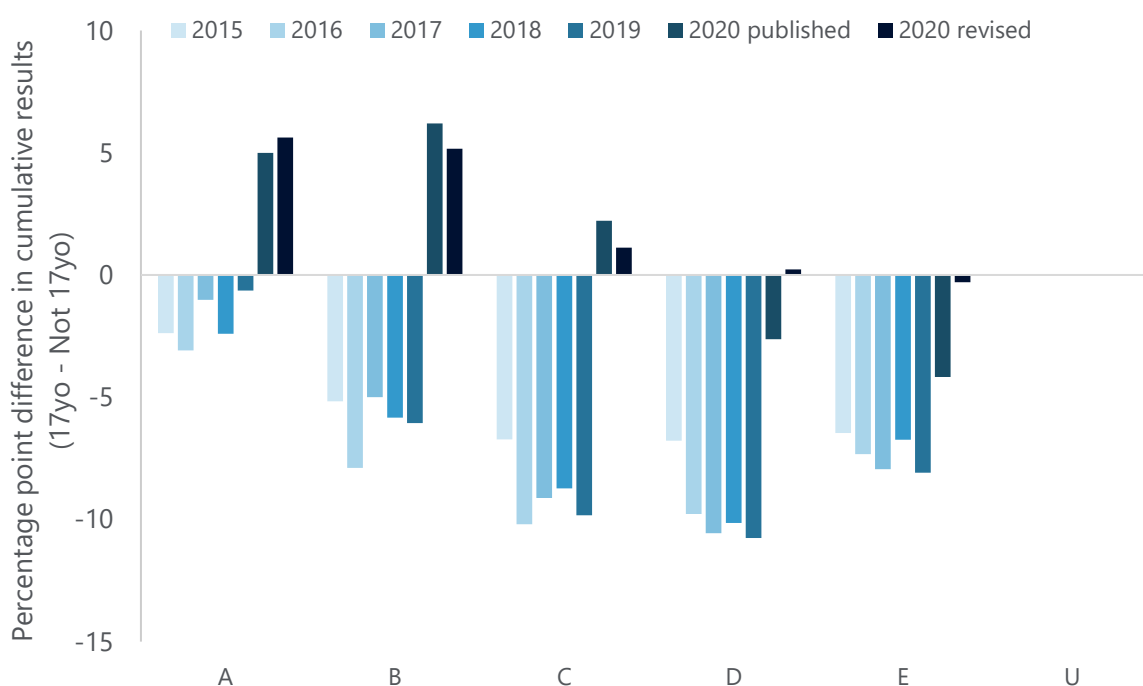
Attainment gap by age

Figure 6.4 presents cumulative attainment gaps by age over time.

At grades A, B and C, attainment gaps in 2020 (both published and revised) have shifted to show 17-year-olds achieving higher results than non-17-year-olds. In previous years results for non-17-year-olds have been higher than those for 17-year-olds.

It is important to note that many non-17-year-olds entered for AS are 18-year-olds that were resitting AS units to improve their A level grade this summer. These candidates therefore should have received an A level grade as well as an AS grade.

Figure 6.4 AS attainment gap by age⁽¹⁾



Sources: 2015-2019 WEDPLASC, 2020 awarding bodies

(1) Includes data only for those centres present in both the 2020 awarding body data and previous WEDPLASC data

Table 6.4: AS cumulative percentage results by age and percentage point attainment gaps⁽¹⁾

Year	Age	Grades	A	B	C	D	E	U
2015	17yo	29,465	16.4	35.5	56.9	74.0	85.9	100.0
2015	Non17yo	7,635	18.8	40.7	63.7	80.8	92.4	100.0
2015	Gap (17yo - Non17yo)		-2.4	-5.2	-6.7	-6.8	-6.5	0.0
2016	17yo	25,475	17.7	35.9	57.0	74.3	86.7	100.0
2016	Non17yo	7,450	20.8	43.8	67.2	84.1	94.0	100.0
2016	Gap (17yo - Non17yo)		-3.1	-7.9	-10.2	-9.8	-7.3	0.0
2017	17yo	23,415	17.9	36.4	57.4	74.7	87.0	100.0
2017	Non17yo	6,270	18.9	41.4	66.5	85.3	95.0	100.0
2017	Gap (17yo - Non17yo)		-1.0	-5.0	-9.1	-10.6	-7.9	0.0
2018	17yo	22,605	18.6	37.7	58.9	76.1	88.3	100.0
2018	Non17yo	5,490	21.0	43.5	67.7	86.3	95.0	100.0
2018	Gap (17yo - Non17yo)		-2.4	-5.8	-8.7	-10.1	-6.7	0.0
2019	17yo	20,625	18.9	38.0	58.6	75.7	87.9	100.0
2019	Non17yo	5,130	19.6	44.1	68.4	86.4	96.0	100.0
2019	Gap (17yo - Non17yo)		-0.6	-6.1	-9.8	-10.8	-8.1	0.0
2020 published	17yo	27,220	22.7	44.6	66.8	81.7	91.0	100.0
2020 published	Non17yo	5,300	17.7	38.4	64.5	84.3	95.2	100.0
2020 published	Gap (17yo - Non17yo)		5.0	6.2	2.2	-2.6	-4.2	0.0
2020 revised	17yo	27,220	31.0	57.9	82.5	94.0	99.1	100.0
2020 revised	Non17yo	5,300	25.4	52.8	81.4	93.8	99.4	100.0
2020 revised	Gap (17yo - Non17yo)		5.6	5.2	1.1	0.2	-0.3	0.0

Source: 2015 to 2019: WEDPLASC; 2020: awarding bodies

(1) This figure may differ to previously published figures due to differing timing of data extracts.

NB the attainment gap has been calculated from unrounded figures and therefore may not be exactly equal to the difference between the rounded figures.

7. GCSE

It is important to note that, to match the methodology in the main JCQ tables as closely as possible, the figures in this section relate to grades awarded in the summer exam series only, i.e. outcomes exclude grades achieved in the November exam series.

National results

The figures used in this subsection use data for all full course single award GCSEs and also double award science. Double award science is double counted. Short courses¹ are excluded. This will include both A*-G and 9-1 GCSEs², hence presenting cumulative results at A/7, C/4, G/1. This is done to match the methodology of the JCQ main results tables as closely as possible.

Revised GCSE results are substantially higher than results between 2015 and 2019.

Around a quarter of learners were awarded A*- A in the revised 2020 results, whereas the figure in 2019 was 18.4%.

Just under three-quarters of learners will be awarded A*-C in the revised results, compared to 62.8% of learners in 2019.

Table 7.1: GCSE Results Summer 2020 (cumulative percentage) (all ages)⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾

	A/7	C/4	G/1
2020	25.9	74.5	99.6

Source: Awarding Bodies

- (1) The data includes results for GCSEs graded A*-G designed for Wales as well as GCSEs graded 9-1 designed for England.
- (2) Includes full course and double award science (which is double counted) GCSE, but excluding short courses

¹ Short course GCSEs are reported separately to full course GCSEs by JCQ.

² A*-G GCSEs are designed and approved against criteria specific to Wales. These qualifications are only offered by WJEC. GCSEs that are graded on a 9-1 scale are designed against criteria specified elsewhere. These are taken in Wales in subjects in which there is no A*-G GCSE or in independent schools.

