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Schools in Wales: Examination Performance 2011

Schools in Wales: Examination Performance 2011 is published today. This provides a detailed analysis of last year's Key Stage assessments and GCSE/A level results. Much of the information has already been published in previous statistical volumes. This release brings the information together as a comprehensive summary of examination performance in Wales.

The hard copy of the publication is no longer produced, however all data continues to be available as EXCEL spreadsheets on our website. This Statistical First Release presents a selection of that information.

Key Stages 1, 2 and 3

- The percentage of pupils achieving at least the expected level in 2011 was higher than in 2010 at each Key Stage and in all subjects.

GCSE and Vocational Equivalent

- 50 per cent of pupils aged 15 achieved the level 2 threshold including a GCSE grade A*-C in English or Welsh first language and mathematics in 2011, 1 percentage point higher than in 2010. 54 per cent of girls and 46 per cent of boys achieved this level.
- 60 per cent of entries in GCSE Mathematics achieved grade A*-C. For English Language the percentage was 63 per cent and for Welsh (First Language) it was 73 per cent.

A Level and Vocational Equivalent

- 11,512 17-year-old pupils entered a volume equivalent to 2 A levels in 2011, a decrease of 141 compared with 2010.
- The most popular subject at A level for candidates of all ages in 2011 was Mathematics, with 3,039 entries.

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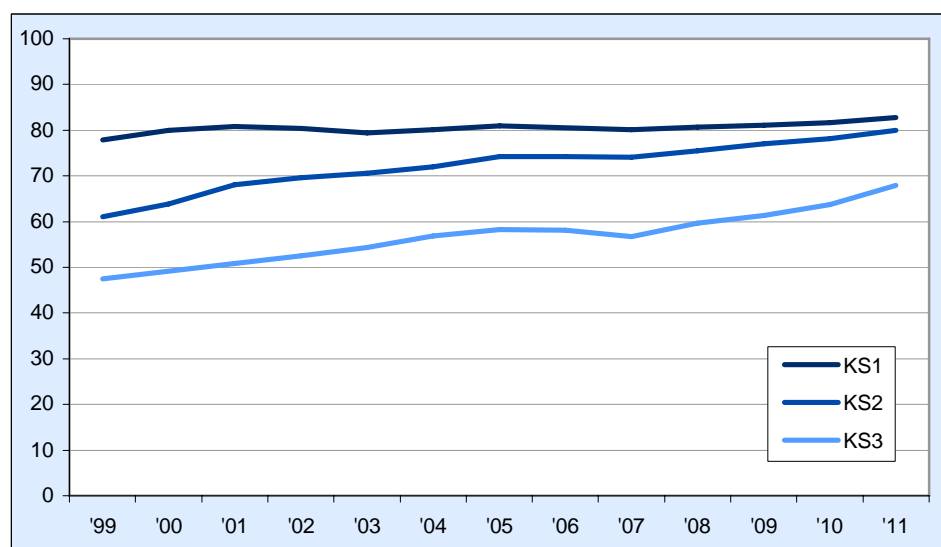
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Chart 1: Percentage of pupils achieving the Core Subject Indicator at each Key Stage, 1999-2011



The Core Subject Indicator (CSI) represents the percentage of pupils achieving the expected level or above in English or Welsh (first language), mathematics and science in combination.

There has been a steady increase in the percentage of pupils achieving the CSI since 1999 at all key stages.



