

Religious Studies Examination Results 2019

National statistics

Here are the trends in religious studies GCSE grades for 2019.

TENS of thousands fewer pupils are sitting the Religious Studies (RS) GCSE exam, confirming a continuing sharp decline in the subject's popularity.

This summer, only 264,000 students gained an RS qualification at GCSE level, a decline of 3.8 per cent compared with last year's total of 276,000.

But looking back further, the numbers of children taking RS has fallen significantly: by 28 per cent in the past four years and 43 per cent since 2011.

This means that more than 200,000 fewer pupils are taking the subject compared with eight years ago

Nationally only 30 per cent of pupils from non-faith schools received the qualification last year, compared with 95 per cent of students at Roman Catholic schools and 68 per cent of those at Church of England schools.

There were also links to poverty: schools that did offer RS GCSE on average had fewer pupils on free school meals.

More than 700 schools stopped offering RS at GCSE level altogether from 2017 to 2018, the researchers also found.

Overall, GCSE results across Britain improved. Grades rose for the second year running after an initial fall in 2017 when harder exams were introduced.

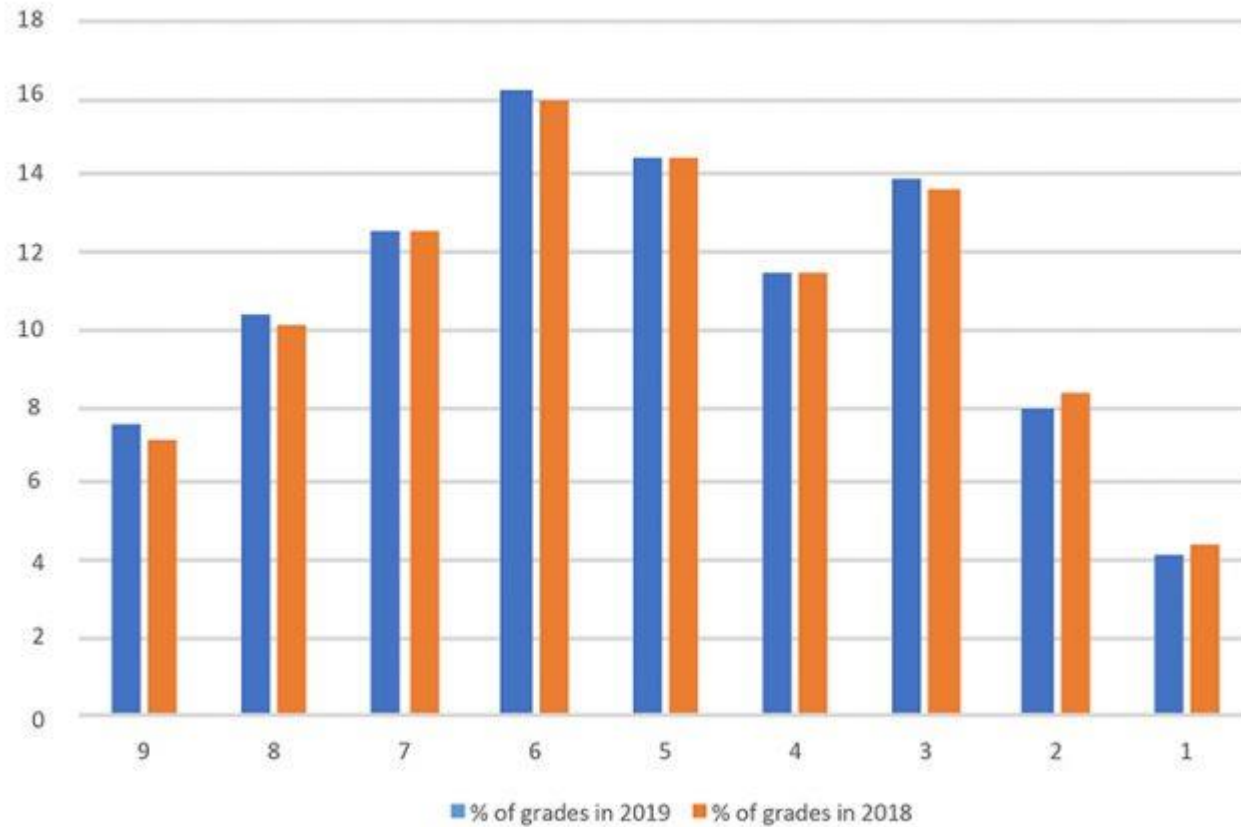
More than one in five — 20.8 per cent — of GCSE entries scored one of the top three grades (7, 8, or 9, which are equivalent to the old A and A*), a slight increase over the 20.5 per cent last summer

