

GCSE, A level and Welsh Baccalaureate Results 2013

August 2013

Introduction

This note provides an overview of the provisional 2013 A level and GCSE results for Wales and a summary of summer 2013 Welsh Baccalaureate results. Comparisons are provided with results for 2012 and with England where applicable.

Notes on the data

Students in Wales, England and Northern Ireland receive their GCSE and A level results on set days in August each year. On those days, the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) publish summaries of results. (The JCQ is a membership organisation comprising the seven providers of qualifications in the UK.) The information in this Research Note is taken from the JCQ data. Separately, the WJEC publish results for the Welsh Baccalaureate and this data is also included.

The JCQ data shows the collective results of the entries of the member awarding bodies. It should be noted that the results published by the JCQ relate to 'entries' and not to 'candidates'. So, for example, the data can show that performance has increased or declined at A level or GCSE and within the grades. It cannot show whether more boys or girls achieve five or more passes at GCSE.

Data is provisional in the sense that they represent the position at the time that results are issued. The data are subject to checking before final data at national (Wales), local authority and school level is published.

The data in the tables below compare results for 2012 and 2013. This comparison is made based on the data published by JCQ on A level results day in 2012.

The GCSE data compares results for 2012 based on revised data published by JCQ which includes results issued in September 2012 following the re-grading of GCSE English Language by the WJEC for candidates in Wales.

A levels

Provisional A level data was published on 15 August 2013. The information relates to entries and not candidates.

Comparison between 2012 and 2013:

- The overall pass rate in Wales remained at 97.6 per cent. In England there was a small increase of 0.1 per cent;
- The percentage of entries achieving grades A*-C was higher in both Wales and England;
- In Wales, there were decreases in the percentage of entries achieving A*-A grades. Similarly in England there were decreases for female and all entries combined, with a slight increase for male entries;
- In England, there were decreases for the percentage of entries achieving grade A*, and while there was a slight decrease in this grade for male entries, at this grade female and all entries remained the same.

Male and females:

- Females continue to achieve better grades than males in both Wales and England, with the exception of the percentage achieving grade A*;
- The gap in achievement between males and females has decreased in Wales and England since 2012, with the exception of the gap between male and females at grades A-A* in Wales.

Wales and England:

- England continues to achieve better results than Wales.

Tables 1 and 2 show the percentages of entries in all subjects by grade attained for Wales and England, male and female entries and for 2012 and 2013.

A level results

Table 1: Percentage of pupils achieving GCE A level by grade, 2012 (provisional)

	Number of entries	A*	A*-A	A*-C	A*-E
Wales					
Male	16,521	6.3	22.9	71.5	96.9
Female	20,629	5.8	24.1	77.8	98.0
All	37,150	6.0	23.6	75.0	97.6
England					
Male	364,598	8.1	25.8	73.6	97.5
Female	427,163	8.0	27.1	78.7	98.4
All	791,761	8.0	26.5	76.4	98.0

Source: Joint Council for Qualifications, *A, AS and AEA Results Summer 2013*

Table 2: Percentage of entries achieving GCE A level by grade, 2013 (provisional)

	Number of entries	A*	A*-A	A*-C	A*-E
Wales					
Male	15,960	6.2	21.6	71.8	97.0
Female	19,754	5.8	23.9	78.0	98.1
All	35,714	6.0	22.9	75.2	97.6
England					
Male	358,531	8.0	26.0	74.3	97.7
Female	423,671	7.4	26.6	79.2	98.5
All	782,202	7.7	26.3	77.0	98.1

Source: Joint Council for Qualifications, *A, AS and AEA Results Summer 2013*

GCSEs

Provisional GCSE data was published on 22 August 2013. The data published by JCQ includes results issued in **September 2012** following the re-grading of GCSE English Language by the WJEC for candidates in Wales, following a Direction issued by the then Minister for Education and Skills. This resulted in 2,386 students receiving revised grades; 1,202 students had their grades increased from a D to a C; and 598 from a C grade to a B. The revised data is included in the tables and below.

Comparison between 2012 and 2013

- In Wales, grades have decreased at grades A* and grades A*-C, by 0.4 per cent and 0.1 per cent respectively;
- The overall pass rate (grades A*-G) remains the same as 2012;
- There are small increases for female results at grades A*-A and A*-C (0.7 per cent and 0.3 per cent);
- In England results at all levels have decreased.

Males and females

- Girls continue to achieve better results than boys at all levels in Wales and England;
- In Wales, the gap has increased at all levels except for the overall pass rate (A*-G) where the gap decreased by 0.1 per cent from 0.5 per cent in 2012.

Wales and England

- England continues to achieve better results than Wales. However, in 2013 the gap in attainment has decreased.

Tables 3 and 4 show the percentage of entries in all subjects by grade for Wales and England for 2012 and 2013.