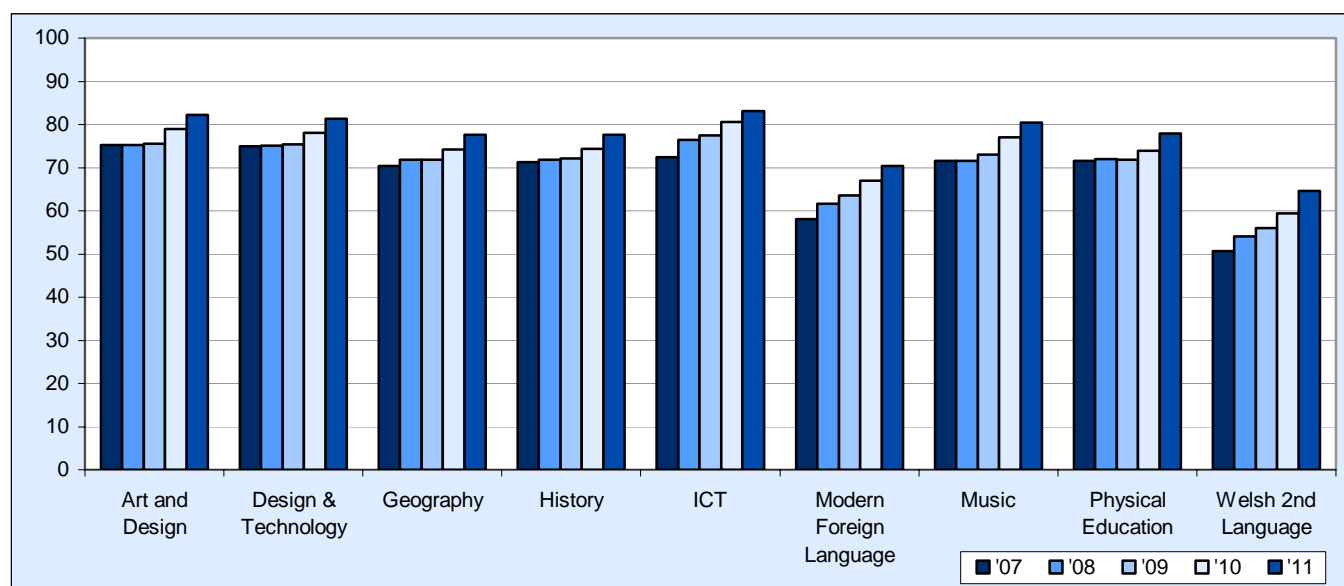
Table 1: Key Stages 1, 2 and 3 summary

Percentage of pupils achieving at least the expected level

	Key Stage 1 (L2+)			Key Stage 2 (L4+)			Key Stage 3 (L5+)		
	2010	2011	% point change 2010/11	2010	2011	% point change 2010/11	2010	2011	% point change 2010/11
English	82.9	84.1	1.3	81.9	83.4	1.5	72.5	76.0	3.5
Welsh	90.2	90.9	0.8	81.0	82.0	1.0	76.8	81.3	4.5
Mathematics	87.5	88.0	0.5	83.3	84.9	1.6	75.5	77.9	2.4
Science	90.3	90.4	0.1	86.4	87.1	0.7	77.1	80.3	3.2
Core Subject Indicator	81.6	82.7	1.1	78.2	80.0	1.8	63.7	68.0	4.3
Reading, Writing and Mathematics	74.8	76.3	1.5	71.7	73.9	2.2	59.3	63.5	4.2
Reading, Writing, Maths and Science	74.5	76.1	1.5	71.4	73.7	2.3	57.2	61.8	4.6



Chart 2: Key Stage 3 non-core teacher assessment results, 2007–2011



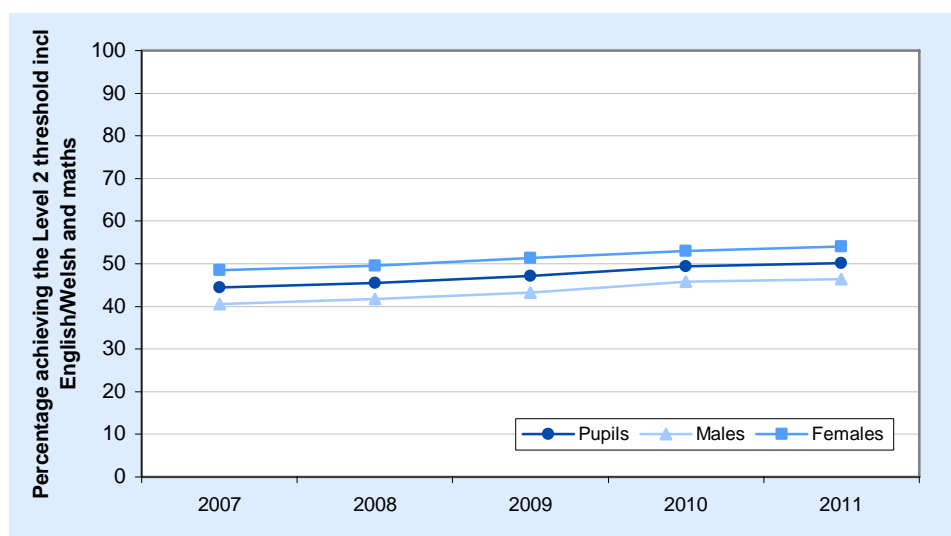
On average, the percentage of pupils achieving the expected level in non-core subjects in 2011 was 3.5 percentage points higher than 2010. Between 2009 and 2010, the average increase was 2.9 percentage points, while it was only 0.8 percentage points between 2008 and 2009.

