



# Political Studies Association

On behalf of the PSA and its membership we would like to congratulate all post-16 students who received examination results in the past couple of weeks. We are very excited to welcome a new cohort of Politics undergraduates into the academic community.

Here's an overview of the key statistics for A Level Government and Politics in 2018.

Following the recent curriculum changes and decoupling of AS and A Levels we have seen a 57.7% decrease in entries to AS Level Politics compared to 2017; and with OCR choosing to no longer support the subject, as an awarding body, we will have to wait for next year's data to examine whether the government's reforms have had an adverse impact on the uptake of politics in post-16 education.

The total number of entries for Politics exams, in the UK, was 17,901, with Edexcel providing for the majority of students (11,422) compared to AQA (4565) and OCR (700). In Scotland there were a total of 1,214 entries for Politics exams with 51.8% of all entrants achieving either an A or B grade in their National 5 SQA. This represents a 3.4% (606 student) increase in the number of entrants compared to 2017.

Not only are we seeing a steady increase in students sitting A Level Politics exams but across all awarding bodies we note high levels of achievement. Respectively, the three awarding bodies saw over half of all students sitting the exam achieving an A\*, A or B grade: AQA with 52.9%, Edexcel with 56.7% and OCR 65.4%.

The PSA hopes to publish, in early 2019, a report on the 'State of the Discipline' tracking the progression of students from A-Level to Undergraduate to further study. As the leading learned society for Politics in the UK we want to use both quantitative and qualitative evidence to analyse and better understand the educational progression of politics students.

Full data sets for awarding bodies can be found here:

OCR: <https://www.ocr.org.uk/Images/500691-as-and-a-level-cambridge-technicals-and-other-level-3-provisional-exam-statistics-june-2018.pdf>

AQA: [https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/over/stat\\_pdf/AQA-A-LEVEL-STATS-JUN-2018.PDF](https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/over/stat_pdf/AQA-A-LEVEL-STATS-JUN-2018.PDF)

Edexcel: <https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/Support/Grade-statistics/A-level/Grade-statistics-June-2018-Provisional-A-level-Advanced-Single-Awards-including-Applied-Subjects.pdf>

SQA: <https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/63001.html>

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