GCSE results

Table 3: Percentage of entries achieving GCSEs by grade, 2012 (provisional)

	Number of entries	A*	A*-A	A*-C	A*-G
Wales					
Male	142,705	5.3	16.3	61.8	98.5
Female	148,382	7.6	22.1	69.8	99.0
All	291,087	6.5	19.2	65.8	98.7
England					
Male	2,334,595	6.0	19.0	65.4	98.8
Female	2,428,252	8.7	25.6	73.3	99.2
All	4,762,847	7.3	22.3	69.5	99.0

Source: Joint Council for Qualifications, *GCSE and Entry Level Certificate Results Summer 2013*

Table 4: Percentage of entries achieving GCSEs by grade, 2013 (provisional)

	Number of entries	A*	A*-A	A*-C	A*-G
Wales					
Male	138,926	4.6	15.4	61.1	98.5
Female	145,073	7.6	22.8	70.1	98.9
All	283,999	6.1	19.2	65.7	98.7
England					
Male	2,437,438	5.3	17.5	63.6	98.6
Female	2,547,586	8.2	24.7	72.2	99.1
All	4,985,024	6.8	21.2	67.9	98.8

Source: Joint Council for Qualifications, *GCSE and Entry Level Certificate Results Summer 2013*

Welsh Bacalaureate

The Welsh Bacalaureate Qualification is delivered at schools, colleges and training providers throughout Wales. It is offered at three levels, Foundation, Intermediate and Advanced. The Welsh Bacalaureate Qualification (Welsh Bac) consists of two parts; 'Options' and a 'Core Programme'. The 'Options' must be completed by students studying for all levels of the Welsh Bacalaureate Diploma, and are options selected from established, approved courses or programmes (for example GCSEs, Vocational GCSEs, AS/A Levels, Vocational A Levels).

The 'Core Programme' are personal development studies which students must complete along with their Options. The components are:

- Key Skills;
- Wales, Europe and the World;
- Work-Related Education;
- Personal and Social Education;
- Individual Investigation.

To be awarded a Diploma, candidates must meet the requirements of both the Options and the Core.

At **Advanced** level:

- The number of candidates completing the Welsh Bac continues to grow.
- There was a small percentage drop in candidates being awarded the Advanced Diploma, from 82.8 per cent in 2012 to 82.7 per cent in 2013;
- There was an increase in the percentage of candidates achieving the Core Certificate, from 87.6 per cent to 88.4 per cent.

At **Intermediate** level:

- There continues to be growth in the number of candidates completing the programme;
- 79.3 per cent of candidates were awarded the Diploma, an increase of 6.8 per cent over 2012;
- There was also an increase in the percentage of candidates who achieved the Core Certificate from 81.7 per cent in 2012 to 86.6 per cent in 2013, an increase of 4.9 per cent.

At **Foundation** level:

- There was a decrease in the number of candidates completing the programme from 3,521 in 2012 to 2,831 in 2013;
- 77 per cent of candidates were awarded the Diploma compared with 63.5 per cent in 2012;
- There was an increase of 11.6 per cent of candidates achieving the Core certificate this year.

Tables 5, 6 and 7 below show the Summer 2013 and 2012 results.

Welsh Bacculaureate Results

Table 5: Welsh Bacculaureate Advanced Diploma Awards, 2012 and 2013

	Summer 2012	Summer 2013
Candidates completing the programme	9,978	10,362
Candidates awarded the Advanced Diploma	8,259 (82.8%)	8,565 (82.7%)
Candidates awarded the Core Certificate	8,747 (87.6%)	9,159 (88.4%)

Source: WJEC Press Release

Table 6: Welsh Bacculaureate Intermediate Diploma Awards, 2012 and 2013

	Summer 2012	Summer 2013
Candidates completing the programme	9,940	13,491
Candidates awarded the Intermediate Diploma	7,210 (72.5%)	10,692 (79.3%)
Candidates awarded the Core Certificate	8,119 (81.7%)	11,677 (86.6%)

Source: WJEC Press Release

Table 7: Welsh Bacculaureate Foundation Diploma Awards, 2012 and 2013

	Summer 2012	Summer 2013
Candidates completing the programme	3,521	2,831
Candidates awarded the Foundation Diploma	2,236 (63.5%)	2,180 (77.0%)
Candidates awarded the Core Certificate	2,515 (71.4%)	2,349 (83.0%)

Source: WJEC Press Release

Sources of data

Data is provisional in the sense that they represent the position at the time that results are issued. The data are subject to checking before final data at national (Wales), local authority and school level is published.

The Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) publishes provisional data for A, AS and Advanced Extension Awards for Wales, England and Northern Ireland, separately and as a whole. It includes information on results by grade and gender and subject. It can be seen, along with results for previous years, [here](#). The JCQ publishes similar data for GCSE and Entry Level Certificates which can be seen [here](#). The JCQ also publish specific media releases for Wales. These can be seen [here](#) (A level) and [here](#) (GCSE).

The WJEC also publish data for the Welsh Bac Advanced Diploma [here](#) and Intermediate and Foundation [here](#). Some data is also published in Welsh Government press releases on the days of the results. These can be seen [here](#) for GCSEs and [here](#) for A levels.

2012 data for Wales, at a local authority level can be seen in the Welsh Government Statistical Directorate publication, *Schools in Wales: Examination performance, 2012*. A similar release with data for 2013 is due to be published in May 2014. This will show final data which may differ from that which is shown in this paper.

Further information

For further information on the **GCSE, A level and Welsh Bac results** please contact **Sian Hughes** (sian.hughes@Wales.gov.uk), Research Service.

See also:

- [JCQ website](#)
- [WJEC website](#)
- [Welsh Government Statistics](#)

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