

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

Overview



Revised September 2020

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2. Introduction

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

On 23 August we published an overview of revised provisional¹ results for A level, AS, GCSE and the Skills Challenge Certificate in Wales. These statistics were estimates based on the latest data available to us. This document has now been updated again with expanded analysis based on the latest data.

JCQ are due to publish final provisional results w/c 10 September.

Although final results this summer will be based on the centre assessment grades, it was also announced that:

- Standardised A level and AS grades already awarded to learners that were higher than centre assessment grades would stand. We have accounted for those grades in the revised results figures in this analysis and in the analysis published on 20 August.
- For A levels, any AS grade already awarded to learners would be given as the A level grade, if this was higher than either the centre assessment grade or the standardised grade for A level. In the analysis published on 20 August we were not able to account for these grades. This analysis does account for them.
- GCSE standardised grades will be awarded to learners where they exceed the centre assessment grade. This was accounted for in our analysis of 20 August and in this analysis. In this analysis, we have now included comparisons of revised results to the standardised grades that would originally have been published for GCSE on 20 August.

For all qualifications we have included comparisons based on what the results would have been if the centre assessment grades alone had been used to award grades to learners in summer 2020.

3. Data

Figures for grades in 2020 are estimated based on latest data submitted to Qualifications Wales by awarding bodies. The revised final results in this publication 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

¹ Results published in August are always provisional in that they are prior to reviews and appeals.

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. The attainment gap statistics in this report are reported on the basis of differences in grades between groups of learners.

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 (FSM), special educational needs (SEN) provision and ethnic background 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 analyses by eligibility for free school meals, SEN provision and ethnic background have 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 data to classify them. Due to limitations in the data available to us at this time for A level and AS, the attainment gaps by FSM and SEN status may be more subject to further revision. Attainment gaps by ethnic background have not been presented for A level and AS due to issues linked to small sample sizes. Analysis of this data will follow in a more detailed statistical publication focused on 2020 results and equalities impact.

4. Definitions

Results labelled as '2020 (revised)' are best estimates of final national results. These figures may be calculated using a slightly different subset of results compared to final JCQ published figures for 2020.

Results labelled as '2020 (standardised)' are the results that were calculated by the standardisation model. For A level, AS and the Advanced Skills Challenge Certificate, these are the calculated results released on 13 August. For GCSE and the Key Stage 4 Skills Challenge Certificate, these are the results that were due to be published on 23 August before the decision to base results on centre assessment grades.

Results labelled as '2020 (CAG)' are the results that would have been awarded if only centre assessment grades had been used.

For attainment gaps by SEN provision, learners with an SEN provision status of 'statemented', 'school action' or 'school action plus' are all included in the 'On SEN register' category.

Results by ethnic background are categorised into broad ethnic groups in line with Government Statistical Service advice². The “unknown or not stated” category refers only to learners for whom ethnicity data was available and where the available data lists the learner’s ethnic background as “Unknown or not stated”. Learners for whom we do not hold any data relating to ethnic background have not been included in the analysis.

² <https://gss.civilservice.gov.uk/policy-store/ethnicity/#questions-wales->

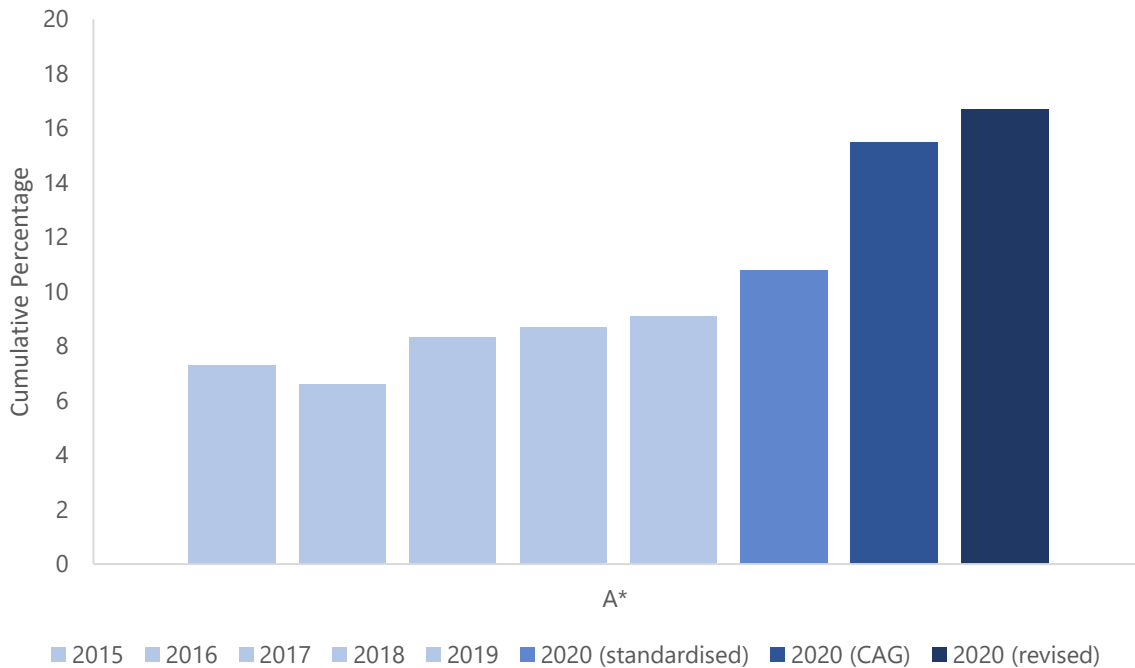
5. A level

National results

Table 5.1 shows that revised results are higher than the standardised A level grades, and also substantially higher than results between 2015 and 2019. The majority of this increase is due to the centre assessment grades.

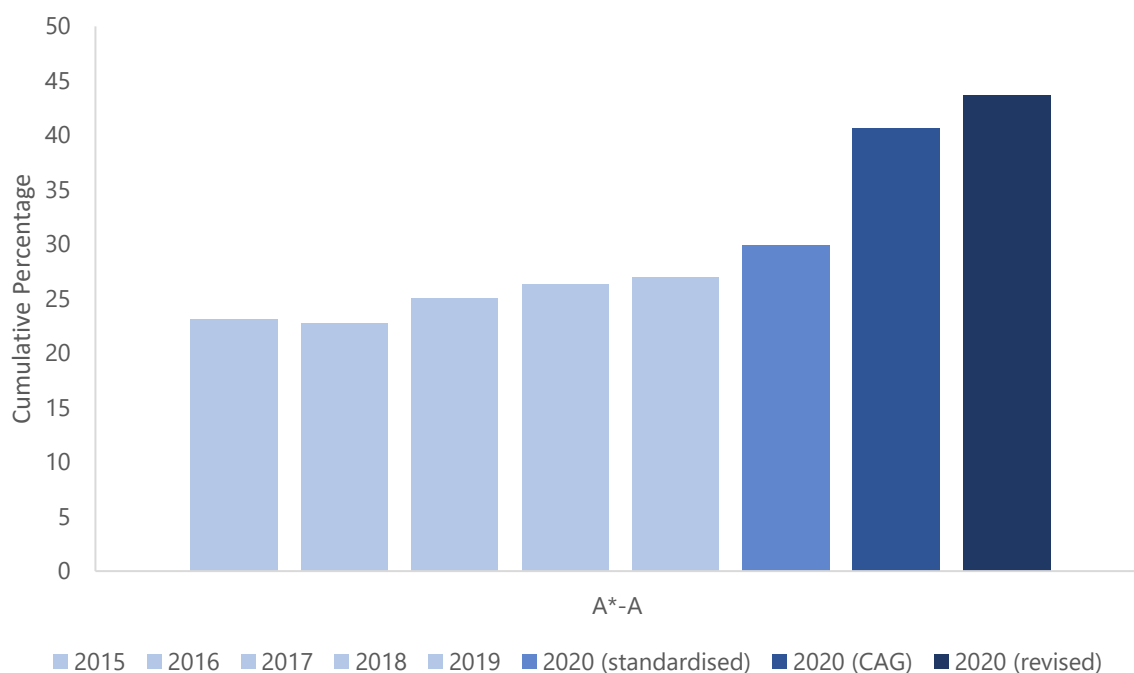
Figure 5.2 shows that well over 40% of learners will be awarded A* or A in 2020 in the revised results, whereas in 2019 the figure was 27% (which was the highest for the period 2015-2019 inclusive). The figure in the standardised grades was 29.9%.

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



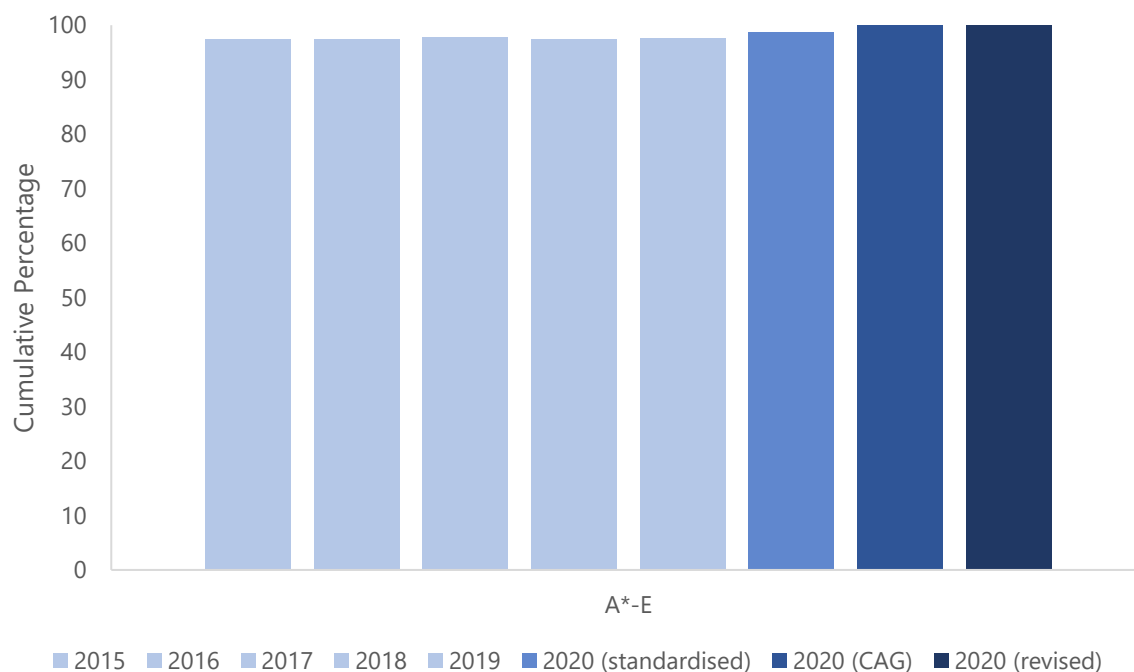
Source: 2015 to 2019 and 2020 (standardised): JCQ; 2020 (CAG) and 2020 (revised): awarding bodies

Figure 5.2: National A level summer cumulative A results 2015-2020



Source: 2015 to 2019 and 2020 (standardised): JCQ; 2020 (CAG) and 2020 (revised): awarding bodies

Figure 5.3: National A level summer cumulative E results 2015-2020



Source: 2015 to 2019 and 2020 (standardised): JCQ; 2020 (CAG) and 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⁾	16.7	43.7	99.9	30,510 ⁽¹⁾
2020 (CAG)⁽²⁾	15.5	40.6	99.9	30,350 ⁽³⁾
2020 (standardised)⁽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 (standardised): JCQ; 2020 (CAG) and 2020 (revised): awarding bodies

- (1) This figure may differ to previously published figures due to differing timing of data extracts.
- (2) Standardised results were those released on 13 August. CAG are the centre assessed grades. Revised are the higher of the centre assessment grade, standardised grade or AS grade based on data received from awarding bodies. Final published results may differ from revised estimates.
- (3) The number of centre assessment grades is lower than the final number of grades due to instances where the CAG had not been finalised at point the data was submitted, or where a CAG was not submitted but a grade could still be awarded based on prior unit attainment.

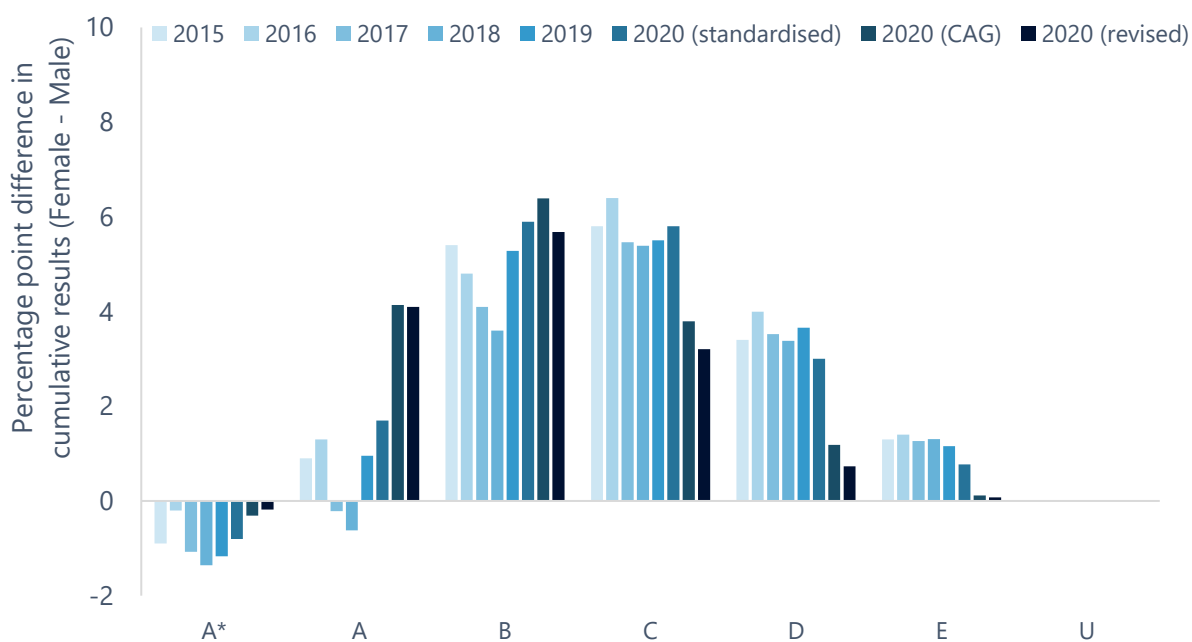
Attainment gap by gender

Figure 5.4 shows that attainment gaps by gender at cumulative A*-A are wider in revised results compared to the standardised A level grades. They are also wider than the attainment gaps in results between 2015 and 2019.

