

Statistical Release

Appeals for GCSE and GCE: summer 2016 exam series

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Key points

This statistical release provides information on the number of appeals made against results for GCSEs and GCEs (AS and A levels) in England, Wales, Northern Ireland, other UK regions and overseas during the summer 2016 exam series. An appeal is made at unit/component level and can be in relation to one or more candidates. The key findings for this release are as follows:

- The number of appeals submitted fell by 24% in 2016, compared to 2015 (355 compared to 466)
- This decrease is in the context of an overall fall by 5% in the number GCSE and GCE unit entries and a decrease of 25% in the number of reviews of marking, moderation and administrative error (formerly known as enquiries about results) compared to 2015
- In 2016, 3% (211) of all grades challenged at appeal (6,649) led to a grade change. In comparison, less than 1% (49) of grades challenged were changed in 2015. This increase is in part due to a pilot in 2016 in three GCE subjects (geography, physics and religious studies) to test new grounds for appeals, such that appeals may be submitted on grounds of marking error in these 3 subjects.
- Twenty-nine appeals progressed to stage 2 in 2016. This represents 8% of all appeals submitted.
- All stage 1 appeals and around 34% of all stage 2 appeals were completed within 50 working days from the initial receipt of the appeal – a timescale committed to by awarding organisations

Introduction

This statistical release, published on behalf of the qualifications regulators for England, Wales and Northern Ireland, presents data on appeals made to exam boards for the summer 2016 GCSE and GCE (AS and A level) exam series.

If a school or college is concerned about the accuracy of a candidate's result, it can ask the exam board to look at the marking again. This is known as a review of marking, review of moderation or administrative error (collectively referred to throughout this report as 'reviews' and formerly known as enquiries about results). Ofqual published information on the number of reviews for the summer 2016 series in December 2016.¹

If a school or college has gone through the review of marking and moderation process and is dissatisfied with the outcome, it can make an appeal to the exam board. Further information on appeals can be found in the background notes in this report.

Five exam boards award GCSE and GCE qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland:

- AQA
- Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment (CCEA)
- Oxford Cambridge and RSA Examinations (OCR)
- Pearson
- WJEC.

From 2011 to 2013, International Curriculum and Assessment Agency (Examinations) (ICAA(E)) also awarded GCSEs.

This statistical release presents data on:

- the two stage process for appeals put in place by the exam boards – stage 1 (a review by a senior member of the exam board), and stage 2 (a presentation of the case to an appeals panel);

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/reviews-of-marking-and-moderation-for-gcse-and-a-level-summer-2016-exam-series>

- the number of appeals received, the number resulting in qualification grade changes, and the performance of the exam boards in meeting published timelines.

The new, reformed AS and A levels in England are separate qualifications^[1], meaning AS results will no longer count towards the A level grade, as in previous qualifications. In 2015/16, thirteen new AS qualifications were offered in England^[2]. In future years, more reformed qualifications will be awarded and reported in these statistics. Data was collected for AS and A level separately for the first time in 2016. However, as in previous years, it has been reported jointly as GCE in this publication to allow comparisons with previous years. Therefore, AS and A level combined are described as GCE in this report. In light of the reforms, how AS and A level data are presented in this and other Official Statistical releases is currently under review and subject to change in future releases.

The background notes in this document give more information on the appeals process.

All the tables referred to in the text are provided in the appendix and a glossary of terms is available towards the back of this document to help you interpret this release.

^[1] GCE qualifications provided by WJEC and CCEA have not been separated.

^[2] Art and design, biology, business, chemistry, computing, economics, English language, English language and literature, English literature, history, physics, psychology, sociology. For more information on the reform timetable see <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/get-the-facts-gcse-and-a-level-reform/get-the-facts-as-and-a-level-reform>.

Key statistics

A school or college can only make an appeal against a result, hereafter referred to as an 'appeal', where they have first submitted a review of marking or moderation. If they are dissatisfied with the outcome of the review, they can then make an appeal within a period defined by the exam board. An appeal is usually made at unit/component level and can be in relation to one or more candidates.

There were 355 appeals made against GCSE and GCE results in 2016; a decrease of 24% from 2015 when there were 466 (see below and table 2 in the appendix).

Forty-six of the summer 2016 appeals resulted in changes² to candidates' qualification grades, compared to 31 in 2015.

Year	Appeals	The number of appeals resulting in changes to candidates' grades	% of appeals that resulted in grade changes
2014	456	44	10%
2015	466	31	7%
2016	355	46	13%

Note: The number of appeals resulting in changes to candidates' grades is not the same as the total number of qualification grade changes, because an appeal may involve more than one candidate.

Each appeal may refer to more than one candidate qualification grade. There were 6,649 candidates' qualification grades involved in the 355 appeals from summer 2016. Following the appeals, 211 qualification grades (3% of qualification grades challenged) were changed. This is an increase compared to 2015, where 7,166 candidates' qualification grades were involved in 466 appeals, of which 49 (slightly under 1%) were changed (see below and Tables 5 and 6).

Year	Number of appeals for GCSE and GCE	Total number of qualification grades challenged at appeal	Total number of qualification grade changes	Percentage of qualification grades challenged resulting in a change
2014	456	6,283	218	3.5%
2015	466	7,166	49	0.7%
2016	355	6,649	211	3.2%

² Grades can change up or down. This year all 211 qualification grade changes went up.