The data shows a steep rise in the top very grades at GCSE religious studies this year, with more results being awarded at grades 8 (10.4 per cent) and 9 (7.5 per cent). However, the proportion of grade 7's has remained stable at 12.6 per cent, while grade 5 has seen a small decline. Entries in the subject continued to decline, from 229,189 last year to 227,913 this year 2019

The 2019 summer grade 9 was awarded in the majority of GCSE subjects. Grade 9 is not the same as A*, it is designed to recognise the very highest performing students, so there are fewer grade 9s than there were A*s. Grade 8 straddles the top of the old A and the bottom of the old A*, so there is no direct comparison with A*.

The decline in GCSE RS is mirrored by a similar fall at A level: 26 per cent fewer pupils are taking the subject beyond GCSE than did in 2017

Religious studies GCSE grade distributions



National Headlines

Religious studies GCSE entries (England all ages)

2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
227,913	229,189	256,729	271,973	271,917

Entries in religious studies have decreased across the UK over the last five years. The -15.8% change compared to a change of +5.1% in all GCSE entries over the last five years. Over the same period, the 16-year-old population has changed by approximately -4.7%.

Across the UK, a greater proportion of students achieved good passes in religious studies in 2019 compared to all GCSE subjects. A total of 72.4% of pupils achieved grade 4/C or higher in religious studies compared to 67.3% for all subjects. The combined English and Maths was at 50% for 9-5 grades. In RS this was 60.9%.

