

# Statistical Release

## Special Consideration in GCSE and A Level: Summer 2015 Exam Series

### Contents

Introduction.....	1
Key statistics .....	3
Glossary of terms .....	8
Background notes .....	9
Appendix .....	16

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### Key points

This release provides information on special considerations made for GCSE and A level assessments, in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, during the summer 2015 exam series. Special consideration is the process by which results are awarded for candidates who could not be present for part of the assessment, or where a mark adjustment is applied for candidates who were present but disadvantaged in some way when taking the assessment. The key findings for this release are:

- The number of requests for special consideration has increased by 14 per cent on last year, from 496,500 to 568,350. This is in the context of a 4 per cent increase in the number of candidate scripts.
- This year 523,500 requests were approved for special consideration, a 15 per cent increase on 2014. This represents an approval rate of 92 per cent, which is the same as summer 2014.
- The number of approved requests represents just over 3 per cent of all scripts marked in the summer 2015 exam series.
- For the third year running, the most common mark adjustment made was 3 per cent of the maximum mark of a question paper.

## Introduction

This statistical release, published on behalf of the qualifications regulators for England, Wales and Northern Ireland, presents data on special consideration for GCSE and A level assessments during the summer 2015 exam series. Five exam boards offer these qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland:

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

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

Our regulations require exam boards to have procedures in place to give special consideration to candidates who have temporarily experienced an illness or injury, or other event outside of the candidates' control which affected their ability to take an assessment or demonstrate their level of attainment in an assessment.

Exam boards must publish details of their arrangements for giving special consideration. This must include details about how candidates qualify for special consideration, and what special consideration will be given.

The Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) is a membership organisation comprising the seven largest providers of qualifications in the UK, including those awarding GCSEs and A levels. Each year, JCQ publishes *A guide to the special consideration process*<sup>1</sup>, which explains special consideration and what it is used for.

Exam Boards provide two types of special consideration:

- adjustments which may be made to marks for candidates who were present for an assessment but disadvantaged due to temporary injury, illness, indisposition

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<sup>1</sup> [www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/access-arrangements-and-special-consideration/regulations-and-guidance/a-guide-to-the-special-consideration-process-2015-2016](http://www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/access-arrangements-and-special-consideration/regulations-and-guidance/a-guide-to-the-special-consideration-process-2015-2016)

or other unforeseen incident immediately before or during the assessment period.

- procedures in place for making a qualification award where a candidate has covered the course but is unable, through temporary illness, injury or indisposition, to be present for part of the assessment and therefore unable to fulfil all the usual assessment requirements.

A special consideration request applies to an individual assessment (a unit or component) that forms part of the overall qualification. Special consideration requests can also be made for non-timetabled assessments such as controlled assessments or coursework, although these are typically a small proportion of requests and are not included in this release.

### Data presentation

In this release, AS figures are included in the figures reported for A level, since AS units are a subset of the A level qualification.

Figures within the commentary and tables have been rounded to the nearest 50.

All tables referred to in the text are provided in the appendix.

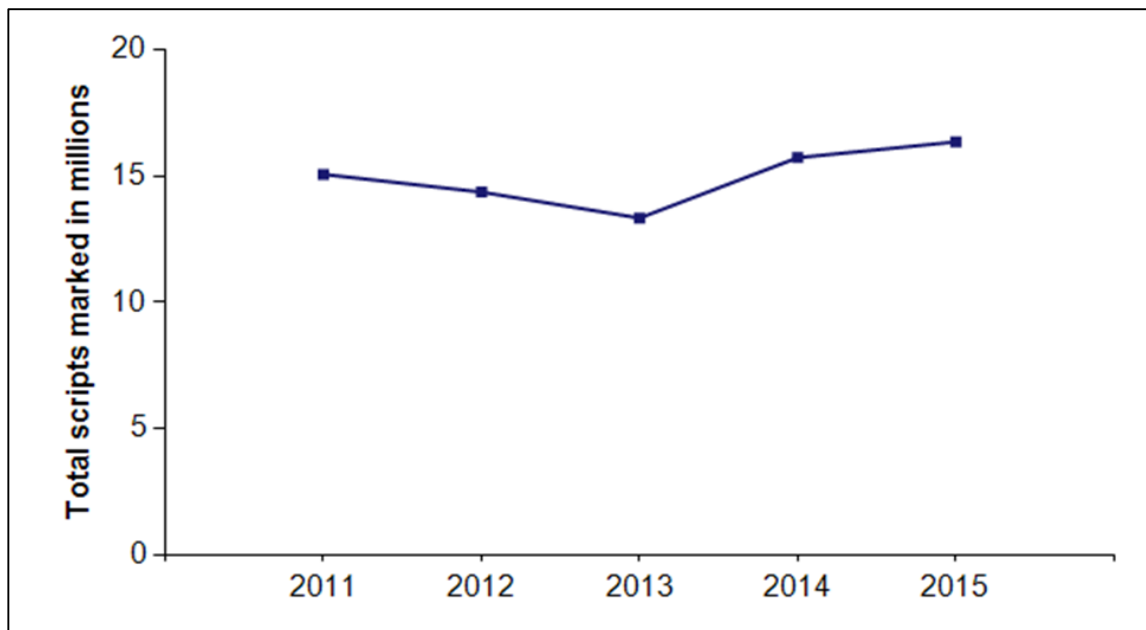
Further background information on special consideration relevant to this release is provided from page 8 onwards.

