

National A-level results – August 2015 England and Wales

Girls continue to out-perform boys at A-level. They continue to take significantly more exam subjects than boys and significantly more girls than boys are getting better grades except for A* in traditional subjects, such as mathematics and chemistry, although they appear to be steadily catching up on these.

Some 84 thousand (22%) more subject papers were taken by girls than boys, and girls achieved some 65 thousand (34 %) more top grades A*+A+B than boys.

The differences were less marked but still significant with traditional subjects. Some 18 thousand more (8.6%) subject papers were taken by girls than boys, and girls achieved 13.5 thousand (11.7%) more top grades of A*+A+B than boys, almost double that in previous years.

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. There appears to be no government focused action to redress this trend or the possible consequences.

All subjects 2015

	Boys	Girls	Difference (more girls than boys)	% difference	
					[2014]
Total of subject papers taken	383,350	467,399	84,049	22	[19.5]
<u>Number of top grades achieved</u> (thousands)					
A*	33.4	36.5	- 3.1	-9.3	[-11.1]
A	65.2	85.5	20.3	31.1	[27.3]
B	91.6	132.7	41.1	44.9	[35.5]
<u>A* + A + B</u>	190.2	254.7	64.5	33.9	[28.6]

Traditional subjects 2015

(Maths, English, Chemistry, Physics, Biology, French, History, Geography)

	Boys	Girls	Difference (more girls than boys)	% difference	
					[2013]
Total of subject papers taken	209,878	227,909	18,031	8.6	[19.3]
<u>Number of top grades achieved</u> (thousands)					
A*	22.6	20.4	-2.2	-9.7	[-5.9]
A	40.7	45.2	4.5	11.1	[18.5]
B	51.8	63.0	11.2	21.6	[34.1]
<u>A* + A + B</u>	115.1	128.6	13.5	11.7	[20.5]

Source: *Daily Telegraph*, 18 August 2015

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

PARITY

August 2015