

2023 A-Level Results Day Headline Outcomes – Southampton Local Authority

A-Level results were released to Colleges and students on 17th August 2023. Southampton Colleges and Sixth Forms have agreed to inform the LA of their results so that citywide performance can be calculated.

2023 is the second time since 2019 that A level grades are being based on exams, after two years of alternative arrangements in response to Coronavirus. [Ofqual](#) have stated that they want to get back quickly to the pre-pandemic standard but won't do so in one jump. Instead, 2022 will be a transition year to reflect that we are in a pandemic recovery period and students' education has been disrupted. "In 2022 we will aim, therefore, to reflect a midway point between 2021 and 2019. In 2023, we aim to return to results that are in line with those in pre-pandemic years."

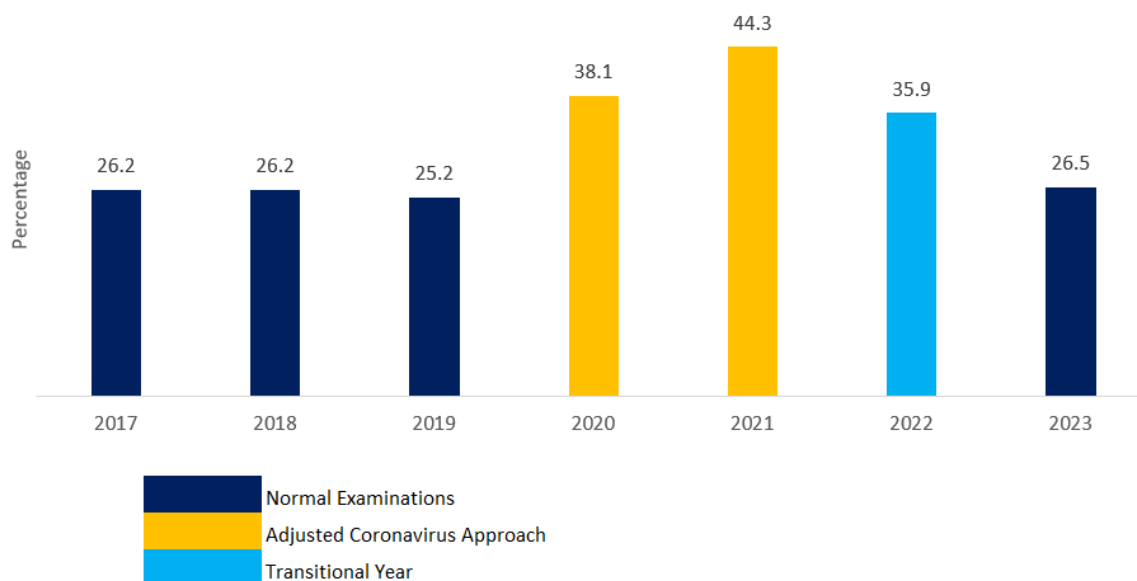
Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, Key Stage 5 exams were not completed in the normal way in 2020 and 2021. It is important to acknowledge that the 2020 and 2021 Key Stage 5 collections have used different methodologies. In 2020, colleges and sixth forms were asked to provide centre assessed grades for their students. Colleges and sixth forms were instructed that these should be fair, objective and carefully considered judgements of the grades colleges and sixth forms believed their students would have been most likely to achieve if they had sat their exams and should take into account the full range of available evidence. In 2021, teachers were asked to assess the standard at which pupils were performing based only on what has been taught. Teachers' judgements were based on a range of evidence relating to the subject content that had been delivered, either in the classroom or via remote learning.

Only A-Level outcomes are included in this provisional analysis of Southampton performance, 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.