## Key statistics

### Scripts marked

In the summer 2015 exam series, there were a total of 16.3 million GCSE or A level candidate scripts in England, Wales, Northern Ireland, other UK regions and overseas. This is an increase of 4 per cent from 2014 (see table 1 and figure 1).

**Figure 1: Total scripts marked for GCSE and A level, summer exam series 2011 to 2015**



The declining number of scripts between the 2011 and 2013 summer series can largely be explained by the phased introduction of modular GCSEs over this period. In modular GCSEs candidates could take assessments at different points through the course therefore reducing the number of assessments taken in the summer (as reported here).

Between the 2013 and 2014 summer series, there was an increase in the number of scripts because of changes made to the qualifications from 2014, when GCSEs became linear in England and the January exam series for AS and A level in England was removed. This meant that from 2014, students have taken all their exams in the summer at the end of the programme of study. As a result, the number of individual exams (but not the number of qualifications) taken by each student in summer 2014 and 2015 was generally higher than in recent years, hence the 22 per cent increase in the number of scripts since 2013.

## Special consideration

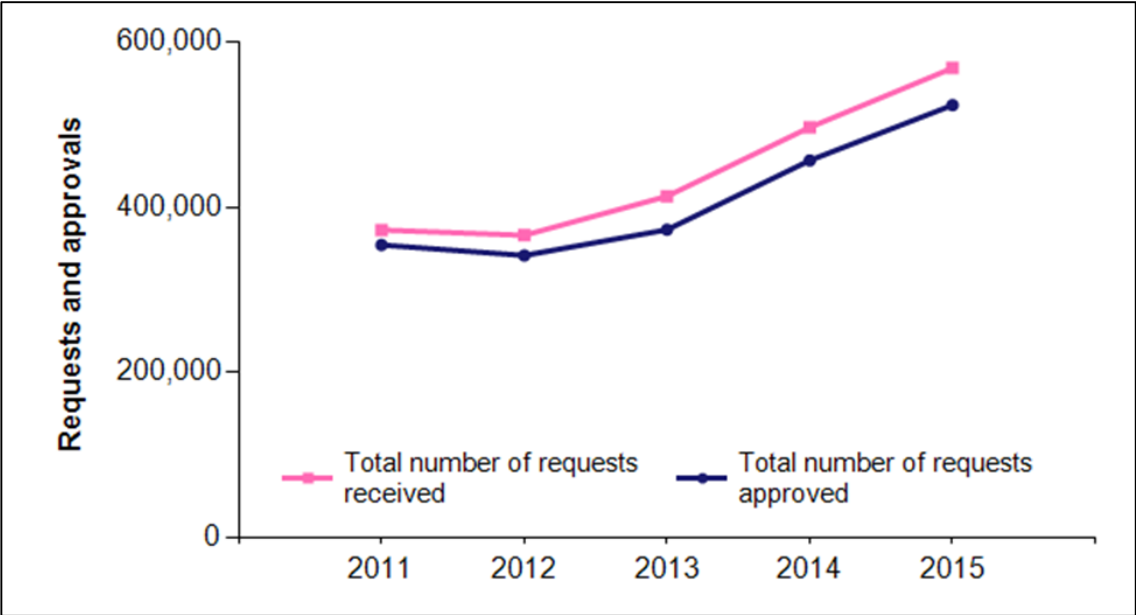
The figures here represent the number of requests for special consideration rather than the number of candidates making requests. A request relates to a single request by a candidate sitting a specific unit or component in a series. An individual candidate may need special consideration for a number of units or components, taken with more than one exam board, for which the same special consideration may be appropriate. The school or college will need to make a request for each unit or component to each exam board.

During the summer 2015 exam series, there were 568,350 requests for special consideration, a 14 per cent increase on 2014. One of the causes of this increase is likely to be partially due to the increase in the number of scripts in summer 2015 although this cannot be the sole contributor.

One of the causes of the increase since summer 2013 is the increase in the number of entries in the summer exam series, as a result of linearisation of GCSEs in England and removal of the January exam series in A levels in England and Northern Ireland. For example, prior to summer 2014, a candidate planning to take an exam in January, March or November who was ill could defer taking their exam until the summer, but this option is no longer available (see table 2, figure 1 and figure 2).