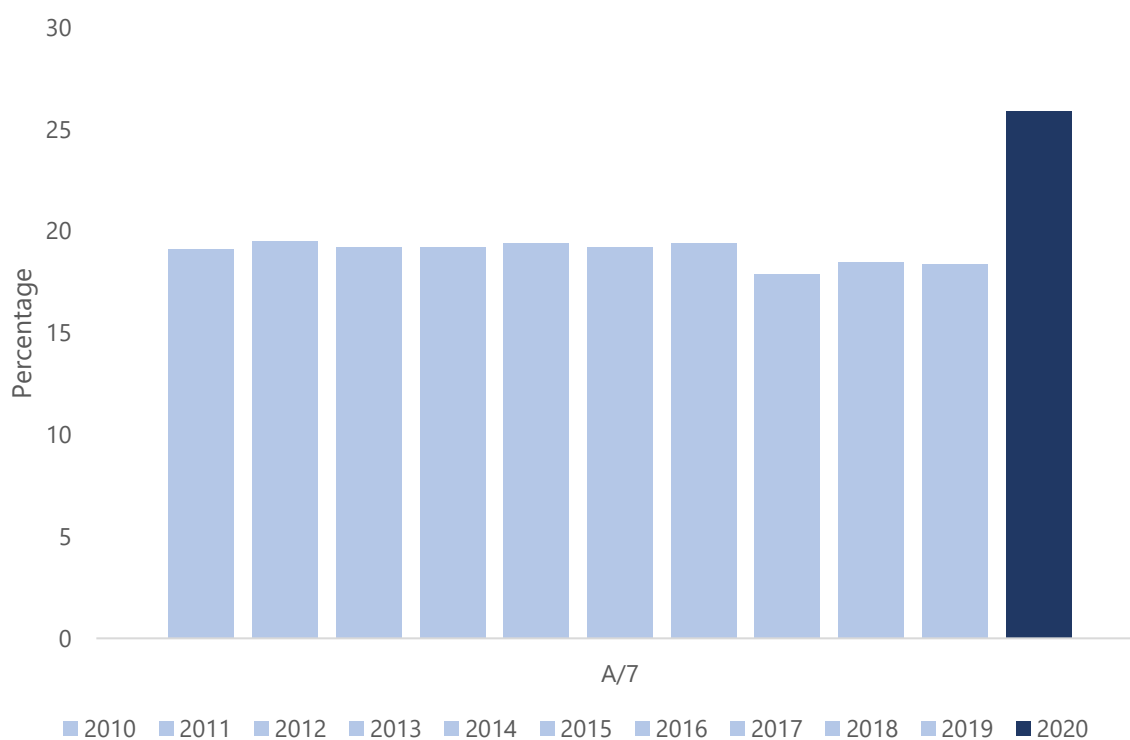
Table 7.2: GCSE Results Summer 2015-2019 (cumulative percentage) (all ages)⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾

	A/7	C/4	G/1
2019	18.4	62.8	97.2
2018	18.5	61.6	96.4
2017	17.9	62.8	96.9
2016	19.4	66.6	98.7
2015	19.2	66.6	98.7

Source: JCQ

- (1) The data includes results for GCSEs graded A*-G designed for Wales as well as GCSEs graded 9-1 designed for England.
- (2) Includes full course and double award science (which is double counted) GCSE, but excluding short courses

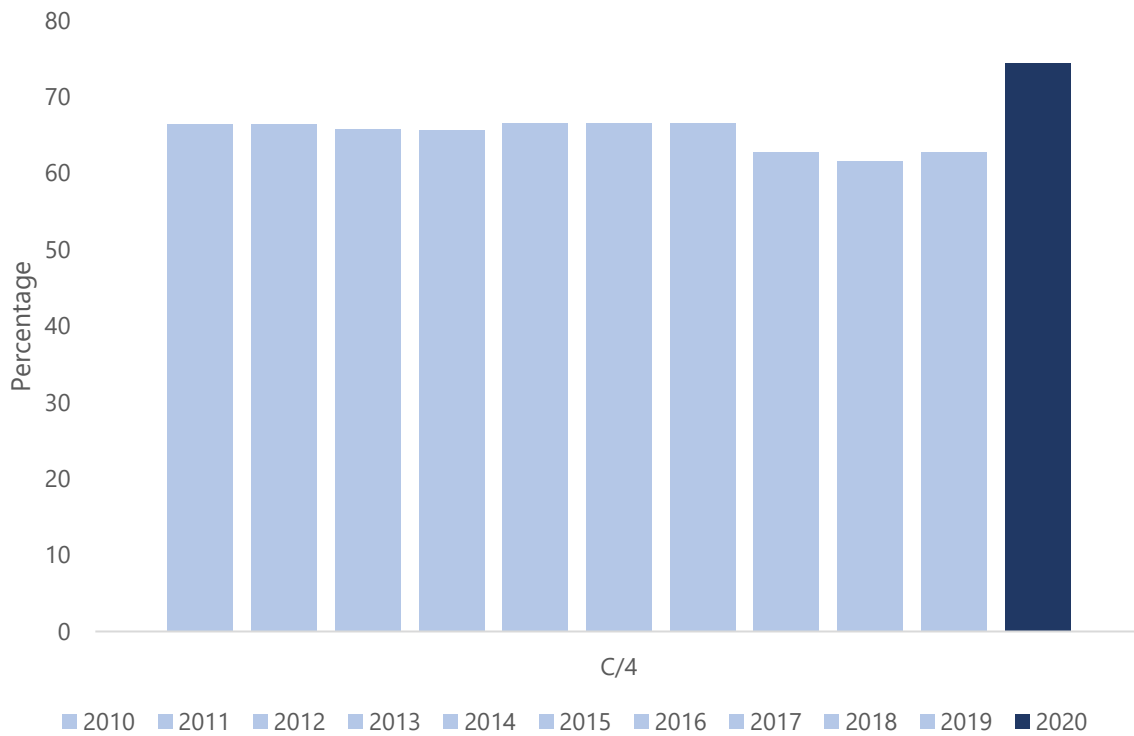
Figure 7.1 National GCSE summer cumulative A/7 results 2010-2020⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾



Source: 2010-2019 JCQ, 2020 Awarding Bodies

- (1) The data includes results for GCSEs graded A*-G designed for Wales as well as GCSEs graded 9-1 designed for England.
- (2) Includes full course and double award science (which is double counted) GCSE, but excluding short courses

