

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Paul Givan, Minister
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Cara Hunter MLA
Parliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw
Stormont

26 September 2025
AQW 30948/22-27

Cara Hunter MLA has asked:

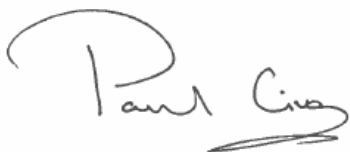
Question: To ask the Minister of Education to detail (i) a breakdown of the uptake of each A-level subject by gender over the last five years; and (ii) any assessment his Department has made of any consistent gender disparities in the uptake of certain subjects.

ANSWER

The answer to (i) has been placed in the Assembly Library.

In relation to part (ii) of the question, my Department has not conducted research on gender disparities in the uptake of certain subjects.

CCEA design qualifications to be accessible for all students and aim to remove any gender bias in the content. However, certain areas of study appeal to different groups of students and there are some qualifications that are taken by more females than males or vice versa.



Paul Givan MLA
Minister of Education

AQW 30948/22-27: A Level (including Double Award) Examination Entries by sex, 2019/20 - 2023/24

Discount Code	Subject	Examination Entries (Double Awards counted as 1 Entry)														
		2019/20			2020/21			2021/22			2022/23 ¹			2023/24		
		Female	Male	Overall	Female	Male	Overall	Female	Male	Overall	Female	Male	Overall	Female	Male	Overall
0003	Health and Social Care	2,437	278	2,715	2,753	320	3,073	2,690	323	3,013	2,560	327	2,887	2,716	341	3,057
0015	Performing Arts	171	63	234	149	67	216	143	60	203	158	53	211	171	49	220
1010	Biology	1,619	829	2,448	1,719	930	2,649	1,909	975	2,884	1,886	1,039	2,925	1,724	998	2,722
1110	Chemistry	965	677	1,642	1,032	718	1,750	1,130	728	1,858	1,087	735	1,822	1,053	748	1,801
1210	Physics	276	720	996	329	885	1,214	384	884	1,268	345	799	1,144	360	872	1,232
1730	Science: Electronics	1	9	10	1	8	9	0	0	0	0	9	9	1	9	10
1750	Science: Environmental	34	81	115	27	98	125	22	119	141	29	137	166	39	168	207
1770	Science: Geology	6	5	11	8	11	19	5	3	8	6	6	12	5	7	12
2210	Mathematics	1,265	1,574	2,839	1,360	1,685	3,045	1,345	1,684	3,029	1,203	1,434	2,637	1,266	1,798	3,064
2330	Maths (Further)	44	110	154	47	130	177	53	117	170	45	108	153	55	143	198
2610	Computer Studies / Computing	68	275	343	52	285	337	44	314	358	53	281	334	76	351	427
2650	Information and Communication Technology	301	523	824	236	472	708	205	529	734	197	399	596	180	427	607
3210	Business	834	980	1,814	827	991	1,818	933	1,076	2,009	922	1,085	2,007	1,054	1,175	2,229
3310	Home Economics	526	74	600	569	95	664	535	64	599	465	66	531	576	113	689
3510	Art and Design	600	173	773	562	155	717	597	136	733	624	168	792	703	168	871
3570	Art and Design (Photography)	21	10	31	19	8	27	25	14	39	7	6	13	8	1	9
3650	Art and Design (Textiles)	7	1	8	6	1	7	10	1	11	3	0	3	4	1	5
3670	Art and Design (3D Studies)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	1	1
3690	Art and Design (Fine Art)	28	20	48	25	18	43	10	8	18	11	4	15	13	1	14
3830	History of Art	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
3910	Geography	852	596	1,448	963	869	1,832	934	883	1,817	868	955	1,823	784	847	1,631
4010	History	785	837	1,622	949	1,070	2,019	947	1,003	1,950	959	984	1,943	1,002	1,025	2,027
4410	Economics	93	166	259	90	159	249	169	107	276	93	188	281	129	210	339
4610	Religious Studies	1,295	426	1,721	1,223	423	1,646	1,160	340	1,500	947	291	1,238	992	330	1,322