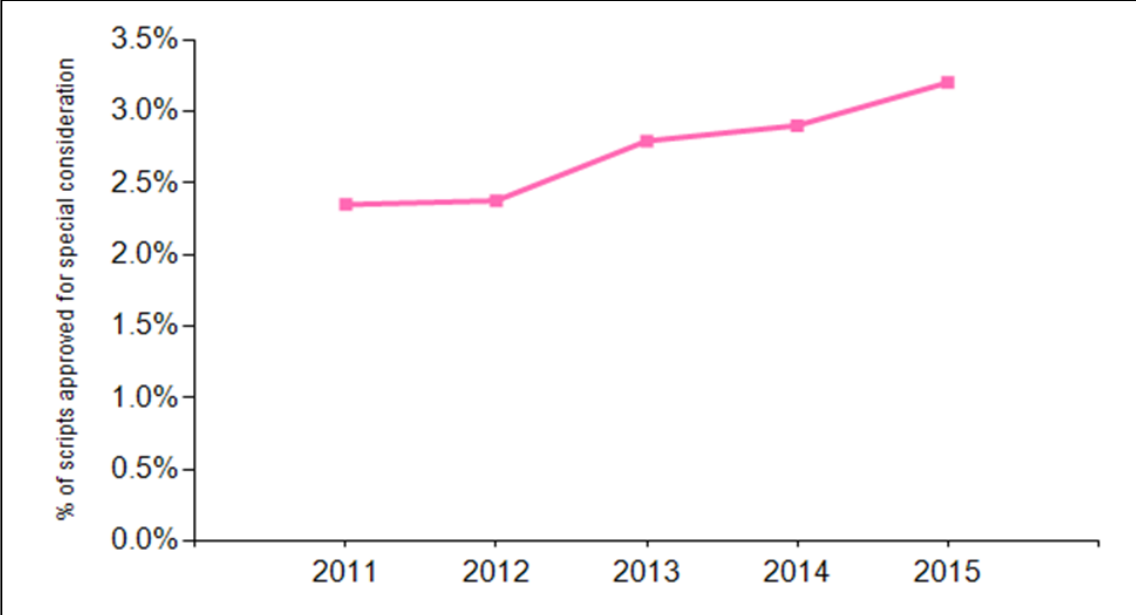
Exam boards approved 523,500 requests for special consideration, a 15 per cent increase on 2014. This represents an approval rate of 92 per cent, which is the same as summer 2014. This stabilises the trend of decreases in the approval rate seen over the years before summer 2014. In 2011, the approval rate was 95 per cent (see table 2).

**Figure 2: Number of requests received and approved for special consideration, 2011 to 2015**



The requests approved for special consideration during the summer 2015 exam series represent 3.2 per cent of the total number of scripts marked. This has not significantly increased from last year (2.9 per cent) but is the highest figure in the last five years (see figure 3).

**Figure 3: Requests approved for special consideration as a percentage of total scripts marked, 2011 to 2015**



## Categories of special consideration

Two categories of special consideration are available:

- Mark adjustment – for candidates who were present for an assessment but disadvantaged in some way when taking the assessment.
- Qualification award – for candidates who could not be present to complete all the assessment requirements.

Of the requests approved for special consideration, 96.2 per cent were for candidates who were present for an assessment but disadvantaged in some way when taking the assessment, and so requested a mark adjustment (503,750 requests).

The remaining 3.8 per cent of approved requests were for candidates who were not present to complete all the assessment requirements (19,750 requests) (see table 3). This is the lowest level in the last five years. There has been a notable decrease in the proportion of approved requests for this type of candidate since summer 2014, when GCSEs became linear in England. This is likely due to candidates prior to 2014 taking modular GCSEs, who would have had more opportunities to take assessments throughout the course. If they were unable to complete the remaining assessment requirements in the summer due to temporary illness, they would have fallen into this category. In contrast, candidates taking linear GCSEs are now more likely to miss all of their assessments for a qualification and would therefore no longer fall into this category.

## Special consideration requests resulting in mark adjustments

The procedures for applying a mark adjustment allow for percentage adjustments to a candidate's mark. The exam boards permit up to 5 per cent of the maximum mark of a question paper. This tariff has been jointly agreed by the exam boards and is published in the JCQ guidelines<sup>2</sup>.