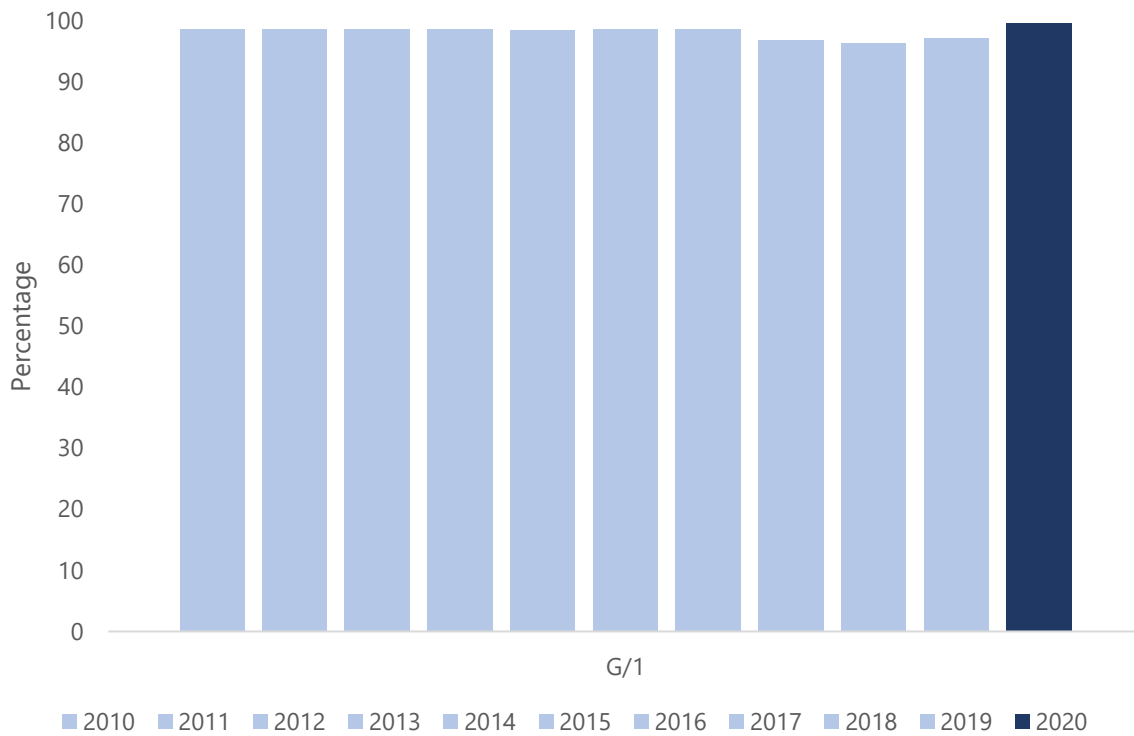
Figure 7.2 National GCSE summer cumulative C/4 results 2010-2020¹⁾⁽²⁾



Source: 2010-2019 JCQ, 2020 Awarding Bodies

- (1) The data includes results for GCSEs graded A*-G designed for Wales as well as GCSEs graded 9-1 designed for England.
- (2) Includes full course and double award science (which is double counted) GCSE, but excluding short courses

Figure 7.3 National GCSE summer cumulative G/1 results 2010-2020⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾



Source: 2010-2019 JCQ, 2020 Awarding Bodies

- (1) The data includes results for GCSEs graded A*-G designed for Wales as well as GCSEs graded 9-1 designed for England.
- (2) Includes full course and double award science (which is double counted) GCSE, but excluding short courses

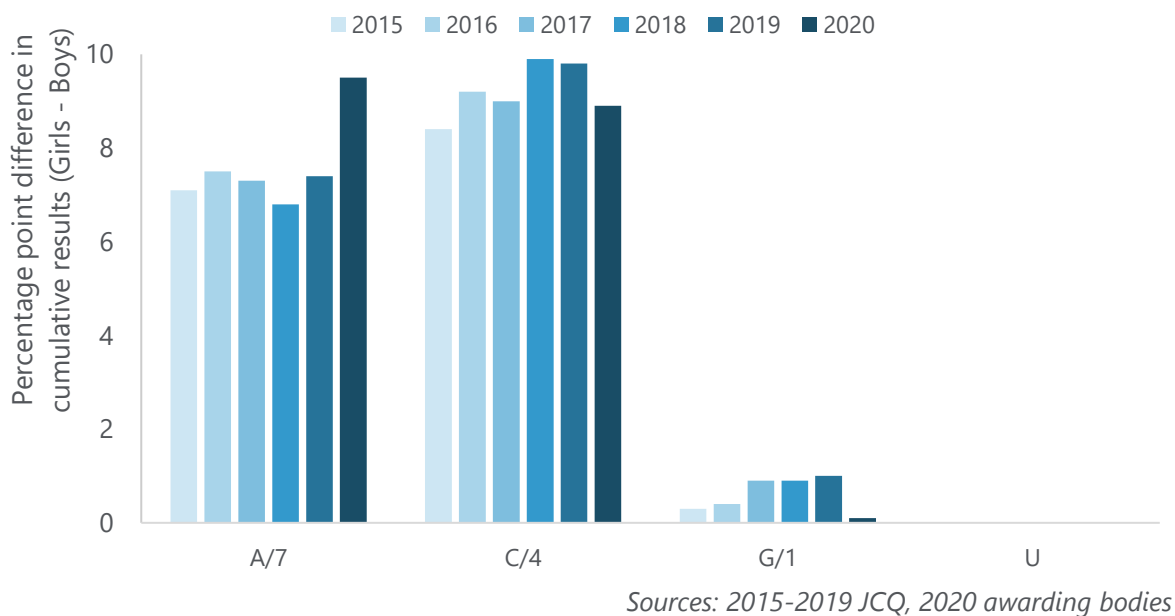
The figures used in the following subsections on GCSE attainment gaps use data for all full course single award GCSEs and also double award science. Double award science is double counted to reflect the fact that two grades are awarded to learners. Short courses are excluded. This analysis includes both A*-G and 9-1 GCSEs and reports at selected matched grade thresholds, which is why cumulative results are presented at grades A/7, C/4, G/1. This is done to match the methodology of the JCQ main results tables as closely as possible.

GCSE gender attainment gap

Figure 7.4 presents cumulative attainment gaps by gender over time. 2020 revised results are compared to results in 2017, 2018 and 2019.

Revised 2020 results are higher for girls than boys compared to results between 2010 and 2019 at grade A/7. Whereas the gender attainment gap at G/1 is narrower than in recent years as nearly all learners of both genders are achieving G/1. The gap at C/4 is similar to recent years.

Figure 7.4 National GCSE summer cumulative results gender attainment gaps 2010-2020 at key grades⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾



- (1) The data includes results for GCSEs graded A*-G designed for Wales as well as GCSEs graded 9-1 designed for England.
- (2) Includes full course and double award science (which is double counted) GCSE, but excluding short courses

Table 7.3 National GCSE summer cumulative results by gender 2010-2020 at key grades (percentage) and percentage point attainment gaps⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾

	Girls				Boys				Gap (Girls – Boys)			
	A/7	C/4	G/1	U	A/7	C/4	G/1	U	A/7	C/4	G/1	U
2010	22.0	70.0	98.9	100.0	16.2	62.6	98.6	100.0	5.8	7.4	0.3	0.0
2011	22.5	70.3	98.9	100.0	16.3	62.5	98.6	100.0	6.2	7.8	0.3	0.0
2012	22.1	69.8	99.0	100.0	16.3	61.8	98.6	100.0	5.8	8.0	0.4	0.0
2013	22.8	70.1	98.9	100.0	15.4	61.1	98.5	100.0	7.4	9.0	0.4	0.0
2014	23.1	71.0	98.8	100.0	15.5	61.9	98.3	100.0	7.6	9.1	0.5	0.0
2015	22.6	70.7	98.8	100.0	15.5	62.3	98.5	100.0	7.1	8.4	0.3	0.0
2016	23.0	71.0	98.9	100.0	15.5	61.8	98.5	100.0	7.5	9.2	0.4	0.0
2017	21.5	67.3	97.3	100.0	14.2	58.3	96.4	100.0	7.3	9.0	0.9	0.0
2018	21.9	66.5	96.8	100.0	15.1	56.6	95.9	100.0	6.8	9.9	0.9	0.0
2019	22.0	67.6	97.7	100.0	14.6	57.8	96.7	100.0	7.4	9.8	1.0	0.0
2020	30.6	78.9	99.6	100.0	21.1	70.0	99.5	100.0	9.5	8.9	0.1	0.0

