

2020 Provisional Headline A-Level results for Southampton Local Authority – Results Day vs. Teacher Assessments

A-Level results were released to Colleges and students on 13th August 2020. Southampton Colleges and Sixth Forms have agreed to inform the LA of their results so that citywide performance can be calculated. As a result of increased scrutiny into the methodology used to calculate 2020 A-Level outcomes Teacher Assessment data was also requested from Southampton Colleges and Sixth Forms.

On results day Southampton Colleges and Sixth Forms reported substantial differences between Teacher Assessment grades submitted to examination bodies and the Results Day outcomes awarded to pupils following the adjusted methodology for 2020. On 17th August 2020 it was announced that students would be awarded Teacher Assessment grades if they were higher than the Results Day grades generated using the revised 2020 methodology.

The analysis below identifies the difference between the Results Day outcomes and Teacher Assessment grades awarded to students at a Local Authority level. A like for like National comparison of Teacher Assessment data has not yet been published by JCQ therefore can not be included at this time.

It is important to note that the Southampton outcomes listed below may increase by a small amount as data is currently only available for Results Day and Teacher Assessment outcomes separately, not the combined higher result. At the time of publication it is our understanding that each pupil will receive the higher outcome awarded.

The Department for Education (DfE) [announced on 8th April](#) that school, college or multi-academy trust (MAT) level performance data based on summer 2020 tests, assessments and exams at any phase would not be published. This includes the performance tables that were due to be released in December 2020, and March 2021. Schools and colleges should not be held to account on the basis of exams and assessment data from summer 2020 and that data will not be used by others, such as Ofsted and local authorities, to hold schools and colleges to account.

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.

Southampton A-Level Provisional Results

- 18.1% of Southampton entries achieved an A-Level A* or A grade based on provisional Results Day outcomes. This increased by 8.4% (90 additional grades) to 18.1% when A* or A Teacher Assessments are considered.

- 41.9% of Southampton entries achieved an A-Level A* to B grades based on provisional Results Day outcomes. This increased by 13.6% (146 additional grades) to 55.5% when A* to B Teacher Assessments are considered.
- 68.8% of Southampton entries achieved an A-Level A* to C grades based on provisional Results Day outcomes. This increased by 15.8% (170 additional grades) to 84.6% when A* to C Teacher Assessments are considered.
- 96.9% of Southampton entries achieved an A-Level A* to E grades based on provisional Results Day outcomes. This increased by 2.5% (27 additional grades) to 99.4% when A* to E Teacher Assessments are considered.

Southampton College and Sixth Form A Level Results 2020 (Provisional) Results Day and Teacher Assessment Outcomes									
	Number of A Levels completed in 2020	A Level A*-A		A Level A*-B		A Level A*-C		A Level A*-E	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Southampton Results Day	1074	194	18.1%	450	41.9%	739	68.8%	1041	96.9%
Southampton Teacher Assessments	1074	284	26.4%	596	55.5%	909	84.6%	1068	99.4%
Difference - Southampton Results Day vs. Teacher Assessments	0	90	8.4%	146	13.6%	170	15.8%	27	2.5%
National (Results Day)			27.6%		53.8%		78.0%		98.2%
Difference - Southampton Results Day vs. National Results Day			-9.5%		-11.9%		-9.2%		-1.3%
Difference - Southampton Teacher Assessment vs. National Results Day			-1.2%		1.7%		6.6%		1.2%
Difference - Southampton Teacher Assessment vs. National Teacher Assessment									Data Currently Not Available

Please note that the final outcomes for Southampton are likely to be slightly higher than the Teacher Assessments listed above as pupils will receive the higher outcome of Results Day and Teacher Assessment outcomes.

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