



Post-16 GCSE English and maths results briefing: November 2024

Summary

GCSE results for the November 2024 series were published [here](#) today (9 January 2025). These include a breakdown of post-16 results for England by age 17 + 18 + 19 and 20+ (corresponding to what we generally term 16-18 and 19+) and the headline post-16 pass rates are summarized here.

Key points

- The number of post-16 students achieving a grade 4 or above in GCSE English or maths in November 2024 is up over 2023, an increase of 13% (over 4,800) to 41,000.
- The increase was in both English and maths and for both 16 to 18-year-olds and 19+ candidates. The overall numbers achieving a grade 4 in November 2024 were: 24,397 in English and 16,921 in maths.
- The vast majority of these 16-18 students were college-based 'retake' students who had not achieved at grade 4 in Year 11.
- November 2024 entries were significantly higher than in November 2023: 69,972 for English (up 25%) and 70,138 for maths (up 15%).
- The 2024/25 academic year is seeing a further increase in demand for post-16 retakes because of increased Year 11 cohort size and stable Year 11 grade 4+ pass rates in 2023. This has added to the staffing and capacity challenges faced by colleges and it is likely that demand for retakes will remain high.
- AoC has consistently called for reform of English and maths qualifications to support student progress both pre-16 and post-16 and we hope that the current curriculum and assessment review will propose a more appropriate qualification framework to support students to build on their English and maths skills.

Background

This was the third November series since the pandemic November grade boundaries are set based on the standards applied for that year's Year 11 cohort and then applied to all candidates.

The post-16 retake cohort is not typical or predictable and different colleges have different approaches to GCSE entries and the November entry cohort is a 'subset of a subset' which often includes more 'near miss' students than in the summer. What we know is that most of these candidates had not yet achieved a grade 4 or above, which is why they are retaking post-16 and over 90% of these candidates are college based.

Around a third of post-16 candidates in any academic year choose to retake in November and those who achieve a grade 4 or above then will not generally retake in the summer, so November results need to be combined with summer results in any annual overview.

November retakes

Number of post-16 students achieving grade 4 or above in November

November	2024	2023	2022	2019
GCSE English	24,397	22,627	15,780			16,196
GCSE maths	16,921	13,958	12,427			14,282

This shows that more post-16 students have achieved grade 4+ in November in GCSE English and in GCSE maths than in any year since 2019.

Post-16 entries

November	2024	2023	2022	2019
GCSE English	69,972	56,144	41,523			50,010
GCSE maths	70,138	60,947	49,823			52,947

Post-16 Grade 4+ pass rates

November	2024	2023	2022	2019
GCSE English	34.9%	40.2%	38.0%			32.4%
GCSE maths	24.1%	22.8%	24.9%			26.9%

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