

A level and AS results 2019: Northern Ireland

A levels:

Key points:

- Overall A level entries in Northern Ireland have fallen slightly by 2.3% (to 28,332) - exam organisations say that this is mainly due to a fall in the year 14 population in schools.
- Overall results in Northern Ireland are slightly higher at grade A and above compared to last year (30.9% in 2019 compared with 30.4% in 2018).
- The overall A*-E pass rate at A-level in Northern Ireland increased slightly by 0.1% to 98.3%.

Fall in science entries

- Entries for the sciences (Biology, Chemistry and Physics) have fallen slightly, representing 18.8% of all A Levels (5,339) compared to 19.5% in 2018.
- Chemistry entries decreased by 0.7%, Biology decreased by 6.4% and Physics decreased by 9.7%.

Languages:

- Spanish entries increased by 5.5% to 458, while French entries decreased by 16.6% to 358. German entries decreased by 37.3% to 69.
- Irish entries have decreased by 12.3% to 291.
- Since 2018:
 - Achievement in Spanish at grades A*-A has increased by 5.2pp (to 43.0%)
 - Achievement in Spanish at grades A*-A has decreased by 3.2pp (to 51.9%)
 - Achievement in French at grades A*-A has increased by 2.0pp (to 43.3%).
 - Achievement in German at grades A*-A has increased by 1.6pp (to 50.7%)

Mathematics

- Entries to mathematics were down by 2.2%, although it remains the most popular subject with a total of 2,899 entries.
- There has been an improvement at A* of 2.2pp, with 16.9% achieving this grade (compared to 14.7% in 2018.)
- The percentage achieving A*-A also increased by 2.2pp from 46.6% in 2018 to 48.8% in 2019.

English language and English Literature

- English language entries dropped by 30.6% to 50.
- Outcomes in English language have decreased at A*-A by 7.9pp, from 13.9% in 2018 to 6.0% in 2019.
- English literature entries dropped by 6.0%
- Outcomes in English literature have slightly improved at A*-A, increasing from 26.0% in 2018 to 26.4% in 2019.

Other subjects

- Student choice has led to an increase in entries in other subjects, for example Business Studies (+26.9%), Economics (+9.7%), Psychology (+8.3%) and Sociology (+6.7%)
- Decreases in entries are seen in a number of subjects including Music (-22.5%), Law (-16.7%), Performing / Expressive Arts (-13.6%), Computing (-12.9%) and Design and Technology (-9.7%).

AS levels

- AS Level entries in Northern Ireland declined slightly by 5.6% (to 38,069)
- The percentage of all pupils achieving an A grade has remained the same as in 2018 (27.3%)