Source: 2010-2019 JCQ, 2020 Awarding Bodies

- (1) The data includes results for GCSEs graded A*-G designed for Wales as well as GCSEs graded 9-1 designed for England.
- (2) Includes full course and double award science (which is double counted) GCSE, but excluding short courses

GCSE attainment gaps by eligibility for free school meals (16yo)

As data for free school meal eligibility is only available in 2020 for WJEC learners the data for 2020 relates only to WJEC qualifications. To ensure a valid comparison the analysis is done using only data for centres which are present in both the 2020 WJEC data and the 2016/17-2018/19 WEDPLASC data.

Attainment gaps by free school meal eligibility at cumulative grade A/7 are wider in the revised GCSE results compared to attainment gaps in results in recent years. The gap is narrower at cumulative C/4 and G/1.

Due to the overall increase in national results, those eligible for free school meals and those not eligible have higher revised results in 2020 than in 2019. However, increases in A/7 grades are larger in the revised results for those who are not eligible for free school meals, which increases the attainment gap at that grade threshold.

Figure 7.5 National 16yo GCSE summer cumulative results EFSM attainment gaps 2010-2020 at key grades⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾⁽³⁾⁽⁴⁾



- (1) The data includes results for GCSEs graded A*-G designed for Wales as well as GCSEs graded 9-1 designed for England.
- (2) Includes full course and double award science (which is double counted) GCSE, but excluding short courses.
- (3) Includes data only for those centres present in the 2020 WJEC data and previous WEDPLASC data.
- (4) 7,880 observations missing EFSM data in 2020.

Table 7.4 National 16yo GCSE summer cumulative results EFSM attainment gaps 2010-2020 at key grades⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾⁽³⁾⁽⁴⁾

Year	EFSM	A/7	C/4	G/1	U
2017	EFSM	7.2	44.1	93.5	100.0
2017	NotEFSM	22.0	70.8	98.1	100.0
2017	Gap (NotEFSM-EFSM)	14.8	26.7	4.5	0.0
2018	EFSM	6.9	41.5	91.8	100.0
2018	NotEFSM	21.3	68.5	97.5	100.0
2018	Gap (NotEFSM-EFSM)	14.4	26.9	5.7	0.0
2019	EFSM	6.6	41.6	93.3	100.0
2019	NotEFSM	21.1	68.9	98.1	100.0
2019	Gap (NotEFSM-EFSM)	14.5	27.3	4.8	0.0
2020	EFSM	11.0	54.9	98.9	100.0
2020	NotEFSM	28.7	79.0	99.8	100.0
2020	Gap (NotEFSM-EFSM)	17.7	24.1	0.9	0.0

Source: 2017-2019 WEDPLASC, 2020 WJEC

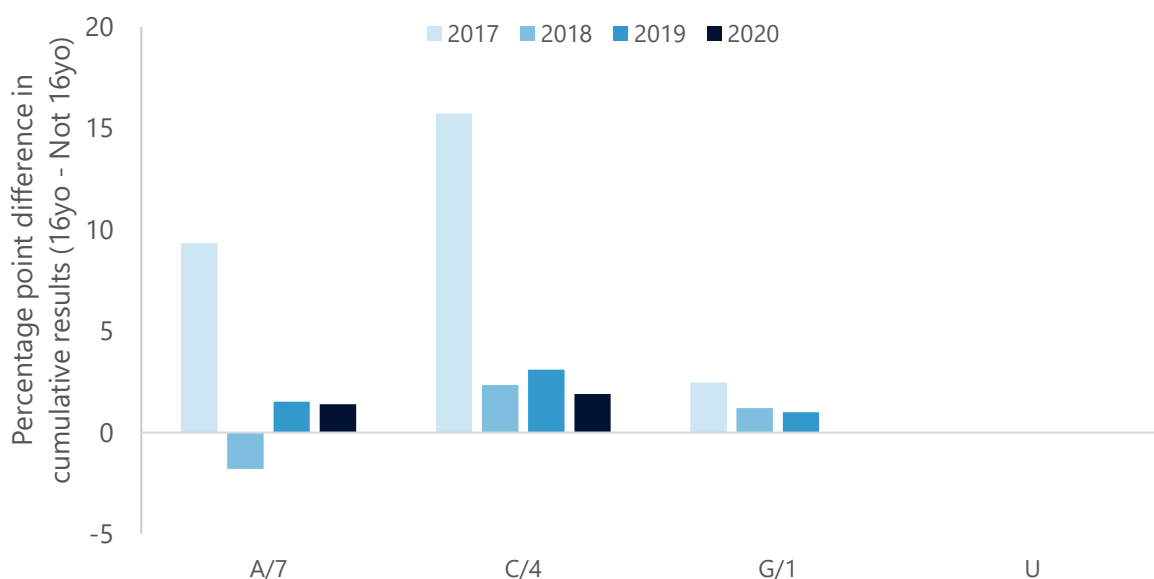
- (1) The data includes results for GCSEs graded A*-G designed for Wales as well as GCSEs graded 9-1 designed for England.
- (2) Includes full course and double award science (which is double counted) GCSE, but excluding short courses
- (3) Includes data only for those centres present in the 2020 WJEC data and previous WEDPLASC data
- (4) 7,880 observations missing EFSM data

GCSE attainment gaps by age

Figure 7.6 presents cumulative attainment gaps by age over time. 2020 revised results are compared to results in 2017, 2018 and 2019.

The attainment gap between 16yo and non-16yo is similar in 2020 compared to 2019 at grade A/7 and C/4. The age attainment gap at G/1 is narrower than in recent years.

Figure 7.6 National GCSE summer cumulative results age attainment gaps 2010-2020 at key grades⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾



Sources: 2015-2019 WEDPLASC, 2020 awarding bodies

- (1) The data includes results for GCSEs graded A*-G designed for Wales as well as GCSEs graded 9-1 designed for England.
- (2) Includes full course and double award science (which is double counted) GCSE, but excluding short courses
- (3) Includes data only for those centres present in the 2020 awarding body data and previous WEDPLASC data

Table 7.5 National GCSE summer cumulative results age attainment gaps 2010-2020 at key grades⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾⁽³⁾

Year	Age	A/7	C/4	G/1	U
2017	16yo	19.9	67.1	97.4	100.0
2017	Not16yo	10.5	51.3	94.9	100.0
2017	Gap (16yo-Not16yo)	9.3	15.7	2.5	0.0
2018	16yo	19.1	64.4	96.6	100.0
2018	Not16yo	20.9	62.0	95.4	100.0
2018	Gap (16yo-Not16yo)	-1.8	2.3	1.2	0.0
2019	16yo	19.2	65.2	97.4	100.0
2019	Not16yo	17.6	62.1	96.4	100.0
2019	Gap (16yo-Not16yo)	1.5	3.1	1.0	0.0
2020	16yo	26.2	75.5	99.6	100.0
2020	Not16yo	24.8	73.6	99.6	100.0
2020	Gap (16yo-Not16yo)	1.4	1.9	0.0	0.0

Source: 2017 - 2019 WEDPLASC, 2020 WJEC

- (1) The data includes results for GCSEs graded A*-G designed for Wales as well as GCSEs graded 9-1 designed for England.
- (2) Includes full course and double award science (which is double counted) GCSE, but excluding short courses
- (3) Includes data only for those centres present in the 2020 awarding body data and previous WEDPLASC data

8. Advanced Skills Challenge Certificate

The Advanced Skills Challenge Certificate is equivalent in size and demand to an A level. It uses the same grading scale and carries the same UCAS tariff points.

