

RELIGIOUS STUDIES AT GCSE AND A-LEVELS, 2014/15

GCSE results (end of Key Stage 4 results)

Important note: In 2013/14 significant reforms were introduced at Key Stage 4. One of these reforms - the changes to qualifications that count in the performance tables - restricted non-full GCSE qualifications that are included in the key stage 4 performance tables (around 3,000 qualifications were removed from performance measures). That means that GCSE short courses no longer count in the performance tables, and as the local authority only receives results that are counted in the performance tables, we are not able to report on entries and results for Religious Studies in GCSE short courses.

A total of 356 end of Year 11 pupils were entered for Religious Studies at GCSEs (Full courses), slightly higher than in the previous year but still lower than in 2009/10.

Religious Studies GCSEs entries in Swindon	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
GCSE Full course	323	370	393	344	356

10 of 11 secondary schools entered students for full GCSE Religious Studies examinations in 2013/14. The largest numbers of examination entries were from St Joseph's, followed by Commonweal, Churchfields, Ridgeway and Kingsdown. There were no entries from Lydiard Park Academy.

The proportion of pupils that were entered for full GCSE Religious Studies in 2014/15 out of all Key Stage 4 pupils was 17% in Swindon, higher than 15% in the previous year. However, this is much lower than the 44% average across England. The annex file shows in fact that Swindon is the local authority with the lowest proportion of Key Stage 4 pupils studying for Religious Studies.

In terms of achievement by those that were entered for full Religious Studies, 2014/15 recorded a drop in Swindon pupils obtaining a good pass (A*-C) in Religious Studies GCSE, meaning that for the first time in 5 years fewer pupils in Swindon (at 69%) obtained an A*-C pass in Religious Studies than pupils across England (at 72%).

Achieved A*-C	GCSE Full Course				
	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
Swindon	84%	73%	79%	77%	69%
England	72%	73%	72%	71%	72%

GCE A and AS Level Religious Studies

A total of 87 Swindon students were entered for Religious Studies at A level and AS level in 2014/15, above the previous years' entries mainly because of an increase in AS level pupils studying for Religious Studies. The largest number of A level entries came from New College with 21 students, followed by St Joseph's with 5 and Ridgeway with 7. For AS level, New College had 29 entries, followed by 11 each in St Joseph's and Ridgeway.

Religious Studies A/AS level entries in Swindon	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
A level	49	47	36	31	34
AS level	19	20	19	17	53
Total	68	67	55	48	87

The proportion of students that were entered for A level Religious Studies in 2014/15 out of all Key Stage 5 pupils in Swindon was 3%, compared to 5% in England.

In terms of pupils achieving A*-B in A level, 2014/15 results in Swindon improved slightly and is above the national average: 59% of Swindon students achieved an A*-B A Level pass, while 56% of students did so across England.

In terms of pupils achieving A*-B in AS level, Swindon had higher results in 2014/15 than in previous years, and statistically in line with the national average.

Achieved A*-B	A level				
	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
Swindon	39%	32%	58%	55%	59%
England	53%	52%	52%	52%	55%

Achieved A*-B	AS level				
	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
Swindon	42%	40%	44%	47%	49%
England	30%	30%	42%	49%	50%

Note:

All figures published by the Department for Education's Performance Tables (underlying data download)