Table 2: Key Stage 3 non-core teacher assessment results by gender, 2007–2011

	Art and Design	Design and Technology	Geography	History	ICT	Modern Foreign Language	Music	Physical Education	Welsh 2nd Language
Boys:									
2007	66.5	68.1	65.4	65.2	67.6	49.1	63.8	72.6	40.9
2008	66.3	68.0	66.9	65.7	71.4	53.0	63.8	72.1	44.3
2009	66.3	68.4	67.1	66.3	72.5	55.0	65.8	72.1	46.4
2010	70.3	70.7	69.1	68.8	75.8	58.6	70.3	73.4	50.1
2011	74.2	74.6	72.8	72.4	78.4	62.4	74.7	77.4	55.2
Girls:									
2007	84.4	82.2	75.7	77.5	77.5	67.5	79.5	70.4	61.0
2008	84.6	82.4	77.1	78.1	81.6	70.4	79.3	71.8	64.3
2009	85.1	82.8	76.9	78.1	82.7	72.6	80.7	71.7	66.1
2010	88.0	86.0	79.7	80.3	85.7	75.8	84.0	74.3	69.3
2011	90.7	88.5	82.9	83.4	88.1	78.9	86.4	78.6	74.9
Pupils:									
2007	75.3	75.0	70.4	71.2	72.4	58.1	71.5	71.5	50.6
2008	75.3	75.1	71.9	71.8	76.4	61.6	71.5	72.0	54.1
2009	75.5	75.4	71.9	72.1	77.5	63.6	73.1	71.9	56.0
2010	78.9	78.1	74.2	74.4	80.6	67.0	77.0	73.9	59.4
2011	82.2	81.3	77.7	77.7	83.1	70.4	80.4	78.0	64.6



Chart 3: Percentage of pupils aged 15 who achieved the Level 2 threshold including English or Welsh first language and mathematics (a)



The percentage of pupils achieving the Level 2 threshold including English or Welsh first language and mathematics has increased every year since 2007. The gender gap has remained at around 8 percentage points throughout this time.



Table 3: Pupils aged 15 at the start of the academic year (a) (b)

	Number of pupils aged 15	Percentage of pupils aged 15 who...					Average wider points score per pupil	Average capped wider points score per pupil
		achieved the Level 1 threshold	achieved the Level 2 threshold	achieved the Level 2 threshold including a GCSE grade A*-C in English or Welsh first language and mathematics	achieved the Core Subject Indicator (c)	achieved the Level 2 threshold including a GCSE grade A*-C in English or Welsh first language and mathematics		
2001/02	37,116	84.8	50.5	..	36.9	
2002/03	37,993	85.1	51.1	..	37.5	
2003/04	39,212	85.3	51.4	..	37.7	324.7	..	
2004/05	38,495	85.2	52.2	..	38.4	327.7	..	
2005/06	38,859	86.0	53.8	..	39.7	335.4	..	
2006/07	39,576	86.0	55.0	44.4	40.0	343.9	..	
2007/08	39,027	86.8	58.0	45.6	44.4	356.0	..	
2008/09	37,607	88.2	60.7	47.2	46.0	378.9	..	
2009/10	37,072	89.7	63.8	49.4	48.0	394.3	305.1	
2010/11 (r)	36,088	90.3	67.3	50.1	48.7	422.9	311.6	
2010/11								
Males	18,452	88.5	62.7	46.4	45.5	401.0	298.7	
Females	17,636	92.2	72.1	54.0	52.0	445.8	325.0	

- (a) Up to 2005/06, includes GCSEs, GCSE Short Course, GNVQs and NVQs. From 2006/07, includes all qualifications approved for pre-16 use in Wales.
- (b) Ages at the start of the academic year. Includes results for 15 year old pupils, in maintained schools and independent schools, achieved during the academic year and any examinations taken at earlier age.
- (c) Core Subject Indicator: achieved GCSE grade A*-C in each of English or Welsh first language, mathematics and science.
- (d) Average capped wider point scores are calculated using the best 8 results.



Table 4: Pupils aged 17 at the start of the academic year (a) (b)

	Number of pupils aged 17 entering a volume equivalent to 2 A levels	Percentage of 17 year old pupils entering a volume equivalent to 2 A levels who achieved the Level 3 threshold	Number of pupils aged 17	Average wider points score for pupils aged 17
2001/02	9,486	94.4	11,201	..
2002/03	9,848	93.9	11,568	..
2003/04	10,041	94.9	11,822	..
2004/05	10,373	94.4	12,072	..
2005/06	10,731	93.9	12,507	..
2006/07	10,592	93.9	12,418	618.5
2007/08	10,943	94.2	12,653	630.9
2008/09	11,367	96.0	13,241	687.7
2009/10	11,653	94.9	13,586	747.9
2010/11 (r)	11,512	96.3	13,615	798.9
2010/11				
Males	5,156	95.1	6,346	751.7
Females	6,356	97.3	7,269	840.1

(a) Up to 2005/06, includes A levels, AS levels and Advanced Vocational Certificates of Education (AVCE). From 2006/07, includes all qualifications approved for use in Wales.

(b) Includes independent schools, but excludes further education institutions.



Accessing the data electronically

The data behind the chart and tables in this release can be found on StatsWales (a free-to-use internet service that allows visitors to view, manipulate, create and download tables). Please select "Schools and Teachers" at the navigation screen of the following site: www.statswales.wales.gov.uk



Key Quality Information

For quality information relating to Key Stages 1, 2 and 3 please refer to the following Statistical Releases: [National Curriculum Teacher Assessments of the Core Subjects, 2011](#)
[National Curriculum Teacher Assessments of the Non-core Subjects, 2011](#)

For quality information relating to GCSE and A level results please refer to the following Statistical Release:

[Examination Results, 2010/11](#)