



Science
LEARNING NETWORK

GCSE STEM results 2015

Analysis of UK trends

GCSE Science results 2015

Analysis of trends – UK (England, Wales and Northern Ireland)

Overall trends in numbers taking GCSE science examinations across UK

- Overall there is a decrease in the numbers taking GCSE biology (139199), chemistry (133618) and physics (133610) and 'Other science' (9027) but an increase in the numbers taking science (395484), additional science (332960) and further additional science (23389) compared to 2014.
- There continues to be larger percentage of students sitting science (7.5%) and additional science (6.3%) than biology (2.6%), chemistry (2.5%), physics (2.5%) and only small entries for further additional science (0.4%) and other science (0.2%).
- There is a slight decrease in the numbers taking GCSE biology (0.1%), with the same decrease for boys and girls since 2014.
- There is a decrease in the numbers taking chemistry (0.1%), with a larger decrease for boys (0.2%) than girls (0.1%) since 2014.
- There is a slight decrease in the numbers taking physics (0.1%) with the same decrease for boys and girls since 2014.
- There is an increase in the numbers taking science (0.3%) with a larger increase for boys (0.4%) than girls (0.3%) since 2014.
- There is an increase in the numbers taking additional science (0.5%) with the same increase for boys and girls since 2014.
- There is a slight increase in the numbers taking further additional science (0.0%) with a larger increase for boys (0.1%) than girls (0.0%) since 2014.
- There is a slight decrease in the numbers taking other science (0.0%) with a larger decrease for girls (0.1%) than boys (0.0%) since 2014.
- More girls take biology, chemistry, physics, additional science or further additional science than boys but more boys take science and other science.

Overall trends in attainment for GCSE science examinations across UK

- The attainment at A*-C grades is highest in physics (92.0%), chemistry (91.2%), biology (90.9%), further additional science (79.8%), additional science (63.2%), science (56.7%) and lowest in other science (54.3%).
- There has been an increase in A*-C results for other science (+2.7%), physics (+0.7%), biology (+0.6%), chemistry (+0.5%) but decreases in additional science (-1.0%), science (-2.4%) and further additional science (-4.4%) compared to 2014.
- For A* grades there was a significant increase in further additional science (+2.6%) and chemistry (+1.3%), small increases in other sciences (+0.4%) and physics (+0.2%) but decreases additional science (-0.3%), biology (-0.4%) and science (-0.6%) compared to 2014.
- For A*-A grades there are increases in other science (+1.7%), physics (+1.1%), further additional science (+1.0%), chemistry (+0.6%) and biology (+0.5%), but decreases in additional science (-0.3%) and science (-1.6%) compared to 2014.
- For A*-B grades there are increases for other science (+2.3%), biology (+1.1%), physics (+1.1%) and chemistry (+0.4%) but decreases for additional science (-0.7%), science (-1.9%) and further additional science (-2.7%) compared to 2014.

- Gender differences continue with girls outperforming boys in A*-C in all subjects with the exception of other science. This same gender pattern is also found when each of the higher grades is considered (A*, A*-A, A*-B).

Science

Numbers sitting science GCSE across UK

Students usually sit this science examination in conjunction with 'additional science'. The number of students sitting science GCSE (395484) increased by 20523 (0.3%) in 2015 which reduces an overall negative trend since 2012 (3.1% decrease).

A slightly higher percentage of boys (7.6%) sit this examination than girls (7.4%) though over the three years there has been a larger drop in boys than girls sitting this examination.

Science attainment across UK

56.7% of students gained A*-C grades, a decrease of 2.4% compared with 2014 and a further reduction in attainment since the 2012 attainment of 60.7%.

Girls (60.0%) continue to outperform boys (53.4%) in A*-C in science.

For A* grades, 2015 has seen a further decrease (0.6%) to 0.8% compared to 2014, a continued decrease since the 2012 level of 2.0%.

Girls (1.0%) continue to perform better than boys (0.6%) but there was a higher decrease compared to 2014 for girls (0.7%) than for boys (0.4%).

For A*-A grades, there was further significant decrease (1.6%) to 7.0% compared to 2014; performance is now further below the 2012 level of 9.8%.

Girls (8.4%) performed better than boys (5.5%) but there was a higher decrease compared to 2014 for girls (1.8%) than for boys (1.5%).

For A*- B grades, there was a significant decrease (1.9%) to 25.5% compared to 2014; performance is now further below the 2012 level of 28.4%.