As in the previous two years, the most frequent mark adjustment was a change of 3 per cent of the maximum mark available for the unit or component affected, to be added to a candidate's score. This category is granted to candidates who have had a recent traumatic experience, or a recent illness of a more serious nature. The 503,650 approved requests that resulted in a mark adjustment were divided as follows:

- 1 per cent adjustment – 20 per cent

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<sup>2</sup> [www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/access-arrangements-and-special-consideration/regulations-and-guidance/a-guide-to-the-special-consideration-process-2015-2016](http://www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/access-arrangements-and-special-consideration/regulations-and-guidance/a-guide-to-the-special-consideration-process-2015-2016)

- 2 per cent adjustment – 24 per cent
- 3 per cent adjustment – 26 per cent
- 4 per cent adjustment – 22 per cent
- 5 per cent adjustment – 8 per cent.

Some cases were approved but generated no extra marks. This means that the total number of approved mark adjustments (503,750, see table 3) is greater than the total of the breakdown for each percentage of mark adjustments (503,650, see table 4).



## Glossary of terms

### **A levels**

Also known as General Certificates of Education – currently available as advanced level qualifications (A levels) and advanced subsidiary (AS) qualifications. They are the qualifications that the majority of students use to gain entry to university. They are generally sat by 17 to 18 year olds in schools and colleges but are open to anyone who wants to gain a qualification.

### **Awarding organisation**

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

### **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 15 to 18 year olds in schools and colleges but are open to anyone who wants to gain a qualification.

### **Special consideration**

Consideration that is given to candidates who have temporarily experienced an illness, injury or some other event outside of their control which has affected their ability to take an assessment or demonstrate their level of attainment in an assessment.

## Background notes

This document is prepared in line with Ofqual Statistics Policies<sup>3</sup> and the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.<sup>4</sup>

### About special consideration

The qualifications covered by this release are regulated by Ofqual, Qualifications Wales and CCEA. Each qualifications regulator publishes conditions<sup>5</sup> that set out the requirements that the exam boards it regulates have to meet. These conditions state that “An awarding organisation must have in place clear arrangements for Special Consideration to be given to Learners in relation to qualifications which it makes available.” Such arrangements are for a candidate who has temporarily experienced an illness or injury, or some other event outside his or her control, which has had, or is reasonably likely to have had, a material effect on his or her ability to take an assessment or demonstrate his or her level of attainment in an assessment.

In addition, exam boards also have to comply with the requirements of the regulators’ *GCSE, GCE, Principal Learning and Project Code of Practice* (2011).<sup>6</sup>

Section 7 of the Code of Practice requires exam boards to have procedures in place for making adjustments to the marks of candidates who have not been able to demonstrate attainment because of exceptional circumstances.

JCQ publishes guidance and procedures on special consideration.<sup>7</sup> Adjustments may be given to candidates who were present for an assessment but disadvantaged due to temporary injury, illness, indisposition or other unforeseen incident immediately before or during the assessment period. The procedures allow for only relatively

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<sup>3</sup> [www.gov.uk/government/publications/ofquals-statistics-policies-and-procedures](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ofquals-statistics-policies-and-procedures)

<sup>4</sup> [www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/code-of-practice/index.html](http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/code-of-practice/index.html)

<sup>5</sup> [www.gov.uk/government/publications/general-conditions-of-recognition](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/general-conditions-of-recognition)

[www.rewardinglearning.org.uk/docs/accreditation/general\\_conditions\\_of\\_recognition\\_september\\_2014.pdf](http://www.rewardinglearning.org.uk/docs/accreditation/general_conditions_of_recognition_september_2014.pdf)

[www.wales.gov.uk/docs/dcells/publications/120329generalconditionsen.pdf](http://www.wales.gov.uk/docs/dcells/publications/120329generalconditionsen.pdf)

<sup>6</sup> [www.gov.uk/government/publications/gcse-gce-principal-learning-and-project-code-of-practice](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/gcse-gce-principal-learning-and-project-code-of-practice)

<sup>7</sup> [www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/access-arrangements-and-special-consideration/regulations-and-guidance/a-guide-to-the-special-consideration-process-2015-2016](http://www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/access-arrangements-and-special-consideration/regulations-and-guidance/a-guide-to-the-special-consideration-process-2015-2016)

minor adjustments to a candidate's mark – up to 5 per cent of the maximum mark of a question paper. The maximum adjustment is reserved for exceptional cases, such as candidates disadvantaged by the recent death of an immediate family member. Most adjustments for special consideration are smaller, such as a 2 per cent adjustment of the maximum available mark for candidates who have a minor illness on the day of the exam. Each case is assessed on its merits, and the exam board's decision is based on various factors, including the severity of the circumstances, the date of the exam in relation to the circumstances, and the nature of the assessment. In some cases an exam board may approve a request which has met the application criteria, but makes no mark adjustments as it deems the addition of marks to be inappropriate.

The Code of Practice also requires exam boards to have procedures in place for making a qualification award by special consideration where a candidate has covered the course but is unable, through temporary illness, injury or indisposition, to be present for the assessment part of a unit or component and therefore cannot complete all the assessment requirements.