National results

Table 8.1 shows that the revised Advanced Skills Challenge Certificate grades are higher than those published on Thursday 13 August 2020, and also substantially higher than results between 2017 and 2019.

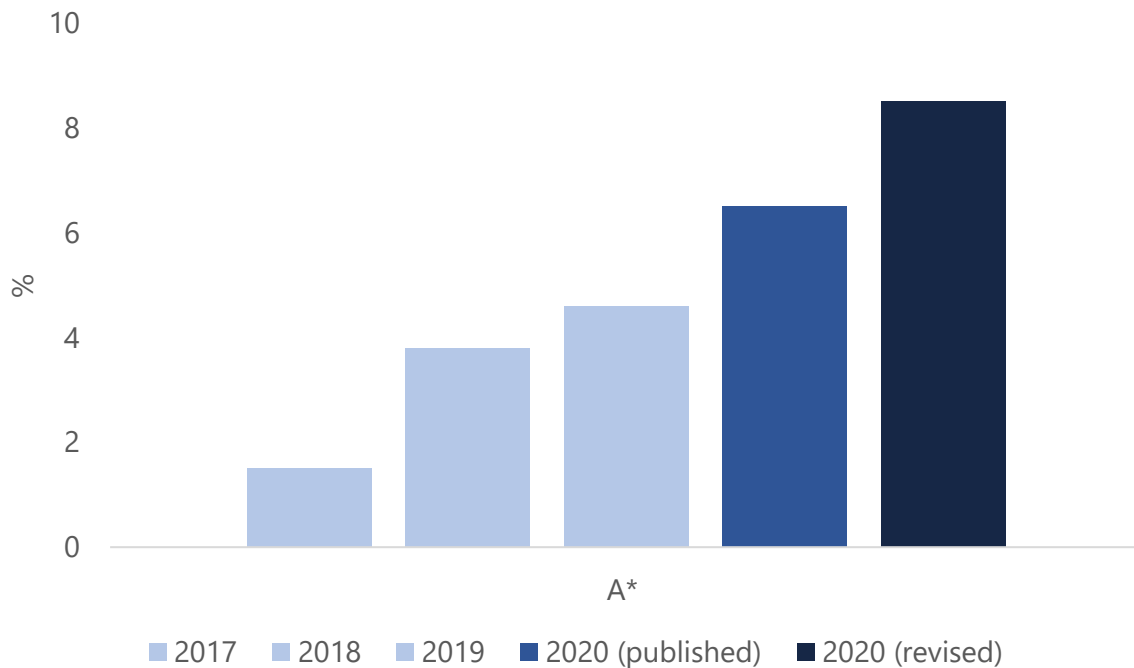
Table 8.1 Advanced Skills Challenge Certificate Revised Provisional Results 2017 - 2020 (cumulative percentage) ⁽¹⁾

	A*	A*-A	A*-E	Number of grades
2020 (revised)⁽²⁾	8.5	28.7	99.3	11,845
2020 (published)⁽²⁾	6.5	22.7	98.0	11,795
2019	4.6	21.7	97.8	11,880
2018	3.9	21.5	97.7	12,015
2017	1.5	14.6	94.0	11,120

Source: WJEC

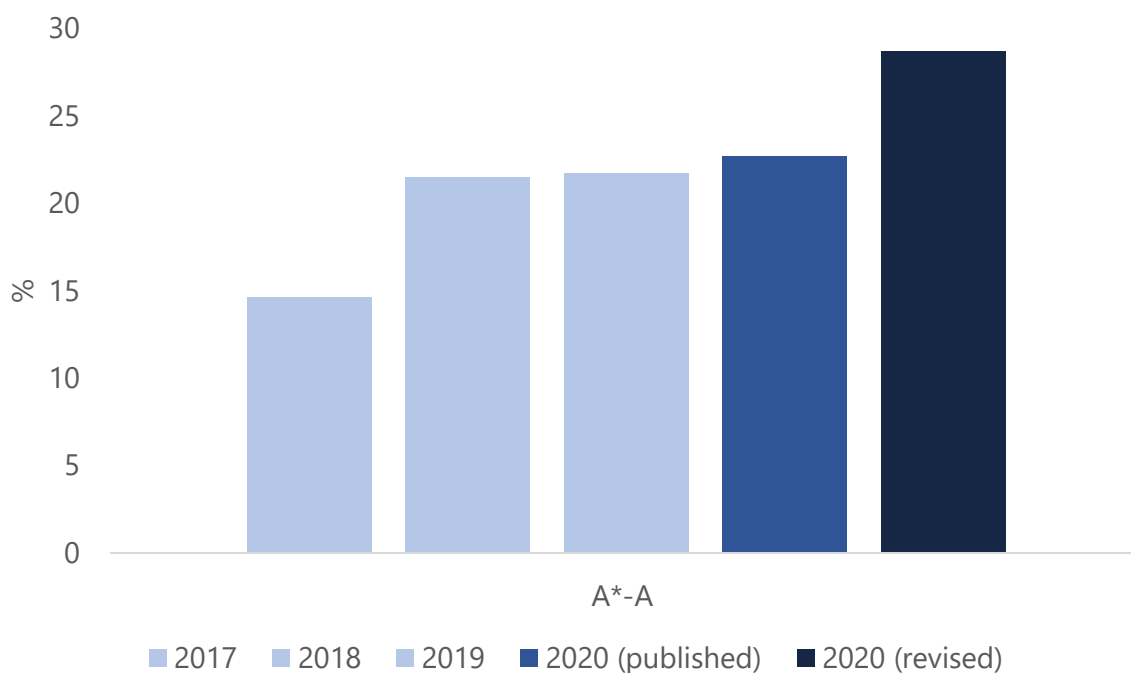
- (1) The provisional figures for 2017 – 2019 are used to provide a valid comparison to the 2020 figures which are provisional
- (2) Published are the calculated results released on 13 August. Revised are results published by WJEC on 20 August 2020.