Full Course GCSE in Religious Studies Results Analysis 2019

2019 National Average 9 to 5.... 60.9%

2019 State Schools National Average 9 to 5..... 60.2% (2018... 59.7%)

2019 Staffordshire Average 9 to 5..... 50.9%

2019 National Average 9 to 4..... 72.4%

2019 State Schools National Average 9 to 4..... 71.4% (2018... 71%)

2019 Staffordshire Average 9 to 4.... 64.7%

2019 Staffordshire Average 9 to 5.... 50.9% is a decline from Staffordshire 2018 when the 9-5 average was 51.6%

Staffordshire results compared to the National figures

GCSE Full Course Results All Pupils

Est. No.	Centre	NOE	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	u	9-5	9-4	9-1
-	National (All)	227913	7.4	10.5	12.6	16.1	14.3	11.4	14.0	8.00	4.2	1.5	60.9%	72.4%	98.0%
	State National	100690	6.8	9.8	12.4	16.4	14.8	11.2	15.2	8.00	3.7	1.3	60.2%	71.4	98.3
-	Staffs LA (State Funded)	4092	3.9	7.6	9.8	14.5	15.1	13.8	18.3	10.3	5.0	1.8	50.9	64.7%	98.2
4500	Abbot Beyne School	79	5.1	7.6	6.3	16.5	17.7	15.2	13.9	15.2	2.5	0	53.2	68.4	100
4067	Blythe Bridge High School	46	2.2	6.5	13.0	15.2	21.7	13.0	17.4	8.7	0	2.2	58.6	<u>71.6</u>	97.8
5403	Cardinal Griffin	136	0.7	1.5	7.4	11.8	14	16.2	16.2	12.5	11	8.1	35.4	51.6	91.9
4075	Codsall Community High	27	14.8	11.1	29.6	25.9	7.4	3.7	0	0	0	0	<u>88.9</u>	<u>92.6</u>	100.0
4077	Endon High School	113	7.1	12.4	15.0	15.0	17.7	12.4	15.9	3.5	0.9	0	<u>67.3</u>	<u>79.7</u>	100.0
4181	King Edward VI High School	125	1.6	0	6.4	11.2	8	17.6	19.2	19.2	12	4.8	27.2	44.8	95.2
4087	King Edward VI School	55	0	1.8	5.5	9.1	30.9	20.0	27.3	3.6	1.8	0	47.3	67.3	98.0
4072	Moorside High School	142	2.1	4.2	7.0	19.7	18.3	15.5	26.1	6.3	0.7	0	51.4	66.9	100.0
4066	Norton Canes High School	30	0	6.7	13.3	16.7	23.3	13.3	13.3	10	3.3	0	<u>60</u>	<u>73.3</u>	100%
4051	Paulet High School	27	3.7	7.4	18.5	14.8	14.8	11.1	25.9	3.7	0		59.3	<u>71.4</u>	100.0
4055	Paget High	140	64.5	10.7	10.7	12.1	16.7	8.6	25	13.6	6.4	1.4	45	54.1	98.6

School															
4126	The Friary School	20	25.0	30.0	25.0	10.9	0	0	0	0	0		<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>	100.0
4012	The King's CofE (VA) School	15	6.7	13.3	20.0	26.7	26.7	6.7	0	0	0	0	<u>93.3</u>	<u>100</u>	100.0

GCSE Full Course Results Female Pupils

Est. No.	Centre	NOE	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	u	9-5	9-4	9-1
-	National (Girls)	123,535	10	13.1	14.6	14	14	10.4	11.4	6.1	2.6		68.7%	79.1%	98.0%
	National State	55,010	9.3	12.4	14.6	17.5	14.4	10.3	12.5	6.0	2.3	0.6	68.1%	78.4%	99.1%
-	LA (State Funded)	2138	5.4	10.1	12.6	17.2	15.8	12.7	15.7	7.3	2.4	0.7	61.1%	73.8%	99.3%
4500	Abbot Beyne School	43	7.00	2.3	7.00	20.9	23.3	18.6	9.3	11.6	0	0	60.5	69.8	100
4067	Blythe Bridge High School	28	3.6	10.7	17.9	17.9	25.0	7.1	10.7	7.1	0	0	<u>75.0</u>	<u>77.1</u>	100
5403	Cardinal Griffin	66	0.0	1.5	13.6	16.7	13.6	19.7	16.7	12.1	1.5	4.5	45.5	65.2	95.5
4075	Codsall Community High	23	13.00	8.7	30.4	26.1	8.7	8.7	4.3	0	0	0	<u>87.0</u>	<u>95.7</u>	100.0
4077	Endon High School	61	8.2	18.0	16.4	16.4	11.5	1.6	15.9	3.5	0.9	0	<u>75.4</u>	<u>77</u>	100.0
4181	King Edward VI High School	30	0	0	10.00	13.3	40.00	23.4	13.3	0	0	0	63.3	<u>86.7</u>	100.0
4087	King Edward VI School	104	4.8	11.5	12.5	16.3	11.5	9.6	19.2	11.5	2.9	0	56.7	65.7	100.0
4072	Moorside High	74	4.1	6.8	10.8	21.6	14.9	13.5	20.3	6.8	1.4	0	58.1	71.6	100.0