Girls (28.6%) performed better than boys (22.3%).

Additional science

Numbers sitting additional science GCSE across UK

Students usually sit this science examination in conjunction with 'science'. 'Further additional science' data has been disaggregated this year (for the first time) and is shown separately below. The following figures only compare students sitting additional science in 2014 and 2015 as no earlier data is available.

The number of students sitting additional science GCSE (332960) increased by 30135 (0.5%) in 2015. The same percentage of boys (6.3%) sit this examination as girls (6.3%).

Additional science attainment across UK

63.2% of students gained A*-C grades, a decrease of 1.0% compared with 2014.

Girls (66.0%) continue to outperform boys (60.3%) in A*-C in additional science but there was a lower decrease compared to 2014 for boys (0.8%) than for girls (1.1%).

For A* grades, there was a decrease (0.3%) to 1.9% compared to 2014.

Girls (2.2%) continue to perform better than boys (1.5%) but there was a lower decrease compared to 2014 for boys (0.3%) than for girls (0.4%).

For A*-A grades, there was a decrease (0.3%) to 10.8% compared to 2014.

Girls (12.2%) performed better than boys (9.3%) but there was a lower decrease compared to 2014 for boys (0.3%) than for girls (0.4%).

For A*- B grades, there was a decrease (0.7%) to 31.7% compared to 2014.

Girls (34.6%) performed better than boys (28.6%) and there was a lower increase compared to 2014 for girls (0.6%) than for boys (0.7%).

Further additional science

Numbers sitting further additional science GCSE across UK

Students usually sit this science examination in conjunction with 'science' and 'Additional science'. 'Further additional science' data has been disaggregated this year (for the first time). The following figures only compare students sitting further additional science in 2014 and 2015 as no earlier data is available.

The number of students sitting further additional science GCSE (23389) increased by 2270 (0.4%) in 2015. A slightly higher percentage of boys (0.5%) sit this examination than girls (0.4%).

Further additional science attainment across UK

79.8% of students gained A*-C grades, a significant decrease of 4.4% compared with 2014. Girls (81.8%) continue to outperform boys (77.7%) in A*-C in further additional science and there was a lower decrease compared to 2014 for girls (3.8%) than for boys (5.2%).

For A* grades, there was a significant increase (2.6%) to 13.3% compared to 2014.

Girls (15.1%) continue to perform better than boys (11.4%) and there was a higher increase compared to 2014 for girls (3.6%) than for boys (1.5%).

For A*-A grades, there was an increase (1.0%) to 33.2% compared to 2014.

Girls (35.9%) performed better than boys (30.5%) and the performance of girls increased by 2.1% whilst that of boys decreased by 0.2%.

For A*- B grades, there was a significant decrease (2.7%) to 57.2% compared to 2014.

Girls (60.3%) performed better than boys (54.2%) and there was a lower decrease compared to 2014 for girls (1.8%) than for boys (3.6%).

Biology

Numbers sitting biology GCSE across UK

The number of students sitting biology GCSE (139199) decreased by 2701 (0.1%) in 2015 after a significant decrease (32528 – 0.5%) in 2014. A slightly higher percentage of boys (2.7%) sit this examination than girls (2.6%) though over the three years there has been a larger drop in boys than girls sitting this examination.

Biology attainment across UK

90.9% of students gained A*-C grades, an increase of 0.6% compared with 2014 though it is still below the 2012 attainment of 92.6%.

Girls (91.8%) continue to outperform boys (90.0%) in A* -C in biology.

For A* grades, 2015 has seen a further decrease (0.4%) to 13.2% compared to 2014, when there was a drop of 0.8%; a considerable decrease since the 2012 level of 17.1%. Girls (15.8%) continue to perform better than boys (10.6%) and there was a higher decrease compared to 2014 for boys (0.5%) than for girls (0.2%).

For A*-A grades, there was an increase (0.5%) to 41.3% compared to 2014 - the grades are still below the 2012 level of 46.2%. Girls (46.2%) performed better than boys (37.4%); the boys performance was the same as that in 2014.

For A* - B grades, there was an increase (1.1%) to 71.5% compared to 2014 though the grades are still below the 2012 level of 74.9%. Girls (74.6%) performed better than boys (68.4%).

Chemistry

Numbers sitting chemistry GCSE across UK

The number of students sitting chemistry GCSE (133618) decreased by 4620 (0.1%) in 2015. A slightly higher percentage of boys (2.6%) sit this examination than girls (2.4%) though over the three years there has been a larger drop in boys than girls sitting this examination.