Figure 8.1 Advanced Skills Challenge Certificate summer A* results 2017-2020



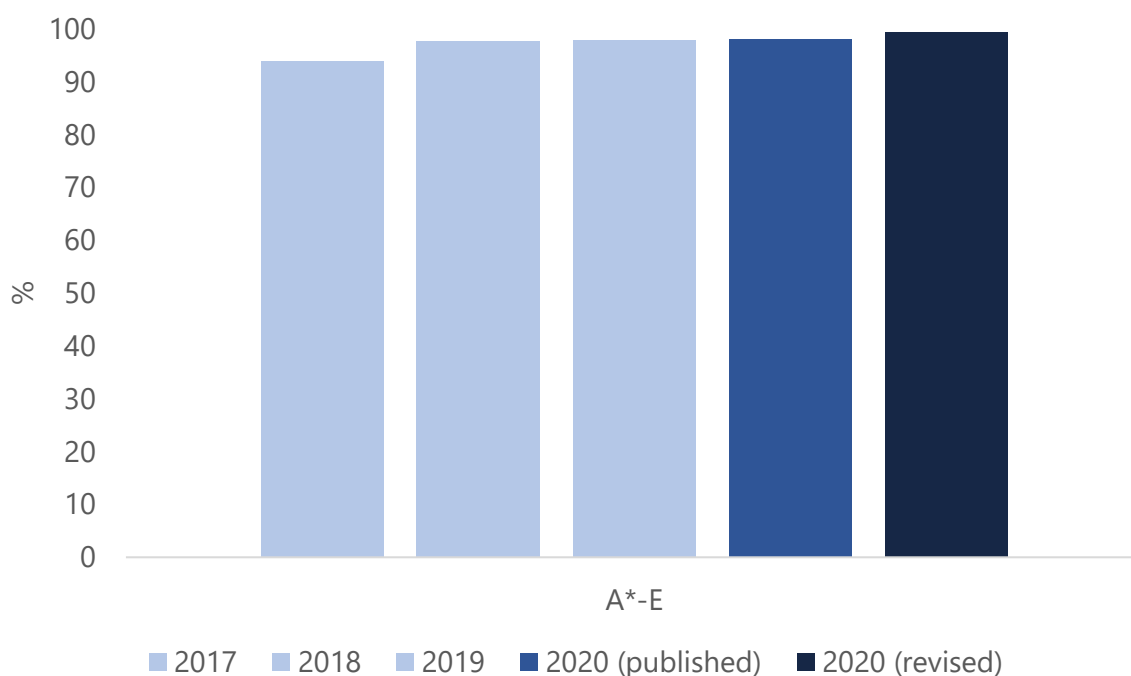
Source: WJEC

Figure 8.2 Advanced Skills Challenge Certificate summer A*-A results 2017-2020



Source: WJEC

Figure 8.3 Advanced Skills Challenge Certificate summer A*-E results 2017-2020

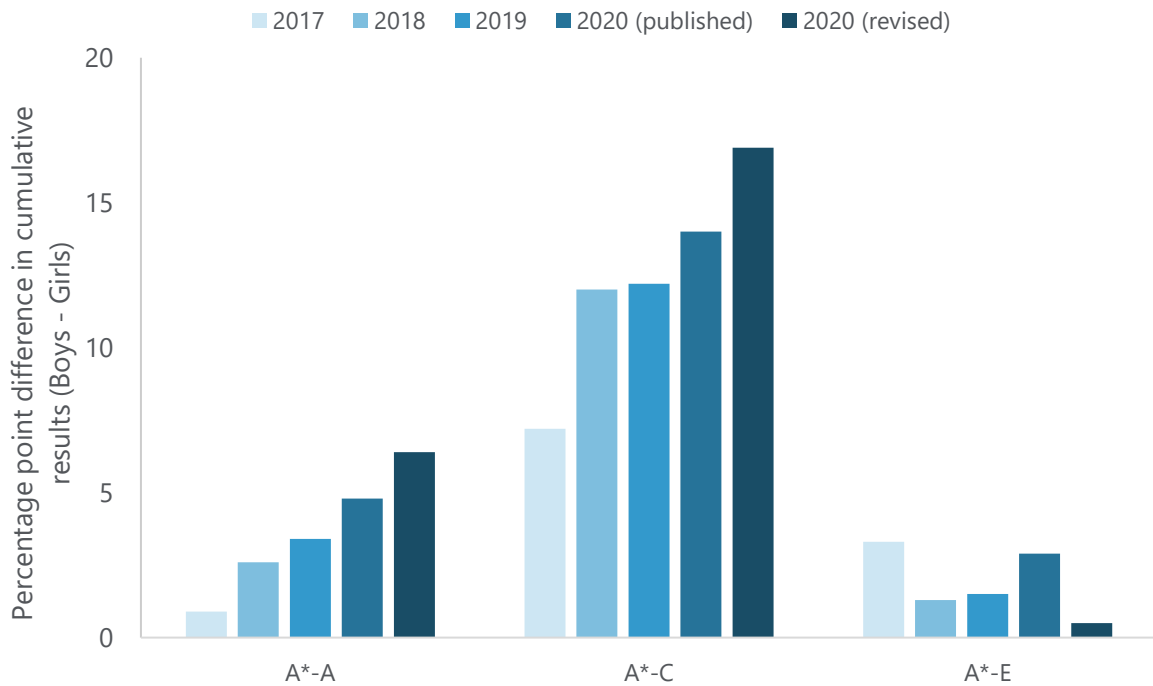


Source: WJEC

Advanced Skills Challenge Certificate by gender

The gender gaps have widened at A* and A*-A, the gender attainment gap at A*-E is narrower than it was previously.

Figure 8.4 Advanced Skills Challenge Certificate cumulative gender attainment gaps⁽¹⁾



Source: WJEC

(1) The 2020 figures are provisional figures. All other figures are final results as these are the only results by gender available.

Table 8.2 Advanced Skills Challenge Certificate Results gender attainment gaps 2017 – 2019 (cumulative percentage)⁽¹⁾

Year	Gender	A*	A*-A	A*-E
2017	Girls	2.0	18.8	95.5
2017	Boys	1.1	11.6	92.2
2017	Gap (Girls - Boys)	0.9	7.2	3.3
2018	Girls	5.0	26.8	98.3
2018	Boys	2.4	14.8	97.0
2018	Gap (Girls - Boys)	2.6	12.0	1.3
2019	Girls	6.1	27.0	98.5
2019	Boys	2.7	14.8	97.0
2019	Gap (Girls - Boys)	3.4	12.2	1.5
2020 (published) ⁽²⁾	Girls	8.6	28.9	93.9
2020 (published) ⁽²⁾	Boys	3.8	14.9	96.8
2020 (published) ⁽²⁾	Gap (Girls - Boys)	4.8	14.0	2.9
2020 (revised) ⁽²⁾	Girls	11.3	36.1	99.5
2020 (revised) ⁽²⁾	Boys	4.9	19.2	99.0
2020 (revised) ⁽²⁾	Gap (Girls - Boys)	6.4	16.9	0.5

Source: WJEC

- (1) The 2020 figures are provisional figures. All other figures are final results as these are the only results by gender available.
- (2) Published are the calculated results released on 13 August. Revised are results published by WJEC on 20 August 2020.

9. Key Stage 4 Skills Challenge Certificate

The Key Stage 4 Skills Challenge Certificate is a level 1 / 2 qualification taken alongside GCSEs in schools.

National results

Tables 9.1 and 9.2 show that the revised calculated Key Stage 4 Skills Challenge Certificate grades are higher than results between 2017 and 2019.