School															
4066	Norton Canes High School	22	0	9.1	18.2	9.1	22.7	18.2	9.1	9,1	4.5	0	60	<u>78.2</u>	100%
4051	Paulet High School	11	9.1	9.1	0	9.1	27.3	9.1	36.4	0	0		54.5	63.6	100.0
4055	Paget High School	76	10.5	3.9	11.8	13.2	10.5	6.6	23.7	13.2	6.6		50.0	56.6	100
4126	The Friary School	12	25.0	41.7	16.7	16.7	0	0	0	0	0		<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>	100.0
4012	The King's CofE (VA) School	12	8.3	16.7	25.0	16.7	25.00	8.3	0	0	0	0	<u>91.7</u>	<u>100</u>	100.0

GCSE Full Course Results Male Pupils

Est. No.	Centre	NOE	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	u	9-5	9-4	9-1
-	National (Boys)	104,378	4.4	7.3	10.3	15	14.7	12.6	17.2	10.4	6.1		51.7%	64.4%	98.0%
	National state	45,680	3.7	6.7	9.7	15.2	15.3	12.3	18.5	10.5	5.4	2.3	50.6%	62.9%	97.3%
-	LA (State Funded)	1954	2.1	4.8	6.7	11.7	14.4	14.9	21.1	13.5	7.8	3	39.7%	54.6%	97%
4500	Abbot Beyne School	36	2.8	13.9	5.6	11.1	11.1	11.1	19.4	19.4	5.6	0	44.4	<u>66.6</u>	100
4067	Blythe Bridge High School	18	0	0	5.6	11.1	16.7	22.2	27.8	11.1	0	5.6	33.3	<u>55.5</u>	94.4
5403	Cardinal Griffin	70	1.4	1.4	1.4	7.1	14.3	12.9	17.1	12.9	20.0	11.4	25.7	38.6	88.6
4075	Codsall Community High	4	25.00	25.0	25.0	25.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>	100.0
4077	Endon High School	52	5.8	5.8	13.5	13.5	19.2	13.5	21.2	5.8	1.9	0	<u>57.7</u>	<u>71.2</u>	100.0
4181	King Edward VI High School	25	0	4.00	0.00	4.00	20.00	16.00	44.00	8.00	4.00	0	28.00	44.8	100.0

4087	King Edward VI School	95	0	2.1	5.3	13.7	17.9	16.8	16.8	15.8	7.4	4.2	38.9	<u>56.5</u>	95.8
4072	Moorside High School	68	0	1.5	2.9	17.6	22.1	17.6	32.4	5.9	0	0	44.1	<u>61.7</u>	100.0
4066	Norton Canes High School	8	0	0	0	37.5	25.0	0	25.0	12.5	0	0	<u>62.5</u>	<u>62.5</u>	100
4051	Paulet High School	16	0	6.3	31.3	18.8	6.4	12.5	18.8	6.3	0	0	<u>62.5</u>	<u>75</u>	100.0
4055	Paget High School	64	1.6	6.3	9.4	10.9	10.9	10.9	26.6	14.1	6.3	3.1	39.1	50	96.9
4126	The Friary School	8	25.0	12.5	37.5	0	25.0	0	0	0	0		<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>	100.0
4012	The King's CofE (VA) School	3	0	0	0	66.7	33.3	0	0	0	0	0	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>	100.0

Overall GCSE results 2019.... This continues to use the new grading of 9-1, with 9 being the exceptional grade.

- **Staffordshire's 2019 Grade 9-5 are at 50.9%** (51.6% in 2018)
- The national results in 2019 for Grade 9-5 are at 60.9% (71% in 2018)
- The state school results in 2019 for Grade 5-9 are at 60.2%
- So, Staffordshire school results are **10% lower** than the National when comparing grades 9-5;
- So, Staffordshire school results are **9.3% lower** than the state schools when comparing grades 9-5;

- **Staffordshire's 2019 Grade 9-4 are at 64.7** (66.7% in 2018)
- The national results in 2019 for Grade 9-4 are at 72.4% (71% in 2018)
- The state schools results in 2019 for Grade 9-4 are at 71.4% (71% in 2018)
- So, Staffordshire school results are **7.7% lower** than the National when comparing grades 9-4
- So, Staffordshire school results are **6.7% lower** than the state schools when comparing grades 9-4

- Results for all pupils show that pupils in Staffordshire achieved below the national average at grades 9-5 and 9-4 but above national average for grades 9-1 (National was 98.0% and Staffordshire was 98.2% which is in line with 2018 results) The results for both male and female pupils reflect the results for all pupils.