National Context

The chart below identifies the percentage of A-Levels that were awarded an A* or A grade between 2017 and 2023. For the three years prior to the pandemic, the A*-A pass rate remained stable, at 26.2% in 2017, 26.2% in 2018 and 25.2% in 2019. In 2020 and 2021, a modified approach to A-Levels was used in response to the Coronavirus pandemic. This resulted in an increased proportion of A-Levels receiving A*-A grades in both 2020 (38.1%) and 2021 (44.3%). Ofqual stated that 2022 would be a transitional year aiming for a midpoint between 2019 and 2021. In 2022, the proportion of A*-A grades decreased to 35.9%. Ofqual identified that 2023 should return to pre-pandemic levels of attainment, similar to 2019. In 2023, the proportion of A*-A grades decreased to 25.2%.

Percentage of A* or A Grades between 2017 and 2023 - National Average



A similar pattern can be seen in the table below for the other A-Level grades awarded between 2017 and 2023.

Percentage of A Level Grades Between 2017 and 2023 - National Average

A Level Grade	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2017-2023 Trend
A*	8.3	8.0	7.7	14.3	19.1	14.5	8.6	
A	26.2	26.2	25.2	38.1	44.3	35.9	26.5	
B	52.9	52.7	51.1	65.4	69.8	62.2	52.7	
C	77.3	76.8	75.5	87.5	88.2	82.1	75.4	
D	91.9	91.4	90.8	96.8	96.2	93.4	89.9	
E	97.9	97.6	97.5	99.7	99.5	98.4	97.2	

Due to the changes in methodology between results years, it is important that outcomes are considered within the context of that specific year. Comparisons between years should be treated with caution.

Southampton A-Level Provisional Results

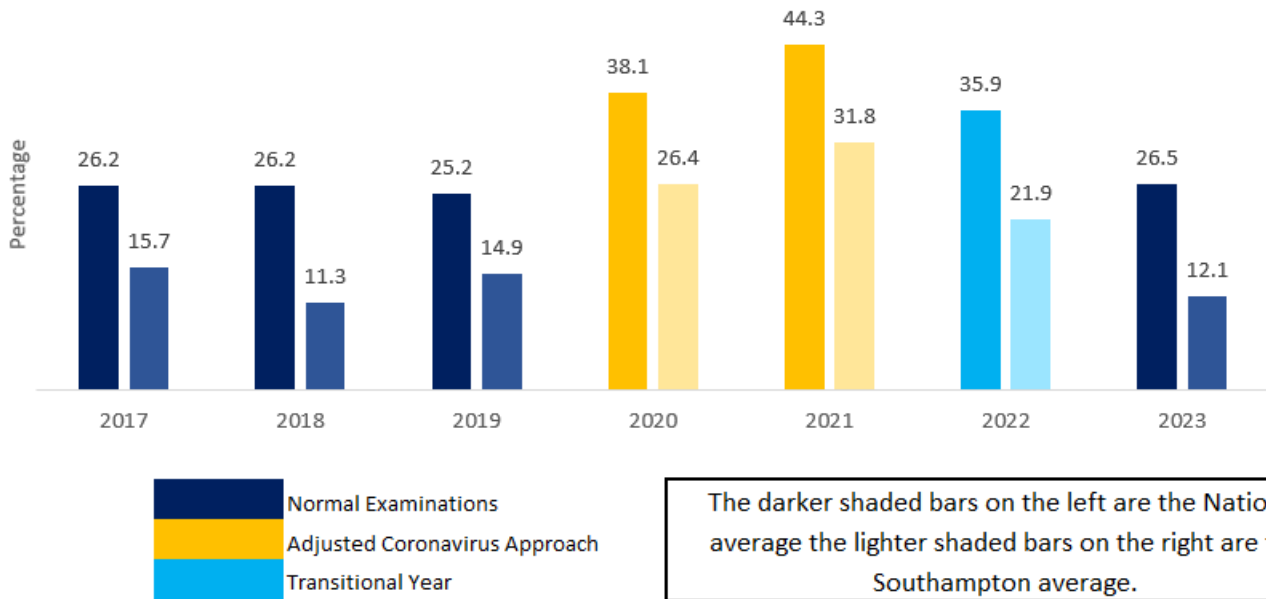
- In 2023, 12.1% of A-Level entries within Southampton's Colleges and Sixth Forms achieved a grade A* or A. The National performance for A*-A was 26.5%, a gap of 14.4% when compared with the Southampton average (12.1%).