Table 9.1 Key Stage 4 Skills Challenge Certificate Revised Provisional Results 2020 (cumulative percentage)

	A*	A*-A	A*-C	A*-Pass	Numbers Sat
2020	5.7	19.9	89.1	99.5	28,200

Source: WJEC

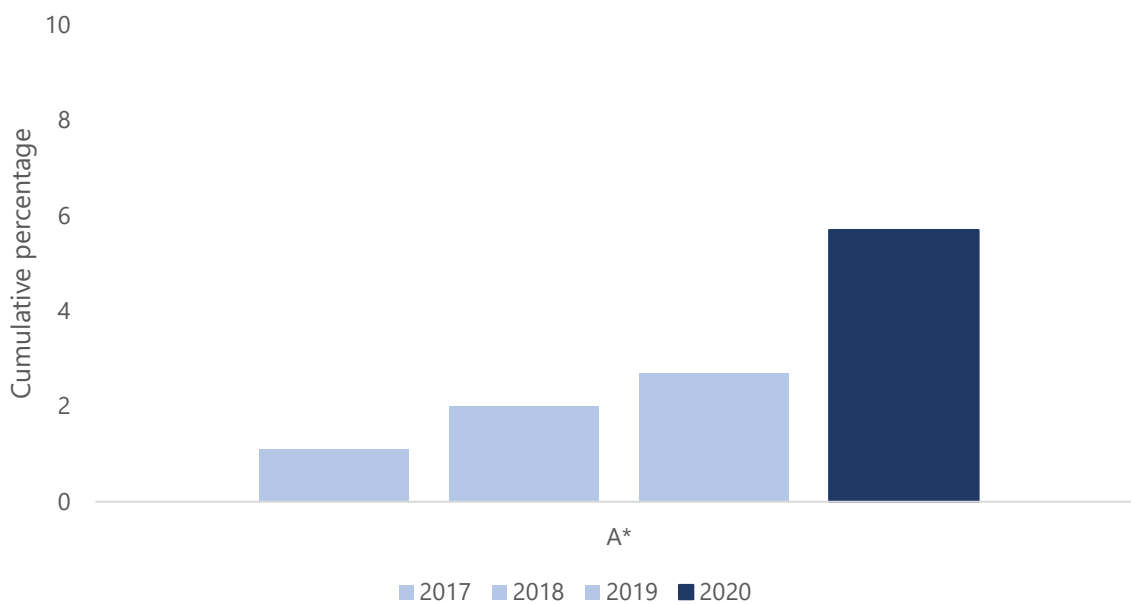
Table 9.2 Key Stage 4 Skills Challenge Certificate Provisional Results 2017 – 2019 (cumulative percentage)⁽¹⁾

	A*	A*-A	A*-C	A*-Pass	Numbers Sat
2019	2.7	14.0	83.9	98.5	27,345
2018	2.0	10.7	82.8	98.0	26,935
2017	1.1	7.0	67.5	92.7	21,755

Source: WJEC

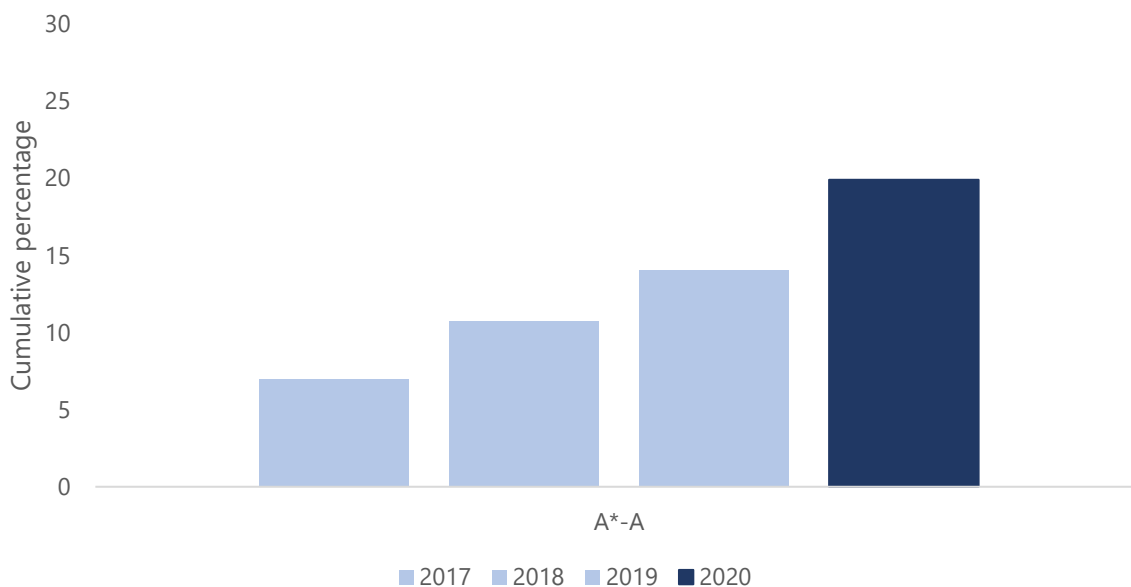
- (1) The provisional figures are used to provide a valid comparison to the 2020 figures which are provisional

Figure 9.1 Key Stage 4 Skills Challenge Certificate summer A* results 2017-2020



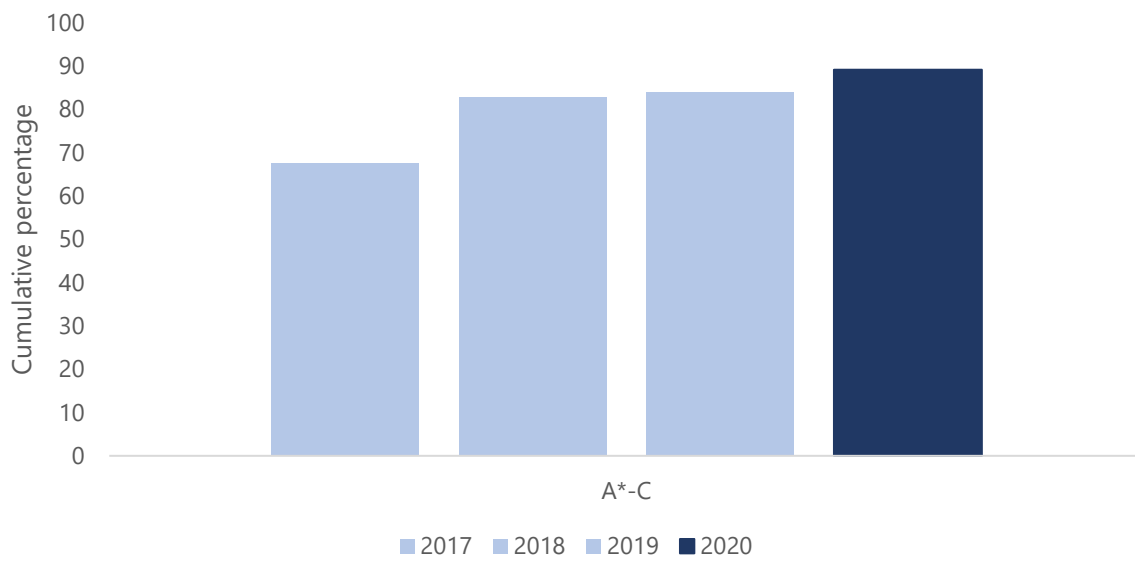
Source: WJEC

Figure 9.2 Key Stage 4 Skills Challenge Certificate summer A*-A results 2017-2020