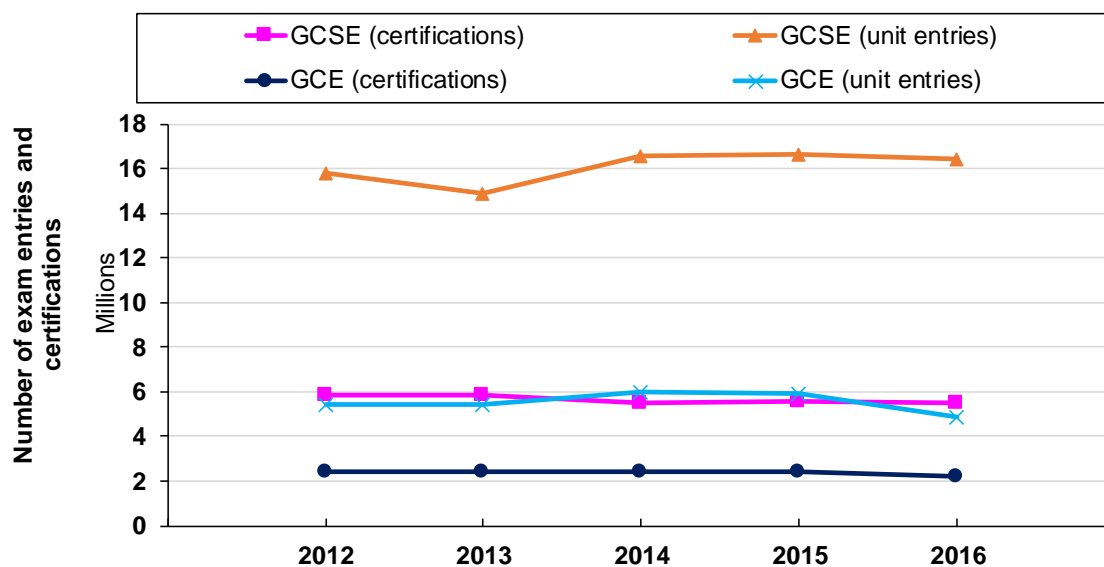
The data shows 0.003% of all qualification grades certificated in summer 2016 (over 7.7 million) were changed as a result of an appeal.

Statistical analysis

Certification and entries

In the summer 2016 exam series, more than 2.2 million GCE certifications and over 5.5 million GCSE certifications were made in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, other UK regions and overseas.³

Figure 1: Total unit entries and qualification certifications for GCSE and GCE, summer exam series, 2012 to 2016



A unit entry is a candidate registering to take a single unit of assessment for a GCSE or GCE qualification (for example, an exam or other form of assessment). For linear specifications, units are often referred to as ‘components’.

There was a total of 21.4 million unit entries for GCSE and GCE in summer 2016, a fall of 5% compared to last year. There were 16.5 million GCSE unit entries in summer 2016, a decrease of 1% from 2015. There were 4.9 million GCE unit entries in summer 2016, down 17% from 2015. From 2016, for reformed qualifications, AS and A level qualifications were decoupled in England (but not in Wales or Northern Ireland). This means for qualifications designed to meet Ofqual’s requirements and taken mainly by students in England, AS is a standalone qualification and the marks gained in an AS level do not contribute to an A level. The number of AS unit entries

³ These figures include applied subjects

declined in 2016. Further information on changes in number of entries for summer 2016 series was published in 2016⁴.

From 2014, there were no January assessments for GCE in England. This means the entries previously made in January are likely to have been made in the summer, leading to the large rise in entries in the summer of 2014.

These changes mean there are limitations to any conclusions drawn about year-on-year changes over the whole period covered by this report.

⁴ <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/summer-2016-exam-entries-gcses-level-1-2-certificates-as-and-a-levels-in-england>

Stage 1 and stage 2 appeals

The procedure for appealing against decisions made by awarding bodies is governed by the Ofqual GCSE (A*-G) qualification-level conditions and requirements⁵ and the Ofqual pre-reform GCE qualification level conditions and requirements.⁶ The regulators in Wales and NI have their own equivalent requirements.

JCQ awarding bodies⁷ follow a common approach. They provide a two-stage appeals process.

- stage 1 is an intermediary review of the case by a senior member of the exam board who has not been involved previously with the particular case. If a centre is not satisfied with the decision given by the exam board at stage 1, they can choose to proceed to stage 2.
- stage 2 is a presentation of the case to an appeal panel, involving at least one independent decision maker.

The majority of appeals occur when a candidate completes a qualification, though there may be some appeals involving candidates who are not certificating⁸.

The number of appeals for GCSE and GCE in 2016 is shown below.

	GCSE appeals	GCE appeals	GCSE appeals resulting in changes to candidates' grades'	GCE appeals resulting in changes to candidates' grades'
Stage 1 (review)	136	219	15	30
Stage 2 (appeals panel)	13	16	0	1

Note: The number of appeals resulting in changes to candidates' grades is not the same as the total number of qualification grade changes, because an appeal may involve more than one candidate.

The number of GCSE appeals submitted decreased from 161 in summer 2015, to 136 in summer 2016. The number of GCE appeals also decreased, from 305 in 2015, to 219 in 2016 (see Figure 2, Table 2 and Table 3).