Attainment gaps by gender at cumulative 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 attainment gap in cumulative results by gender



Source: 2015 to 2019 and 2020 (standardised): JCQ; 2020 (CAG) and 2020 (revised): 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 (standardised)	Girls	17,100	10.5	30.7	58.7	82.3	94.8	99.0	100.0
2020 (standardised)	Boys	13,345	11.3	28.9	52.8	76.5	91.8	98.2	100.0
2020 (standardised)	Gap (Girls - Boys)		-0.8	1.7	5.9	5.8	3.0	0.8	0.0
2020 (CAG)	Girls	17,055	15.4	42.4	71.3	91.8	98.5	99.9	100.0
2020 (CAG)	Boys	13,295	15.7	38.3	64.9	88.0	97.3	99.8	100.0
2020 (CAG)	Gap (Girls - Boys)		-0.3	4.1	6.4	3.8	1.2	0.1	0.0
2020 (revised) ⁽¹⁾	Girls	17,130	16.6	45.5	74.5	93.9	99.2	100.0	100.0
2020 (revised) ⁽¹⁾	Boys	13,375	16.8	41.4	68.8	90.7	98.5	99.9	100.0
2020 (revised) ⁽¹⁾	Gap (Girls - Boys)		-0.2	4.1	5.7	3.2	0.7	0.1	0.0

Source: 2015 to 2020 (standardised): JCQ; 2020 (CAG) and 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.

(1) Revised are the higher of the centre assessment grade, standardised grade or AS grade based on data received from awarding bodies. Final published results may differ from revised estimates.

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

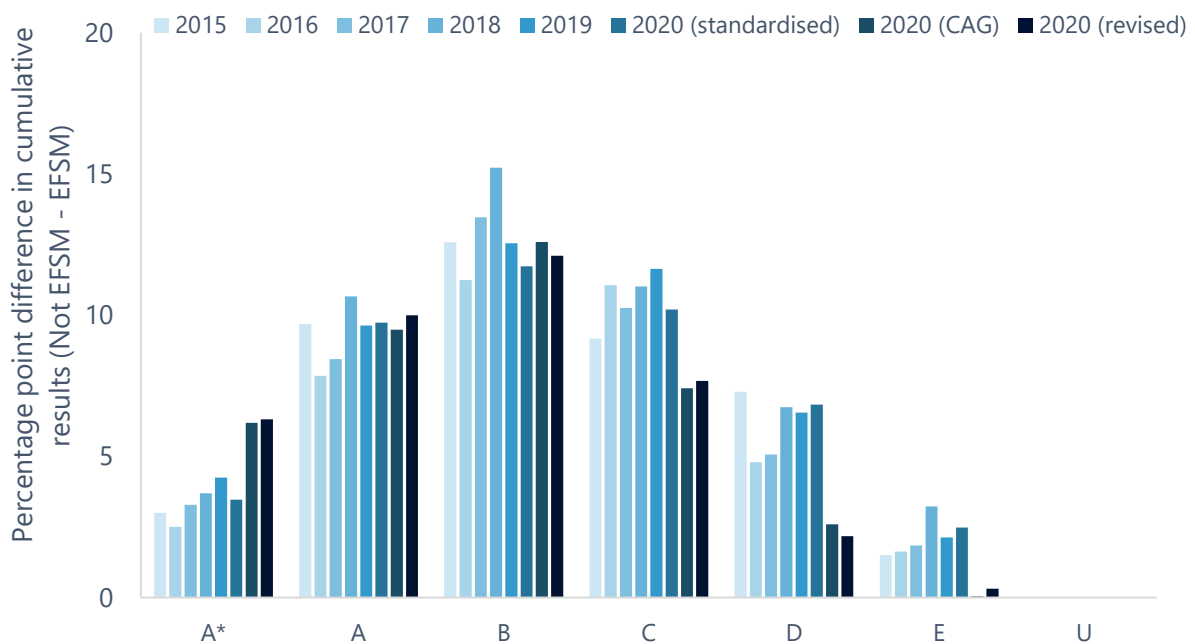
For 18-year-olds, the main A level entry cohort, attainment gaps by eligibility for free school meals at A* are higher for revised results compared to the standardised A level grades. The gap at A* is also wider than in results between 2015 and 2019.

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 in cumulative results by eligibility for free school meals, 18-year-olds⁽¹⁾



Source: 2015 to 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 eligibility for free school meals 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 (standardised)	Eligible	865	5.3	16.6	41.4	67.7	85.9	95.9	100.0
2020 (standardised)	Non-eligible	17,810	8.6	26.1	53.1	77.9	92.7	98.4	100.0
2020 (standardised)	Gap (NotEFSM - EFSM)		3.3	9.6	11.6	10.1	6.8	2.5	0.0
2020 (CAG)	Eligible	865	7.5	29.6	55.6	83.2	95.6	99.9	100.0
2020 (CAG)	Non-eligible	17,780	13.7	39.1	68.1	90.6	98.2	99.9	100.0
2020 (CAG)	Gap (NotEFSM - EFSM)		6.2	9.5	12.6	7.4	2.6	0.0	0.0
2020 (revised) ⁽¹⁾	Eligible	870	8.6	31.8	59.0	84.9	96.8	99.7	100.0
2020 (revised) ⁽¹⁾	Non-eligible	17,835	14.9	41.8	71.1	92.6	98.9	100.0	100.0
2020 (revised) ⁽¹⁾	Gap (NotEFSM - EFSM)		6.3	10.0	12.1	7.7	2.2	0.3	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.

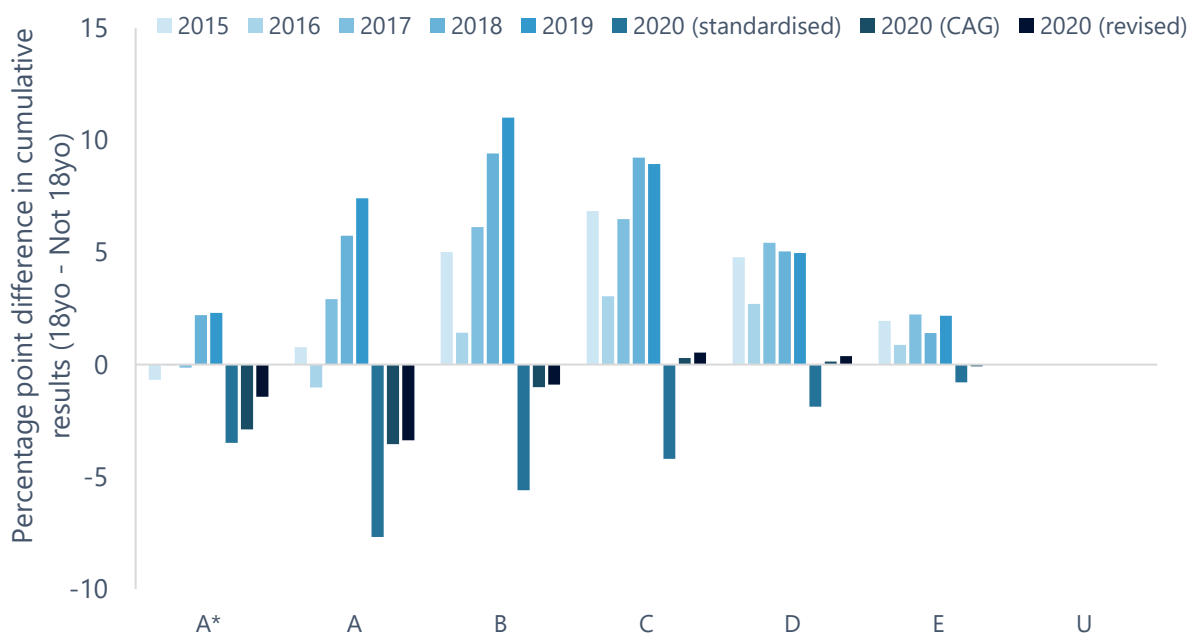
(1) Revised are the higher of the centre assessment grade, standardised grade or AS grade based on data received from awarding bodies. Final published results may differ from revised estimates.

Attainment gap by age

Figure 5.6 presents cumulative attainment gaps by age over time.

In recent years, 18-year-olds generally received higher A level outcomes than other learners. Revised 2020 outcomes show the attainment gap reversed at grades A* to C, so that non-18-year-olds receive better outcomes than 18-year-olds in 2020. This pattern was even more evident in the centre assessment grades and the standardised results published on the 13 August.

Figure 5.6: A level attainment gap in cumulative results by age⁽¹⁾



Source: 2015 to 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 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 (standardised)	18yo	20,425	9.8	28.0	54.5	78.5	92.8	98.4	100.0
2020 (standardised)	Non18yo	1,730	13.3	35.6	60.1	82.7	94.7	99.2	100.0
2020 (standardised)	Gap (18yo - Non18yo)		-3.5	-7.7	-5.6	-4.2	-1.9	-0.8	0.0
2020 (CAG)	18yo	20,390	14.8	40.6	69.1	90.8	98.2	99.9	100.0
2020 (CAG)	Non18yo	1,675	17.7	44.1	70.1	90.5	98.0	100.0	100.0
2020 (CAG)	Gap (18yo - Non18yo)		-2.9	-3.5	-1.0	0.3	0.1	-0.1	0.0
2020 (revised) ⁽¹⁾	18yo	20,455	16.0	43.1	71.8	92.6	98.9	100.0	100.0
2020 (revised) ⁽¹⁾	Non18yo	1,740	17.5	46.5	72.7	92.1	98.5	99.9	100.0
2020 (revised) ⁽¹⁾	Gap (18yo - Non18yo)		-1.4	-3.4	-0.9	0.5	0.4	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

(1) Revised are the higher of the centre assessment grade, standardised grade or AS grade based on data received from awarding bodies. Final published results may differ from revised estimates.

Attainment gap by special educational needs (SEN) provision (18-year-olds)

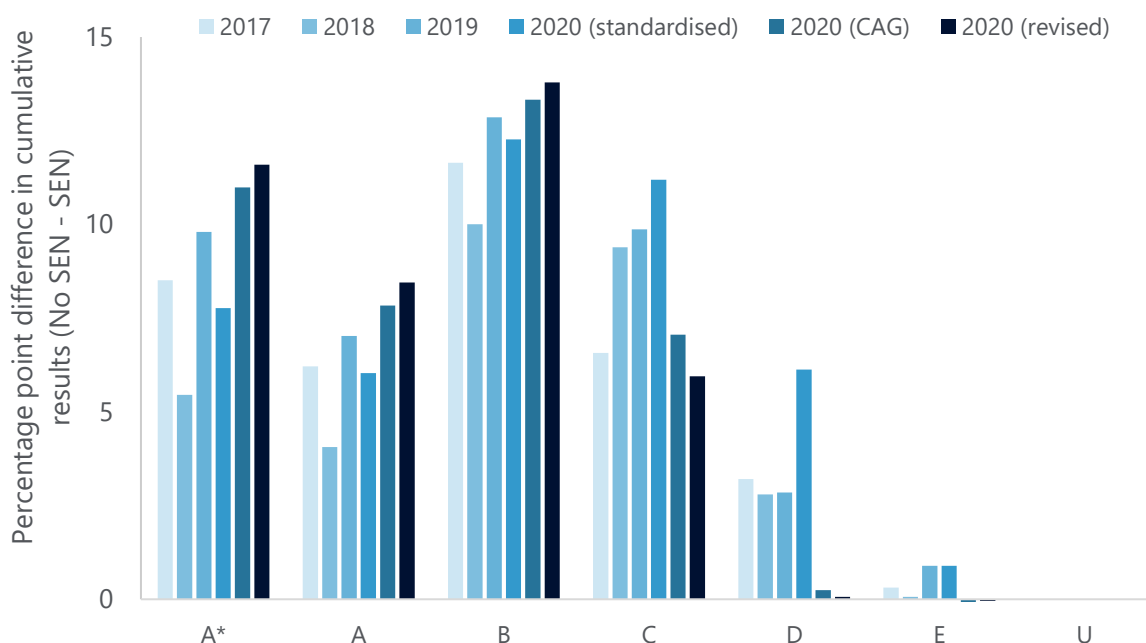
For 18-year-olds, who are the main A level entry cohort, attainment gaps by SEN provision at A* and A*-A are wider in revised results compared to results in recent years and the standardised results

The gaps are narrower at cumulative grades A*-C and A*-E.

Due to the overall increase in national results, learners with SEN provision and those without have higher revised results in 2020 than in 2019. However, increases in A* grades are larger in the revised results for those who have no SEN provision.

It is important to note that the SEN provision data is not available for all learners and where it is available it may not be data from the current year. SEN provision data is only available from 2017 onwards.

Figure 5.7: A level attainment gap in cumulative results by SEN provision, 18-year-olds⁽¹⁾



Source: 2017 to 2019: WEDPLASC; 2020: awarding bodies

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

Table 5.5: A level cumulative percentage results by SEN provision and percentage point attainment gaps, 18-year-olds

Year	SEN provision	Grade s	A*	A	B	C	D	E	U
2017	On SEN register	1,090	14.7	10.2	37.3	67.8	87.3	97.3	100.0
2017	No SEN	19,495	23.2	16.4	49.0	74.4	90.5	97.6	100.0
2017	Gap (NoSEN-SEN)		8.5	6.2	11.6	6.6	3.2	0.3	0.0
2018	On SEN register	1,100	19.5	13.2	40.9	66.2	87.8	97.4	100.0
2018	No SEN	18,600	24.9	17.3	50.9	75.5	90.6	97.4	100.0
2018	Gap (NoSEN-SEN)		5.5	4.1	10.0	9.4	2.8	0.1	0.0
2019	On SEN register	1,155	16.1	10.4	39.0	65.9	88.1	96.7	100.0
2019	No SEN	18,075	25.9	17.4	51.8	75.8	90.9	97.6	100.0
2019	Gap (NoSEN-SEN)		9.8	7.0	12.9	9.9	2.8	0.9	0.0
2020 (standardised)	On SEN register	1,070	18.4	11.5	41.0	66.9	86.6	97.5	100.0
2020 (standardised)	No SEN	17,580	26.2	17.6	53.3	78.0	92.7	98.4	100.0
2020 (standardised)	Gap (NoSEN-SEN)		7.8	6.0	12.3	11.2	6.1	0.9	0.0
2020 (CAG)	On SEN register	1,070	28.3	17.9	55.0	83.6	97.8	100.0	100.0
2020 (CAG)	No SEN	17,555	39.3	25.7	68.3	90.7	98.1	99.9	100.0
2020 (CAG)	Gap (NoSEN-SEN)		11.0	7.8	13.3	7.1	0.2	-0.1	0.0
2020 (revised) ⁽¹⁾	On SEN register	1,070	30.3	18.7	57.5	86.6	98.8	100.0	100.0
2020 (revised) ⁽¹⁾	No SEN	17,610	41.9	27.2	71.3	92.6	98.8	100.0	100.0
2020 (revised) ⁽¹⁾	Gap (NoSEN-SEN)		11.6	8.5	13.8	5.9	0.1	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.

