

2019 Provisional Headline A-Level results for Southampton Local Authority

A-Level results were released to Colleges and students on the 15th August 2019. Southampton Colleges and Sixth Forms have agreed to inform the LA of their results so that citywide performance can be calculated. This short briefing note benchmarks Southampton's performance against a National comparator to provide context to the city's A-Level outcomes. Comparative performance for Statistical Neighbours and Core Cities will not be available until the DfE release provisional data, usually available in late October.

During the period between 2017 and 2020, a phased introduction of reformed A-Level qualifications warrants a cautious approach to year-on-year comparisons. These reforms include more rigorous and challenging qualification content, courses being assessed through final exams at the end of Year 13 and the decoupling of AS-Levels which means that they no longer contribute to A-Level grades.

Only A-Level outcomes are included in this provisional analysis of Southampton performance and therefore do not include results from Southampton City College or for those students at other city schools/colleges who did not study an A-Level curriculum. A broader range of Level 3 qualification outcomes for the Local Authority will be published by the DfE in the Autumn term, reflecting the breadth of achievements within Southampton.

Please note that the 2019 National averages used in this briefing note and provisional analysis have been derived from the FFT results day analysis which is for all students in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. References to 2018 and 2017 National averages will be the DfE official published figures for England only. We have historically relied on the JCQ publication to provide England only National comparators on results day but in 2019, this has unfortunately not been released at the time of this Local Authority performance publication.

Southampton A-Level Provisional Results

- 14.9% of Southampton entries achieved an A-Level A* or A grade in 2019 which was an improvement of 3.6% from the 2018 percentage achieving A*-A provisional results day outcome (11.3%). A challenge still remains to meet National performance as A-Level A*-A grades is 25.5%, a gap of 10.6% between Southampton and National in 2019.
- Out of 1293 A-level entries within Southampton, 38.8% achieved an A*-B grade. Nationally a pass rate of 51.6% was achieved resulting in a gap of 12.8% with Southampton (38.8%). Southampton pupils had 502 A-Levels at grade B or above and required an additional 165 A-Levels to have surpassed the B grade threshold to have equalled the National average.
- 65.1% of A-Level entries within Southampton's Colleges and Sixth Forms achieved a grade C or above. The National performance for A*-C was 75.8%, a gap of 10.7% when compared with the Southampton average (65.1%).

- In 2019, 97.3% of Southampton A-Level entries achieved an A*-E grade at College or Sixth Form. This is 0.3% below National performance that saw 97.6% of A-level results achieve an A*-E grade.
- Southampton's 2019 A-Level provisional results day outcomes have improved from Southampton's 2018 A-Level provisional results day outcomes. This progression has also seen Southampton's 2019 A-Level provisional results day performance improve the Local Authority's position relative to the National average by 4.9% for %A*-A, by 5.3% for %A*-B, by 3.9% for %A*-C and by 0.9% for %A*-E, although a challenge still remains to close the gap to National levels of performance.

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