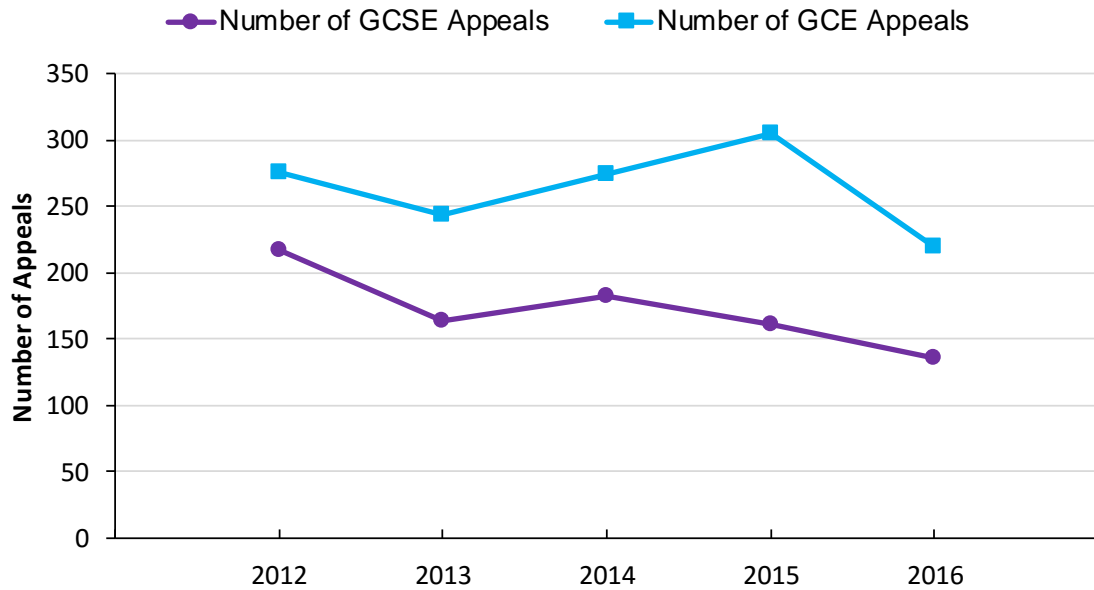
⁵ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/gcse-a-to-g-qualification-level-conditions-and-requirements>

⁶ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/gce-qualification-level-conditions-for-pre-reform-qualifications>

⁷ <http://www.jcq.org.uk/examination-system/the-appeals-process>

⁸ Although this does not apply to England as all qualifications are now linear (100% terminal rule).

Figure 2: Number of appeals for GCSE and A level, summer exam series, 2012 to 2016



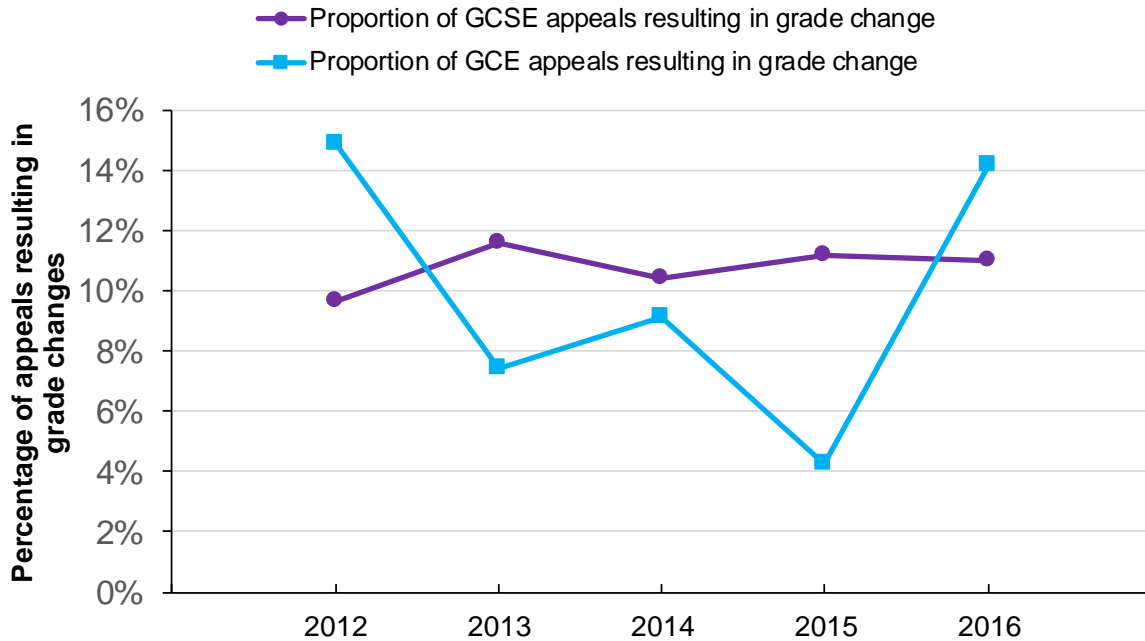
The proportion of GCSE appeals resulting in changes to qualification grades remained stable at 11% in 2015 and 2016 (see Figure 3 and Table 2).

The proportion of GCE appeals resulting in changes to qualification grades went up from 4% in 2015 to 14% in 2016 (see Figure 3 and Table 2). This increase is in part due to the pilot, which ran in 2016 in three GCE subjects (geography, physics and religious studies) to test new grounds for appeals, such that appeals may be submitted on grounds of marking error in these three subjects⁹. Ofqual will be publishing an evaluation of the pilot in 2017.

Any comparisons over time should be treated with caution, as the numbers are small when considered in relation to the overall volume of units.

