



## History A-level results 2026: analysis

The overall picture is positive in terms of history entries and results this year.

The big news is that entries are up by 5% for history from 44,717 in 2025 to 46,960 in 2026. This is set against an overall increase in entries (suggestive of larger cohort) of 2.9% but even so, history still outstrips this.

History results are generally stable and reflective of the overall subject trends for grades. The A\*-E pass rate is stable at 99%, the same as 2025. The number of A\* awards of 5.8% compared to 6% in 2025 is broadly stable. The A\*-C pass rate of 84% is also stable from last year.

In terms of the performance of girls and boys, there were more female than male entries (55% to 45% respectively), but this also translates into higher numbers of grades awarded to girls across all grade boundaries. However, the percentage differential in the number of awards made between boys and girls is higher at the upper end, indicating a higher performance by girls than boys.

The above is for the whole of the UK. Here's a brief breakdown for the separate countries of the UK:

- The majority of entries are from England at 42,700 of 46,960
- In England, the A\* and A\*-C pass rate is broadly reflective of the overall UK pass rate as above
- In Northern Ireland, the pass rate is slightly higher. There were 2158 entries and while the A\* pass rate is the same, the overall A\*-C pass rate is 87%, so 3% higher than the UK average
- Wales records the lowest number of entries at 1887 and the lowest number of A\* passes at 4% – lower than the UK average. However, the overall A\*-C pass rate is a little above the UK average at 85.6%.

These statistics are set against an all-subjects pass rate of 78.4% A\*-C and 97.5% A\*-E – so history is performing well against other subjects.