



GCSE results analysis 2026

Overall UK entries were up by 0.6% on 2025 across all subjects, rising from 6,160,034 to 6,199,256 in 2026 reflecting a slightly larger cohort size.

This small increase is also reflected in the number of entries for history. In 2025 there were 306,759 entries for history. In 2026 this has seen a slight increase to 307,051; however the percentage remains stable at 5% of total entries. According to the ONS population statistics, the UK cohort of 16 year-olds in 2026 was 787,135. This broadly equates to roughly 39% of students opting for GCSE history. This is 0.6% down on 2025, but broadly stable.

The history pass rate remains highly stable on 2025 with 26.5% of students being awarded grades 7-9 with a 4+ pass rate of 64.9%, which is almost identical to 2025. However, girls continue to outperform boys (although the gap is closing) and there are differences by country in the pass rate. In England the 4+ pass rate was 64.1%, in Northern Ireland 83.7% and Wales 72.3%.