⁹ https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/526382/appendix-3-guidance-on-considering-marking-errors-on-a-review-or-appeal.pdf

Figure 3: Proportion of appeals resulting in grade changes, summer exam series, 2012 to 2016



Of the 355 stage 1 appeals in 2016, 8% (29) of appeals progressed to stage 2. This proportion is very similar to 2015 when it was 7% (see Table 3).

There was one stage 2 appeal which led to a change of qualification grade this year. From 2013 to 2015 there were no qualification grade changes as a result of a stage 2 appeal.

Candidate-level analysis

It is important to remember that each appeal may involve multiple candidates grouped into one appeal case. As previously stated, the 355 GCSE and GCE appeal cases from the summer 2016 exam series involved 6,649 candidates' qualification grades.

For GCSE, there were 5,423 candidate qualification grades involved in 136 appeals from the summer 2016 exam series. Less than 3% (152) of those qualification grades were changed. In 2015, there were 5,968 candidate qualification grades involved in 161 appeals, of which less than 1% (35) were changed.

For GCE, there were 1,226 candidate qualification grades involved in 219 appeals, from the summer 2016 exam series. Less than 5% (59) of those qualification grades were changed. In 2015, there were 1,198 candidate qualification grades involved in 305 appeals, of which slightly over 1% (14) were changed.

Year	Number of appeals		Total number of qualification grades challenged		Total number of qualification grade changes		Percentage of qualification grades challenged resulting in a change	
	GCSE	GCE	GCSE	GCE	GCSE	GCE	GCSE	GCE
2014	182	274	4,712	1,571	189	29	4.0%	1.8%
2015	161	305	5,968	1,198	35	14	0.6%	1.2%
2016	136	219	5,423	1,226	152	59	2.8%	4.8%

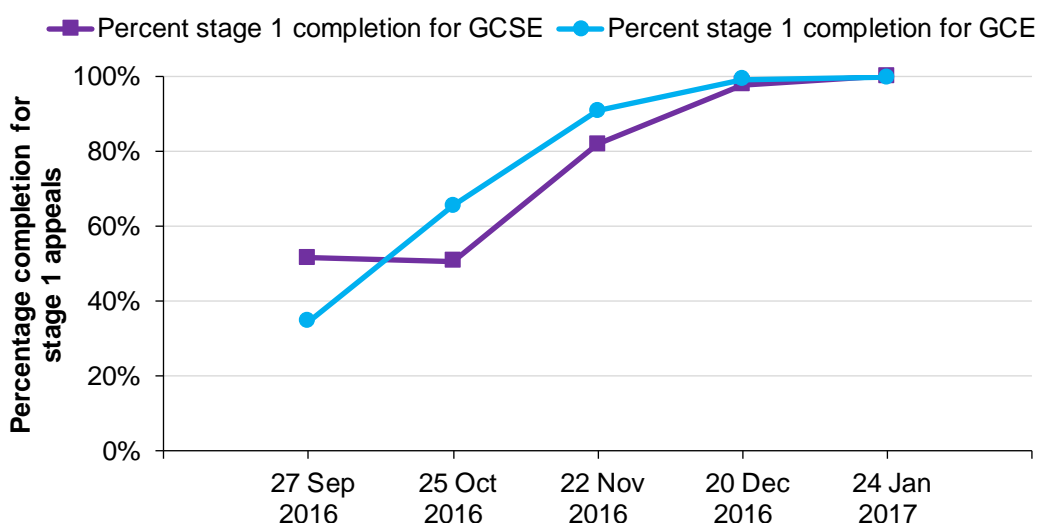
Time taken to complete appeals

Awarding organisations carry out a preliminary appeals process (stage 1) and then conduct a formal appeals hearing (stage 2) unless the outcome of stage 1 leads the appellant to withdraw the application. A decision letter is sent in line with a timescale chosen by individual exam boards (these timescales are published by the exam boards).

It usually takes longer to complete an appeal which progresses to stage 2, as a formal hearing will be scheduled. Delays can occur due to limited availability of the parties required to be at the hearings. Of the 29 appeals which progressed to stage 2, 34% (10) were completed within 50 days of receipt and a further 15 appeals while completed, were not within the timescales published by awarding organisations. The remaining 4 appeals were still in progress at the time of writing.

Following the summer 2016 exam series, 60% of stage 1 appeals were completed by October. By November, this had risen to 87%, with 99% completed by December (see Figure 4 and Table 7).

Figure 4: Percentage completion of stage 1 appeals for GCSE and A level, summer 2016 exam series



Glossary of terms

A levels

Also known as General Certificates of Education, the A level is an academic qualification offered by educational bodies in the UK to students completing secondary or pre-university education. At present, a combination of legacy and reformed A levels are available to students.

For legacy A levels, the qualification is generally studied for over two years and split into two parts, one part studied in each year. The first part is known as the Advanced Subsidiary (AS) and was previously known as the Advanced Supplementary, with the same abbreviation. The second part is known as the A2 level. The AS is a qualification in its own right, and the AS combined with the A2 forms the complete A level qualification.

Reformed A levels in England are different in that the results of the AS qualification do not count towards a student's final A level grade. As such, there is no requirement for students to enter the AS qualification in a given subject, even if they intend to study the full A level. Reformed AS qualifications were available for the first time in thirteen subjects.¹⁰ Reformed AS qualifications in other subjects will be introduced for 2017 and 2018.

Awarding organisation

An organisation recognised by the qualifications regulators in England, Wales and/or Northern Ireland to develop, deliver and award qualifications. Also referred to as an exam board in the context of GCSEs and A levels.