(1) Revised are the higher of the centre assessment grade, standardised grade or AS grade based on data received from awarding bodies. Final published results may differ from revised estimates.

6. AS

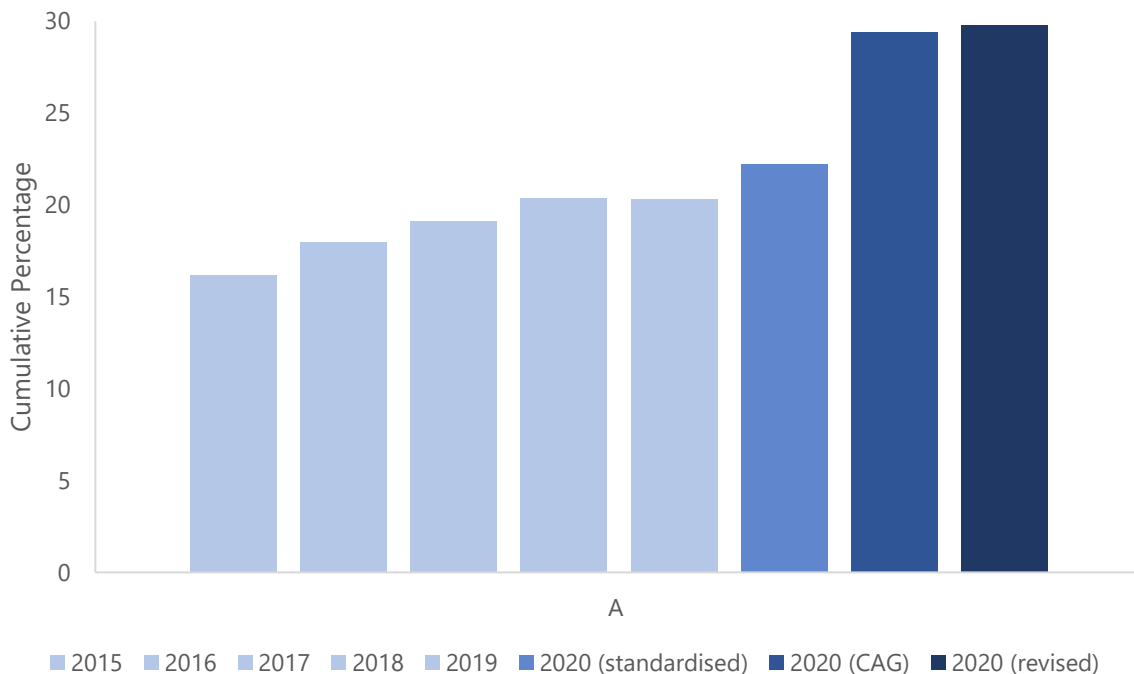
National results

Table 6.1 shows that revised AS results are substantially higher than the standardised grades, and also higher than in results between 2015 and 2019. Most of the increase in revised results is due to the centre assessment grades.

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%.

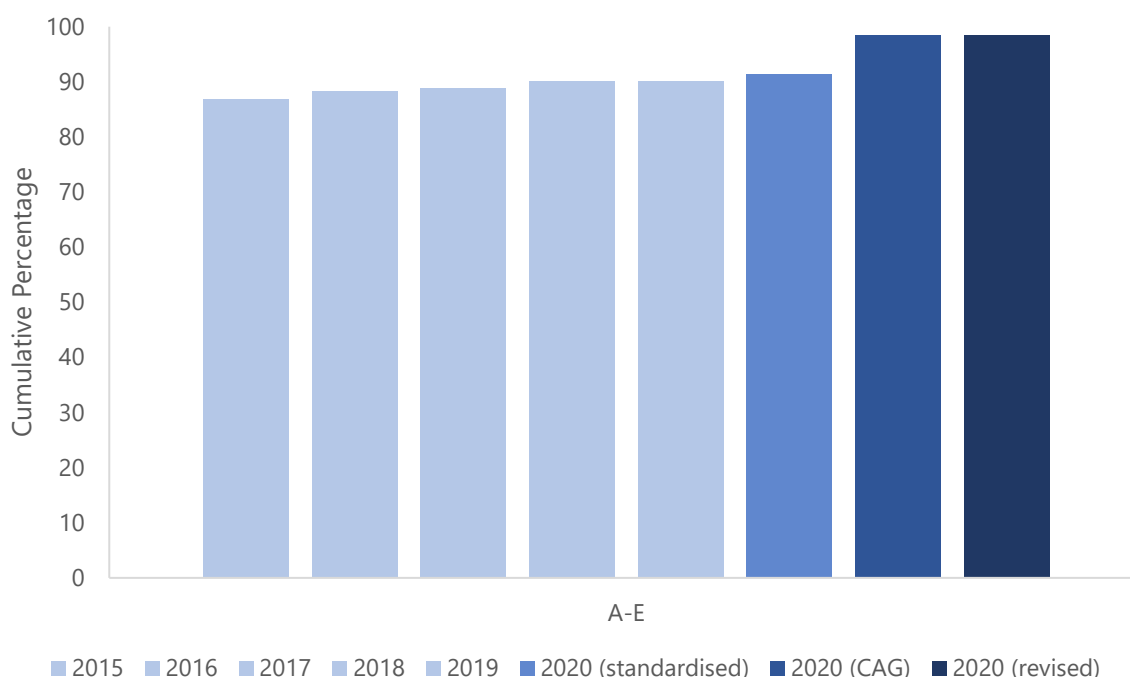
More than 98% of learners will be awarded A-E in the revised results, compared to 91.4% of learners in the original published results. In 2019, the figure was 90%.

Figure 6.1: National AS summer A results 2015-2020



Source: 2015 to 2019 and 2020 (standardised): JCQ; 2020 (CAG) and 2020 (revised): awarding bodies

Figure 6.2: National AS summer cumulative E results 2015-2020



Source: 2015 to 2019 and 2020 (standardised): JCQ; 2020 (CAG) and 2020 (revised): awarding bodies

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

	A	A-E	Number of grades
2020 (revised) ⁽²⁾	29.8	98.5	45,475 ⁽¹⁾
2020 (CAG) ⁽²⁾	29.4	98.4	43,940 ⁽³⁾
2020 (standardised) ⁽²⁾	22.2	91.4	44,435
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 (CAG) and 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. CAG are the centre assessed grades. 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.
- (3) The number of centre assessment grades is lower than the final number of grades due to instances where the CAG had not been finalised at point the data was submitted, or where a CAG was not submitted but a grade could still be awarded based on prior unit attainment.

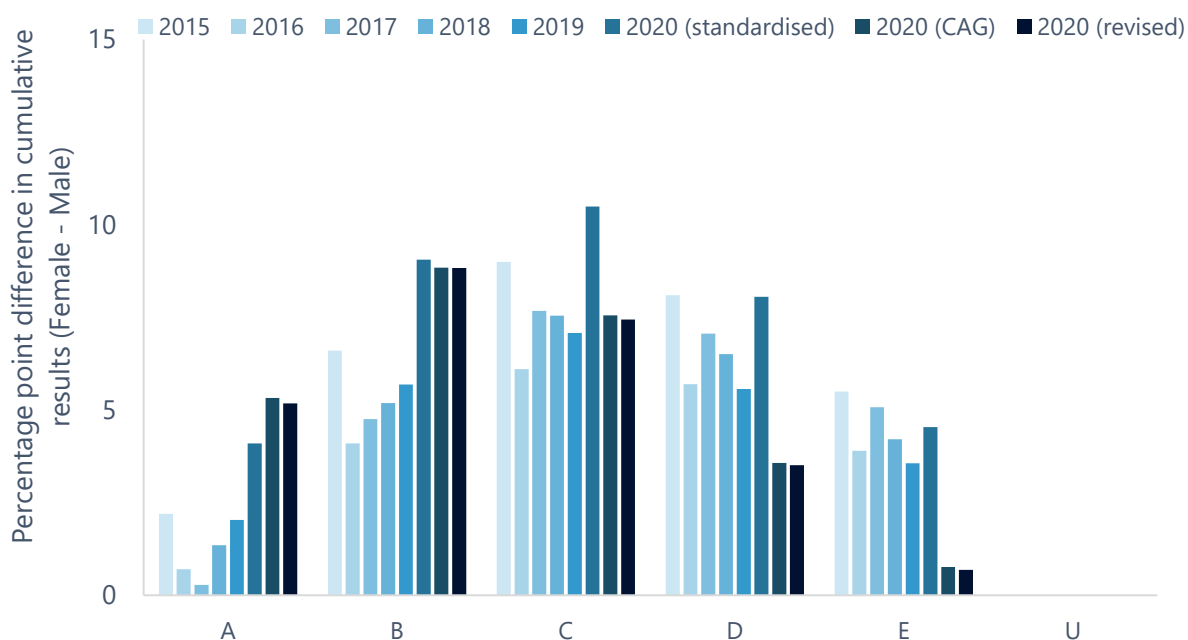
Attainment gap by gender

Attainment gaps by gender at cumulative grade A are wider in the revised AS results compared to standardised AS grades. They are also wider than the gaps evident in results between 2015 and 2019.

The gap is narrower at cumulative 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 6.3: AS attainment gap in cumulative results by gender



Source: 2015 to 2019 and 2020 (standardised): JCQ; 2020 (CAG) and 2020 (revised): awarding bodies

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 (standardised)	Girls	25,675	23.8	47.1	70.2	85.2	93.4	100.0
2020 (standardised)	Boys	19,760	20.0	38.3	59.8	77.2	88.9	100.0
2020 (standardised)	Gap (Girls - Boys)		3.8	8.9	10.4	8.0	4.5	0.0
2020 (CAG)	Girls	24,810	31.8	59.9	84.1	94.5	98.7	100.0
2020 (CAG)	Boys	19,125	26.4	51.0	76.6	90.9	97.9	100.0
2020 (CAG)	Gap (Girls - Boys)		5.3	8.8	7.6	3.6	0.8	0.0
2020 (revised)	Girls	25,695	32.1	59.9	83.8	94.5	98.8	100.0
2020 (revised)	Boys	19,780	26.9	51.0	76.3	91.0	98.1	100.0
2020 (revised)	Gap (Girls - Boys)		5.2	8.8	7.4	3.5	0.7	0.0

Source: 2015 to 2019 and 2020 (standardised): JCQ; 2020 (CAG) and 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.

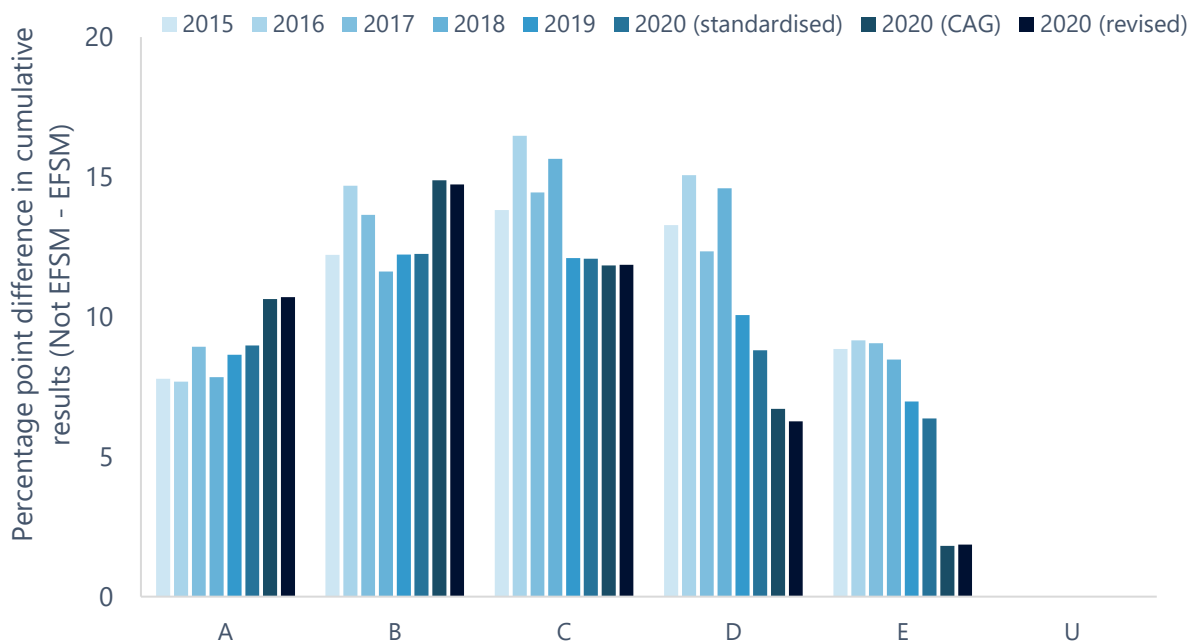
Attainment gap by eligibility for free school meals (17-year-olds)

For 17-year-olds, 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 standardised AS grades and those seen in AS results between 2015 and 2019.

The gap is narrower at cumulative 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 standardised grades for 2020 or results in 2019. However, the increases in A grades are larger in the revised results for those who are not eligible for free school meals.

Figure 6.4 AS attainment gap in cumulative results by eligibility for free school meals, 17-year-olds⁽¹⁾



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

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

Table 6.3: AS cumulative percentage results by eligibility for free school meals and percentage point attainment gaps, 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 (standardised)	Eligible	1,395	13.4	32.3	54.8	73.0	84.8	100.0
2020 (standardised)	Non-eligible	24,990	22.4	44.5	66.9	81.8	91.2	100.0
2020 (standardised)	Gap (NotEFSM - EFSM)		9.0	12.3	12.1	8.8	6.4	0.0
2020 (CAG)	Eligible	1,395	19.3	42.4	70.5	87.1	97.2	100.0
2020 (CAG)	Non-eligible	25,010	29.9	57.3	82.3	93.8	99.0	100.0
2020 (CAG)	Gap (NotEFSM - EFSM)		10.6	14.9	11.8	6.7	1.8	0.0
2020 (revised)	Eligible	1,395	20.1	43.3	70.9	87.9	97.3	100.0
2020 (revised)	Non-eligible	25,015	30.9	58.0	82.8	94.2	99.1	100.0
2020 (revised)	Gap (NotEFSM - EFSM)		10.7	14.7	11.9	6.3	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.

