

A level Mathematics grade distributions and boundaries 2019-2023

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The primary purpose of this note is to set in context the A level Mathematics grades awarded in Summer 2022 with awards in 2019-2021, and to include the statement from Ofqual on plans for awarding in Summer 2023.

A levels in Mathematics qualifications have been awarded since 1951, and underwent a major reform in England in 2017 which were first examined in 2018.

In 2020 & 2021 A levels in England were awarded on a different basis from previous years following the cancellation of national examinations because of the disruption to schools and colleges due to Covid.

In England:

- **Summer 2019:** National examinations were held. Grades were awarded as in previous years - primarily on a statistical basis to ensure comparable outcomes with candidates in previous years.
- **Summer 2020:** Centre Assessed Grades (CAGs) – students did not sit national examinations (unlike in 2019 and previously). They were awarded Centre Assessed Grades – schools/colleges were asked to submit a Centre Assessed Grade for their students which were expected to be a realistic judgement of the grade each student would have been most likely to get if they had taken their examinations in each subject.
- **Summer 2021:** Teacher Assessed Grades (TAGs) – students did not sit national examinations (unlike in 2019 and previously). They were awarded Teacher Assessed Grades – schools/colleges were asked to submit a Teacher Assessed Grade for their students which were expected to represent the student's performance in the subject content they had been taught.
- **Summer 2022:** National Examinations were held. [Ofqual](https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/ofqual-approach-to-grading-exams-and-assessments-in-summer-2022-and-autumn-2021) set out their intentions in September 2021 for Summer 2022 awards <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/ofqual-approach-to-grading-exams-and-assessments-in-summer-2022-and-autumn-2021>:

"Our aim is to return to a pre-pandemic grade profile."

"In 2022 we will aim, therefore, to reflect a midway point between 2021 and 2019. In 2023 we aim to return to results that are in line with those in pre-pandemic years."

and Dr Jo Saxton, Chief Regulator at Ofqual, confirmed on the publication of A level results on 18 August 2022 <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/guide-to-as-and-a-level-results-in-england-summer-2022>:

"Today's results are higher than those of 2019, and – as we have always said – lower than in 2021, when there was a different method of assessment. It makes sense to compare this year's results with those of 2019 when exams were last sat. I felt strongly that it would not have been right to go straight back to pre-pandemic grading in one go but accept that we do need to continue to take steps back to normality. These results overall, coming as they do broadly midway between 2021 and 2019, represent a staging post on that journey."

Figure 1 shows the grade distribution for National Examination results for A level Mathematics in England in Summer 2022 compared with those from TAGs in 2021, CAGs in 2020, and the National Examination results in 2019.

1. JCQ. [Examination results - JCQ Joint Council for Qualifications](#). [Accessed 19 October 2022].
2. Pearson. [Grade statistics | Pearson qualifications](#) and [Grade boundaries | Pearson qualifications](#). [Accessed 19 October 2022].
3. AQA. [AQA | Exams admin | Results days | Results statistics](#) and [AQA | Exams admin | Results days | Grade boundaries](#). [Accessed 19 October 2022].
4. OCR. [Results statistics \(ocr.org.uk\)](#) and [Grade boundaries \(ocr.org.uk\)](#) [Accessed 19 October 2022].