Certificate/certification

A formal acknowledgement of a student's achievement.

GCSEs

General Certificates of Secondary Education are the main school-leaving qualification in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. They are available in a range of subjects and can be studied alongside other qualifications. They are generally sat by 16-year-olds in schools and colleges but are open to anyone who wants to gain a qualification.

¹⁰ Art and design, biology, business, chemistry, computing, economics, English language, English language and literature, English literature, history, physics, psychology, sociology. For more information on the reform timetable see <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/get-the-facts-gcse-and-a-level-reform/get-the-facts-as-and-a-level-reform>.

Background notes

This document is prepared in line with Ofqual Statistics Policies¹¹ and the Code of Practice for Official Statistics¹².

In this release, Ofqual presents data on the number of appeals made against grades given for GCSEs and GCE, the number of certificates issued for these qualifications and the number of entries. The data covers England, Wales, Northern Ireland, other UK regions and overseas.

The post-results process

Reviews of marking (formerly known as ‘Enquiries about Results’)

Ofqual has published requirements for GCSE¹³ and GCE¹⁴ qualifications which set out our expectations for how exam boards carry out reviews of marking, moderation and appeals. Exam boards must meet these rules and publish detailed information and guidance for schools and colleges on their arrangements for reviews of marking, moderation and appeals following the issue of results.

Exam boards issue results for summer exams in August. If a school or college is concerned about the accuracy of a candidate’s result or a group of candidates’ results, it can ask the exam board to review the marking or moderation undertaken. Until recently the process by which schools raised concerns about results was known as the ‘enquiry about results’ process. More information on reviews of marking for the summer 2016 series was published by Ofqual in December 2016¹⁵.

¹¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ofquals-statistics-policies-and-procedures>

¹² <https://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/monitoring-and-assessment/code-of-practice/>

¹³ https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/546503/gce-qualification-level-conditions-and-requirements.pdf

¹⁴ https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/591884/GCSE_9_to_1_Qualification_Level_Conditions_and_Requirements_-_Feb_2017.pdf

¹⁵ <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/reviews-of-marking-and-moderation-for-gcse-and-a-level-summer-2016-exam-series>

The new review of marking requirements set by Ofqual and Qualification Wales¹⁶ are similar enough that any reviews processed according to these requirements are comparable. These include all reviews conducted by AQA, OCR, Pearson and WJEC. CCEA continues to operate the process for enquiries about results and appeals described in the Code¹⁷. This means that some of the review of marking requirements in place are different for CCEA and so their figures are not directly comparable with those from AQA, OCR, Pearson and WJEC.

Appeals

If a school or college has gone through the review of marking or moderation process and is dissatisfied with the outcome, it can make an appeal to the exam board. An appeal can be in relation to the outcomes of one or more candidates, if they are all thought to be affected by the same issue. Appeals are usually made when a centre is not satisfied with the outcome of a review of marking or moderation. In most subjects appeals against reviews of marking and moderation decisions are only allowed where a school or college believes there has been a procedural failure by the exam board. In these cases they need to show the exam board had not applied its procedures consistently or followed them correctly or fairly.

We are considering extending the grounds on which a result can be appealed, so an appeal could be made on the basis of a marking or moderation error. This year we have required exam boards to pilot these arrangements in three GCE: physics, religious studies and geography. For 2016, in these subjects, schools and colleges could appeal the mark a student was given if they believe a marking or moderation error was not corrected when the original result was reviewed or if they think there was an error in the review itself. They could appeal if they think the exam board has made a procedural error too.

Appeals can also be made about an exam board's decisions about malpractice, access arrangements and special consideration.

The exam boards have all decided to put in place a two stage appeals process:

- stage 1 is a review of the case by a senior member of the exam board who has not been involved previously with the particular case.
- stage 2 is a presentation of the case to an appeals panel. The exam board convenes the panel. It comprises at least three members, one of whom must be independent (that means someone who is not, and has not at any time during

¹⁶ <http://qualificationswales.org/media/1907/160718-gcse-and-gce-additional-standard-conditions-final.pdf>

¹⁷ https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/371268/2011-05-27-code-of-practice.pdf

the previous five years, been a member of the board or its committees, or an employee or examiner at the exam board). A school or college can take the appeal to stage 2 only after going through stage 1.

Although Ofqual's conditions do not require it, in 2016 exam boards committed to complete both stages within 50 working days of the appeal being lodged with them. In some cases, appeals are not resolved until after 50 days from the initial receipt of the appeal. Sometimes, this occurs to allow a fair appeal hearing with appropriate evidence, and for individuals to be present from both the school or college and the exam board.

The Examination Procedures Review Service

If a school or college is still dissatisfied with the outcome following an appeal, it can apply to the Examination Procedures Review Service (EPRS) within three weeks of receiving the outcome from the exam board. The EPRS is provided by Ofqual. Ofqual will review each application and arrange a review hearing if appropriate. Ofqual will look at whether the exam board has followed the appropriate procedures and used them properly and fairly. Ofqual will only look at whether or not the rules about the exam, how it was marked and how the qualification was graded, have been properly followed. If the exam board has not followed its own procedures or has not secured the outcomes required by Ofqual's regulations and a candidate had been disadvantaged, the application to EPRS may be allowed. Exam boards must give due regard to the outcome of EPRS hearings, both in respect of results issued to the candidate making the application and, where appropriate, other potentially affected results.