- Out of 1136 A-level entries within Southampton, 32.6% achieved an A*-B grade in 2023. Nationally a pass rate of 52.7% was achieved resulting in a gap of 20.1% with Southampton (32.6%). Southampton pupils had 370 A-Levels at grade B or above and required an additional 229 A-Levels to have surpassed the B grade threshold to have equalled the National average.
- In 2023, 59.4% of A-Level entries within Southampton's Colleges and Sixth Forms achieved a grade C or above. The National performance for A*-C was 75.4%, a gap of 16.0% when compared with the Southampton average (59.4%).
- In 2023, 93.4% of Southampton A-Level entries achieved an A*-E grade at College or Sixth Form. This is 3.8% below the National performance that saw 97.2% of A-level results achieve an A*-E grade.
- Southampton pupils achieved an Average Points Score per A-Level Entry of 28.2 in 2023. This is 4.8 below the 2022 Southampton performance of 33.0. No National data is available for Average Points Score per A-Level Entry on results day.

Southampton College and Sixth Form A Level Results 2023 (Provisional)											
	Number of A Levels completed in 2023	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 2023	1136	137	12.1%	370	32.6%	675	59.4%	1061	93.4%	1117	28.2
National 2023			26.5%		52.7%		75.4%		97.2%	-	-

- The chart below identifies the percentage of A-Levels that have been awarded an A* or A grade between 2017 and 2023. The darker shaded bars on the left are the National average, the lighter shaded bars on the right are the Southampton average. For the three years prior to the pandemic, the gap between the Southampton and National average was 10.5%, 14.9% and 10.3% below for 2017, 2018 and 2019, respectively. In 2020 and 2021, a modified approach to A-levels was used in response to the Coronavirus pandemic resulting in a gap of 11.7% and 12.5% below the National Average. In 2022, the gap between the proportion of A*-A grades within Southampton compared to the National average was 14.0%. In 2023, the gap between the proportion of A*-A grades within Southampton compared to the National average was 14.4%.

Percentage of A* or A Grades between 2017 and 2023 - National and Southampton Average



- Due to the changes in methodology between results years, it is important that outcomes are considered within the context of that specific year. Comparisons between years should be treated with caution.
- The 2023 performance has seen Southampton's relative position to the National average between 2022 and 2023 decline by 0.5% for A*-A, by 1.1% for A*-B, by 4.5% for A*-C and by 2.9% for A*-E.

	2021			2022			2023			Relative change in Southampton / National Gap 2021 to 2022	Relative change in Southampton / National Gap 2022 to 2023
	Southampton (Provisional Results Day)	National	Gap to National	Southampton (Provisional Results Day)	National	Gap to National	Southampton (Provisional Results Day)	National	Gap to National		
A*-A	31.8%	44.3%	-12.5%	21.9%	35.9%	-14.0%	12.1%	26.5%	-14.4%	-1.4%	-0.5%
A*-B	62.3%	69.8%	-7.5%	43.2%	62.2%	-19.0%	32.6%	52.7%	-20.1%	-11.6%	-1.1%
A*-C	87.2%	88.2%	-1.0%	70.7%	82.1%	-11.4%	59.4%	75.4%	-16.0%	-10.4%	-4.5%
A*-E	99.5%	99.5%	0.0%	97.5%	98.4%	-0.9%	93.4%	97.2%	-3.8%	-0.9%	-2.9%
Average Points Score	38.7	40.4	-1.7	33.0	37.9	-4.9	28.2	-	-	-3.2	-