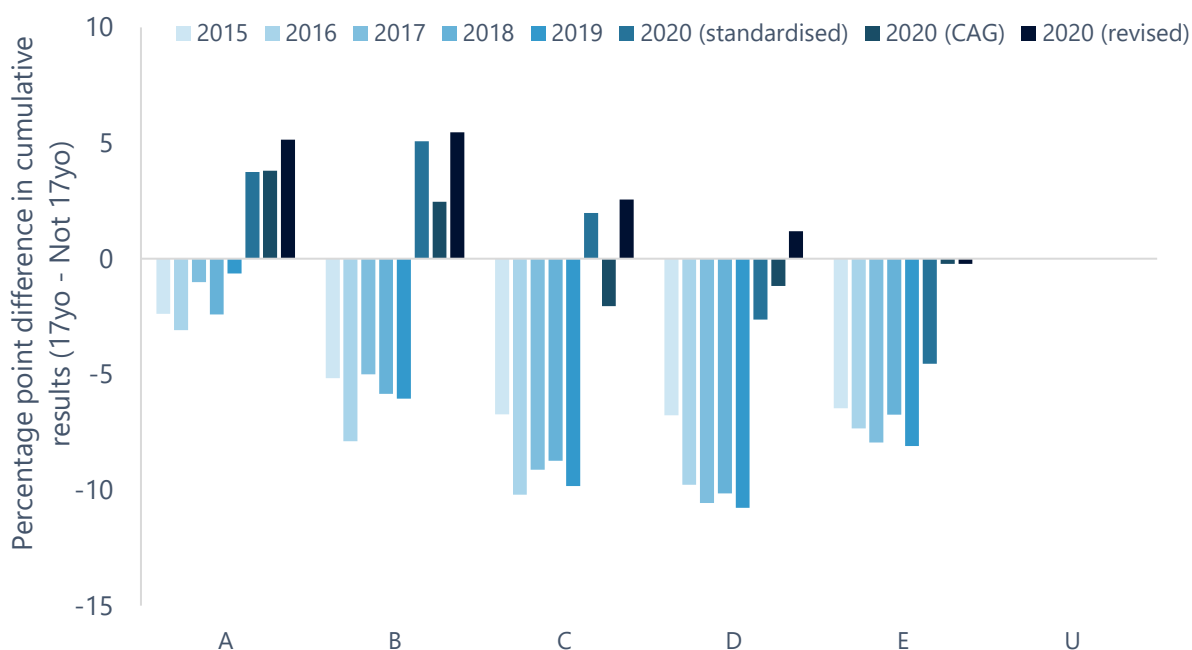
Attainment gap by age

Figure 6.5 presents cumulative attainment gaps by age over time.

Similar to the changing pattern of results by age at A level, at cumulative 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 the reverse was the case, with results for non-17-year-olds 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 6.5: AS attainment gap in cumulative results by age ⁽¹⁾



Source: 2015 to 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 (standardised)	17yo	27,225	22.7	44.6	66.8	81.7	91.0	100.0
2020 (standardised)	Non17yo	5,895	18.9	39.6	64.8	84.3	95.6	100.0
2020 (standardised)	Gap (17yo - Non17yo)		3.8	5.1	2.0	-2.6	-4.5	0.0
2020 (CAG)	17yo	27,250	30.1	57.2	82.0	93.6	99.0	100.0
2020 (CAG)	Non17yo	4,725	26.3	54.7	84.0	94.8	99.2	100.0
2020 (CAG)	Gap (17yo - Non17yo)		3.8	2.5	-2.0	-1.2	-0.2	0.0
2020 (revised)	17yo	27,255	31.0	57.9	82.4	93.9	99.1	100.0
2020 (revised)	Non17yo	5,905	25.9	52.4	79.9	92.8	99.3	100.0
2020 (revised)	Gap (17yo - Non17yo)		5.2	5.5	2.6	1.2	-0.2	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 special educational needs (SEN) provision (17-year-olds)

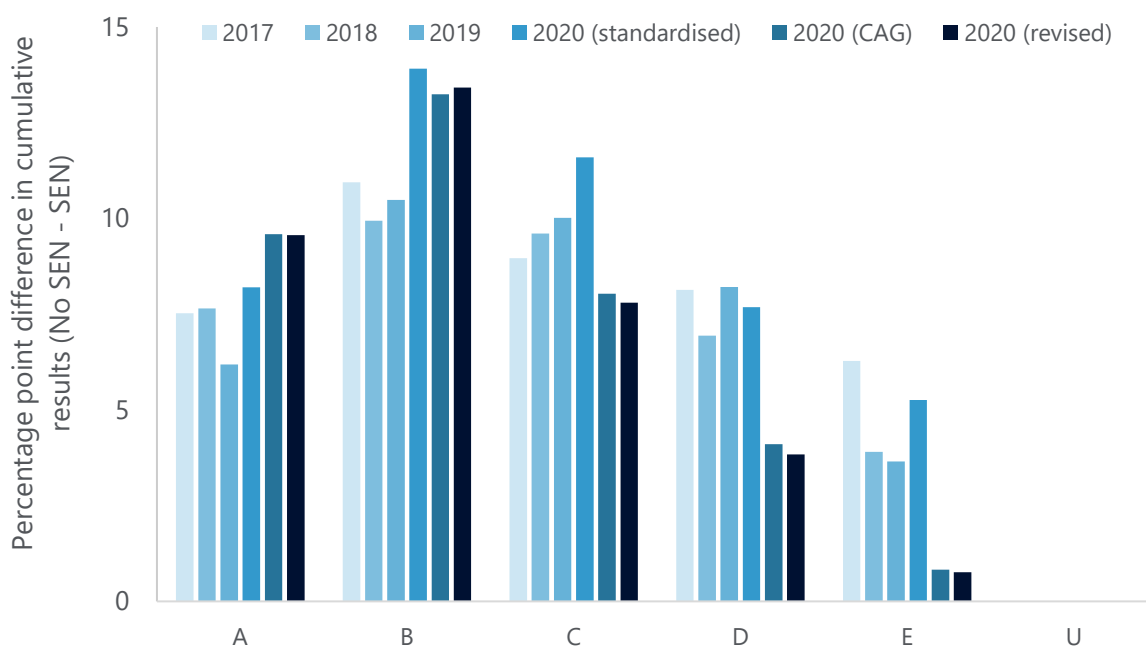
For 17-year-olds, the main entry cohort for AS, attainment gaps by SEN provision at cumulative grade A are wider in the revised results compared to the standardised AS grades and AS results between 2015 and 2019.

The gap is narrower at cumulative A – E.

Due to the overall increase in national results, both those with SEN provision and those without 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 have no SEN provision.

It is important to note that the SEN provision data is not available for all learners and where it is available it may not be data from the current year. SEN provision data is only available from 2017 onwards.

Figure 6.6: AS attainment gap in cumulative results by SEN provision, 17-year-olds⁽¹⁾



Source: 2017 to 2019: WEDPLASC; 2020: awarding bodies

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

Table 6.5: AS cumulative percentage results by SEN provision and percentage point attainment gaps, 17-year-olds⁽¹⁾

Year	SEN provision	Grades	A	B	C	D	E	U
2017	On SEN register	1,410	10.8	26.1	48.9	67.0	81.1	100.0
2017	No SEN	21,910	18.3	37.1	57.9	75.2	87.4	100.0
2017	Gap (NoSEN-SEN)		7.5	10.9	9.0	8.1	6.3	0.0
2018	On SEN register	1,490	11.5	28.4	50.0	69.6	84.6	100.0
2018	No SEN	21,115	19.1	38.3	59.6	76.6	88.5	100.0
2018	Gap (NoSEN-SEN)		7.7	9.9	9.6	6.9	3.9	0.0
2019	On SEN register	1,355	13.1	28.2	49.3	68.0	84.5	100.0
2019	No SEN	19,270	19.3	38.7	59.3	76.2	88.1	100.0
2019	Gap (NoSEN-SEN)		6.2	10.5	10.0	8.2	3.7	0.0
2020 (standardised)	On SEN register	1,790	14.2	30.9	55.4	74.2	85.9	100.0
2020 (standardised)	No SEN	24,540	22.4	44.8	67.0	81.9	91.2	100.0
2020 (standardised)	Gap (NoSEN-SEN)		8.2	13.9	11.6	7.7	5.3	0.0
2020 (CAG)	On SEN register	1,795	20.4	44.2	74.2	89.6	98.2	100.0
2020 (CAG)	No SEN	24,560	30.0	57.4	82.2	93.7	99.0	100.0
2020 (CAG)	Gap (NoSEN-SEN)		9.6	13.2	8.0	4.1	0.8	0.0
2020 (revised)	On SEN register	1,795	21.4	44.7	74.8	90.2	98.3	100.0
2020 (revised)	No SEN	24,565	30.9	58.1	82.6	94.1	99.1	100.0
2020 (revised)	Gap (NoSEN-SEN)		9.6	13.4	7.8	3.8	0.8	0.0

Source: 2017 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

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 GCSEs³, plus double award science⁴. Double award science grades are counted as two separate grades. Cumulative results are presented at A/7, C/4, G/1 as these figures include both A*-G and 9-1 GCSEs⁵. 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 and the 2020 standardised results.

More than a quarter of grades were awarded at A/7 or better in the revised 2020 results, whereas the figure in 2019 (Table 7.2) was 18.4%.

Just under three-quarters of grades were awarded at C/4 or better in the revised results, compared to 62.8% of grades in 2019.

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

	A/7	C/4	G/1
2020 (revised)	25.9	74.5	99.6
2020 (CAG)	24.6	73.7	99.5
2020 (standardised)	20.6	66.5	97.9

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

³ Short course GCSEs are reported separately to full course GCSEs by JCQ.

⁴ Both double science grades are counted, to reflect the size of the double award qualification.

⁵ 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.

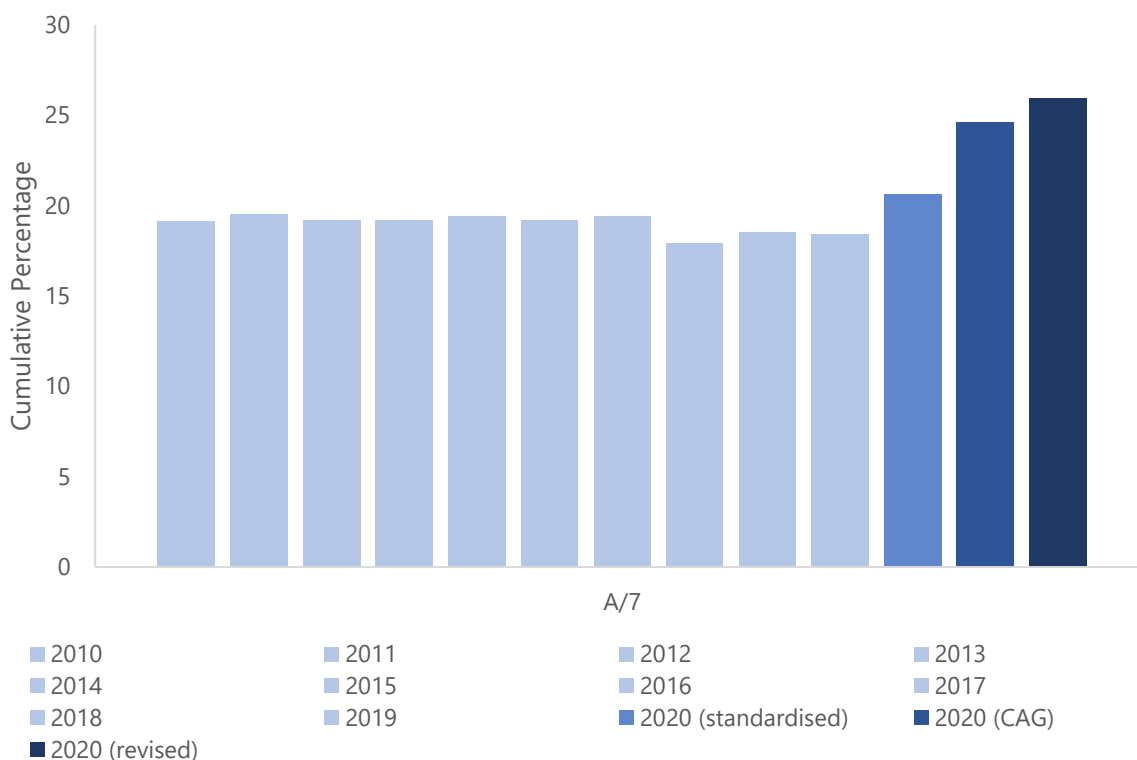
Table 7.2: GCSE Results summer 2015-2019 (cumulative percentage) (all ages)⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾

	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

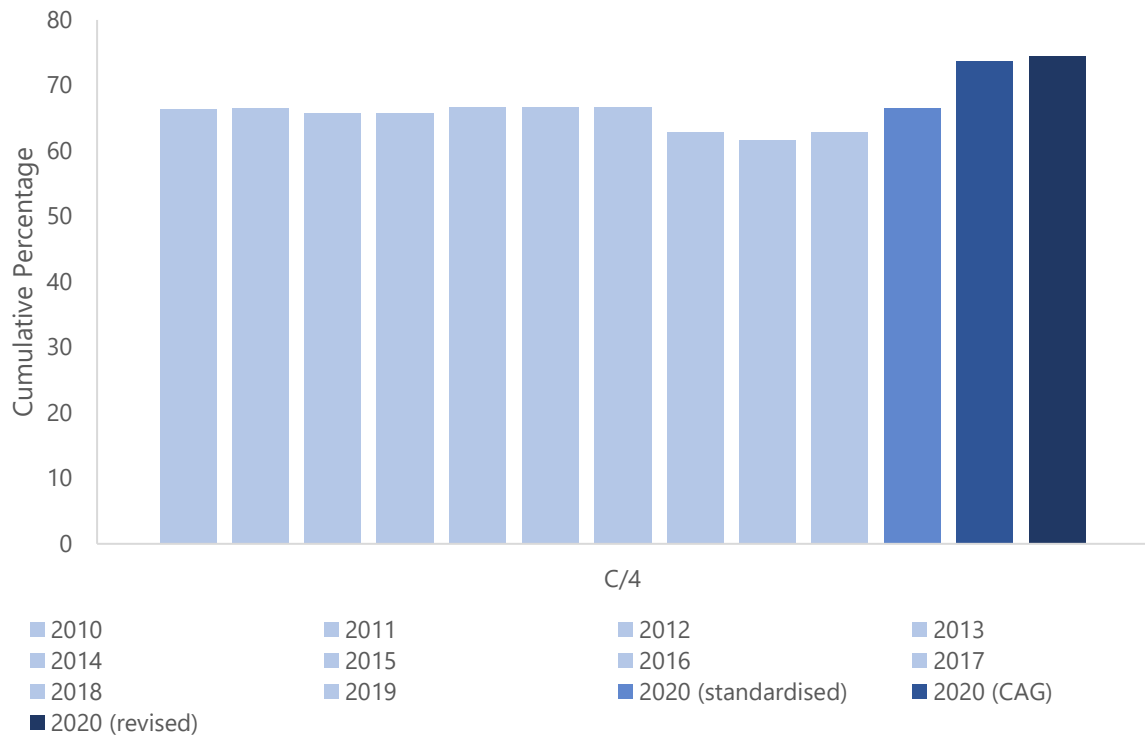
Figure 7.1: National GCSE summer cumulative A/7 results 2010-2020⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾



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

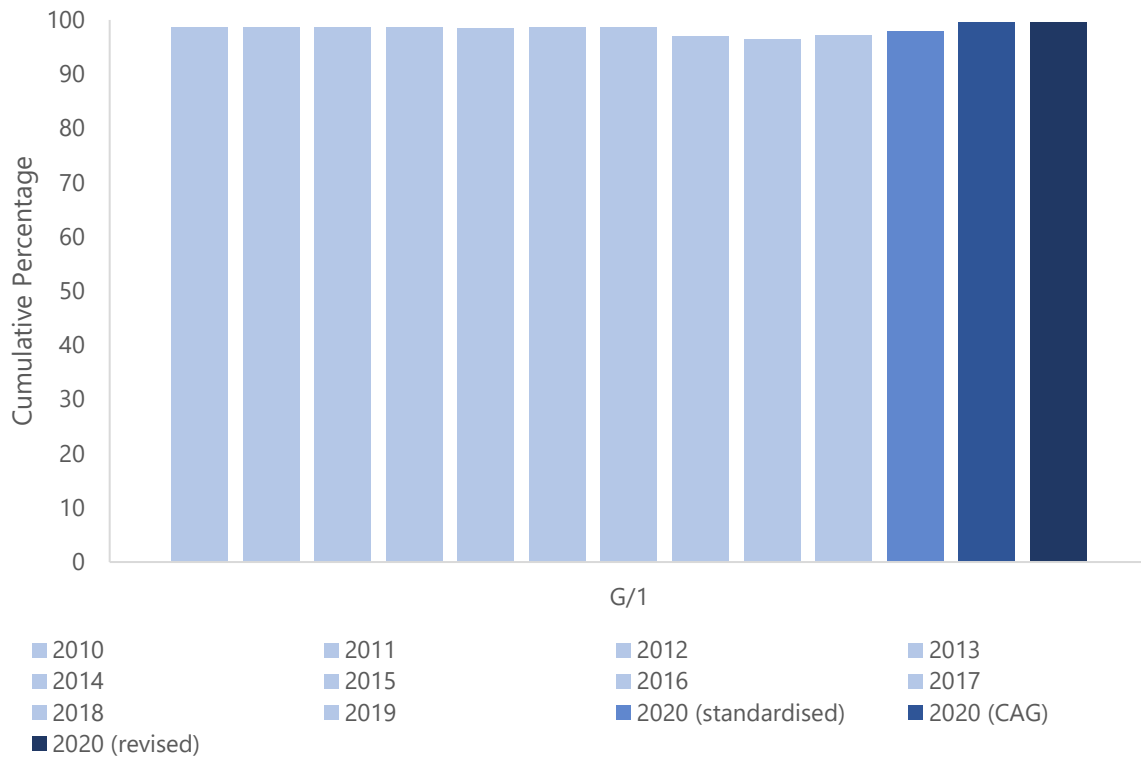
Figure 7.2: National GCSE summer cumulative C/4 results 2010-2020¹⁾⁽²⁾



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, plus double award science. Double award science grades are counted as two separate grades. 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.

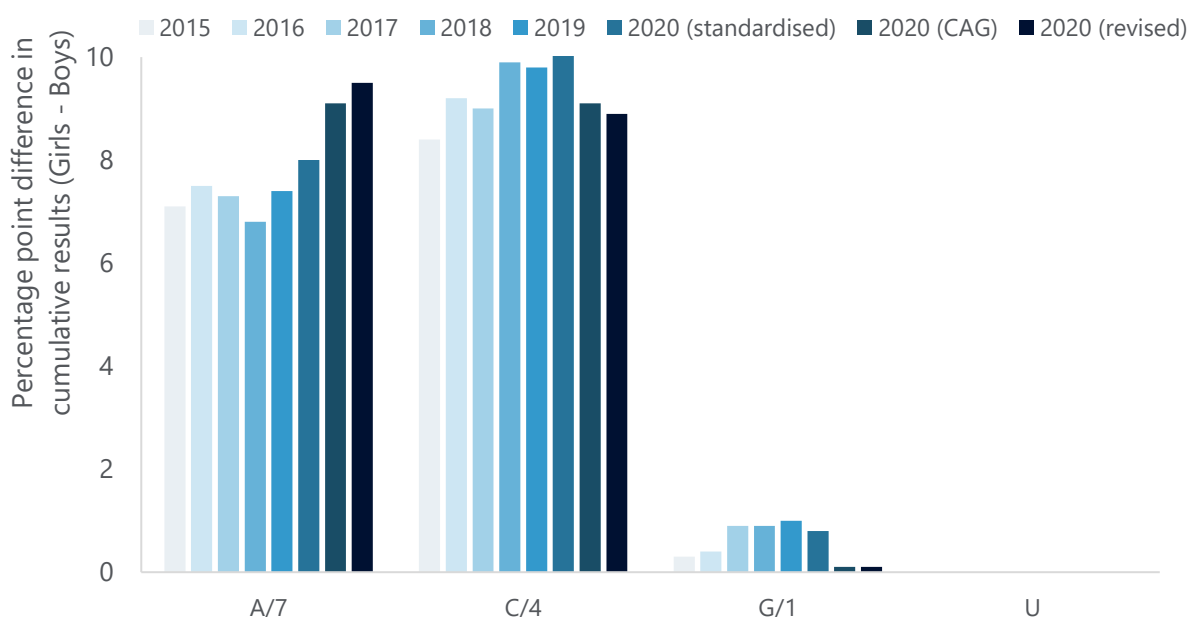
Attainment gap by gender

Figure 7.4 presents cumulative attainment gaps by gender over time. The 2020 revised results, centre assessment grades and standardised grades are compared to results from 2015 through to 2019.

The gender gap has widened in favour of girls at grade A/7 in the revised 2020 results compared to results between 2015 and 2019 and the standardised grades.

The gender attainment gap at G/1 is narrower than in recent years as nearly all learners of both genders are achieving at least G/1. The gap at C/4 is comparable to recent years.

Figure 7.4: GCSE attainment gap in cumulative results by gender at key grades⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾



Source: 2015-2019 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

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

Year	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 (standardised)	24.6	71.5	98.3	100.0	16.6	61.4	97.5	100.0	8.0	10.1	0.8	0.0
2020 (CAG)	29.1	78.1	99.6	100.0	20.0	69.1	99.4	100.0	9.1	9.1	0.1	0.0
2020 (revised)	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

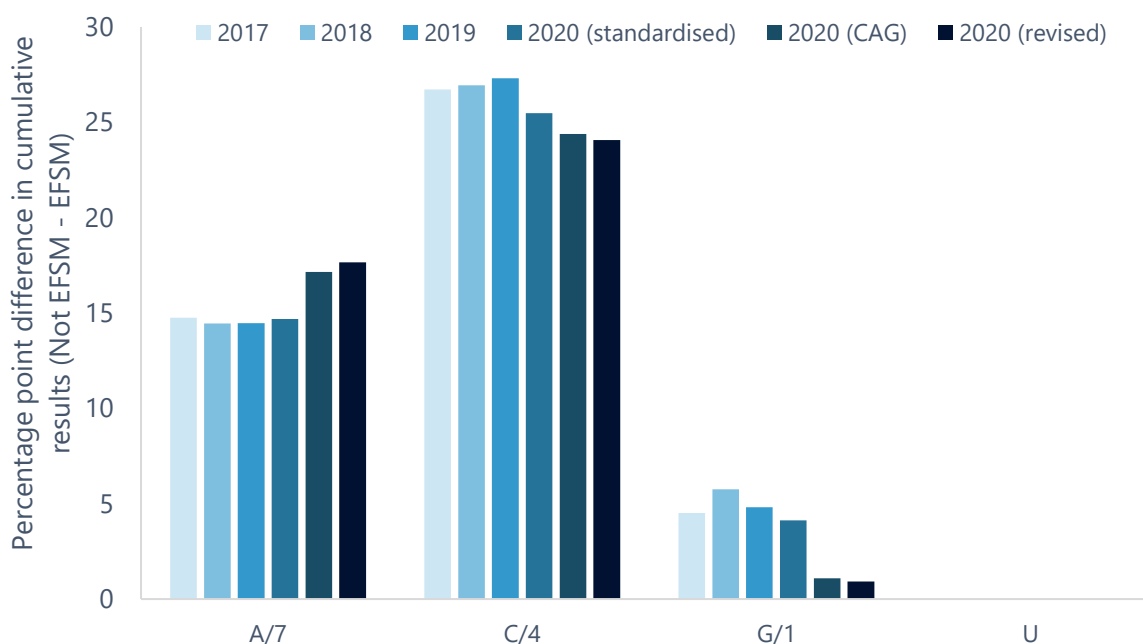
Attainment gap by eligibility for free school meals (16-year-olds)

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

The attainment gap 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 and the standardised grades. 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: GCSE attainment gap in cumulative results by eligibility for free school meals at key grades, 16-year-olds⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾⁽³⁾



Source: 2017-2019 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 WJEC data and previous WEDPLASC data.

Table 7.4: GCSE cumulative percentage results by eligibility for free school meals and percentage point attainment gaps, 16-year-olds ⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾⁽³⁾

Year	EFSM	Grades	A/7	C/4	G/1	U
2017	EFSM	31,895	7.2	44.1	93.5	100.00
2017	NotEFSM	194,345	22.0	70.8	98.1	100.00
2017	Gap (NotEFSM-EFSM)		14.8	26.7	4.5	0.00
2018	EFSM	35,530	6.9	41.5	91.8	100.00
2018	NotEFSM	198,715	21.3	68.5	97.5	100.00
2018	Gap (NotEFSM-EFSM)		14.4	26.9	5.7	0.00
2019	EFSM	32,995	6.6	41.6	93.3	100.00
2019	NotEFSM	220,535	21.1	68.9	98.1	100.00
2019	Gap (NotEFSM-EFSM)		14.5	27.3	4.8	0.00
2020 (standardised)	EFSM	35,610	8.0	45.8	94.6	100.00
2020 (standardised)	NotEFSM	224,205	22.7	71.2	98.7	100.00
2020 (standardised)	Gap (NotEFSM-EFSM)		14.7	25.5	4.1	0.00
2020 (CAG)	EFSM	35,610	10.3	53.9	98.7	100.00
2020 (CAG)	NotEFSM	224,205	27.5	78.3	99.7	100.00
2020 (CAG)	Gap (NotEFSM-EFSM)		17.2	24.4	1.1	0.00
2020 (revised)R	EFSM	35,610	11.0	54.9	98.9	100.00
2020 (revised)R	NotEFSM	224,205	28.7	79.0	99.8	100.00
2020 (revised)R	Gap (NotEFSM-EFSM)		17.7	24.1	0.9	0.00

Source: 2017-2019 WEDPLASC, 2020 WJEC

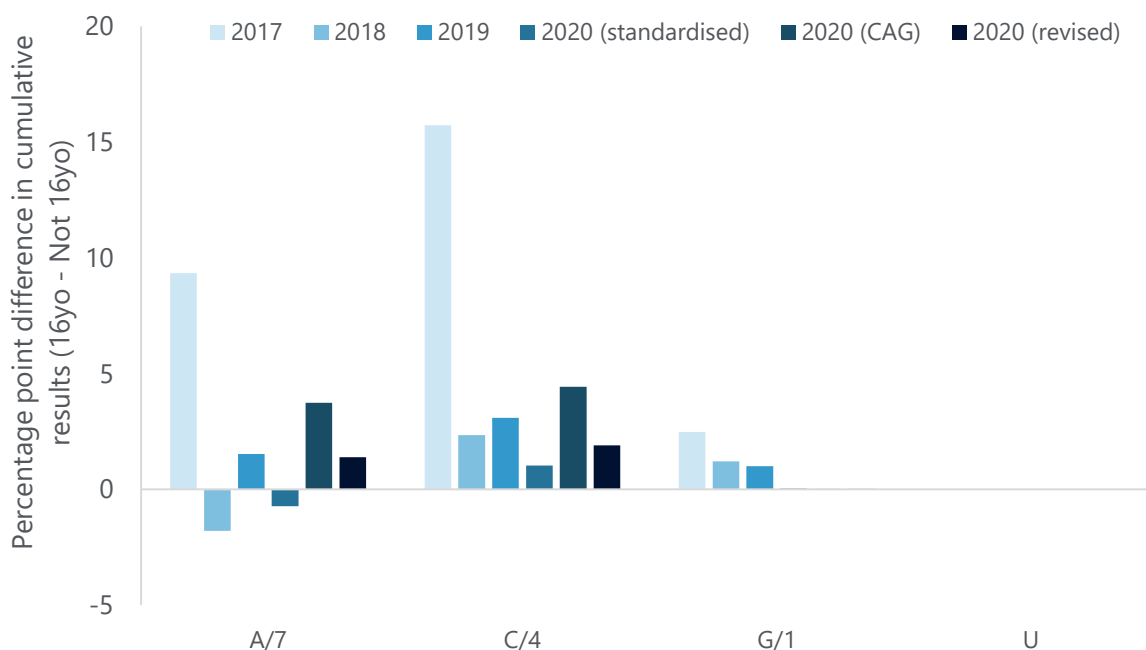
- (1) The data includes results for GCSEs graded A*-G designed for Wales as well as GCSEs graded 9-1 designed for England.
- (2) Includes full course and double award science (which is double counted) GCSE, but excluding short courses
- (3) Includes data only for those centres present in the 2020 WJEC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

Attainment gap by age

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

The attainment gap between 16yo and non-16yo is similar in revised results in 2020 compared to 2019 at grade A/7 and grade C/4 but has narrowed at grade G/1.