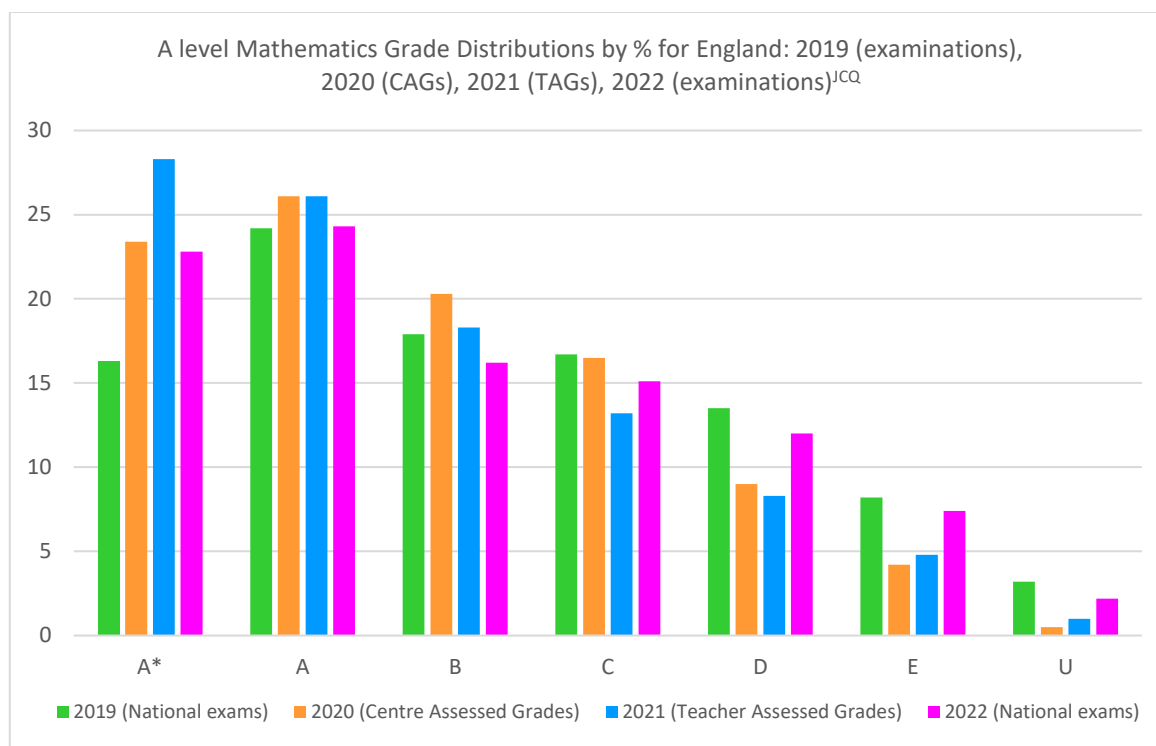


Figure 1

Figure 2 shows the corresponding entry numbers for each of the A level Specifications: Pearson/Edexcel, AQA, OCR A and OCR B (MEI).

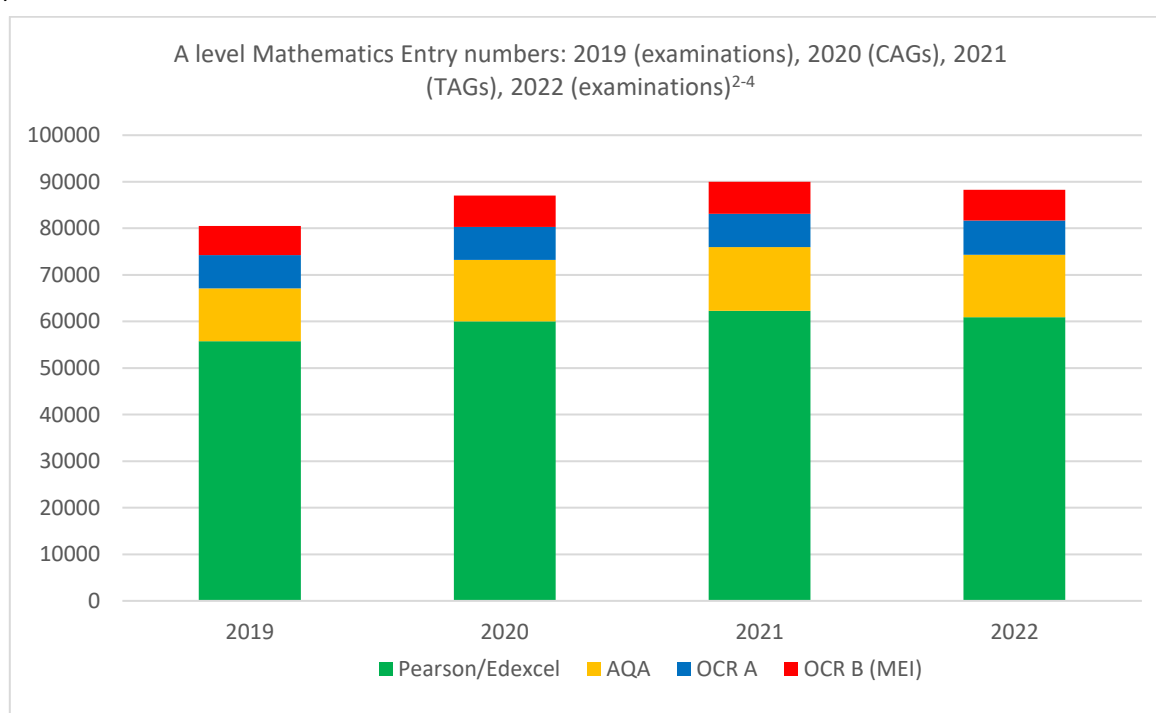


Figure 2

Figures 3 and 4 show the grade distributions - ordered by Specification and Year, respectively - for National Examination results for A level Mathematics in Summer 2022, compared with those from TAGs in 2021, CAGs in 2020, and the National Examination results in 2019, for the reformed Specifications: Pearson/Edexcel, AQA, OCR A and OCR B (MEI).

