

National A-level results – August 2014 England and Wales

Girls continue to out-perform boys at A-level. Girls are taking more exam papers than boys and more girls are getting better grades than boys..

In all subjects, 74 thousand more exam papers (19.5%) were taken by girls than boys and some 55 thousand more (28.6%) top grades of A*+A+B were awarded to girls than boys.

For a range of traditional and key subjects, some 45 thousand more exam papers (19.3%) were taken by girls than boys, and some 26 thousand more (26.1%) top grades of A*+A+B were awarded to girls than boys, with girls almost catching up with boys in A* grade.

The persisting under-achievement of boys at A-level is reflected in the continuing disparity in the numbers of girls and boys going on to university education. Young women now outnumber young men at university in England and Wales by about 6 to 4.

The likelihood that many males entering the workforce in the immediate future could be generally less academically qualified than females is an equality issue which receives little media attention. This trend is already established, although its effect on socio-economic patterns seems largely ignored.

All subjects 2014

	Boys	Girls	Difference	% difference	
			(more girls than boys)		[2013]
Total subject papers	379,823	453,984	74,161	19.5	[18.4]
<u>Number of top grades achieved (thousands)</u>					
A*	32.3	35.9	3.6	11.1	[10.7]
A	65.3	83.1	17.8	27.3	[26.9]
B	93.8	127.1	33.3	35.5	[35.2]
A* + A + B	191.4	246.1	54.7	28.6	[28.5]

Traditional and key subjects 2014

(Maths, further Maths, English, Chemistry, Physics, Biology, History, Geography, Psychology, Sociology)

	Boys	Girls	Difference	% difference
			(more girls than boys)	
Total subject papers	233,930	279,084	45,154	19.3
<u>Number of top grades achieved (thousands)</u>				
A*	25.0	23.6	-1.4	-5.9
A	44.4	52.6	8.2	18.5
B	56.6	75.9	19.3	34.1
A* + A + B	126.0	152.1	25.1	20.5

Note: Grade totals have been derived from percentages given for each grade

Source: <http://www.theguardian.com/datablog/2014/aug/14/a-level-results-2014-the-full-breakdown>

PARITY

12 September 2014