

2018 Provisional Headline A-Level results for Southampton Local Authority

A-Level results were released to Colleges and students on the 16th August 2018. Southampton Colleges and Sixth Forms have agreed to inform the LA of their results so that citywide performance can be calculated. The short briefing note below summarises National contextual performance before commenting on Southampton performance. Comparative performance for Statistical Neighbours and Core Cities will not be available until the DfE release provisional data, usually available in late October.

Over 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.

National Context (England only)

- Nationally, the A*-E pass rate dropped by 0.3% from 97.9% in 2017 to 97.6% in 2018. This is the lowest the A*-E pass rate has been since 2015.
- The A*-B National pass rate (52.7%) is the lowest in the past 3 years.
- A*-A grades achieved a National pass rate of 26.2%, equalling the A*-A pass rate in 2017 of 26.2%.
- The A* pass rate decreased by 0.3% to 8.0% after being 8.3% in 2017. This is the lowest A* pass rate since 2015.

	2018 A-Level grades	2017 A-Level grades	2016 A-Level grades	2015 A-Level grades
Grade A*	8.0%	8.3%	8.1%	8.3%
Grade A*-A	26.2%	26.2%	25.8%	25.9%
Grade A*-B	52.7%	52.9%	52.8%	52.7%
Grade A*-C	76.8%	77.3%	77.5%	77.2%
Grade A*-E	97.6%	97.9%	98.1%	98.1%

The Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) has published the 2018 national results for A-levels and AS qualifications and devised the following highlights:

- A steady national picture with outcomes relatively unchanged as reformed qualifications continue to be introduced
- Entry trends in French, German, Spanish continue, Chinese languages buck the trend
- AS entries continue significant decline in England following decoupling from the A-level

Southampton Provisional Results (Additional level 3 qualifications are still to be received by further education providers)

- In 2018, 96.7% of Southampton A-Level entries achieved an A*-E grade at College or Sixth Form. This is 0.9% below National performance that saw 97.6% of A-level results achieve an A*-E grade.
- 62.7% of A-Level entries within Southampton's Colleges and Sixth Forms achieved a grade C or above. The National performance for A*-C was 76.8%, a gap of 14.1% when compared with Southampton LA (62.7%).
- Out of 1623 A-level entries within Southampton, 35.2% achieved an A*-B grade. Nationally a pass rate of 52.7% was achieved resulting in a gap of 17.5% with Southampton (35.2%).
- 11.3% of Southampton entries achieved an A-Level A* or A grade in 2018. A challenge still remains to meet National performance as A-Level A*-A grades was 26.2%, a gap of 14.9% between Southampton and National.

Southampton College and Sixth Form A Level results 2018											
	Number of A Levels completed in 2018	A Level A*-A		A Level A*-B		A Level A*-C		A Level A*-E		Average Points Score per A Level entry	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number of A level entries at the end of Key Stage 5 (16-18 only)	APS
Southampton 2018	1623	184	11.3%	572	35.2%	1018	62.7%	1569	96.7%	1626.5	29.0
National 2018 (England only)	-	-	26.2%	-	52.7%	-	76.8%	-	97.6%	-	-

- When comparing the 2018 Southampton provisional results day A-Level outcomes with the 2017 Southampton provisional results day A-Level outcomes, Southampton has achieved lower in 2018 in the A*-A pass rate by 4.4% (2017 – 15.7%, 2018 – 11.3%), the A*-B pass rate by 4.2% (2017 – 39.4%, 2018 – 35.2%), the A*-C pass rate by 5.1% (2017 – 67.8%, 2018 – 62.7%) and the A-Level Average Points Score by 3.0 (2017 – 32.0, 2018 – 29.0). By contrast, the National trend between 2017 and 2018 has shown stability for the A*-A pass rate (2017 – 26.2%, 2018 – 26.2%), a decrease of 0.2% for the A*-B pass rate (2017 – 52.9%, 2018 – 52.7%), a decrease of 0.5% for the A*-C pass rate (2017 – 77.3%, 2018 – 76.8%) and a decrease of 0.3% for the A*-E pass rate (2017 – 97.9%, 2018 – 97.6%).

	Southampton 2017 (Provisional on Results Day)	Southampton 2018 (Provisional on Results Day)	Southampton Difference between 2017 to 2018	National 2017 (Provisional on Results Day)	National 2018 (Provisional on Results Day)	National Difference between 2017 to 2018	Difference between Southampton and National 2017 to 2018 trend
A*-A	15.7%	11.3%	-4.4%	26.2%	26.2%	0.0%	-4.4%
A*-B	39.4%	35.2%	-4.2%	52.9%	52.7%	-0.2%	-4.0%
A*-C	67.8%	62.7%	-5.1%	77.3%	76.8%	-0.5%	-4.6%
A*-E	96.6%	96.7%	0.1%	97.9%	97.6%	-0.3%	0.4%
Average Points Score	32.0	29.0	-3.0	-	-	-	

All data is provisional and subject to change

Southampton City College do not complete an A level curriculum therefore are not included within the table above. A broader range of results will be reported later in the year reflecting the breadth of achievements within Southampton.

The National average is for England only and is taken from JCQs (Joint Council for Qualifications) results day publication of A-Level and AS-Level Results for Summer 2018

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