



National Assembly for **Wales**
Cynulliad Cenedlaethol **Cymru**

A level, GCSE and Welsh Bac Results 2008

This paper provides an overview of the provisional 2008 A level and GCSE results for Wales. Comparisons are provided with results for 2007 and with results for England. The paper also provides a summary of the provisional summer 2008 results for the Welsh Baccalaureate and provides a comparison with results from summer 2007.

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A Level, GCSE and Welsh Bac results 2008

A Level

Provisional 2008 A Level results were published for Wales and England on 14 August 2008.

- There has been an increased overall pass rate since 2007 in both Wales and England. There are also improvements in those achieving higher grades (A-C).
- Students in Wales achieved better results than students in England at grades A-C, however, the percentage of students achieving A grades was slightly higher in England. Differences in the overall pass rate between Wales and England are marginal.
- Whilst girls continue to perform better than boys in both Wales and England, the gap between boys and girls in the higher grades (A-C) has increased slightly from 2007 figures Wales but has decreased slightly in England. The gap at A grade has decreased in both Wales and England.

Table 1 shows the provisional results for students in Wales and England for GCE A levels for 2008, with comparable data for 2007 in Table 2.

Table 1: Percentage of pupils achieving GCE A level by grade, 2008 (provisional)

	Number sat	A	A-C	A-E
Wales				
Girls	20,710	25.6	78.7	98.1
Boys	16,126	22.1	72.1	96.9
All pupils	36,836	24.1	75.8	97.6
England				
Girls	409,911	26.6	75.8	97.7
Boys	350,970	24.4	70.5	96.5
All pupils	760,881	25.6	73.4	97.2

Source: Joint Council for Qualifications

Table 2: Percentage of pupils achieving GCE A level by grade, 2007

	Number sat	A	A-C	A-E
Wales				
Girls	19,860	25.8	77.1	97.6
Boys	16,163	22.1	71.7	96.4
All pupils	36,023	24.1	74.6	97.1
England				
Girls	399,531	26.2	74.7	97.5
Boys	339,288	23.7	69.3	96.1
All pupils	738,819	25.0	72.2	96.9

Source: Joint Council for Qualifications

GCSE

Provisional 2008 GCSE results were published on 21 August 2008.

- There were increases in achievements at all grades in Wales and England between 2007 and 2008.
- Pupils in England achieved slightly better results than pupils in Wales in obtaining grades A*-C, but the percentage of pupils achieving a passing grade (A*-G) was the same in Wales and England (98.4%).
- Girls continue to out-perform boys in the higher grades, but the difference is less marked in the overall pass rate.

Table 3 below shows results for full course GCSEs in England and Wales for 2008 and Table 4 shows comparable data for 2007.

Table 3: Percentage of pupils achieving GCSEs by grade, 2008 (provisional)

	Number sat	A*-A	A*-C	A*-G
Wales				
Girls	158,125	21.6	68.6	98.6
Boys	151,964	16.2	61.4	98.3
All pupils	310,089	18.9	65.0	98.4
England				
Girls	2,611,296	23.4	69.0	98.7
Boys	2,555,332	17.9	61.8	98.1
All pupils	5,166,628	20.6	65.5	98.4

Source: Joint Council for Qualifications



Table 4: Percentage of pupils achieving GCSEs by grade, 2007

	Number sat	A*-A	A*-C	A*-G
Wales				
Girls	160,400	21.3	66.5	98.1
Boys	154,728	15.9	59.3	97.8
All pupils	315,128	18.6	63.0	98.0
England				
Girls	2,689,460	21.9	66.5	98.3
Boys	2,625,246	16.8	59.3	97.7
All pupils	5,314,706	19.4	63.0	98.0

Source: Joint Council for Qualifications

Welsh Bacallaureate

Intermediate and Foundation Diplomas

The WJEC published the fifth August award for the Welsh Bacallaureate Intermediate Diploma and the second award for the Foundation Diploma on 21 August 2008. The Intermediate level pre-16 and Foundation level 14-19 are part of the pilot funded by the Welsh Assembly Government to be completed in August 2009. This summer's results include the first results for candidates in Key Stage 4 who have taken the Foundation or Intermediate Diploma over two years in school or as part of a partnership between a school and a college. The cumulative nature of the Welsh Bacallaureate means that many candidates who have not yet achieved the whole Core Certificate or Diploma will be able to do so, providing they achieve the remaining parts of the qualification in the coming academic year. These candidate may choose to enter again for the Foundation or the Intermediate Diploma in March or August 2009. Table 5 shows the summer awards for the Foundation Diploma and Table 6 shows the summer awards for the Intermediate Diploma.