1. JCQ. [Examination results - JCQ Joint Council for Qualifications](#). [Accessed 19 October 2022].
2. Pearson. [Grade statistics | Pearson qualifications](#) and [Grade boundaries | Pearson qualifications](#). [Accessed 19 October 2022].
3. AQA. [AQA | Exams admin | Results days | Results statistics](#) and [AQA | Exams admin | Results days | Grade boundaries](#). [Accessed 19 October 2022].
4. OCR. [Results statistics \(ocr.org.uk\)](#) and [Grade boundaries \(ocr.org.uk\)](#) [Accessed 19 October 2022].

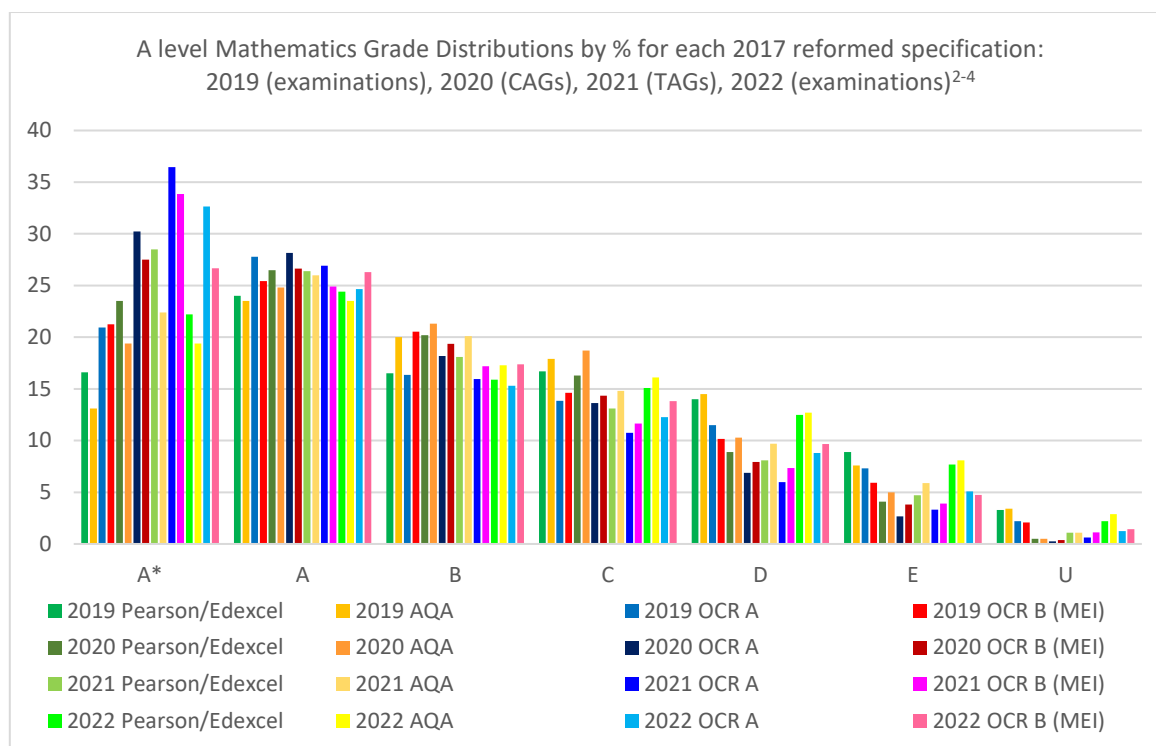


Figure 3

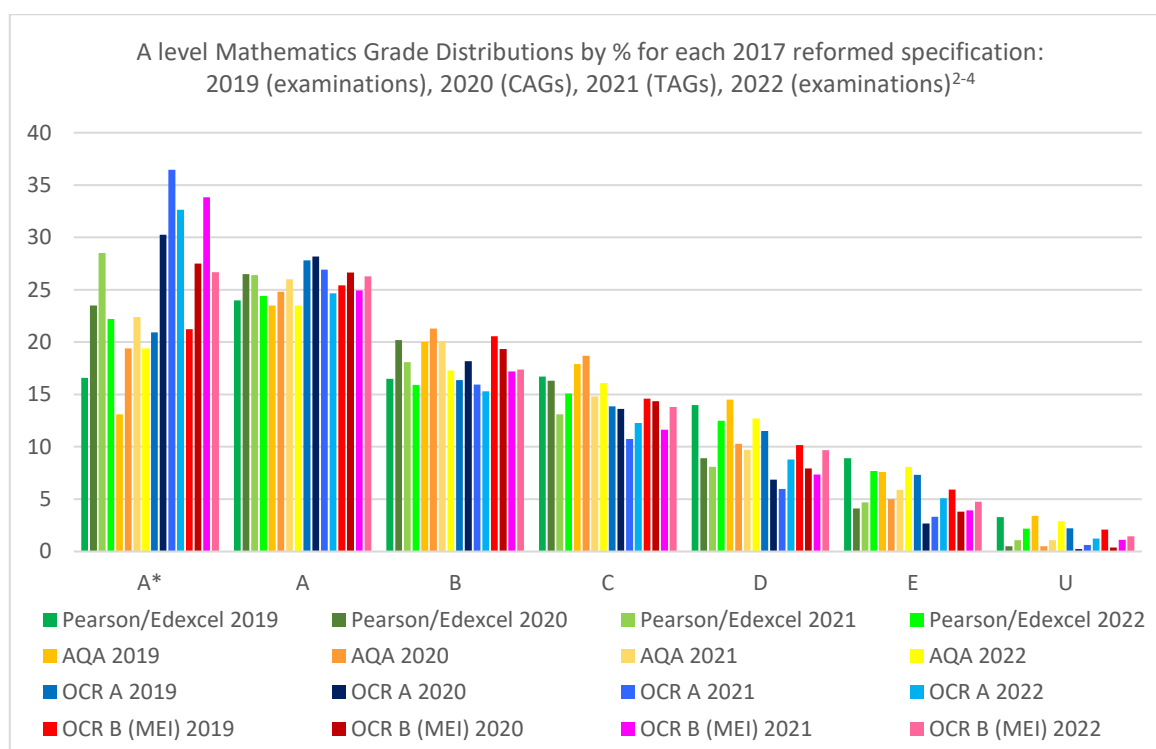


Figure 4

Figure 5 also shows the grade distributions for each of the reformed Specifications: Pearson/Edexcel, AQA, OCR A and OCR B (MEI), as a stacked column chart for National Examination results for A level Mathematics in Summer 2022, compared with those from TAGs in 2021, CAGs in 2020, and the National Examination results in 2019.

1. JCQ. [Examination results - JCQ Joint Council for Qualifications](#). [Accessed 19 October 2022].