- Nationally girls out-perform boys at all grades and more girls opt to take RS than boys, this is mirrored in the Staffordshire results, where 61.1% of girls achieved grades 9-5 compared to 39.7% of boys and where 73.8% of girls achieved grades 9-4 compared to 54.6% of boys and approximately 100 more girls were entered for the RS GCSE full course.
- However, a closer look at the results tables reveal that there were several schools achieving results above the national average. SACRE members may wish to congratulate these schools on their achievements.
- When looking at the results for all pupils SACRE would be mindful to take note of the number of entries. This gives an insight into the provision that different schools have in place for pupils at KS4.
- Of the 13 schools who entered students in for GCSE and comparing to the **National results** 2019 Grade 9-5 at 60.9%, 4 schools were above the National, 2 broadly in line and 7 below- this is similar to 2018.
- Of the 13 schools who entered students in for GCSE and comparing to the **State school results** 2019 Grade 9-5 at 60.2%, 4 schools were above the National, 2 broadly in line and 7 below- this is similar to 2018.
- Of the 13 schools who entered students in for GCSE and comparing to the **National results** 2019 Grade 9-4 at 72.4%, 5 schools were above the Staffordshire, 2 broadly in line and 6 below.
- Of the 13 schools who entered students in for GCSE and comparing to the **State school results** 2019 Grade 9-4 at 71.4%, 6 schools were above the National, 1 broadly in line and 6 below- this is similar to 2018.
- The Staffs boys in 10 schools achieved either in line or above the state national %- this is good news.
- Overall we need to be mindful that there is a dip in standards this year, this was the case last year,,,,, which could be attributed to the new grading and the raising of the challenge within the GCSE syllabus.

Advanced Level GCE in Religious Studies Results Analysis 2019		
2019 National Average A* to B	50.5%	(52.3 % in 2018)
2019 National Average A* to A	21.9%	(22.8% in 2018)
2019 National Average A* to E	100%	
2019 Staffordshire Average A* to B	39.1%	(43.5% in 2018)
2019 Staffordshire Average A* to A	12.9%	(14.5% in 2018)
2019 Staffordshire Average A* to E	97%	(97.8% in 2019)

THE number of students sitting A levels in religious studies in the UK has dropped again. The A-level results showed that 19,406 people took the exam.

The number is down from 20,527 in 2018, and 26,086 in 2017 a drop of 5.5 per cent from 2018, and 25.6 per cent from 2017. The data, published by the Joint Council for Qualifications, shows that more than twice the number of female students took the RS exam than males, 13,972 against 5434. Just 2.4 per cent of students overall took the course.

Entries in religious studies have decreased sharply across the UK over the last five years. The -24.7% change compared to a change of -5.8% in all A-Level entries over the last five years. Over the same period, the 18-year-old population has changed by approximately -7.7%. Across the UK, a smaller proportion of students achieved the top grades in religious studies in 2019 compared to all A-Level subjects. A total of 21.9% of pupils achieved A*-A grades in religious studies compared to 25.5% for all subject

Ben Wood, chair of the National Association of Teachers of RE, said that it was sad to see not more students taking religious studies, especially “at a time when high levels of religious literacy have never been more important”.