For 2007 and 2008, the following summary is based on the published figures.

Foundation

- The number of candidates entering at Foundation level has increased threefold since 2007.
- In 2007, 81% of candidates completed the Foundation programme, this increased in 2008 to 93%.
- In 2007, 75% of candidates completing the programme were awarded the Foundation Diploma. The equivalent figure for 2008 is 44%.
- In 2007, 83% of those completing the programme were awarded the Core Certificate compared to 62% in 2008.



Table 5: Welsh Baccalaureate Foundation Diploma Awards, 2007 and 2008

	Summer 2007	Summer 2008
Candidates entered (a)	354	1,085
Candidates completing the programme	288	1,013
Candidates awarded the Foundation Diploma (b)	216	450
Candidates awarded the Core Certificate (c)	240	626

Source: WJEC

(a) In 2007, candidates entered the Foundation Diploma from 1 school and 8 colleges.

In 2008 candidates entered the Diploma from 12 schools and 11 colleges.

(b) At least 4 GCSE D-G or equivalent plus 4 Key Skills at level 1 plus other Welsh Bac Core

(c) Achieved 4 Key Skills at levels 1 and 2 plus other Welsh Bac Core

The following summary is based on the published figures.

Intermediate

- The number of candidates entering at Intermediate level has more than doubled since 2007.
- In 2007, 84% of the entry completed the Intermediate programme. In 2008, 90% of the entry completed the programme.
- In 2007, 57% of those completing the programme were awarded the Intermediate Diploma, in 2008. The equivalent figure for 2008 is 51%.
- In 2007, 71% of those completing the programme were awarded the Core Certificate. The equivalent figure for 2008 is 63%.

Table 6: Welsh Baccalaureate Intermediate Diploma Awards, 2007 and 2008

	Summer 2007	Summer 2008
Candidates entered (a)	555	1,309
Candidates completing the programme	465	1,173
Candidates awarded the Intermediate Diploma (b)	265	603
Candidates awarded the Core Certificate (c)	332	735

Source: WJEC

(a) In 2007, candidates entered the Intermediate Diploma from 9 schools and 10 colleges

In 2008 candidates entered the Diploma from 21 schools and 11 colleges.

(b) At least 4 GCSE A*-C or equivalent plus 4 Key Skills at levels 1 and 2 plus other Welsh Bac Core

(c) Achieved 4 Key Skills at levels 1 and 2 plus other Welsh Bac Core

Advanced Diploma

On 14 August 2008, the WJEC published the fourth August award for the Welsh Baccalaureate Advanced Diploma.

- There was an increase of 319 candidates entered for the Advanced Diploma.
- In 2007, 86% of the entry completed the programme, this increased in 2008 to 89%.
- 73% of those completing the programme in 2007 were awarded the Advanced Diploma, in 2008 this figure decreased slightly to 72%.
- In 2007, 8% of those completing the programme were awarded the Core Certificate similar to the rate for 2008.

Table 7: Welsh Baccalaureate Advanced Diploma Awards, 2007 and 2008

	Summer 2007	Summer 2008
Candidates entered (a)	1,538	1,857
Candidates completing the programme	1,317	1,654
Candidates awarded the Intermediate Diploma (b)	964	1,186
Candidates awarded the Core Certificate (c)	99	120

Source: WJEC

(a) In 16 schools and 12 colleges

(b) At least 2 A levels or equivalent plus 6 Key Skills plus other Welsh Bac Core

(c) Achieved 6 Key Skills plus other Welsh Bac Core

Sources of information

Data for 2008 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. Local authority data is usually published in November each year.

The Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) has published 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. It can be seen, along with results for previous years, [here](#). The JCQ publishes similar data for GCSE, Applied Level GCSE and Entry Level Certificates which can be seen [here](#).

The WJEC issues media releases on the day that results are published. The releases contain data for examinations awarded by the WJEC and data for all awarding bodies. The release for A levels, AS levels, the Advanced Extension Award and the Welsh Baccalaureate Qualification can be seen [here](#). The media release for GCSEs, Entry Level Qualifications and the Welsh Baccalaureate Intermediate and Foundation Diplomas can be seen [here](#).

2007 data for Wales, at a local authority level can be seen in the Welsh Assembly Government Statistical Directorate publication, [GCSE/GNVQ and GCE A, AS and AVCE Results, 2007](#). A similar release with data for 2008 is due to be published in November 2008.