JCQ publishes guidance about the eligibility criteria for a qualification award by special consideration. The JCQ guidance sets out the following minimum requirements:

- For A level, normally at least 50 per cent of the total assessment must have been completed.
- For GCSE, normally at least 50 per cent of the total assessment must have been completed.<sup>8</sup>

The exam boards specify the eligibility criteria for special consideration and must ensure that the criteria, application procedures and deadlines are available to schools and colleges.

## Data source

The exam boards send Ofqual data on the number of requests for special consideration and their approvals.

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<sup>8</sup> In summer 2014 and 2015, an exception was made by exam boards for those GCSE specifications regulated by Ofqual that were originally designed to operate as modular assessments. This is in recognition of the fact that the current terminal requirements (the exams at the end of the course) were not in place when these qualifications were first developed. In cases where there is a single examined unit worth 60 per cent of the overall qualification, or two examined components totalling 60 per cent, the minimum requirement for enhanced grading is reduced to 40 per cent.

## Limitations of data

There is potential for error in the information provided by exam boards, therefore Ofqual cannot guarantee that 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*<sup>9</sup> to ensure the accuracy of the data and to challenge or question it where necessary. Ofqual continuously manages this process by:

- ensuring that data providers are clear about what is required of them – a process helped by ensuring that providers are fully consulted during the initial design and any subsequent change phases;
- reminding all providers (if appropriate) that, as a condition of them being regulated, all data must be completely accurate;
- being alert to unexpected changes in the data submitted, by comparing individual returns 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.

Comparisons in this release are made with data from the previous five years, where available.

## Geographical coverage

In this release, Ofqual presents data on requests for special consideration for all GCSEs and A levels. Most GCSEs and A levels are taken in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, but this release includes GCSEs and A levels taken everywhere, including outside the UK.

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<sup>9</sup> [www.gov.uk/government/publications/ofquals-statistics-policies-and-procedures](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ofquals-statistics-policies-and-procedures)

## Revisions

Once published, data on the number of requests are not usually subject to revision, although subsequent releases may be revised to insert late data or to correct an error.<sup>10</sup>

This release was originally published on 3 November 2015. The exam board CCEA has since informed us of an error in the data it submitted on the number of scripts marked during the summer 2015 exam series. The revised release was published on 5 November 2015. The corrected figures have affected the total number of candidate scripts marked and the number of approved requests as a percentage of the scripts marked in 2015; and have led to changes in figure 1, figure 3, table 1 and table 2. Other numbers were not affected.

## Completeness of the data

The exam boards send data to Ofqual annually. 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

To ensure confidentiality of the published accompanying data, the figures have been rounded to the nearest 50. If the value is less than 25, it is represented as 0~ and 0 represents zero requests or approvals. The *Statement on Confidentiality* can be found on the Ofqual website.<sup>11</sup>

## Rounding

Figures in the commentary and tables are rounded to the nearest 50 for ease of use. As a result of rounded figures, the percentages shown in tables may not necessarily add up to 100. The *Rounding Policy* can be found on the Ofqual website.<sup>12</sup>

## Users of these statistics

These statistics are of particular interest to Ofqual, 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 ensure that

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<sup>10</sup> [www.gov.uk/government/publications/ofquals-statistics-policies-and-procedures](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ofquals-statistics-policies-and-procedures)

<sup>11</sup> [www.gov.uk/government/publications/ofquals-statistics-policies-and-procedures](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ofquals-statistics-policies-and-procedures)

<sup>12</sup> [www.gov.uk/government/publications/ofquals-statistics-policies-and-procedures](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ofquals-statistics-policies-and-procedures)

GCSEs and A levels are fit for purpose and are meeting expected standards. Central government officials use the statistics for policy implementation and ministerial briefings.

## Related statistics and publications

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

- *Statistical First Release: Revised GCSE and equivalent results in England, 2013 to 2014*<sup>13</sup> (published by the Department for Education) – covers students' achievements in GCSEs and equivalent regulated qualifications in schools at the end of Key Stage 4.
- *Statistical First Release: A level and other level 3 results (revised): 2013/14*<sup>14</sup> – covers achievements for 16 to 18 year olds at schools and colleges in all Level 3 qualifications in England. This release can be used to add context to the trends seen in Level 2 and Level 3 GCE and GCSE equivalent qualifications.
- *Statistical First Release: GCSE and equivalent attainment by pupil characteristics, 2013 to 2014 (Revised)*<sup>15</sup> (published by the Department for Education) – covers schools in England.
- *Statistical Release: Access Arrangements for GCSE and A Level: 2014/15 Academic Year.*<sup>16</sup>