You can find further details of the EPRS on Ofqual's website.¹⁸

¹⁸ www.gov.uk/appeal-exam-results-for-schools-colleges-and-private-candidates

Data presentation

The new, reformed AS and A levels in England are separate qualifications^[1], meaning AS results will no longer count towards the A level grade, as in previous qualifications. In 2015/16, thirteen new AS qualifications were offered in England^[2]. In future years, more reformed qualifications will be awarded and reported in these statistics. Data was collected for AS and A level separately for the first time in 2016. However, as in previous years, it has been reported jointly as GCE in this publication to allow comparisons with previous years. Therefore, AS and A level combined are described as GCE in this report. In light of the reforms, how AS and A level data are presented in this and other Official Statistical releases is currently under review and subject to change in future releases.

Data source

Exam boards provide the data for the GCSEs and GCEs (all full courses, short courses, applied and double awards) that they have awarded in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Data also include other UK regions, such as the Isle of Man, and overseas entries.

Limitations of data

There is potential for error in the information provided by exam boards, therefore Ofqual cannot guarantee the information received is correct. Ofqual compares the data over time and checks for systematic issues. Summary data are sent back to exam boards for checking and confirmation.

Quality assurance procedures are carried out as explained in the *Quality Assurance Framework for Statistical Publication* and the *Data Audit Framework*¹⁹ to ensure the accuracy of the data and to challenge or question it where necessary. Ofqual continuously manages this process by:

- ensuring data providers are clear about what is required of them – a process helped by ensuring providers are fully consulted during the initial design and any subsequent change phases;

^[1] GCE qualifications provided by WJEC and CCEA have not been separated.

^[2] Art and design, biology, business, chemistry, computing, economics, English language, English language and literature, English literature, history, physics, psychology, sociology. For more information on the reform timetable see <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/get-the-facts-gcse-and-a-level-reform/get-the-facts-as-and-a-level-reform>.

¹⁹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ofquals-statistics-policies-and-procedures>

- reminding all providers, if appropriate, that, as a condition of them being regulated, all data must be completely accurate;
- being alert to unexpected changes in the data submitted, by comparing individual returns from the same provider over time;
- actively challenging any unexpected results with the data providers;
- having a proportionate data auditing framework in place which allows for the auditing of providers' information collection, collation, and delivery processes as necessary, using a wide range of tools from questionnaires to on-site process audits.

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

Geographical coverage

In this release, Ofqual presents data on appeals for GCSEs, GCE in England, Wales, Northern Ireland, other UK regions and overseas.

Revisions

Once published, data are not usually subject to revision, although subsequent releases may be revised to insert late data or to correct an error.¹⁹

Completeness of the data

Exam boards send Ofqual data for each exam series. Any provider that does not return a complete set of data within the collection period is contacted to make sure the data are as complete as possible. For this release, Ofqual received data from all the exam boards.

Confidentiality and rounding

To ensure confidentiality of the published data accompanying this report, some figures have been rounded to the nearest 100. The *Statement of Confidentiality* and the *Rounding Policy* are found on the Ofqual website.¹⁹

Related statistics and publications

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

- *Statistical Release: Summer Exam Entries: GCSEs, Level 1 / 2 Certificates, AS and A Levels in England: Provisional Figures 2016.*²⁰
- *Statistical Release: Reviews of marking and moderation for GCSE and A Level: summer 2016 exam series.*²¹
- *Statistical First Release: Schools, pupils and their characteristics: January 2016* (published by the Department for Education).²²
- *Statistical First Release: A level and other level 3 results in England, 2014 to 2015 (revised)* (published by the Department for Education).²³

Users of these statistics

These statistics are of particular interest to the qualification regulators, recognised exam boards and the Department for Education. Other users include government policy officials, academics, researchers, the public, government departments in Northern Ireland and Wales, and other interested parties. Ofqual uses these statistics to monitor for potential issues and to analyse trends over time. Central government officials use the statistics for policy implementation and ministerial briefings.

User feedback

We welcome your feedback on our publications. Should you have any comments on this statistical release and how to improve it to meet your needs please contact us as statistics@ofqual.gov.uk.

²⁰ <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/summer-2016-exam-entries-gcse-level-1-2-certificates-as-and-a-levels-in-england>

²¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/reviews-of-marking-and-moderation-for-gcse-and-a-level-summer-2016-exam-series>

²² <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/schools-pupils-and-their-characteristics-january-2016>

²³ <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/a-level-and-other-level-3-results-2014-to-2015-revised>

Appendix

Table 1	Total entries for GCSE and GCE, summer exam series, 2012 to 2016
Table 2	Appeals that resulted in a grade change for GCSE and GCE, summer exam series, 2012 to 2016
Table 3	Appeals for GCSE and GCE by appeal type, summer exam series, 2012 to 2016
Table 4	Total appeals by exam board for GCSE and GCE, summer exam series, 2012 to 2016
Table 5	Grades challenged through appeals by exam board for GCSE, summer exam series, 2013 to 2016
Table 6	Grades challenged through appeals by exam board for GCE, summer exam series, 2013 to 2016
Table 7	Percentage completion within deadline for stage 1 appeals, for GCSE and GCE, summer exam series, 2012 to 2016

