

Summer 2020 results: analysis of performance in 2020 compared to 2017-19

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One of the basic principles of awarding grades this summer was that performance should be in line with a three-year historical average. The analysis here tests how close the calculated grades awarded in 2020 were to the performance of similarly qualified students from 2017-19 across 38 sixth form colleges.

The analysis is a value added analysis, which adjusts for the GCSE results of the students taking A levels. It provides a highly useful like-with-like comparison. We can see if the grades awarded are above or below the three-year average.

The analysis covers 65,050 enrolments in 41 A level subjects.

- Overall, we find that students have been awarded calculated grades almost 20% lower than historical performance for similarly qualified students doing those subjects in those colleges.
- Overall this equates to 12,048 missing grades in these colleges alone
- When we look at individual subjects we do not find a single subject where performance is above the three-year average.



The graph on the following page gives the outcomes for each subject. It expresses the gap between 2020 and 2017-19 performance in two ways. It gives a grades per entry measure, and a total grades measure.




















































































For example, in Biology we have 4,799 candidates. The score of -0.24 suggests that 24% of students were awarded a grade lower than similarly qualified students taking Biology in previous years. In terms of grades, this means 1,145 students missed out on the grade that they would have attained, had three-year historical averages been implemented properly.

For more information about this analysis please contact James Kewin at SFCA:
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Sixth Sense: Value Added Report

Sample of 38 SFCS: Performance in 2020 versus 2017-19

Summary Report: 2017-19 average versus actual grades awarded

	2020 versus 2017-19		Grades
A level - all subjects [65050]	-0.19		-12048 
Art & Design - Photography [1300]	-0.34		-442 
Art & Design - 3D Design [262]	-0.32		-83 
Computing [1267]	-0.31		-396 
English Language [1778]	-0.29		-511 
History of Art [53]	-0.28		-15 
Physics [2508]	-0.27		-682 
Art & Design - Fine Art [1477]	-0.26		-389 
Government & Politics [1334]	-0.25		-330 
Environmental Science [195]	-0.25		-48 
Art & Design - Textiles [394]	-0.24		-96 
Further Mathematics [938]	-0.24		-224 
Biology [4799]	-0.24		-1145 
Geology [144]	-0.24		-34 
English Language & Literature...	-0.23		-237 
Physical Education [1040]	-0.23		-238 
German [219]	-0.21		-47 
Business Studies [3403]	-0.21		-725 
Geography [2086]	-0.21		-429 
Psychology [6179]	-0.20		-1255 
English Literature [2780]	-0.19		-529 
Dance [109]	-0.19		-21 
Sociology [3983]	-0.18		-699 
Law [2356]	-0.17		-405 
History [3178]	-0.16		-513 
Film Studies [896]	-0.16		-140 
Chemistry [4196]	-0.15		-640 
Art & Design - Graphics [1001]	-0.15		-151 
Spanish [641]	-0.14		-89 
Economics [2129]	-0.14		-293 
Mathematics [6918]	-0.12		-850 
Accounting [590]	-0.12		-68 
Statistics [300]	-0.10		-30 
Music [340]	-0.10		-33 
French [621]	-0.08		-50 
Classical Civilisation [462]	-0.05		-23 
Religious Studies [968]	-0.05		-47 
Drama and Theatre Studies [785]	-0.03		-27 
Electronics [113]	-0.03		-3 
Philosophy [271]	-0.01		-3 
Media Studies [1606]	-0.01		-12 
Music Technology [176]	0.00		-1 