Chemistry attainment across UK

91.2% of students gained A*-C grades, an increase of 0.5% compared with 2014 though it is still below the 2012 attainment of 93.0%.

Girls (92.4%) continue to outperform boys (90.1%) in A* -C in chemistry but there was a lower increase compared to 2014 for girls (0.4%) than for boys (0.6%).

For A* grades, 2015 has seen an increase (1.3%) to 15.9% compared to 2014, but this is still a considerable decrease since the 2012 level of 20.7%.

Girls (18.2%) continue to perform better than boys (13.7%) and there was a higher increase compared to 2014 for girls (1.7%) than for boys (1.0%).

For A*-A grades, there was an increase (0.6%) to 43.2% compared to 2014 - the grades are still below the 2012 level of 48.2%.

Girls (46.7%) performed better than boys (39.9) and there was a higher increase compared to 2014 for girls (0.8%) than for boys (0.5%).

For A* - B grades, there was an increase (0.4%) to 71.7% compared to 2014 though the grades are still below the 2012 level of 75.3%.

Girls (74.5%) performed better than boys (69.2%) but there was a lower increase compared to 2014 for girls (0.3%) than for boys (0.7%).

Physics

Numbers sitting physics GCSE across UK

The number of students sitting physics GCSE (133610) decreased by 3617 (0.1%) in 2015. A slightly higher percentage of boys (2.6%) sit this examination than girls (2.4%) though over the three years there has been a larger drop in boys than girls sitting this examination.

Physics attainment across UK

92.0% of students gained A*-C grades, an increase of 0.7% compared with 2014 though it is still below the 2012 attainment of 93.2%.

Girls (92.2%) continue to outperform boys (91.8%) in A* -C in physics, though boys have reduced the gap since 2013.

For A* grades, 2015 has seen a slight increase (0.2%) to 15.1% compared to 2014, though this remains a considerable decrease since the 2012 level of 19.2%.

Girls (15.5%) continue to perform better than boys (14.7%) although the performance of boys increased by 0.5% whilst that of girls remained unchanged since 2014.

For A*-A grades, there was an increase (1.1%) to 43.1% compared to 2014 - the grades are still below the 2012 level of 46.3%.

Girls (43.5%) performed better than boys (42.7%) but there was a lower increase compared to 2014 for girls (0.8%) than for boys (1.4%).

For A* - B grades, there was an increase (1.1%) to 72.0% compared to 2014 though the grades are still below the 2012 level of 74.4%.

Girls (72.3%) performed better than boys (71.7%) but there was a lower increase compared to 2014 for girls (0.8%) than for boys (1.3%).

Other sciences

Numbers sitting other science GCSE across UK

A small number of pupils (9027) sat a range of other sciences examination with more boys (5606) than girls (3421) sitting them. This is a decrease in entry (1390 pupils) since 2014.

Other science attainment across UK

Overall students attained 54.3% A*-C grades in these science examinations which was an increase of 2.7% compared with 2014 and increase of 1.0% since 2013. In these examinations for grades A*-C boys (55.8%) outperform girls (51.9%)

Mathematics

Numbers Sitting mathematics

The number of students sitting mathematics GCSE (761230) increased by 24827 (0.3%) in 2015. The same percentage of boys (14.4%) sit this examination as girls (14.4%) with a bigger increase for girls (0.4%) than boys (0.2%) since 2014.

Attainment

63.3% of students gained A*-C grades, an increase of 0.9% compared with 2014.

Boys (63.9%) continue to outperform boys (62.6%) in A* -C in mathematics and there was a much higher increase compared to 2014 for boys (1.4%) than for girls (0.3%).

For A* grades, 2015 has seen an increase (0.7%) to 6.1% compared to 2014.

Boys (6.7%) continue to perform better than girls (5.6%) and there was a higher increase compared to 2014 for boys (0.8%) than for girls (0.6%).

For A*-A grades, there was an increase (1.3%) to 16.5% compared to 2014.

Boys (17.3%) performed better than girls (15.6%) and there was a higher increase compared to 2014 for boys (1.6%) than for girls (1.0%).

For A* - B grades, there was an increase (1.4%) to 33.4% compared to 2014. Boys (34.3%) performed better than girls (32.5%) and there was a higher increase compared to 2014 for boys (1.7%) than for girls (1.2%).

