

## A level Religious Studies Grades – a comparison between 2023 and 2024

Over recent years, teachers of A level RS have commented on the widening gap between the award of A\* for Religious Studies and other subjects, most notably A level English. NATRE has raised this issue with both Ofqual and the awarding organisations, so we were keen to see if there had been any reduction in this gap in these 2024 results.

The good news is that with the exception of sociology, all the Humanities subjects in England have seen an increase in the proportion of candidates achieving both A\* and either A\* or A. As expected, the increase is not huge, but it is a step in the right direction at least (see table 5). At the same time, the proportion of grades for English literature awarded at A\* or A\* or A has decreased slightly so the gap between RS and English has marginally reduced. Sadly, the same is not true in Wales, where 2024 has seen a reduction in grade A\*, grades A\* A\*-A and A\*-C for most Humanities subjects though attainment at grades A\*-E remained fairly stable.

Another factor that would affect the proportion of students with lower prior attainment who study A level RS. In 2022, FFT published [this report](#) and found that disadvantaged pupils are twice as likely on average to choose to study A level Religious Studies than their peers. According to DfE statistics relating to the attainment of this group, RS A level had the third narrowest gap at grades A\*-E for all subjects (just 0.7 of a percentage point compared to Biology 3.1, Chemistry 3.2 and Maths 3.4). This explains *in part* why there are fewer A\* grades awarded for RS and more for subjects such as Further Maths but does not explain it fully, particularly the gap between English Literature and Humanities such as History, Geography, Sociology, Law and RS. NATRE will continue to discuss all aspects of examination of RS with awarding organisations, Ofqual and the Government.

### Grades England 2024

Table 1

### Grades Wales 2024

Table 2

Subject	Number Sat	A*	A*/A	A*-C	A*-E	Subject	Number Sat	A*	A*/A	A*-C	A*-E
Economics	39282	7.6	30.2	81.4	98.1	Economics	603	9.3	33.7	77.8	97.3
English Literature	36312	9.8	25.2	82.9	99.2	English Literature	1525	6.9	24.3	81.4	99.0
Geography	33306	6.1	24.2	78.7	98.3	Geography	1101	8.7	29.3	75.5	97.7
History	43101	5.7	24.3	81.2	98.8	History	1889	4.9	24.5	83.5	99.3
Law	14104	4.7	16.7	63.3	95.7	Law	699	7.6	23.3	72.0	96.7
Political Studies	20214	8.6	28.3	78.8	97.8	Political Studies	416	9.6	32.9	80.5	97.8
Religious Studies	14499	6.1	25.6	78.1	98.1	Religious Studies	702	6.0	26.4	73.5	97.4
Sociology	42117	5.3	17.9	74.2	97.8	Sociology	1328	8.6	26.2	76.9	97.4
<b>All Subjects</b>	<b>816948</b>	<b>9.3</b>	<b>27.6</b>	<b>76.0</b>	<b>97.1</b>	<b>All Subjects</b>	<b>32235</b>	<b>10.1</b>	<b>29.9</b>	<b>76.5</b>	<b>97.4</b>

### Grades England 2023

Table 3

Subject	Number Sat	A*	A*/A	A*-C	A*-E
Economics	38023	7.3	29.0	80.1	98.0
English Literature	33682	10.0	25.4	82.9	99.2
Geography	34700	5.8	23.7	79.0	98.2
History	44154	5.5	24.1	80.3	98.6
Law	13945	4.7	16.3	64.0	95.6
Political Studies	20444	8.2	27.4	79.0	97.8
Religious Studies	14690	5.9	25.4	79.0	98.0
Sociology	45057	5.5	18.6	76.1	97.8
<b>All Subjects</b>	<b>797352</b>	<b>8.6</b>	<b>26.5</b>	<b>75.4</b>	<b>97.2</b>

### Grades Wales 2023

Table 4

Subject	Number Sat	A*	A*/A	A*-C	A*-E
Economics	599	15.7	42.1	82.5	97.5
English Literature	1395	9.0	28.2	84.2	99.1
Geography	1354	10.7	33.0	79.5	98.3
History	1889	8.5	29.3	85.8	99.1
Law	746	8.8	30.3	75.1	95.0
Political Studies	443	13.1	33.6	83.7	98.6
Religious Studies	748	10.3	31.4	77.8	98.5
Sociology	1416	9.0	28.2	76.8	96.7
<b>All Subjects</b>	<b>32960</b>	<b>13.5</b>	<b>34.0</b>	<b>78.9</b>	<b>97.5</b>

### % change in awards England 2024

Table 5

Subject	Number Sat	A*	A*/A	A*-C	A*-E
Economics	39282	0.3	1.2	1.2	0.1
English Literature	36312	-0.2	-0.2	0.0	0.0
Geography	33306	0.2	0.6	-0.3	0.0
History	43101	0.2	0.3	1.0	0.2
Law	14104	0.0	0.3	-0.7	0.1
Political Studies	20214	0.4	1.0	-0.2	0.0
Religious Studies	14499	0.2	0.2	-0.9	0.1
Sociology	42117	-0.2	-0.7	-1.8	0.0
All Subjects	816948	0.6	1.1	0.6	-0.1

### % change in awards Wales 2024

Table 6

Subject	Number Sat	A*	A*/A	A*-C	A*-E
Economics	599	-6.4	-8.4	-4.7	-0.1
English Literature	1395	-2.1	-3.8	-2.8	-0.1
Geography	1354	-2.0	-3.7	-4.1	-0.6
History	1889	-3.6	-4.8	-2.2	0.2
Law	746	-1.3	-7.0	-3.1	1.7
Political Studies	443	-3.5	-0.7	-3.2	-0.8
Religious Studies	748	-4.3	-5.1	-4.3	-1.1
Sociology	1416	-0.5	-2.0	0.1	0.7
All Subjects	32960	-3.4	-4.1	-2.4	-0.1