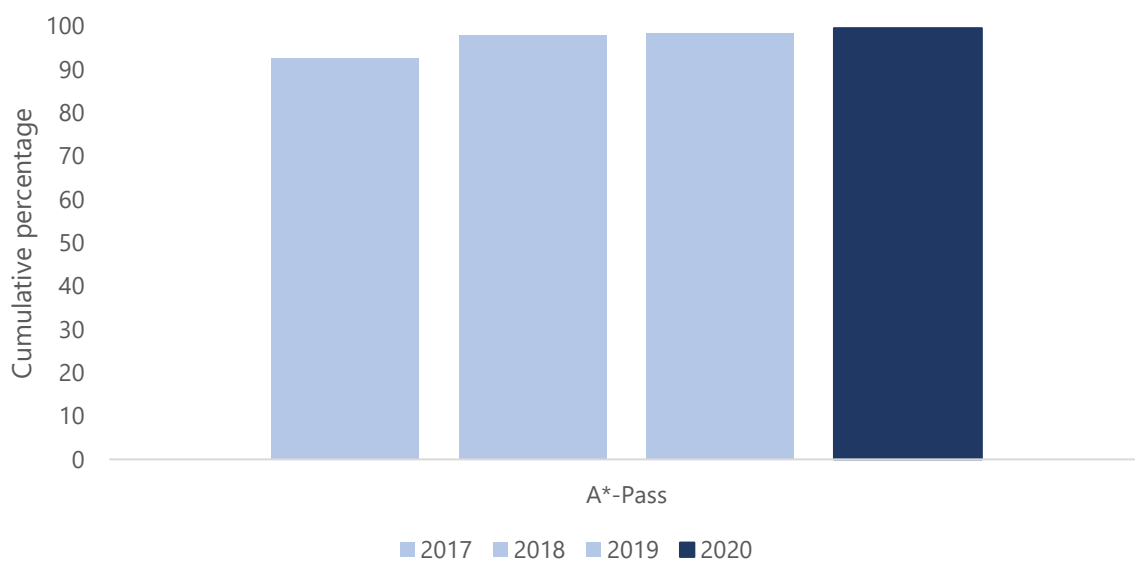
Source: WJEC

Figure 9.3 Key Stage 4 Skills Challenge Certificate summer A*-C results 2017-2020



Source: WJEC

Figure 9.4 Key Stage 4 Skills Challenge Certificate summer A*-Pass results 2017-2020

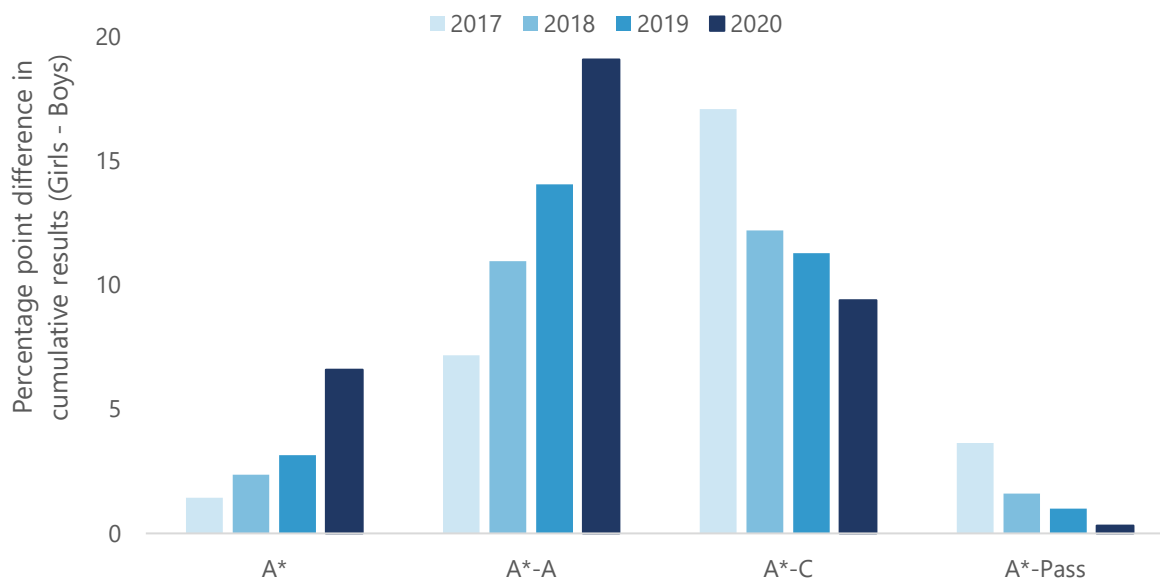


Source: WJEC

Key Stage 4 Skills Challenge Certificate by gender

The gender gaps have widened at A* and A*-A, the gender attainment gap is similar at A*-C, and A*-Pass is narrower than it was in previous years.

Figure 9.5 Key Stage 4 Skills Challenge Certificate cumulative gender attainment gaps⁽¹⁾



Source: WJEC

(1) The 2020 figures are provisional figures. All other figures are final results as these are the only results by gender available.

Table 9.3 Key Stage 4 Skills Challenge Certificate Results gender attainment gaps 2017 – 2019 (cumulative percentage)⁽¹⁾

Year	Gender	A*	A*-A	A*-C	A*-Pass
2017	Girls	1.8	10.6	76.2	94.7
2017	Boys	0.4	3.4	59.1	91.1
2017	Gap (Boys - Girls)	1.4	7.2	17.1	3.6
2018	Girls	3.2	16.2	88.9	98.8
2018	Boys	0.8	5.2	76.7	97.2
2018	Gap (Boys - Girls)	2.4	11.0	12.2	1.6
2019	Girls	4.3	21.0	89.5	99.0
2019	Boys	1.1	6.9	78.2	98.0
2019	Gap (Boys - Girls)	3.1	14.1	11.3	1.0
2020	Girls	9.0	29.6	93.8	99.7
2020	Boys	2.4	10.5	84.4	99.4
2020	Gap (Boys - Girls)	6.6	19.1	9.4	0.3

Source: WJEC

- (1) The 2020 figures are provisional figures. All other figures are final results as these are the only results by gender available.

10. Ethnicity analysis

It was not possible to analyse the attainment gaps by ethnicity as in most broad ethnicity groups the number of learners is insufficient to support a robust initial analysis (see Table 9). Analysis by ethnicity will require a more careful approach to account better for small sample sizes and confounding factors. We will build this into the more detailed analysis of this summer's results that we will publish.

Broad Ethnicity⁽¹⁾ of all learners in 2020 GCE data

Broad Ethnicity	Percentage
Asian/Asian British	2.6
Black/African/Caribbean/Black British	0.7
Mixed/Multiple ethnic groups	2.1
Other Ethnic group	1.0
Unknown or not stated	0.5
White	93.1
Total	100.0

Source: Welsh Government

- (1) Categorized as per Government Statistical Service advice (<https://gss.civilservice.gov.uk/policy-store/ethnicity/#wales->).