

Provisional November 2018 exam entries: GCSEs

Annual

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Coverage: England

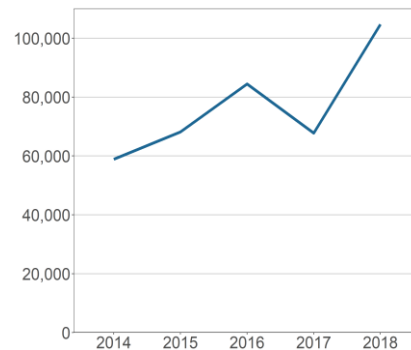
Official Statistics

This report presents provisional figures on the number of entries for GCSEs submitted by schools and colleges in England to exam boards by 24 October 2018 for the exams being sat in November 2018. The November 2018 series is restricted to students who were aged at least 16 by the end of the preceding August. All the November 2018 entries are students sitting either GCSE English language and/or GCSE mathematics.

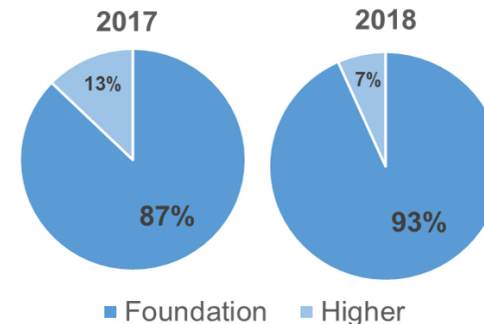
November GCSE entries over time

Overall, GCSE entries in November 2018 increased by 55%, from 67,755 in 2017 to 104,710.

Variations in entries over recent years may reflect changes in re-sit requirements related to funding, the transition from legacy to reformed qualifications, and availability of assessments.



GCSE mathematics entries by tier



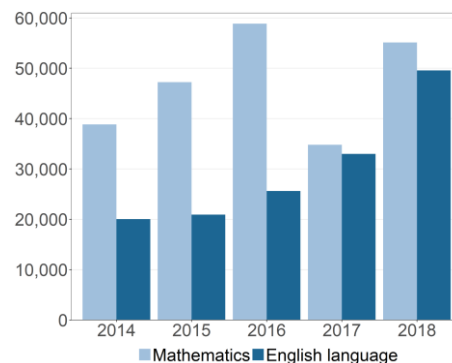
There were 55,125 entries to GCSE mathematics in November 2018.

In 2018, the majority (93%) of entries were for the foundation tier paper and the remaining (7%) entered for the higher tier paper.

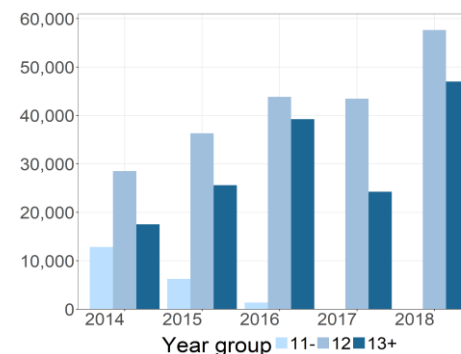
November GCSE entries by subject

Entries in mathematics are 55,125, a 58% increase on 2017, but more similar to 2016.

Entries in English language also saw an increase to 49,585, representing a 50% increase on 2017, continuing a trend of increase over the past 5 years.



GCSE entries by year group



Entries in November are from year 12 and above. Since 2017, year 11 students are no longer allowed to enter the November examination series.

Year 12 entries increased by 33% from 43,480 in 2017 to 57,650 in 2018.

GCSEs 55% increase in November entries	3
Mathematics tier entry Overall increase in GCSE mathematics entries of 58% from 34,785 in 2017 to 55,125 in 2018 Entries for the higher paper decreased by 17% to 3,685 in 2018 Entries for the foundation paper increased by 70% to 51,440 in 2018	3
Entry by year group Year 12 overall entries increased by 33% to 57,650 in 2018 Year 12 entries account for 55% of the total entry in November 2018 Entries from year 13 and above increased by 94% to 47,010 in 2018	3

Provisional November entries

In this release, Ofqual presents data on the number of provisional entries for GCSEs in England received by exam boards for the November 2018 exam series.

The entries that schools and colleges can make with exam boards to sit exams in November is restricted to post 16 students. The figures for entries can change daily up to the day of the exams. We collect provisional data at the point when it is reasonably complete, although final entry numbers may be slightly different from these. The figures presented here are the provisional figures as submitted by schools and colleges to exam boards by 24 October 2018.

In England, GCSE English language and GCSE mathematics exams are available in November, but only for students who were aged 16 or above on 31 August of that year.

In this release, all figures are rounded to the nearest 5 to ensure confidentiality of data. Further information on this release is available in the [background information](#) as well as [data tables](#) accompanying this report.

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Comments and feedback are welcome.

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GCSEs

Summary of entries in the November series for 2017 and 2018

	2017	2018	% change
GCSE English language	32,970	49,585	▲ 50%
GCSE mathematics	34,785	55,125	▲ 58%
Total	67,755	104,710	▲ 55%
Year 12 English language	21,405	28,475	▲ 33%
Year 12 mathematics	22,080	29,175	▲ 32%
Year 12 - total	43,480	57,650	▲ 33%
Year 13 and above English language	11,550	21,100	▲ 83%
Year 13 and above mathematics	12,700	25,910	▲ 104%
Year 13 and above - total	24,250	47,010	▲ 94%

Maths tier entries in the November series for 2017 and 2018

	2017	2018	% change
GCSE mathematics foundation tier	30,345	51,440	▲ 70%
GCSE mathematics higher tier	4,440	3,685	▼ 17%
Total	34,785	55,125	▲ 58%

For data relating to previous years used in this release please see the accompanying [data tables](#).

November entries have varied in the last few years which likely reflects a combination of factors including the transition from legacy to reformed qualifications, resit requirements, and the availability of assessments (e.g. this November being the first when candidates also sat a 9 to 1 GCSE in the summer).

In November 2018, much of the overall rise in mathematics is due to the increase in students in Year 13 and above. This reverses the drop in this age category seen last year. The change in entry pattern in 2017 reflected the need for Year 13 candidates who had not previously taken the new 9 to 1 qualification in mathematics (with substantive changes to taught content compared to the legacy A* to G qualification) to complete a full year of study before re-entering to take these new qualifications.

GCSE mathematics is a tiered qualification, further details have been provided about the entries for the higher and foundation tiers in this release. Most entries for GCSE mathematics in November 2018 were for the foundation tier paper. This suggests that the majority of entries have been made by learners who are re-sitting the foundation tier so that they may continue studying and be funded post 16.



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