Table 1: Total entries for GCSE and GCE, summer exam series, 2012 to 2016

England, Wales, Northern Ireland, other UK regions and overseas

	Year	AQA	Pearson	OCR	WJEC	CCEA	ICAA(E)	Total
GCSE (certifications)	2012	2,513,400	1,435,000	1,053,700	677,200	141,000	1,900	5,822,100
	2013	2,529,200	1,570,100	950,000	685,800	136,000	800	5,872,000
	2014	2,314,900	1,546,700	857,500	665,500	144,100		5,528,700
	2015	2,347,900	1,622,000	826,800	666,700	147,200		5,610,500
	2016	2,343,400	1,573,100	813,200	652,200	145,000		5,527,000
GCE (certifications)	2012	1,013,300	585,200	588,500	197,400	63,100		2,447,500
	2013	1,008,200	586,400	569,100	197,000	63,700		2,424,400
	2014	1,028,000	592,400	548,400	206,300	65,500		2,440,600
	2015	1,033,400	571,800	532,500	209,200	69,100		2,416,000
	2016	930,400	537,600	480,000	197,800	70,400		2,216,200
Total certifications	2012	3,526,700	2,020,200	1,642,200	874,600	204,100	1,900	8,269,600
	2013	3,537,400	2,156,600	1,519,100	882,900	199,700	800	8,296,500
	2014	3,342,900	2,139,000	1,406,000	871,800	209,600		7,969,300
	2015	3,381,200	2,193,800	1,359,300	875,900	216,300		8,026,600
	2016	3,273,900	2,110,700	1,293,200	850,000	215,400		7,743,200
GCSE (entries)	2012	6,897,000	3,695,400	2,938,200	1,942,400	335,500	1,900	15,810,500
	2013	6,532,300	3,540,600	2,433,700	1,943,400	424,000	800	14,874,900
	2014	6,712,100	4,281,800	2,799,000	2,353,100	423,400		16,569,400
	2015	6,856,800	4,339,800	2,684,400	2,346,700	433,700		16,661,400
	2016	6,903,000	4,285,300	2,566,700	2,270,200	432,000		16,457,300
GCE (entries)	2012	2,075,600	1,464,800	1,333,500	423,200	144,700		5,441,800
	2013	2,072,700	1,459,600	1,311,500	424,400	147,100		5,415,300
	2014	2,389,900	1,542,700	1,436,400	473,500	157,500		6,000,000
	2015	2,403,300	1,470,000	1,384,700	491,800	173,500		5,923,300
	2016	2,045,900	1,333,600	906,200	445,000	176,900		4,907,600
Total entries	2012	8,972,600	5,160,200	4,271,600	2,365,600	480,200	1,900	21,252,300
	2013	8,605,000	5,000,200	3,745,200	2,367,800	571,100	800	20,290,200
	2014	9,102,000	5,824,500	4,235,400	2,826,600	580,900		22,569,400
	2015	9,260,100	5,809,800	4,069,100	2,838,500	607,300		22,584,800
	2016	8,948,800	5,618,900	3,472,900	2,715,200	609,000		21,364,800

Notes:

1. Data are supplied by exam boards.
2. All figures are rounded to the nearest hundred.
3. Figures have been rounded independently so may not add up to the total.
4. ICAA(E) awarded GCSEs for the last time in 2013.

Table 2: Appeals that resulted in a qualification grade change for GCSE and GCE, summer exam series 2012 to 2016

England, Wales, Northern Ireland, other UK regions and overseas

	Year	Total number of appeals received	Number of appeals resulting in qualification grade changes			
			Stage 1	Stage 2	Total	%
GCSE	2012	217	21	0	21	10%
	2013	164	19	0	19	12%
	2014	182	19	0	19	10%
	2015	161	18	0	18	11%
	2016	136	15	0	15	11%
GCE	2012	276	40	1	41	15%
	2013	243	18	0	18	7%
	2014	274	25	0	25	9%
	2015	305	13	0	13	4%
	2016	219	30	1	31	14%
Total	2012	493	61	1	62	13%
	2013	407	37	0	37	9%
	2014	456	44	0	44	10%
	2015	466	31	0	31	7%
	2016	355	45	1	46	13%

Note:

1. Data are supplied by exam boards.

Table 3: Appeals for GCSE and GCE, by appeal type, summer exam series, 2012 to 2016

England, Wales, Northern Ireland, other UK regions and overseas

		Number of appeals								
	Year	Stage 1 appeals received	Stage 1 appeals completed within 50 days of receipt	% of stage 1 appeals completed within 50 days of receipt	Appeals progressing to stage 2	Stage 2 appeals completed within 50 days of receipt	Stage 2 Appeals still in progress or exceeded 50 working days	% of stage 2 appeals completed within 50 days of receipt	% of all appeals completed within 50 days of receipt	
GCSE	2012	217	-	-	19	12	7	63%	-	
	2013	164	-	-	14	10	4	71%	-	
	2014	182	179	98%	8	2	6	25%	95%	
	2015	161	161	100%	14	2	12	14%	93%	
	2016	136	136	100%	13	6	7	46%	95%	
GCE	2012	276	-	-	22	10	12	45%	-	
	2013	243	-	-	18	10	8	56%	-	
	2014	274	268	98%	21	8	13	38%	94%	
	2015	305	304	100%	19	7	12	37%	96%	
	2016	219	219	100%	16	4	12	25%	95%	
Total	2012	493	-	-	41	22	19	54%	-	
	2013	407	-	-	32	20	12	63%	-	
	2014	456	447	98%	29	10	19	34%	94%	
	2015	466	465	100%	33	9	24	27%	95%	
	2016	355	355	100%	29	10	19	34%	95%	

Notes:

