

Provisional Headline KS4 GCSE results 2015 for Southampton Schools (20/08/2015).

Key Stage 4 GCSE results were released by schools on 20/08/2015. The short briefing note below, based on provisional data provides an overview of Southampton's performance. The focus of the briefing note is the percentage of young people achieving 5 or more GCSEs at grades A* to C or equivalent including English and Maths GCSEs (former NI 75). National and Local Authority data will be published by the DfE in October 2015. Following this release, a further briefing note will be issued outlining Southampton's performance compared to Statistical Neighbours, Core Cities and National.

2014 was the first year of a period of change for GCSEs that impacted substantially on the headline indicator 5+A*-C including English and Maths GCSEs. In 2014, the DfE released a revised list of approved qualifications that would count for headline indicators. Subjects that had historically counted as more than one GCSE or equivalent due to the 'width' of the qualification were capped back to 1 GCSE equivalent. Therefore, 5 different subjects must be included within the 5+ A*-C including English and Maths as the focus switches from volume to breadth. In 2014, results were also impacted on by a much greater emphasis on exams at the end of the two-year course and a reduction in coursework and modular units. Short course GCSEs no longer count as they are only 60 Guided Learning Hours in size. Functional skills will no longer count as they cease to be an approved qualification.

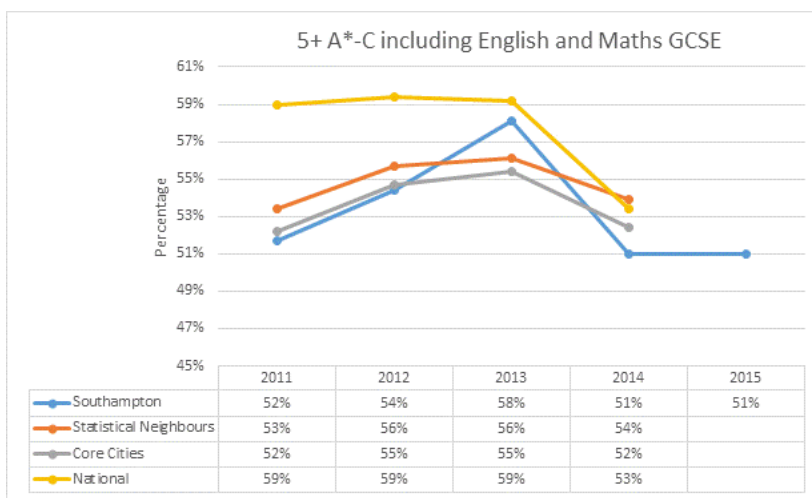
In addition to the changes outlined above, only first entries are included in the headline indicators instead of a pupils' best entries as had previously been included prior to 2014. In 2014, only first entries in English Baccalaureate subjects (English, Maths, Science, Humanities and Languages) were considered when assessing a schools performance. This approach has been expanded to all subjects in 2015.

Headlines

- **Provisional analysis indicates that Southampton's achievement of 5+A*-C including English and Maths GCSEs for 2015 will be 51%. This is in line with the 2014 performance of 51%.**

Further News

- At least 5 of Southampton's secondary schools have achieved improvements on the 2015 outcomes achieved.
- 3 Southampton schools have secured improvements of at least 15%.

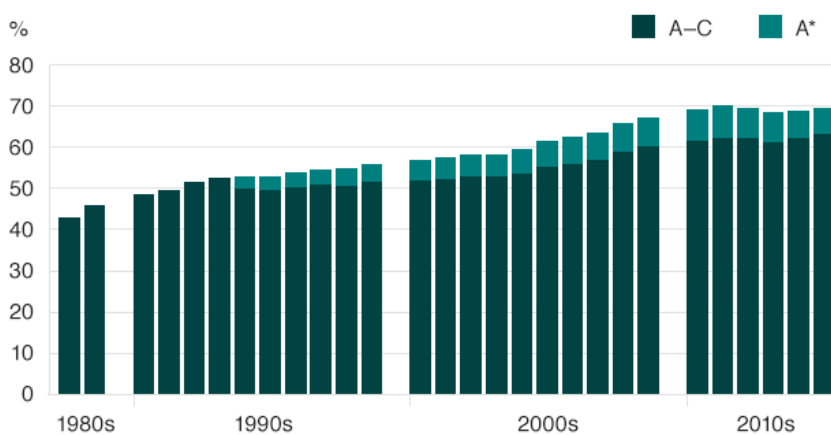


N.B. Results for Redbridge Community School are currently outstanding. Further English Literature results are also still to be analysed from one other school owing to an examination board error. The LA aggregated provisional result has therefore been calculated assuming that both of these schools achieved the floor standard of 40%. Once this data becomes available, the Southampton average will be adjusted appropriately.

National Context

- No National data is available on results day for 5+ A*-C including English and Maths.
- Nationally A*-C GCSE passes increased by 0.2% from 68.8% in 2014 to 69.0% in 2015. This small increase follows a 0.7% increase in 2014 from 68.1% in 2013.
- English A*-C passes increased by 3.7% from 61.7% in 2014 to 65.4% in 2015. This follows a decrease of 1.9% in 2014 from 63.6% (2013) to 61.7%.
- Maths A*-C passes increased by 0.9% from 62.4% in 2014 to 63.3% in 2015. This follows a 4.8% increase in 2014 from 57.6% (2013) to 62.4%.
- Michael Turner, director general of the Joint Council for Qualifications, said “At a national level there is very little change in this year’s results but we do see educational policies continuing to have an effect on entry patterns and results at a subject level.

GCSE entries awarded A*-C grade



Source: Centre for Education and Employment Research, University of Buckingham/JCQ



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