He said: “Unfortunately, there has again been a decline in the number of entries for A level this year, though thankfully, this fall is much less than last year. The continuing problem of the number of schools that are failing to provide RS at Key Stage 4, and thus are failing in their statutory duty, means that fewer students are given the chance to study for a GCSE religious studies’

Staffordshire Key Stage 5 GCE A Level Results All Pupils

Est. No.	School/College	NOE	*	A	B	C	D	E	Q	U	X	A*-A	A*-B	A*-E
-	National (all entries)	19.406	4.3	17.6	28.6	26.2	15.4	6.1		1.8		21.9	50.5	100
	Staffordshire	202	2.5	10.4	26.2	25.7	23.8	8.4		3		12.9	39.1	97
4075	Codsall Community High School	7	0	57.1	14.3	28.6						<u>57.1</u>	<u>100</u>	100.0
4087	King Edward VI School	32	6.3	12.5	25	34.4	15.6	0		6.3		18.8	37.5	93.8
4066	Norton Canes High School	7			14.3	14.3	28.6	42.9					14.3	100.0
4126	The Friary School	4	0	25	25	25	25					<u>25</u>	<u>50</u>	100
4067	Blythe Bridge High	4	0	0	0	75	0	25				0	0	100
4181	King Edward VI High	1	0	0	0	0	0	100	0	0		0	0	100

KS5 GCE A Level Results Female Pupils

Est. No.	School/College	NOE	*	A	B	C	D	E	Q	U	X	A*-A	A*-B	A*-E
-	National (all entries)	13.972	4.3	17.8	28.7	26.5	15.3	4.9		2.5		22.1	50.8	100

Staffordshire		158	1.3	11.4	27.8	25.3	24.1	8.2		1.9	12.7	40.5	98.1
4075	Codsall Community High School	6		66.7	16.7	16.7	0	0	0	0	<u>66.7</u>	83.4	100.0
4087	King Edward VI School	24	0	8.3	29.2	37.5	20.8	0	0	4.2	8.3	37.5	95.8
4066	Norton Canes High School	6	0	16.7	16.7	16.7	50	0	0	0	16.7	33.4	100.0
4126	The Friary School	4	0	25	25	25	25	0	0	0	<u>25</u>	<u>50</u>	100
4181	King Edward VI High	1	0	0	0	0	0	100	0	0	0	0	100
4067	Blythe Bridge High	3	0	0	0	66.7	0	33.3			0	0	100

KS5 GCE A Level Results male Pupils

Est. No.	School/College	NOE	*	A	B	C	D	E	Q	U	X	A*-A	A*-B	A*-E
-	National (all entries)	5434	4.3	16.9	28.5	25.4	15.7	6.5		2.5		21.1	49.7	100
	Staffordshire	44	6.8	6.8	20.5	27.3	22.7	9.1		6.8		13.6	33.6	93.2
4075	Codsall Community High School	1				100								100
4087	King Edward VI School	8	25	25	12.5	25	0	0	0	12.5		<u>50</u>	<u>62.5</u>	87.5
4066	Norton Canes High School	1				100								100.0
4126	The Friary School	0												
4067	Blythe Bridge High	1	0	0	0	100	0	0	0	0		0	0	100
4181	King Edward VI High	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0

Points to note:

- The gap in results achieved nationally in comparison with those achieved in Staffordshire for A level grades A-B has widened.
- Only 6 maintained schools are now included in the results data base, but all 22 Staffordshire schools are included in the overall %
- Staffordshire's 2019 results are lower than national at 39.1%, (2018-43.5%) but still an improvement on the 2017 results of 36.6%.

- Results for all pupils show that although pupils in Staffordshire achieved below the national average at grades A*-B, they performed at nearly the national of 100% across the full spectrum of grades A*-E at 97%.
- The results for male and female pupils show that more girls are entered for Religious Studies at A level than boys. But the Staffordshire. results overall show that the gap between boys and girls has diminished. This is similar to the National picture.
- The number of entries per school is often small. This is not unexpected at KS5 for which examination courses will be optional.
- Two schools exceeded the National A* A %.
- Staffordshire boys exceeded the National A* A %.at 6.8% with the national % at 4.3%
- Staffordshire maintained schools are to be commended for continuing to offer their pupils the opportunity to study for an A level qualification in Religious Studies.