

# Young People's Education and Skills Operational Sub-Group

## Preliminary GCSE and A-level Results – London Summary

Item No: 5

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**Summary**                      This paper provides *preliminary* GCSE and A-level results for London made available in the public domain through reporting by media organisations. The first release of official (provisional) GCSE and A-level results data will be on the Department for Education (DfE) website later in the Autumn of this year.

**Recommendations**      Local authority colleagues are asked to:  
- Note the summary of preliminary results covered in this paper

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### 1 Background

- 1.1 The Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) releases the collective GCSE and A-level results for its members from more than 26 million scripts and items of coursework. It only publishes collated results from its members though, and does not supply regional, centre or candidate information.
- 1.2 The [Guardian Datablog](#) has undertaken an analysis of the individual PDFs which the JCQ publishes to create some initial regional figures for 2012 GCSE and A-level results. This paper draws on this data to produce a preliminary and basic summary of the London 2012 GCSE and A-level results. ***These figures are not audited or formally endorsed by the JCQ or DfE and therefore should be treated with caution.***
- 1.3 The details within this paper should also be considered in the context of the current dialogue concerning whether tougher standards in the marking of GCSE and A-level papers has been applied this year to counteract grade inflation.
- 1.4 A more in depth analysis of A-level and GCSE results data will be produced once official provisional data is released by the DfE.

## **2 GCSE results<sup>1</sup>**

- 2.1 The number of young people in London achieving Grade A in 2012 dropped by 1.2% from 26.8% to 25.6%. Young people achieving Grade C in 2012 dropped by 0.7% from 72.5% to 71.7%.
- 2.2 London reflects the nationwide picture which has seen a drop in the number of entries achieving higher grade GCSEs, with a 1.2% drop in entries achieving Grade A compared to 2011. Prior to this GCSE performance in London had increased for the past four years.
- 2.3 Despite the fall in performance in London this year, the preliminary data indicates that the region's GCSE achievement levels remain higher than the rest of the country:-
- 9.0% of entries achieved A\* in London compared to 7.3% nationally
  - 25.6% of entries achieved A or higher in London compared to 22.4% nationally
  - 47.8% of entries achieved B or higher in London compared to 44.1% nationally
  - 71.7% of entries achieved C or higher in London compared to 69.4% nationally

## **3 A-level results<sup>2</sup>**

- 3.1 The proportion of entries awarded an A\* and A has fallen for the first time in 21 years. London's preliminary A-level performance is as follows:-
- 9% of entries achieved A\* in London compared to 7.9% nationally
  - 28.5% of entries achieved A or higher in London compared to 26.6% nationally
  - 54.4% of entries achieved B or higher in London compared to 52.6% nationally
  - 77.3% of entries achieved C or higher in London compared to 76.6% nationally
  - 91.8% of entries achieved D or higher in London compared to 85.3% nationally
  - 97.8% of entries achieved E or higher in London compared to 93% nationally
- 3.2 5 regions achieved entries at Grade E or higher, above the London figure. 3 regions achieved entries at Grade C or higher, above the London figure.

## **4 Recommendations**

- 4.1 Local authority colleagues are asked to:-
- Note the preliminary GCSE and A-level results covered in this paper.

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<sup>1</sup> Main source: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/news/datablog/2012/aug/23/gcse-results-2012-exam-breakdown>

<sup>2</sup> Main source: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/news/datablog/2012/aug/16/a-level-results-data-gender-region-subject>