Figure 7.6: GCSE attainment gap in cumulative results by age at key grades⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾



Source: 2017-2019 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: GCSE summer cumulative percentage results by age and percentage point attainment gaps at key grades⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾⁽³⁾

Year	Age	Grades	A/7	C/4	G/1	U
2017	16yo	226,320	19.9	67.1	97.4	100.0
2017	Not16yo	50,515	10.5	51.3	94.9	100.0
2017	Gap (16yo-Not16yo)		9.3	15.7	2.5	0.0
2018	16yo	234,310	19.1	64.4	96.6	100.0
2018	Not16yo	14,720	20.9	62.0	95.4	100.0
2018	Gap (16yo-Not16yo)		-1.8	2.3	1.2	0.0
2019	16yo	254,080	19.2	65.2	97.4	100.0
2019	Not16yo	17,310	17.6	62.1	96.4	100.0
2019	Gap (16yo-Not16yo)		1.5	3.1	1.0	0.0
2020 (standardised)	16yo	261,765	20.6	67.5	98.0	100.0
2020 (standardised)	Not16yo	19,365	21.3	66.5	98.0	100.0
2020 (standardised)	Gap (16yo-Not16yo)		-0.7	1.0	0.0	0.0
2020 (CAG)	16yo	261,765	25.1	74.8	99.6	100.0
2020 (CAG)	Not16yo	19,365	21.3	70.3	99.5	100.0
2020 (CAG)	Gap (16yo-Not16yo)		3.7	4.4	0.0	0.0
2020 (revised)	16yo	261,765	26.2	75.5	99.6	100.0
2020 (revised)	Not16yo	19,365	24.8	73.6	99.6	100.0
2020 (revised)	Gap (16yo-Not16yo)		1.4	1.9	0.0	0.0

Source: 2017-2019 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

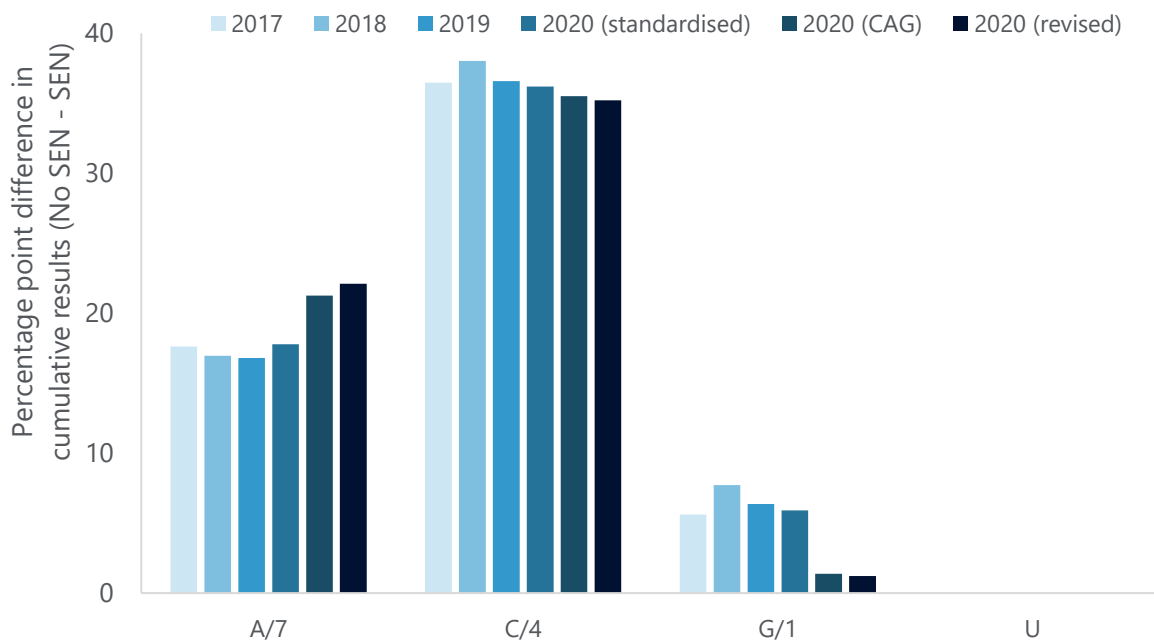
Attainment gap by special educational needs (SEN) provision (16-year-olds)

Data for 2020 relating to SEN provision is only available for learners taking 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 Welsh Government attainment data.

Attainment gaps by SEN provision at cumulative grade A/7 are wider in the 2020 CAG and 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, both those with and without SEN provision have higher revised results in 2020 than in 2019. However, percentage point 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 7.7: GCSE attainment gap in cumulative results by SEN provision at key grades, 16-year-olds⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾⁽³⁾⁽⁴⁾



Source: 2017-2019 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 WJEC data and previous WEDPLASC data.

Table 7.6: GCSE summer cumulative percentage results by SEN provision and percentage point attainment gaps at key grades, 16-year-olds ⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾⁽³⁾

Year	SEN	Grades	A7	C4	G1	U
2017	On SEN register	40,800	5.5	37.3	92.8	100.0
2017	No SEN	185,075	23.1	73.7	98.4	100.0
2017	Gap (NoSEN-SEN)		17.6	36.5	5.6	0.0
2018	On SEN register	45,715	5.2	33.4	90.4	100.0
2018	No SEN	191,495	22.1	71.4	98.2	100.0
2018	Gap (NoSEN-SEN)		17.0	38.0	7.7	0.0
2019	On SEN register	49,440	5.4	35.5	92.3	100.0
2019	No SEN	207,240	22.2	72.0	98.6	100.0
2019	Gap (NoSEN-SEN)		16.8	36.6	6.4	0.0
2020 (standardised)	On SEN register	49,845	6.1	37.9	93.2	100.0
2020 (standardised)	No SEN	215,100	23.8	74.1	99.1	100.0
2020 (standardised)	Gap (NoSEN-SEN)		17.8	36.2	5.9	0.0
2020 (CAG)	On SEN register	49,845	7.7	45.8	98.4	100.0
2020 (CAG)	No SEN	215,100	28.9	81.3	99.8	100.0
2020 (CAG)	Gap (NoSEN-SEN)		21.2	35.5	1.4	0.0
2020 (revised)	On SEN register	49,845	8.1	46.7	98.6	100.0
2020 (revised)	No SEN	215,100	30.2	81.9	99.9	100.0
2020 (revised)	Gap (NoSEN-SEN)		22.1	35.2	1.2	0.0

Source: 2017-2019 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 WJEC data and previous WEDPLASC data

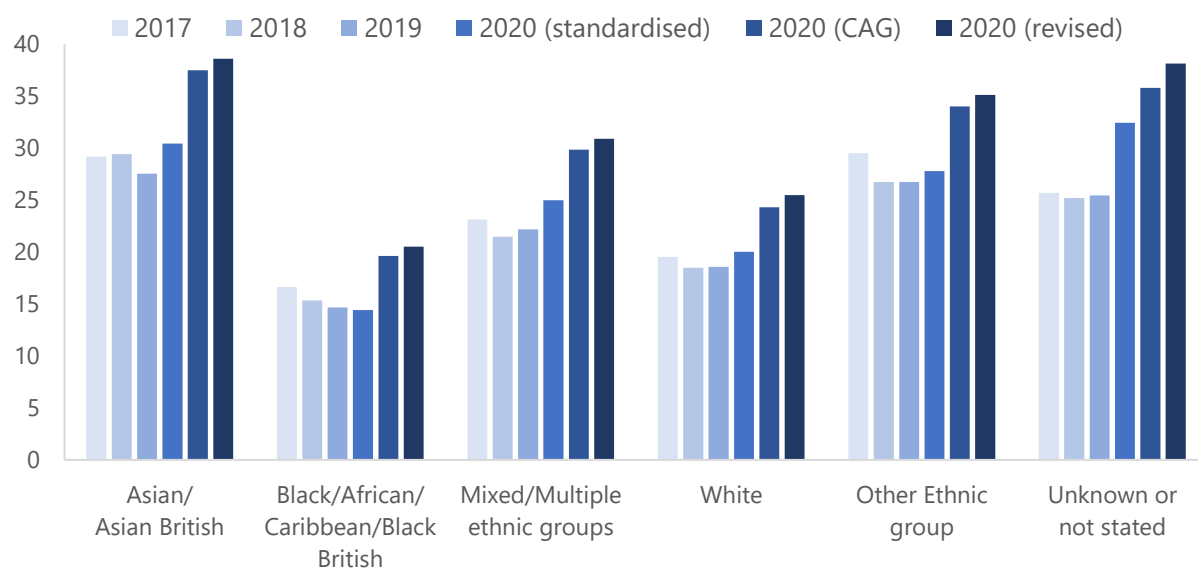
Results by ethnic background (16-year-olds)

Data for 2020 relating to ethnic background is only available for learners taking WJEC qualifications. To improve the validity of the comparison, analysis is done using only data for centres which are present in both the 2020 WJEC data and the 2016/17-2018/19 Welsh Government attainment data.

Due to small sample sizes, ethnic background data has been aggregated into broader ethnic groups, categorised as per Government Statistical Service guidance⁶. Interpretation of changes in percentages needs to be treated with particular caution because of the small number of learners and centres underlying the grades for a number of the ethnic categories. Changes in percentages may reflect small changes in the absolute number of grades and learners.

Figure 7.8 shows that, at cumulative A/7 revised results are higher for every group compared to 2019 largely due to the centre assessment grades. The standardised results were also higher with the exception of the Black/African/Caribbean/Black British category where results were stable compared to 2019. A similar pattern is evident at cumulative C/4, except that standardised results are higher for each group compared to 2019 at that threshold.

Figure 7.8: GCSE summer cumulative results at A/7 by ethnic background, 16-year-olds⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾⁽³⁾

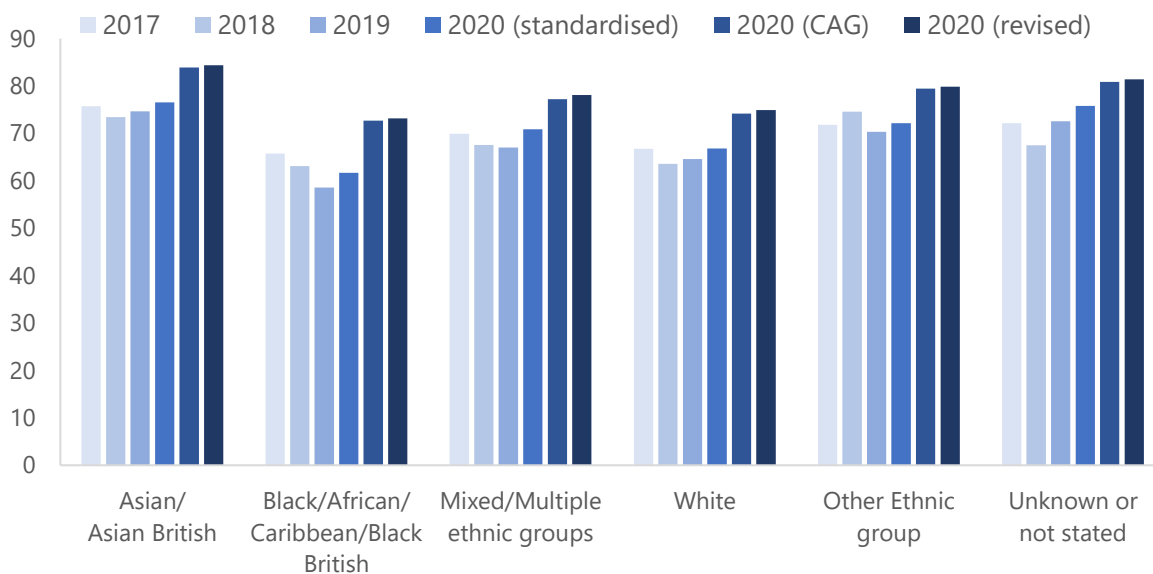


Source: 2017-2019 WEDPLASC, 2020 awarding bodies

- (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 WJEC data and previous Welsh Government data.

⁶ <https://gss.civilservice.gov.uk/policy-store/ethnicity/#wales->

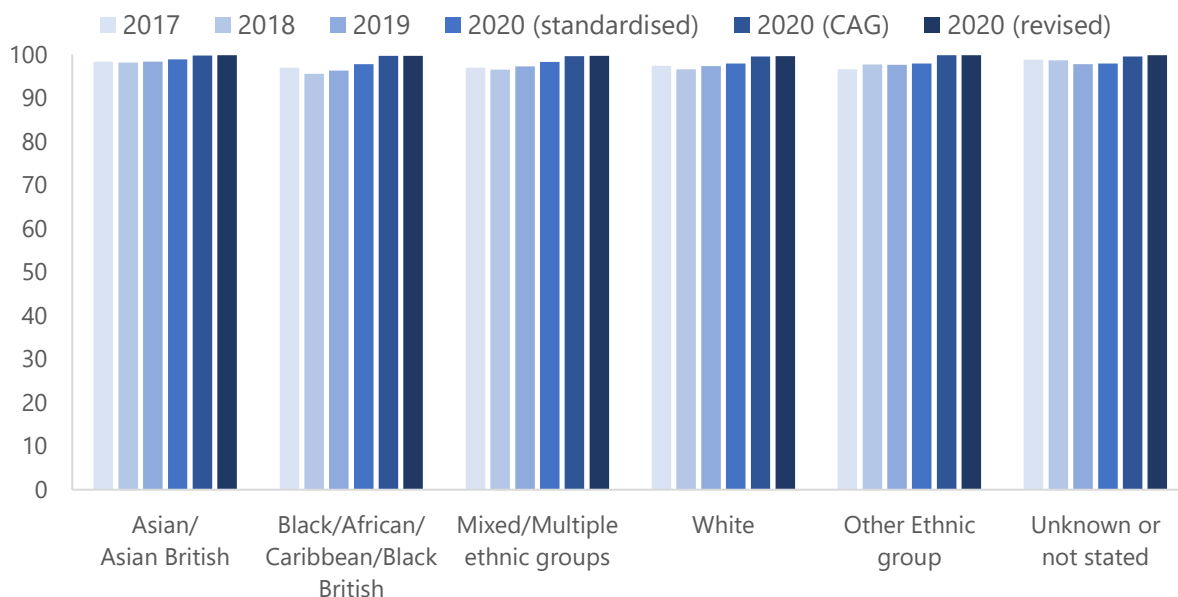
Figure 7.9: GCSE summer cumulative results at C/4 by ethnic background, 16-year-olds (1)(2)(3)



Source: 2017-2019 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 WJEC data and previous Welsh Government data.