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<sup>13</sup> [www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/406314/SFR\\_02\\_2015-revised\\_GCSE\\_and\\_equivalents.pdf](http://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/406314/SFR_02_2015-revised_GCSE_and_equivalents.pdf)

<sup>14</sup> [www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/398719/SFR03\\_2015\\_revised\\_A\\_level\\_and\\_level\\_3\\_SFR.pdf](http://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/398719/SFR03_2015_revised_A_level_and_level_3_SFR.pdf)

<sup>15</sup> [www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/399005/SFR06\\_2015\\_Text.pdf](http://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/399005/SFR06_2015_Text.pdf)

<sup>16</sup> [www.gov.uk/government/statistics/access-arrangements-for-gcse-and-a-level-201415-academic-year](http://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/access-arrangements-for-gcse-and-a-level-201415-academic-year)

## Useful information

A glossary of terms is available on page 7 to help you interpret this release.

You can find the publication schedule for the next releases on the Ofqual website.<sup>17</sup>

The Register gives information on regulated qualifications and recognised awarding organisations in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.<sup>18</sup>

## User feedback

Ofqual is running a rolling series of online surveys to make sure its statistical releases meet your needs.

Ofqual would like to invite you to take part in the online survey for this release.

<http://surveys.ofqual.gov.uk/s3/special-consideration-in-gcse-and-a-level>

It will take about 10 minutes to complete. Your responses will remain entirely confidential in any reports published about the survey.

If you would like to take part in the survey, have any questions or would prefer a paper or large-type copy, please contact Ofqual at: [statistics@ofqual.gov.uk](mailto:statistics@ofqual.gov.uk).

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<sup>17</sup>

[www.gov.uk/government/statistics/announcements?utf8=%E2%9C%93&organisations%5B%5D=ofqual](http://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/announcements?utf8=%E2%9C%93&organisations%5B%5D=ofqual)

<sup>18</sup> <http://register.ofqual.gov.uk>



## Appendix

<a href="#">Table 1</a>	The total number of scripts marked during the summer exam series, 2011 to 2015
<a href="#">Table 2</a>	Special consideration requests and approvals during the summer exam series, 2011 to 2015
<a href="#">Table 3</a>	Special consideration requests by candidates who were present, or not present, during the summer exam series, 2011 to 2015
<a href="#">Table 4</a>	Approved special consideration requests for a mark adjustment (where the candidate was present but disadvantaged in some way when taking the assessment), 2013 to 2015

**Table 1: The total number of scripts marked during the summer exam series, 2011 to 2015**

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

Year	Number of scripts						Total
	AQA	Pearson	OCR	WJEC	CCEA	ICAA(E)	
2011	6,089,628	3,661,614	3,238,906	1,610,075	444,771	19,858	<b>15,064,852</b>
2012	5,719,303	3,661,462	2,939,135	1,573,038	467,825	898	<b>14,361,661</b>
2013	5,433,228	3,435,229	2,529,587	1,513,666	422,811	253	<b>13,334,774</b>
2014	6,469,836	4,118,952	3,037,443	1,650,826	446,268		<b>15,723,325</b>
2015	6,726,506	4,414,362	3,069,728	1,671,511	464,404		<b>16,346,511</b>

Source: EPG exams monitoring data

Notes:

1. Data are supplied by exam boards.
2. ICAA(E) awarded GCSEs for last time in 2013. ICAA(E) do not currently offer any GCSEs, so have a blank from 2014 onwards.

**Table 2: Special consideration requests and approvals during the summer exam series, 2011 to 2015**

England, Wales, Northern Ireland, other UK regions and overseas								
	Year	Requests for special consideration						Total
		AQA	Pearson	OCR	WJEC	CCEA	ICAAE	
Number of requests for special consideration	2011	156,450	82,200	73,700	33,550	26,300	200	<b>372,350</b>
	2012	143,250	90,100	72,750	39,550	20,250	0~	<b>365,950</b>
	2013	168,200	105,200	75,050	40,850	23,800	0~	<b>413,150</b>
	2014	211,950	113,000	101,700	45,850	23,950		<b>496,500</b>
	2015	230,600	131,800	102,300	73,250	30,450		<b>568,350</b>
Number of requests approved	2011	146,400	80,550	70,500	31,100	25,400	200	<b>354,150</b>
	2012	126,850	87,100	69,950	37,800	19,800	0~	<b>341,550</b>
	2013	150,300	92,750	70,700	39,050	19,900	0	<b>372,700</b>
	2014	197,550	100,900	94,900	43,550	19,550		<b>456,450</b>
	2015	211,350	120,950	95,400	70,550	25,200		<b>523,500</b>
Percentage of requests approved	2011	93.6%	98.0%	95.7%	92.8%	96.6%	100.0%	<b>95.1%</b>
	2012	88.5%	96.7%	96.2%	95.6%	97.8%	23.1%	<b>93.3%</b>
	2013	89.4%	88.1%	94.2%	95.6%	83.6%		<b>90.2%</b>
	2014	93.2%	89.3%	93.3%	95.0%	81.6%		<b>91.9%</b>
	2015	91.7%	91.8%	93.2%	96.3%	82.8%		<b>92.1%</b>
Special consideration approved as a percentage of total scripts	2011	2.4%	2.2%	2.2%	1.9%	5.7%	1.0%	<b>2.4%</b>
	2012	2.2%	2.4%	2.4%	2.4%	4.2%	0.3%	<b>2.4%</b>
	2013	2.8%	2.7%	2.8%	2.6%	4.7%		<b>2.8%</b>
	2014	3.1%	2.4%	3.1%	2.6%	4.4%		<b>2.9%</b>
	2015	3.1%	2.7%	3.1%	4.2%	5.4%		<b>3.2%</b>