4770	Law	4	6	10	2	4	6	1	6	7	3	7	10	4	9	13
4830	Government and Politics	432	541	973	444	498	942	509	514	1,023	565	493	1,058	587	593	1,180
4850	Psychology	331	78	409	386	77	463	441	94	535	436	109	545	426	92	518
4890	Sociology	508	142	650	625	128	753	618	152	770	577	129	706	554	116	670
5010	English	19	14	33	22	13	35	33	21	54	11	12	23	32	11	43
5030	English Language	18	12	30	14	32	46	22	20	42	9	13	22	16	4	20
5110	English Literature	1,227	347	1,574	1,073	354	1,427	1,152	332	1,484	1,021	306	1,327	1,145	357	1,502
5210	Drama and Theatre Studies	239	85	324	253	104	357	283	87	370	175	75	250	224	60	284
5350	Media	283	180	463	250	170	420	248	187	435	217	182	399	278	213	491
5360	Film Studies	10	2	12	9	0	9	6	0	6	6	0	6	10	0	10
5550	Irish	215	87	302	197	115	312	200	115	315	182	84	266	196	73	269
5650	French	236	88	324	225	92	317	195	84	279	206	79	285	169	70	239
5670	German	53	36	89	53	37	90	46	26	72	34	27	61	36	37	73
5690	Italian	2	0	2	1	1	2	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	2
5730	Portuguese	6	7	13	1	2	3	5	1	6	8	2	10	6	1	7
5750	Spanish	311	151	462	283	155	438	270	114	384	283	125	408	261	105	366
5910	Arabic	10	5	15	6	1	7	4	12	16	8	5	13	2	4	6
5950	Chinese	5	0	5	0	4	4	2	8	10	2	6	8	4	5	9
6070	Polish	19	16	35	14	9	23	20	11	31	10	7	17	10	7	17
6090	Russian	5	1	6	2	1	3	3	0	3	1	0	1	6	1	7
6150	Persian	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
6110	Turkish	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	1
6510	Ancient History	0	0	0	0	9	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6530	Classic Civilisation	46	27	73	21	23	44	23	14	37	39	20	59	31	17	48
6550	Classical Greek	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
6610	Latin	6	4	10	0	4	4	5	5	10	3	10	13	1	3	4
7010	Music	167	86	253	154	73	227	165	88	253	130	72	202	130	64	194
7210	Sport / POEO Studies	120	173	293	119	168	287	155	196	351	134	201	335	177	252	429
7410	Accounting / Finance	11	37	48	19	57	76	20	60	80	18	53	71	11	42	53
8210	IT and Art	189	256	445	154	221	375	160	226	386	167	160	327	160	187	347
8900	Design and Technology	188	333	521	205	412	617	222	416	638	175	376	551	198	382	580
9050	Design and Technology: Textiles Technology	9	6	15	5	17	22	14	41	55	10	30	40	10	14	24
9070	Design and Technology: Engineering	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	4
9080	Design and Technology: Product Design	71	134	205	48	113	161	50	169	219	44	150	194	79	162	241
KD1	Journalism	31	70	101	28	63	91	33	56	89	0	0	0	0	0	0
LB1	Dance	7	0	7	4	1	5	6	0	6	9	0	9	7	0	7
MA11	Sports Science	70	136	206	79	129	208	83	178	261	76	162	238	105	161	266
RA1B	Applied Science	257	143	400	285	170	455	345	196	541	388	244	632	422	229	651

Source: DE Exams Database

This analysis is taken from the DE Exams Database which is based on data collected from post-primary grant-aided mainstream schools as part of the annual School Census. As such, it is a snapshot of the administrative data held on the school SIMS at that point in time.

No further validation is undertaken directly with schools.

Excludes Special and independent schools.

Includes all entries, regardless of year group or whether they appeared in the Summer or Winter examination series. No discounting applied.

Does not include equivalent qualifications

¹ Data from 13 schools with Post 16 provision were not made available in a usable format for 2022/23 due to ongoing Action Short of Strike (ASOS) in schools. Data from these schools are therefore missing from this analysis.