2. Pearson. [Grade statistics | Pearson qualifications](#) and [Grade boundaries | Pearson qualifications](#). [Accessed 19 October 2022].
3. AQA. [AQA | Exams admin | Results days | Results statistics](#) and [AQA | Exams admin | Results days | Grade boundaries](#). [Accessed 19 October 2022].
4. OCR. [Results statistics \(ocr.org.uk\)](#) and [Grade boundaries \(ocr.org.uk\)](#) [Accessed 19 October 2022].



Figure 5

1. JCQ. [Examination results - JCQ Joint Council for Qualifications](#). [Accessed 19 October 2022].
2. Pearson. [Grade statistics | Pearson qualifications](#) and [Grade boundaries | Pearson qualifications](#). [Accessed 19 October 2022].
3. AQA. [AQA | Exams admin | Results days | Results statistics](#) and [AQA | Exams admin | Results days | Grade boundaries](#). [Accessed 19 October 2022].
4. OCR. [Results statistics \(ocr.org.uk\)](#) and [Grade boundaries \(ocr.org.uk\)](#) [Accessed 19 October 2022].

Figures 6 and 7 show the detailed profiles for grade A* only - ordered by Specification and Year, respectively; the detailed profiles for grade A only are shown in Figures 8 and 9, while Figures 10 and 11 show the detailed profiles for grade B.