Source: EPG exams monitoring data

**Notes:**

1. Data are supplied by exam boards.
2. ICAA(E) awarded GCSEs for last time in 2013.
3. Data relates to applications for mark adjustments and qualification awards and includes applications that received a zero per cent mark adjustment.

**Table 3: Special consideration requests by candidates who were present, or not present, during the summer exam series, 2011 to 2015**

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

	Year	Requests for special consideration						Total
		AQA	Pearson	OCR	WJEC	CCEA	ICAA(E)	
Number of requests for extra marks where candidate was present for assessment	2011	145,500	71,750	69,600	30,350	25,850	150	<b>343,150</b>
	2012	130,400	83,200	68,500	36,050	19,700	0~	<b>337,850</b>
	2013	155,850	88,800	71,100	37,550	23,150	0~	<b>376,500</b>
	2014	201,100	99,000	98,000	42,300	23,350		<b>463,700</b>
	2015	222,650	119,100	98,300	70,200	29,850		<b>540,100</b>
Number of requests for extra marks where candidate was present for assessment that were approved	2011	136,650	70,200	67,050	28,050	24,950	150	<b>327,050</b>
	2012	118,150	81,500	66,300	34,850	19,400	0~	<b>320,150</b>
	2013	139,350	85,450	67,200	36,050	19,350	0	<b>347,400</b>
	2014	188,500	94,850	91,500	40,300	19,050		<b>434,200</b>
	2015	205,100	114,100	92,000	67,850	24,650		<b>503,750</b>
Approved requests for extra marks as a percentage of total approved (where candidate was present)	2011	93.3%	87.1%	95.1%	90.1%	98.3%	86.1%	<b>92.3%</b>
	2012	93.1%	93.5%	94.8%	92.2%	97.9%	100.0%	<b>93.7%</b>
	2013	92.7%	92.1%	95.1%	92.3%	97.3%		<b>93.2%</b>
	2014	95.4%	94.0%	96.4%	92.5%	97.5%		<b>95.1%</b>
	2015	97.0%	94.3%	96.5%	96.2%	97.8%		<b>96.2%</b>
Number of requests for a qualification award where candidate was not able to be present for assessment	2011	10,950	10,450	4,100	3,150	450	50	<b>29,150</b>
	2012	12,850	6,900	4,200	3,500	600	0	<b>28,050</b>
	2013	12,350	16,400	3,950	3,300	600	0	<b>36,650</b>
	2014	10,850	14,050	3,700	3,600	600		<b>32,750</b>
	2015	7,950	12,700	4,000	3,050	600		<b>28,250</b>
Number of requests for a qualification award that were approved	2011	9,750	10,350	3,450	3,050	450	50	<b>27,100</b>
	2012	8,750	5,650	3,650	2,950	400	0	<b>21,350</b>
	2013	10,950	7,300	3,500	3,000	550	0	<b>25,300</b>
	2014	9,050	6,050	3,400	3,250	500		<b>22,250</b>
	2015	6,250	6,850	3,400	2,700	550		<b>19,750</b>
Approved requests for aegrotat award (where candidate was not present), as a percentage of total approved	2011	6.7%	12.9%	4.9%	9.9%	1.7%	13.9%	<b>7.7%</b>
	2012	6.9%	6.5%	5.2%	7.8%	2.1%	0.0%	<b>6.3%</b>
	2013	7.3%	7.9%	4.9%	7.7%	2.7%	0.0%	<b>6.8%</b>
	2014	4.6%	6.0%	3.6%	7.5%	2.5%		<b>4.9%</b>
	2015	3.0%	5.7%	3.5%	3.8%	2.2%		<b>3.8%</b>
<b>Total number of requests</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>156,450</b>	<b>82,200</b>	<b>73,700</b>	<b>33,550</b>	<b>26,300</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>372,350</b>
	<b>2012</b>	<b>143,250</b>	<b>90,100</b>	<b>72,750</b>	<b>39,550</b>	<b>20,250</b>	<b>0~</b>	<b>365,950</b>
	<b>2013</b>	<b>168,200</b>	<b>105,200</b>	<b>75,050</b>	<b>40,850</b>	<b>23,800</b>	<b>0~</b>	<b>413,150</b>
	<b>2014</b>	<b>211,950</b>	<b>113,000</b>	<b>101,700</b>	<b>45,850</b>	<b>23,950</b>		<b>496,500</b>
	<b>2015</b>	<b>230,600</b>	<b>131,800</b>	<b>102,300</b>	<b>73,250</b>	<b>30,450</b>		<b>568,350</b>
<b>Total number of approvals</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>146,400</b>	<b>80,550</b>	<b>70,500</b>	<b>31,100</b>	<b>25,400</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>354,150</b>
	<b>2012</b>	<b>126,850</b>	<b>87,100</b>	<b>69,950</b>	<b>37,800</b>	<b>19,800</b>	<b>0~</b>	<b>341,550</b>
	<b>2013</b>	<b>150,300</b>	<b>92,750</b>	<b>70,700</b>	<b>39,050</b>	<b>19,900</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>372,700</b>
	<b>2014</b>	<b>197,550</b>	<b>100,900</b>	<b>94,900</b>	<b>43,550</b>	<b>19,550</b>		<b>456,450</b>
	<b>2015</b>	<b>211,350</b>	<b>120,950</b>	<b>95,400</b>	<b>70,550</b>	<b>25,200</b>		<b>523,500</b>