1. Data are supplied by exam boards.
2. - signifies data not previously collected.

Table 4: Total appeals by exam board for GCSE and GCE, summer exam series, 2012 to 2016

England, Wales, Northern Ireland, other UK regions and overseas

	Year	GCSE			GCE		
		Stage 1 appeals received	Appeals progressing to stage 2	Number of appeals that resulted in changes to candidates' qualification grades	Stage 1 appeals received	Appeals progressing to stage 2	Number of appeals that resulted in changes to candidates' qualification grades
AQA	2012	56	14	2	30	6	2
	2013	41	11	5	54	4	3
	2014	53	3	8	67	8	3
	2015	41	0	7	93	6	4
	2016	35	8	9	54	5	16
Pearson	2012	105	1	14	147	6	20
	2013	72	2	3	98	5	1
	2014	52	2	1	84	4	2
	2015	56	4	4	79	4	0
	2016	37	0	3	87	5	2
OCR	2012	33	4	1	80	10	11
	2013	19	1	2	71	8	11
	2014	39	3	6	81	7	11
	2015	20	3	2	96	6	2
	2016	27	3	0	45	4	6
CCEA	2012	11	0	3	16	0	8
	2013	10	0	3	17	1	3
	2014	12	0	0	21	1	7
	2015	12	0	4	24	2	6
	2016	4	2	0	16	2	4
WJEC	2012	12	0	1	3	0	0
	2013	22	0	6	3	0	0
	2014	26	0	4	21	1	2
	2015	32	7	1	13	1	1
	2016	33	0	3	17	0	3
ICAAE	2012	0	0	0			0
Total	2012	217	19	21	276	22	41
	2013	164	14	19	243	18	18
	2014	182	8	19	274	21	25
	2015	161	14	18	305	19	13
	2016	136	13	15	219	16	31

Notes:

1. Data are supplied by exam boards.
2. Grades may go up or down following an appeal.
3. ICAA(E) did not offer A levels, so have a blank.

Table 5: Grades challenged through appeals by exam board for GCSE, summer exam series, 2013 to 2016

England, Wales, Northern Ireland, other UK regions and overseas

	Year	Appeals	
		Total candidate grades challenged at appeal	Total qualification grade changes at appeal
AQA	2013	1,448	27
	2014	2,595	142
	2015	1,024	15
	2016	2,557	129
Pearson	2013	1,719	19
	2014	1,224	37
	2015	2,224	11
	2016	1,671	20
OCR	2013	149	20
	2014	586	6
	2015	271	4
	2016	871	0
CCEA	2013	10	3
	2014	12	0
	2015	19	4
	2016	4	0
WJEC	2013	225	47
	2014	295	4
	2015	2,430	1
	2016	320	3
Total	2013	3,551	116
	2014	4,712	189
	2015	5,968	35
	2016	5,423	152

Notes:

1. Data are supplied by exam boards.
2. Data not collected prior to 2013.
3. Grades may go up or down following an appeal.

Table 6: Grades challenged through appeals by exam board for GCE, summer exam series, 2013 – 2016

England, Wales, Northern Ireland, other UK regions and overseas

		Appeals	
	Year	Total candidate grades challenged at appeal	Total qualification grade changes at appeal
AQA	2013	385	5
	2014	488	7
	2015	525	4
	2016	452	43
Pearson	2013	580	1
	2014	349	2
	2015	253	0
	2016	503	2
OCR	2013	598	17
	2014	657	11
	2015	289	2
	2016	107	6
CCEA	2013	17	3
	2014	31	7
	2015	27	7
	2016	17	4
WJEC	2013	9	0
	2014	46	2
	2015	104	1
	2016	147	4
Total	2013	1,589	26
	2014	1,571	29
	2015	1,198	14
	2016	1,226	59

Notes:

1. Data are supplied by exam boards.
2. Data not collected prior to 2013.
3. Grades may go up or down following an appeal.

Table 7: Percentage completion within deadline for stage 1 appeals, for GCSE and GCE, summer exam series, 2012 – 2016

England, Wales, Northern Ireland, other UK regions and overseas

	Year	Sep		Oct		Nov		Dec		Jan	
		Stage 1 appeals	% completed	Stage 1 appeals	% completed	Stage 1 appeals	% completed	Stage 1 appeals	% completed	Stage 1 appeals	% completed
GCSE	2012	18	33%	139	42%	203	80%	207	96%	218	99%
	2013	34	50%	115	39%	149	76%	160	95%	161	99%
	2014	24	54%	106	36%	167	67%	184	91%	186	98%
	2015	12	17%	100	37%	155	68%	157	96%	158	100%
	2016	33	52%	103	50%	126	82%	133	98%	136	100%
GCE	2012	95	23%	225	52%	267	79%	273	97%	274	99%
	2013	65	20%	176	49%	230	72%	242	90%	244	93%
	2014	86	31%	205	58%	262	75%	274	93%	274	97%
	2015	84	19%	252	51%	295	84%	304	97%	306	100%
	2016	87	34%	194	65%	215	91%	217	99%	218	100%
Total	2012	113	25%	364	49%	470	79%	480	96%	492	99%
	2013	99	30%	291	45%	379	74%	402	92%	405	95%
	2014	110	36%	311	50%	429	72%	458	92%	460	98%
	2015	96	19%	352	47%	450	79%	461	97%	464	100%
	2016	120	39%	297	60%	341	87%	350	99%	354	100%

Note:

1. Data are supplied by exam boards.
2. Percentages are rounded to the nearest whole number.

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