Analysis of trends –England only

The overall trends in performance are the same as those seen across the whole of the UK, though numbers of student entries and percentage of different grades achieved in different subjects are slightly different. The only major difference between the trends for England compared to the whole of the UK is indicated with an * after the relevant statement below.

Overall trends in numbers taking GCSE science examinations in England only

- Overall there is a decrease in the numbers taking GCSE biology (129240), chemistry (124817) and physics (124986) and 'Other science' (7983) but an increase in the numbers taking science (368106), additional science (318443) and further additional science (22925) compared to 2014.
- There continues to be larger percentage of students sitting science (7.6%) and additional science (6.6%) than biology (2.7%), chemistry (2.6%), physics (2.6%) and only small entries for further additional science (0.5%) and other science (0.2%).
- There is a slight decrease in the numbers taking biology (0.1%), with the same decrease for boys and girls since 2014.
- There is a decrease in the numbers taking chemistry (0.1%), with the same decrease for boys and girls since 2014.
- There is a slight decrease in the numbers taking physics (0.1%) with the same decrease for boys and girls since 2014.
- There is an increase in the numbers taking science (0.3%) with a larger increase for boys (0.4%) than girls (0.3%) since 2014.
- There is an increase in the numbers taking additional science (0.6%) with a larger increase for boys (0.6%) than girls (0.5%) since 2014.
- There is a slight increase in the numbers taking further additional science (0.1%) with a larger increase for girls (0.1%) than boys (0.0%) since 2014.
- There is a slight decrease in the numbers taking other science (0.0%) with a larger decrease for girls (0.1%) than boys (0.0%) since 2014.
- More girls take science, additional science or further additional science than boys but more boys take biology, chemistry, physics and other science.*

Overall trends in attainment for GCSE science examinations in England only

- The attainment at A*-C grades is highest in chemistry (93.0%), physics (91.9%), biology (90.9%), further additional science (79.9%), additional science (62.8%), science (56.4%) and lowest in other science (51.3%).
- There has been an increase in A*-C results for other science (+1.3%), physics (+0.7%), biology (+0.7%), chemistry (+0.5%) but decreases in additional science (-1.1%), science (-2.7%) and further additional science (-4.3%) compared to 2014.
- For A* grades there was a significant increase in further additional science (+2.6%) and chemistry (+1.4%), small increases in other sciences (+0.4%) and physics (+0.2%) but decreases additional science (-0.4%), biology (-0.4%) and science (-0.7%) compared to 2014.
- For A*-A grades there are increases in other science (+1.2%), further additional science (+1.1%), physics (+1.0%), chemistry (+0.6%) and biology (+0.3%), but decreases in additional science (-0.3%) and science (-1.7%) compared to 2014.

- For A*-B grades there are increases for other science (+1.2%), biology (+1.0%), physics (+0.9%) and chemistry (+0.4%) but decreases for additional science (-0.7%), science (-2.0%) and further additional science (-2.5%) compared to 2014.
- Gender differences continue with girls outperforming boys in A*-C in all subjects with the exception of other science. This same gender pattern is also found when each of the higher grades is considered (A*, A*-A, A*-B).

Science

Numbers sitting science GCSE in England only

Students usually sit this science examination in conjunction with 'additional science'.

The number of students sitting science GCSE (368106) increased by 21328 (0.3%) in 2015 which reduces an overall negative trend since 2012 (3.0% decrease).

A slightly higher percentage of boys (7.7%) sit this examination than girls (7.5%) and over the three years there has been a larger drop in girls than boys sitting this examination.

Science attainment in England only

56.4% of students gained A*-C grades, a decrease of 2.7% compared with 2014 and a further reduction in attainment since the 2012 attainment of 60.8%.

Girls (59.8%) continue to outperform boys (53.0%) in A*-C in science.

For A* grades, 2015 has seen a further decrease (0.7%) to 0.7% compared to 2014, a continued decrease since the 2012 level of 2.0%.

Girls (0.9%) continue to perform better than boys (0.5%) but there was a higher decrease compared to 2014 for girls (0.8%) than for boys (0.5%).

For A*-A grades, there was further significant decrease (1.7%) to 6.9% compared to 2014; performance is now further below the 2012 level of 9.9%.

Girls (8.4%) performed better than boys (5.5%) but there was a higher decrease compared to 2014 for girls (1.9%) than for boys (1.5%).

For A*- B grades, there was a significant decrease (2.0%) to 25.4% compared to 2014; performance is now further below the 2012 level of 28.6%.