Figure 7.10: GCSE summer cumulative results at G/1 by ethnic background, 16-year-olds (1)(2)(3)



Source: 2017-2019 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 WJEC data and previous Welsh Government data.

Table 7.7: GCSE summer cumulative results by ethnic background at key grades, 16-year-olds⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾⁽³⁾

Year	Ethnic background	Grades	Learners	A7	C4	G1	U
2017	Asian/Asian British	5,065	635	29.1	75.7	98.4	100.0
2017	Black/African/Caribbean/Black British	1,725	230	16.6	65.7	97.0	100.0
2017	Mixed/Multiple ethnic groups	4,870	640	23.1	69.9	97.0	100.0
2017	White	210,465	27,900	19.5	66.8	97.4	100.0
2017	Other Ethnic group	2,340	305	29.5	71.8	96.6	100.0
2017	Unknown or not stated	1,410	175	25.7	72.1	98.9	100.0
2018	Asian/Asian British	5,445	640	29.4	73.4	98.2	100.0
2018	Black/African/Caribbean/Black British	2,050	240	15.3	63.1	95.6	100.0
2018	Mixed/Multiple ethnic groups	5,520	665	21.4	67.6	96.5	100.0
2018	White	220,485	26,900	18.5	63.6	96.6	100.0
2018	Other Ethnic group	2,705	315	26.7	74.6	97.7	100.0
2018	Unknown or not stated	1,005	120	25.1	67.5	98.7	100.0
2019	Asian/Asian British	6,555	730	27.5	74.6	98.4	100.0
2019	Black/African/Caribbean/Black British	2,190	245	14.6	58.6	96.4	100.0
2019	Mixed/Multiple ethnic groups	6,980	790	22.1	67.0	97.3	100.0
2019	White	236,470	27,345	18.5	64.6	97.4	100.0
2019	Other Ethnic group	3,160	350	26.7	70.3	97.7	100.0
2019	Unknown or not stated	1,320	150	25.4	72.5	97.8	100.0
2020 (standardised)	Asian/Asian British	6,635	725	30.4	76.5	98.9	100.0
2020 (standardised)	Black/African/Caribbean/Black British	2,225	265	14.4	61.7	97.8	100.0
2020 (standardised)	Mixed/Multiple ethnic groups	7,170	800	25.0	70.9	98.4	100.0

2020 (standardised)	White	244,190	27,825	20.0	66.8	98.0	100.0
2020 (standardised)	Other Ethnic group	3,395	390	27.7	72.1	97.9	100.0
2020 (standardised)	Unknown or not stated	1,335	150	32.4	75.8	98.0	100.0
2020 (CAG)	Asian/Asian British	6,635	725	37.4	83.9	99.8	100.0
2020 (CAG)	Black/African/Caribbean/Black British	2,225	265	19.6	72.7	99.7	100.0
2020 (CAG)	Mixed/Multiple ethnic groups	7,170	800	29.8	77.2	99.7	100.0
2020 (CAG)	White	244,190	27,825	24.3	74.2	99.6	100.0
2020 (CAG)	Other Ethnic group	3,395	390	34.0	79.4	99.9	100.0
2020 (CAG)	Unknown or not stated	1,335	150	35.8	80.9	99.6	100.0
2020 (revised)	Asian/Asian British	6,635	725	38.5	84.4	99.8	100.0
2020 (revised)	Black/African/Caribbean/Black British	2,225	265	20.5	73.2	99.7	100.0
2020 (revised)	Mixed/Multiple ethnic groups	7,170	800	30.8	78.1	99.7	100.0
2020 (revised)	White	244,190	27,825	25.4	74.9	99.6	100.0
2020 (revised)	Other Ethnic group	3,395	390	35.1	79.8	99.9	100.0
2020 (revised)	Unknown or not stated	1,335	150	38.1	81.4	99.9	100.0

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.

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.

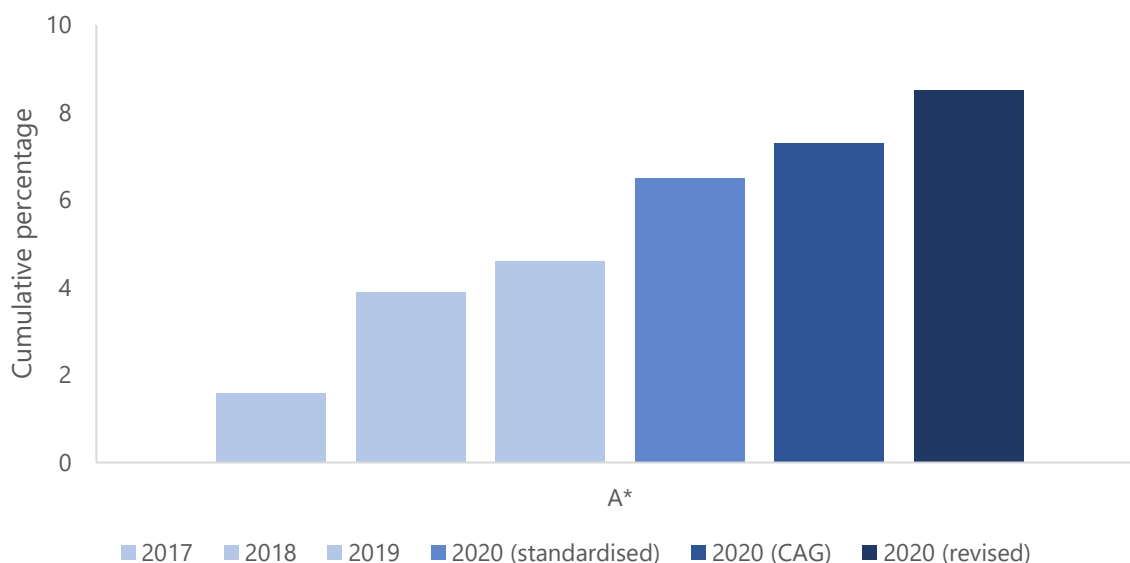
Table 8.1: Advanced Skills Challenge Certificate Revised Provisional Results 2017 - 2020 (cumulative percentage) ⁽¹⁾

	A*	A*-A	A*-E	Number of grades
2020 (revised)⁽²⁾	8.5	28.8	99.6	11,795
2020 (CAG)⁽²⁾	7.3	27.9	99.4	11,485
2020 (standardised)⁽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

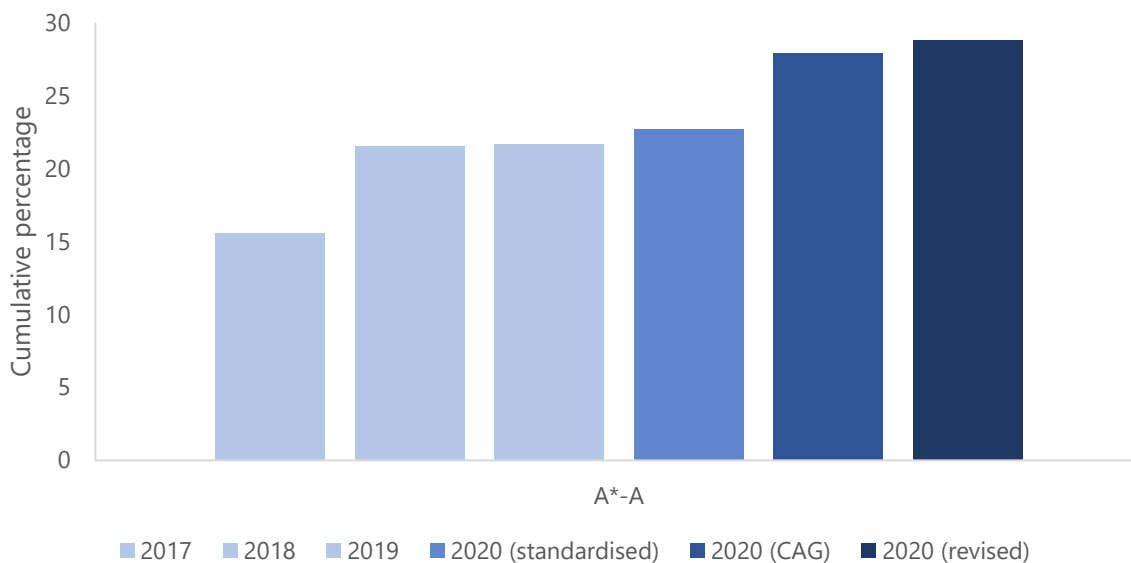
- (1) The provisional figures for 2017 – 2019 are used to provide a valid comparison to the 2020 figures which are provisional
- (2) Published are the calculated results released on 13 August. Revised are results published by WJEC on 20 August 2020.

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



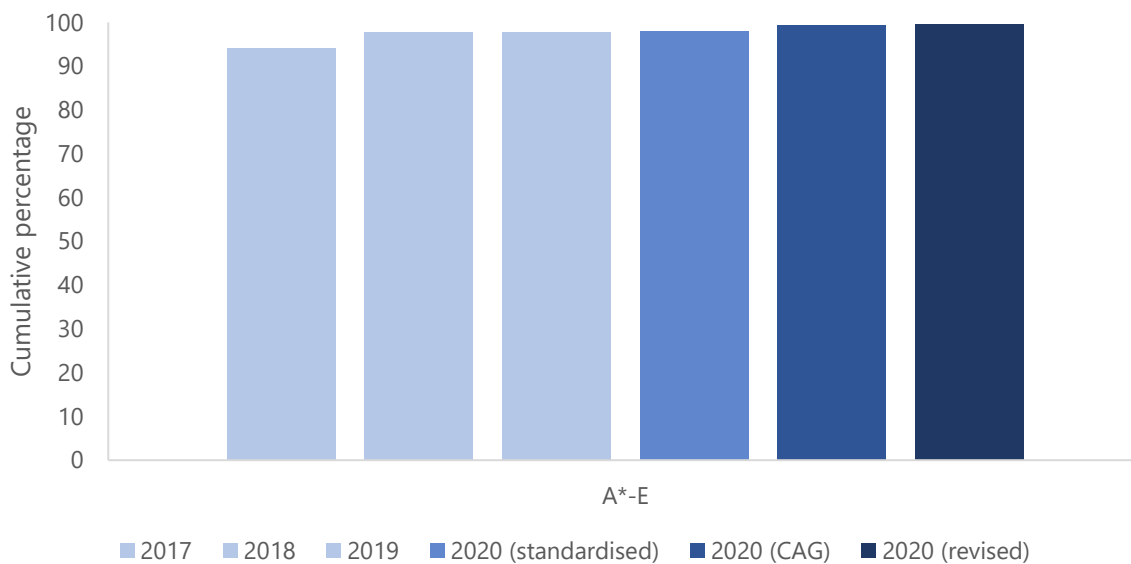
Source: WJEC

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

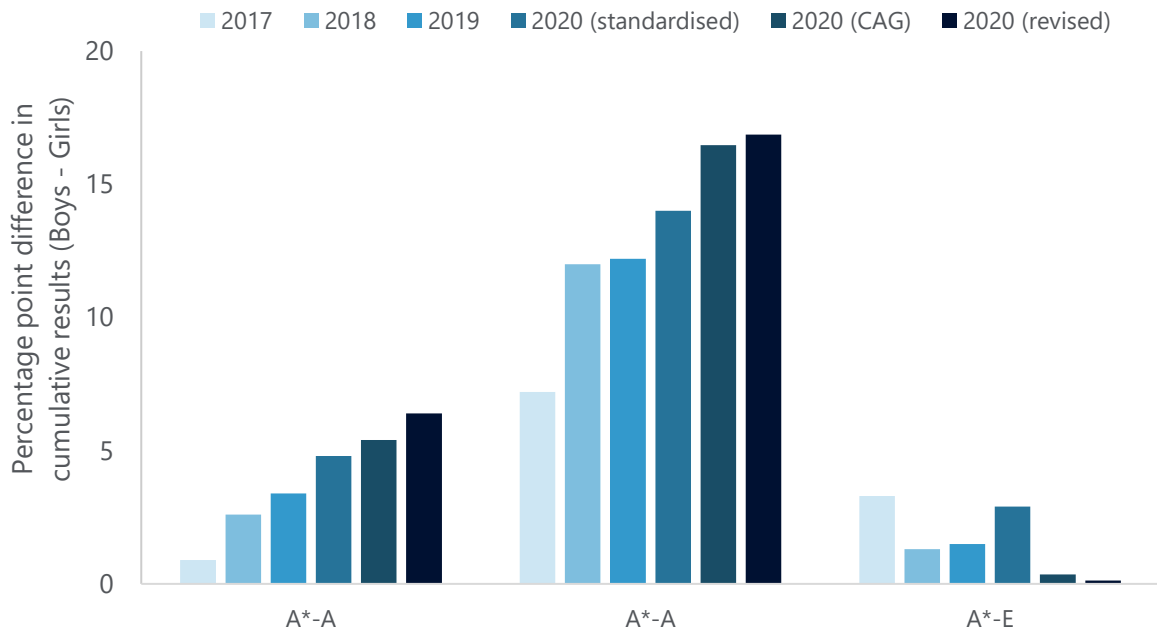


Source: WJEC

Advanced Skills Challenge Certificate by gender

The gender gaps have widened at A* and A*-A in the revised results, whereas 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 (standardised)	Girls	8.6	28.9	93.9
2020 (standardised)	Boys	3.8	14.9	96.8
2020 (standardised)	Gap (Girls - Boys)	4.8	14.0	2.9
2020 (CAG)	Girls	9.7	35.1	99.6
2020 (CAG)	Boys	4.3	18.7	99.2
2020 (CAG)	Gap (Girls – Boys)	5.4	16.5	0.4
2020 (revised)	Girls	11.4	36.2	99.6
2020 (revised)	Boys	5.0	19.3	99.5
2020 (revised)	Gap (Girls - Boys)	6.4	16.9	0.1