Source: EPG exams monitoring data

**Notes:**

1. Data are supplied by exam boards.
2. Data includes mark adjustments of zero per cent.
3. ICAA(E) awarded GCSEs for last time in 2013.

**Table 4: Approved special consideration requests for a mark adjustment (where the candidate was present but disadvantaged in some way when taking the assessment), 2013 to 2015**

England, Wales, Northern Ireland, other UK regions and overseas									
Approved requests for special consideration - Number of cases for									
Year	% mark adjustment	AQA	Pearson	OCR	WJEC	CCEA	Total	% of total mark adjustments made	
Number of approved requests for extra marks (where candidate was present for assessment)	2013	1	32,550	16,750	9,650	5,150	3,850	<b>67,950</b>	<b>19.98%</b>
		2	26,650	24,150	16,850	12,150	2,850	<b>82,650</b>	<b>24.30%</b>
		3	33,600	21,250	18,450	8,200	4,600	<b>86,050</b>	<b>25.30%</b>
		4	28,550	17,800	16,050	7,200	5,550	<b>75,200</b>	<b>22.11%</b>
		5	12,100	4,200	6,200	3,350	2,450	<b>28,300</b>	<b>8.32%</b>
	2014	1	40,900	12,500	9,800	4,850	3,550	<b>71,600</b>	<b>16.73%</b>
		2	38,750	24,500	25,800	10,100	4,000	<b>103,150</b>	<b>24.10%</b>
		3	46,100	28,050	25,150	11,150	3,650	<b>114,100</b>	<b>26.66%</b>
		4	39,950	23,850	21,800	9,850	5,350	<b>100,850</b>	<b>23.57%</b>
		5	16,950	5,500	8,900	4,350	2,450	<b>38,250</b>	<b>8.94%</b>
	2015	1	39,850	20,900	7,350	26,050	5,650	<b>99,850</b>	<b>19.83%</b>
		2	44,700	30,600	27,400	12,850	4,850	<b>120,400</b>	<b>23.91%</b>
		3	53,200	33,550	26,100	12,850	5,200	<b>130,900</b>	<b>25.99%</b>
		4	48,550	23,750	22,500	11,150	5,700	<b>111,650</b>	<b>22.17%</b>
		5	18,800	5,300	8,650	5,000	3,200	<b>40,900</b>	<b>8.12%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>133,500</b>	<b>84,150</b>	<b>67,200</b>	<b>36,050</b>	<b>19,300</b>	<b>340,150</b>		
	<b>2014</b>	<b>182,650</b>	<b>94,450</b>	<b>91,500</b>	<b>40,300</b>	<b>19,050</b>	<b>427,950</b>		
	<b>2015</b>	<b>205,100</b>	<b>114,050</b>	<b>92,000</b>	<b>67,850</b>	<b>24,600</b>	<b>503,650</b>		

Source: EPG exams monitoring data

**Notes:**

1. Data are supplied by exam boards.
2. Zero per cent category removed from data, as it does not affect a candidate's mark. This means the totals will not equal the totals given in table 3.
3. ICAA(E) awarded GCSEs for last time in 2013 and did not have any approved special consideration requests, so are not present in this table.

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