Girls (28.7%) performed better than boys (22.2%) and there was a lower decrease compared to 2014 for girls (1.8%) than for boys (2.0%).

Additional science

Numbers sitting additional science GCSE in England only

Students usually sit this science examination in conjunction with 'science'. 'Further additional science' data has been disaggregated this year (for the first time) and is shown separately below. The following figures only compare students sitting additional science in 2014 and 2015 as no earlier data is available.

The number of students sitting additional science GCSE (318443) increased by 30445 (0.6%) in 2015. The same percentage of boys (6.6%) sit this examination as girls (6.6%).

Additional science attainment in England only

62.8% of students gained A*-C grades, a decrease of 1.1% compared with 2014. Girls (65.7%) continue to outperform boys (59.9%) in A*-C in additional science but there was a lower decrease compared to 2014 for boys (0.8%) than for girls (1.2%).

For A* grades, there was a decrease (0.4%) to 1.8% compared to 2014. Girls (2.2%) continue to perform better than boys (1.5%); performance of both boys and decreased by 0.3% compared to 2014.

For A*-A grades, there was a decrease (0.3%) to 10.7% compared to 2014. Girls (12.1%) performed better than boys (9.1%) and there was a lower decrease compared to 2014 for girls (0.2%) than for boys (0.4%).

For A*- B grades, there was a decrease (0.7%) to 31.5% compared to 2014. Girls (34.4%) performed better than boys (28.4%) and there was a lower increase compared to 2014 for girls (0.7%) than for boys (0.8%).

Further additional science

Numbers sitting further additional science GCSE in England only

Students usually sit this science examination in conjunction with 'science' and 'Additional science'. 'Further additional science' data has been disaggregated this year (for the first time). The following figures only compare students sitting further additional science in 2014 and 2015 as no earlier data is available.

The number of students sitting further additional science GCSE (22925) increased by 1856 (0.1%) in 2015. The same percentage of boys (0.5%) sit this examination as girls (0.5%).

Further additional science attainment in England only

79.9% of students gained A*-C grades, a significant decrease of 4.43% compared with 2014. Girls (81.9%) continue to outperform boys (77.9%) in A*-C in further additional science and there was a lower decrease compared to 2014 for girls (3.7%) than for boys (5.0%).

For A* grades, there was a significant increase (2.6%) to 13.3% compared to 2014. Girls (15.1%) continue to perform better than boys (11.5%) and there was a higher increase compared to 2014 for girls (3.6%) than for boys (1.6%).

For A*-A grades, there was an increase (1.1%) to 33.3% compared to 2014. Girls (36.0%) performed better than boys (30.7%) and the performance of girls increased by 2.3% whilst that of boys remained the same as 2014.

For A*- B grades, there was a significant decrease (2.5%) to 57.4% compared to 2014. Girls (60.4%) performed better than boys (54.4%) and there was a lower decrease compared to 2014 for girls (1.7%) than for boys (3.4%).

Biology

Numbers sitting biology GCSE in England only

The number of students sitting biology GCSE (129240) decreased by 2429 (0.1%) in 2015 after a significant decrease (32566 – 0.5%) in 2014. A slightly higher percentage of boys (2.7%) sit this examination than girls (2.6%) though over the three years there has been a larger drop in boys than girls sitting this examination.

Biology attainment in England only

90.9% of students gained A*-C grades, an increase of 0.7% compared with 2014 though it is still below the 2012 attainment of 92.6%.

Girls (91.9%) continue to outperform boys (89.9%) in A* -C in biology.

For A* grades, 2015 has seen a further decrease (0.4%) to 13.1% compared to 2014, when there was a drop of 1.0%; a considerable decrease since the 2012 level of 17.8%.

Girls (15.7%) continue to perform better than boys (10.4%) and there was a higher decrease compared to 2014 for boys (0.6%) than for girls (0.4%).

For A*-A grades, there was an increase (0.3%) to 41.7% compared to 2014 - the grades are still below the 2012 level of 46.4%.

Girls (46.3%) performed better than boys (37.1%); whilst the performance of girls increased by 0.9%, that of boys decreased by 0.3% compared to that in 2014.

For A*- B grades, there was an increase (1.0%) to 71.5% compared to 2014 though the grades are still below the 2012 level of 75.1%.

Girls (74.7%) performed better than boys (68.3%) and there was a higher increase compared to 2014 for girls (1.2%) than for boys (0.8%).