Source: WJEC

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

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 (revised)	5.7	19.9	89.1	99.5	28,200
2020 (CAG)	5.3	19.2	87.6	99.2	27,350
2020 (standardised)	3.4	14.4	84.2	98.9	28,190

Source: WJEC

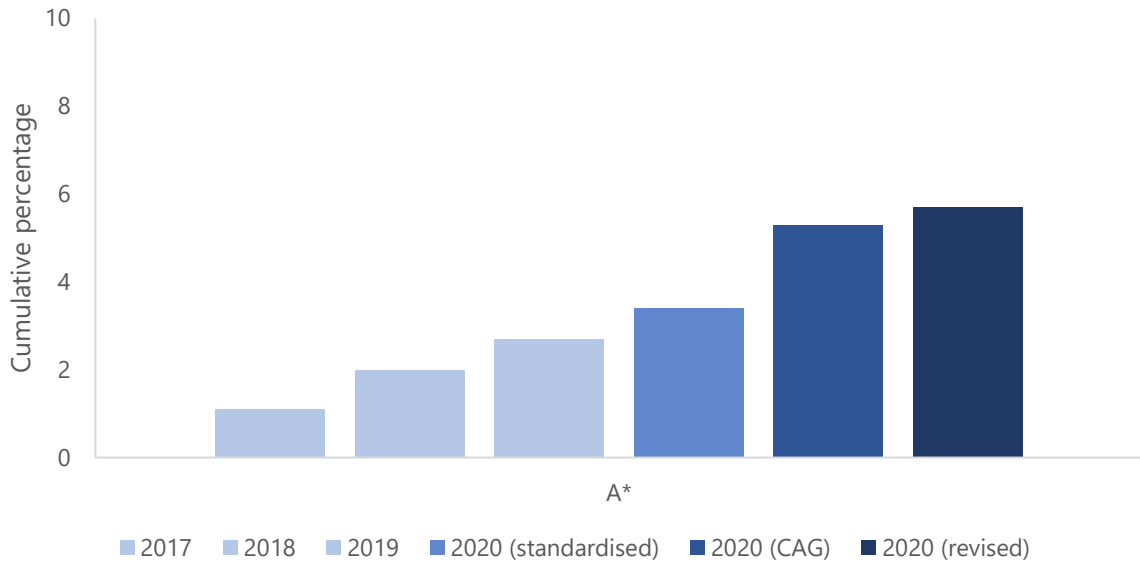
Table 9.2: Key Stage 4 Skills Challenge Certificate Provisional Results 2017 – 2019 (cumulative percentage)⁽¹⁾

	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

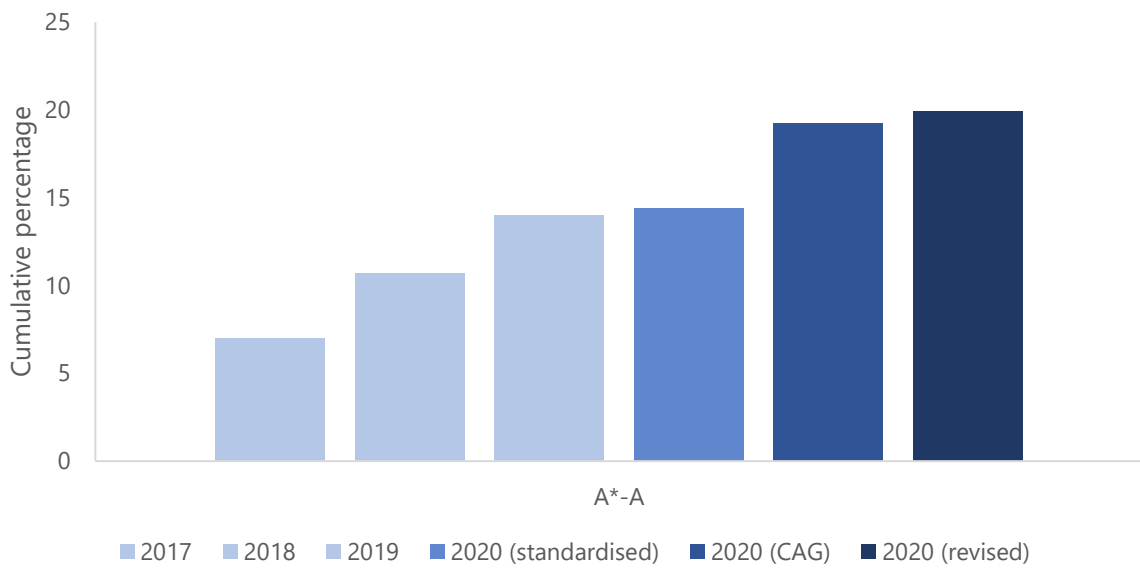
(1) The provisional figures are used to provide a valid comparison to the 2020 figures which are provisional

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



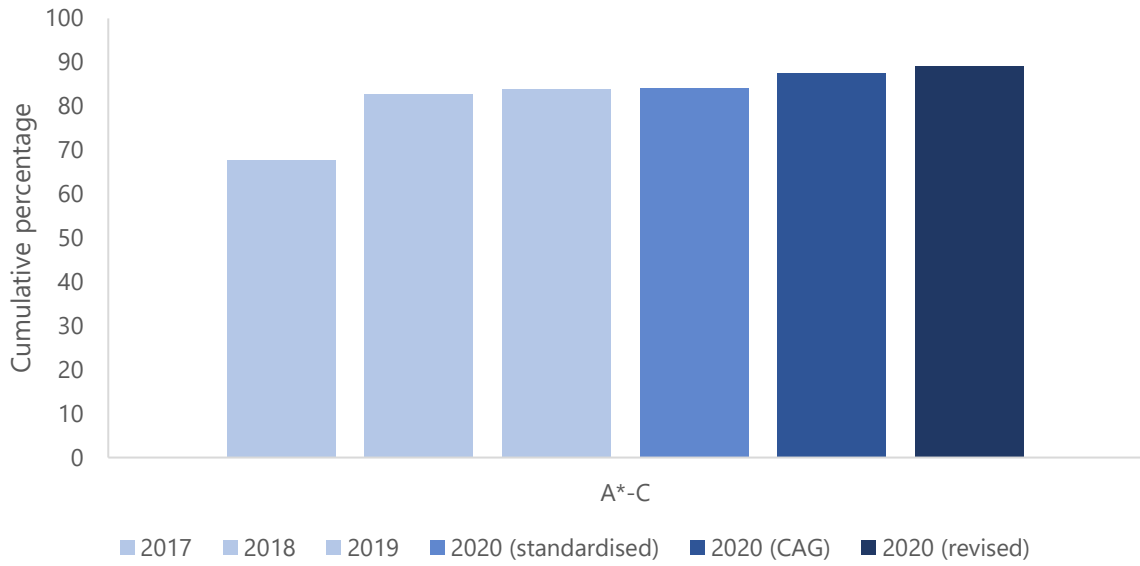
Source: WJEC

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



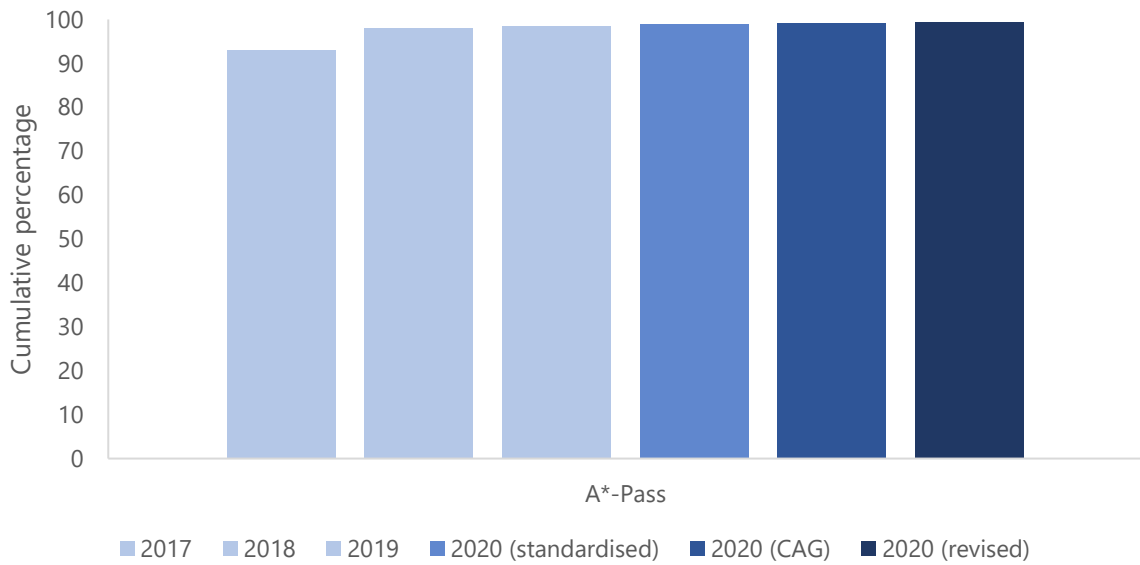
Source: WJEC

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

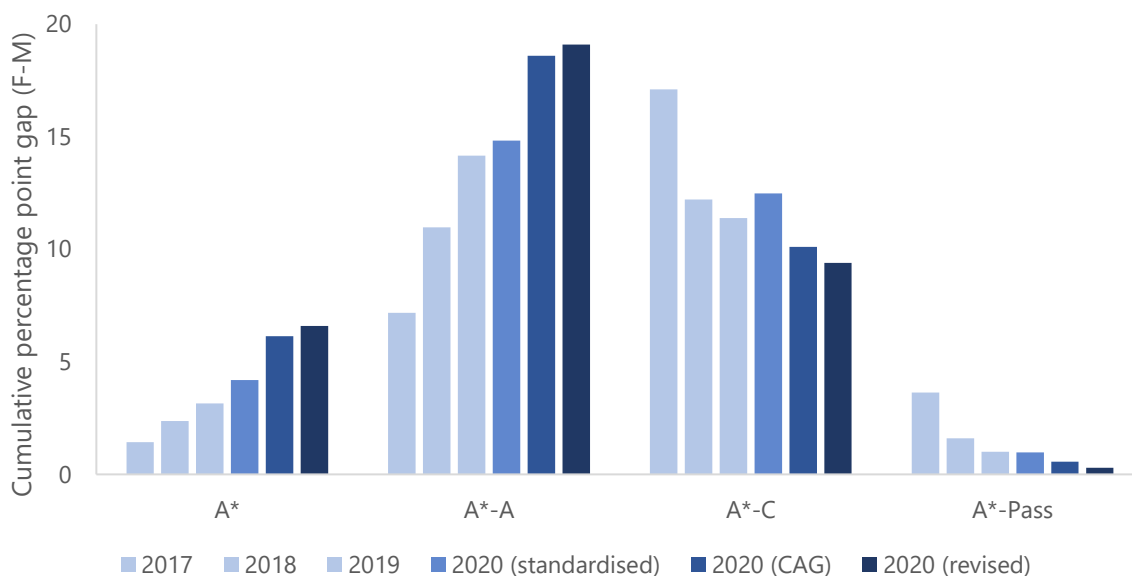


Source: WJEC

Key Stage 4 Skills Challenge Certificate by gender

The gender gaps have widened at A* and A*-A in the revised results but narrowed at A*-C, and A*-Pass in comparison to 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 (Girls - Boys)	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 (Girls - Boys)	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 (Girls - Boys)	3.1	14.1	11.3	1.0
2020 (standardised)	Girls	5.5	21.9	90.5	99.4
2020 (standardised)	Boys	1.3	7.1	78.0	98.4
2020 (standardised)	Gap (Girls - Boys)	4.2	14.8	12.5	1.0
2020 (CAG)	Girls	8.4	28.6	92.7	99.4
2020 (CAG)	Boys	2.3	10.0	82.6	98.9
2020 (CAG)	Gap (Girls – Boys)	6.1	18.6	10.1	0.6
2020 (revised)	Girls	9.0	29.6	93.8	99.7
2020 (revised)	Boys	2.4	10.5	84.4	99.4
2020 (revised)	Gap (Girls – Boys)	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. Further analysis by ethnic background

It was not possible to include analysis of the attainment gap by ethnic background for AS and A level as in most ethnic background groups the number of learners is insufficient to support a robust initial analysis (see Tables 10.1 to 10.4). Analysis by ethnic background will require a more careful approach to account better for small sample sizes and confounding factors. We will build this into the more detailed equalities analysis of this summer's results that we will publish.

Table 10.1: Number of grades in available AS data by ethnic background⁽¹⁾ of the learner

Ethnic background	2017	2018	2019	2020
Asian/Asian British	905	890	790	1,020
Black/African/Caribbean/Black British	200	220	190	245
Mixed/Multiple ethnic groups	640	670	635	830
White	21,090	20,350	18,510	23,680
Other Ethnic group	345	305	365	405
Unknown or not stated	140	170	135	175

Source: Welsh Government

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

Table 10.2: Number of learners in available AS data by ethnic background⁽¹⁾

Ethnic background	2017	2018	2019	2020
Asian/Asian British	345	320	300	365
Black/African/Caribbean/Black British	85	85	80	95
Mixed/Multiple ethnic groups	235	245	245	295
White	8,240	8,040	7,395	8,905
Other Ethnic group	130	120	140	145
Unknown or not stated	50	65	55	65

Source: Welsh Government

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

Table 10.3: Number of grades in available A level data by ethnic background⁽¹⁾ of the learner

Ethnic background	2017	2018	2019	2020
Asian/Asian British	610	640	650	650
Black/African/Caribbean/Black British	160	130	150	145
Mixed/Multiple ethnic groups	475	505	525	530
White	19,010	18,020	17,415	16,970
Other Ethnic group	210	290	245	265
Unknown or not stated	120	115	245	115

Source: Welsh Government

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

Table 10.4: Number of learners in available A level data by ethnic background⁽¹⁾

Ethnic background	2017	2018	2019	2020
Asian/Asian British	250	265	250	265
Black/African/Caribbean/Black British	65	65	65	70
Mixed/Multiple ethnic groups	190	200	215	220
White	8,040	7,585	7,305	7,185
Other Ethnic group	90	115	105	110
Unknown or not stated	50	45	95	50

Source: Welsh Government

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