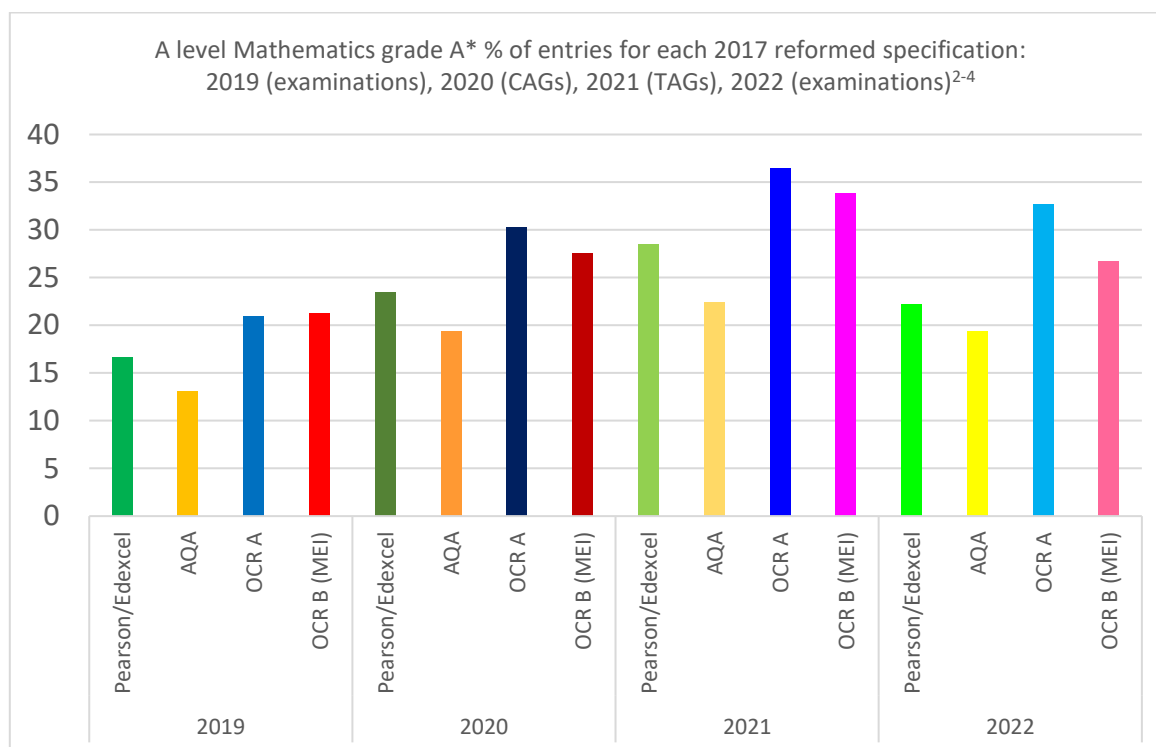


Figure 6

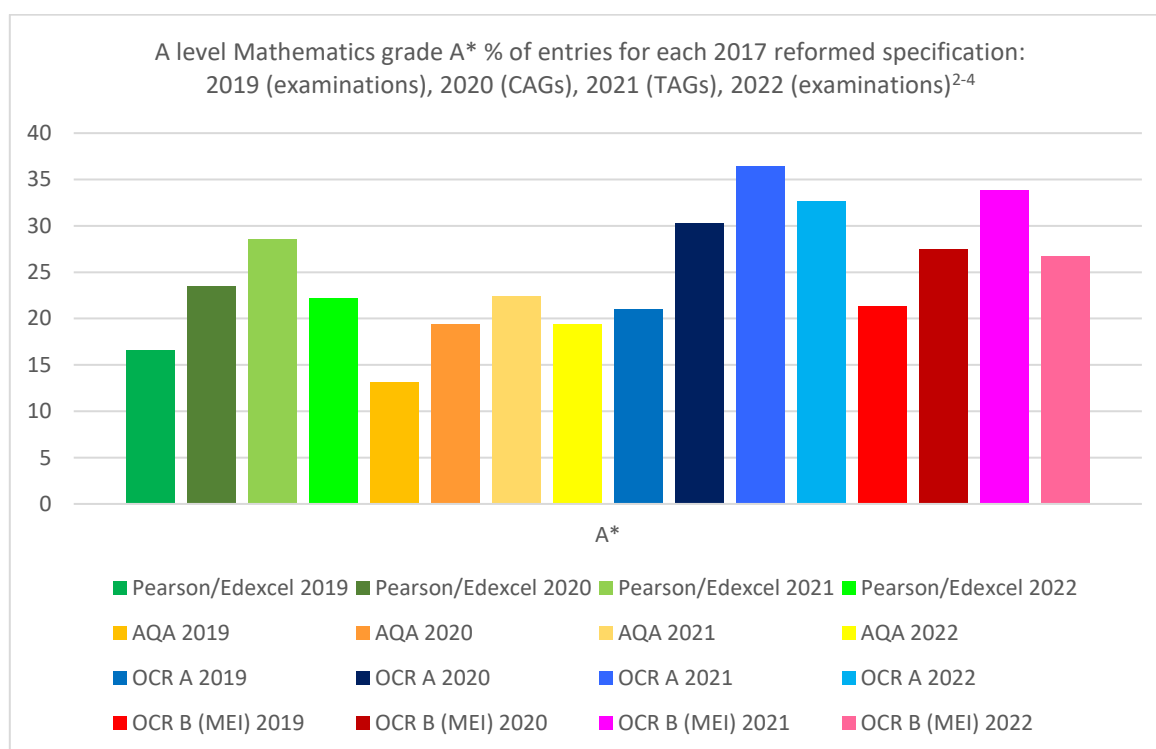


Figure 7

1. JCQ. [Examination results - JCQ Joint Council for Qualifications](#). [Accessed 19 October 2022].
2. Pearson. [Grade statistics | Pearson qualifications](#) and [Grade boundaries | Pearson qualifications](#). [Accessed 19 October 2022].