Chemistry

Numbers sitting chemistry GCSE in England only

The number of students sitting chemistry GCSE (124817) decreased by 4235 (0.1%) in 2015. A slightly higher percentage of boys (2.7%) sit this examination than girls (2.5%) though over the three years there has been a larger drop in boys than girls sitting this examination.

Chemistry attainment in England only

91.1% of students gained A*-C grades, an increase of 0.5% compared with 2014 though it is still below the 2012 attainment of 93.0%.

Girls (92.3%) continue to outperform boys (90.0%) in A* -C in chemistry but there was a lower increase compared to 2014 for girls (0.4%) than for boys (0.6%).

For A* grades, 2015 has seen an increase (1.4%) to 15.8% compared to 2014, but this is still a considerable decrease since the 2012 level of 20.8%.

Girls (18.1%) continue to perform better than boys (13.5%) and there was a higher increase compared to 2014 for girls (1.8%) than for boys (1.0%).

For A*-A grades, there was an increase (0.6%) to 43.0% compared to 2014 - the grades are still below the 2012 level of 48.2%.

Girls (46.5%) performed better than boys (39.6%) and there was a higher increase compared to 2014 for girls (0.8%) than for boys (0.3%).

For A*- B grades, there was an increase (0.4%) to 71.6% compared to 2014 though the grades are still below the 2012 level of 75.4%.

Girls (74.3%) performed better than boys (68.9%) but there was a lower increase compared to 2014 for girls (0.1%) than for boys (0.5%).

Physics

Numbers sitting physics GCSE in England only

The number of students sitting physics GCSE (124986) decreased by 3387 (0.1%) in 2015. A slightly higher percentage of boys (2.7%) sit this examination than girls (2.5%) though over the three years there has been a larger drop in boys than girls sitting this examination.

Physics attainment in England only

91.9% of students gained A*-C grades, an increase of 0.7% compared with 2014 though it is still below the 2012 attainment of 93.2%.

Girls (92.1%) continue to outperform boys (91.7%) in A* -C in physics, though boys have reduced the gap since 2013.

For A* grades, 2015 has seen a slight increase (0.2%) to 14.9% compared to 2014, though this remains a considerable decrease since the 2012 level of 19.2%.

Girls (15.3%) continue to perform better than boys (14.5%) although the performance of boys increased by 0.4% whilst that of girls decreased by 0.1% since 2014.

For A*-A grades, there was an increase (1.0%) to 42.9% compared to 2014 - the grades are still below the 2012 level of 46.4%.

Girls (43.4%) performed better than boys (42.4%) but there was a lower increase compared to 2014 for girls (0.9%) than for boys (1.2%).

For A* - B grades, there was an increase (0.9%) to 71.8% compared to 2014 though the grades are still below the 2012 level of 74.5%.

Girls (72.1%) performed better than boys (71.6%) but there was a lower increase compared to 2014 for girls (0.7%) than for boys (1.3%).

Other sciences

Numbers sitting other science GCSE in England only

A small number of pupils (7983) sat a range of other sciences examination with more boys (4817) than girls (3166) sitting them. This is a decrease in entry (1519 pupils) since 2014.

Other science attainment in England only

Overall students attained 51.3% A*-C grades in these science examinations which was an increase of 1.3% compared with 2014. In these examinations for grades A*-C boys (52.2%) outperform girls (50.0%)

Mathematics

Numbers Sitting mathematics in England only

The number of students sitting mathematics GCSE (691851) increased by 25626 (0.3%) in 2015. The same percentage of boys (14.3%) sit this examination as girls (14.3%), with a larger increase for girls (0.4%) than boys (0.2%) since 2014.

Attainment in England only

64.1% of students gained A*-C grades, an increase of 1.1% compared with 2014.

Boys (64.7%) continue to outperform girls (63.5%) in A* -C in mathematics with a much higher increase for boys (1.6%) than girls (0.5%) since 2014.

For A* grades, 2015 has seen an increase (0.8%) to 6.2% compared to 2014. Boys (6.8%) continue to perform better than girls (5.6%) and there was a higher increase compared to 2014 for boys (1.0%) than for girls (0.7%).

For A*-A grades, there was an increase (1.5%) to 16.7% compared to 2014. Boys (17.6%) performed better than girls (15.8%) and there was a higher increase compared to 2014 for boys (1.7%) than for girls (1.2%).

For A* - B grades, there was an increase (1.6%) to 34.1% compared to 2014. Boys (35.0%) performed better than girls (33.1%) and there was a higher increase compared to 2014 for boys (1.8%) than for girls (1.3%).