3. AQA. [AQA | Exams admin | Results days | Results statistics](#) and [AQA | Exams admin | Results days | Grade boundaries](#). [Accessed 19 October 2022].
4. OCR. [Results statistics \(ocr.org.uk\)](#) and [Grade boundaries \(ocr.org.uk\)](#) [Accessed 19 October 2022].

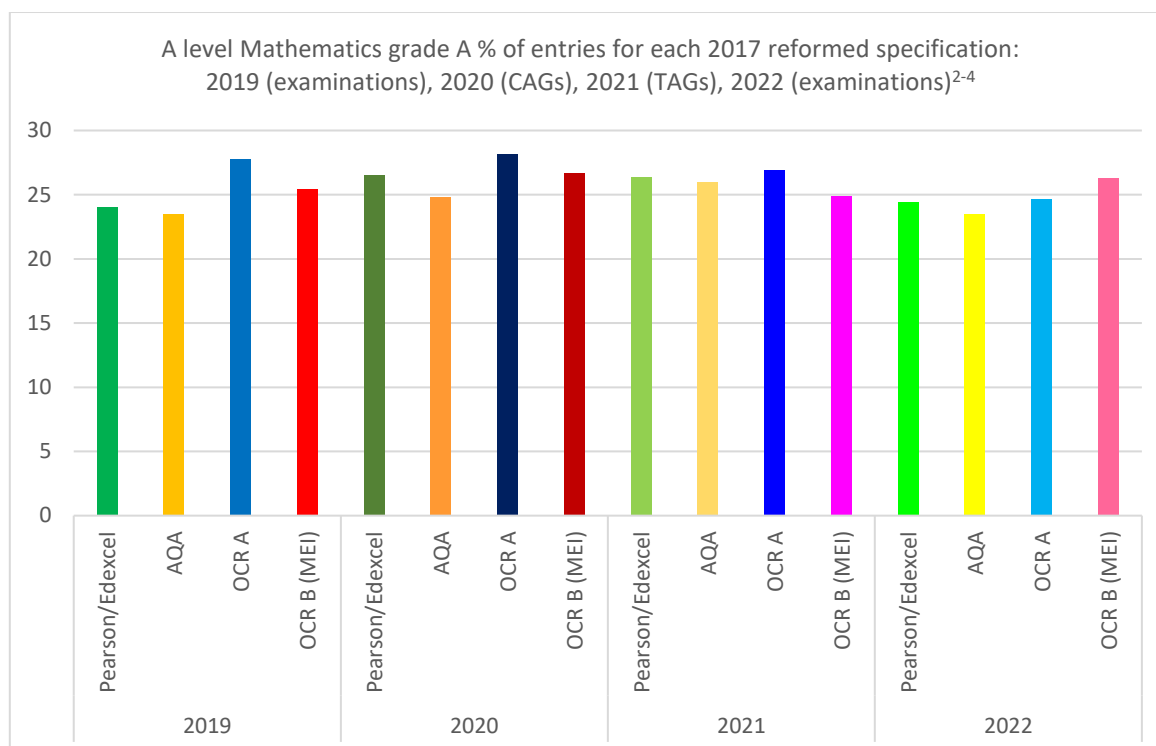


Figure 8

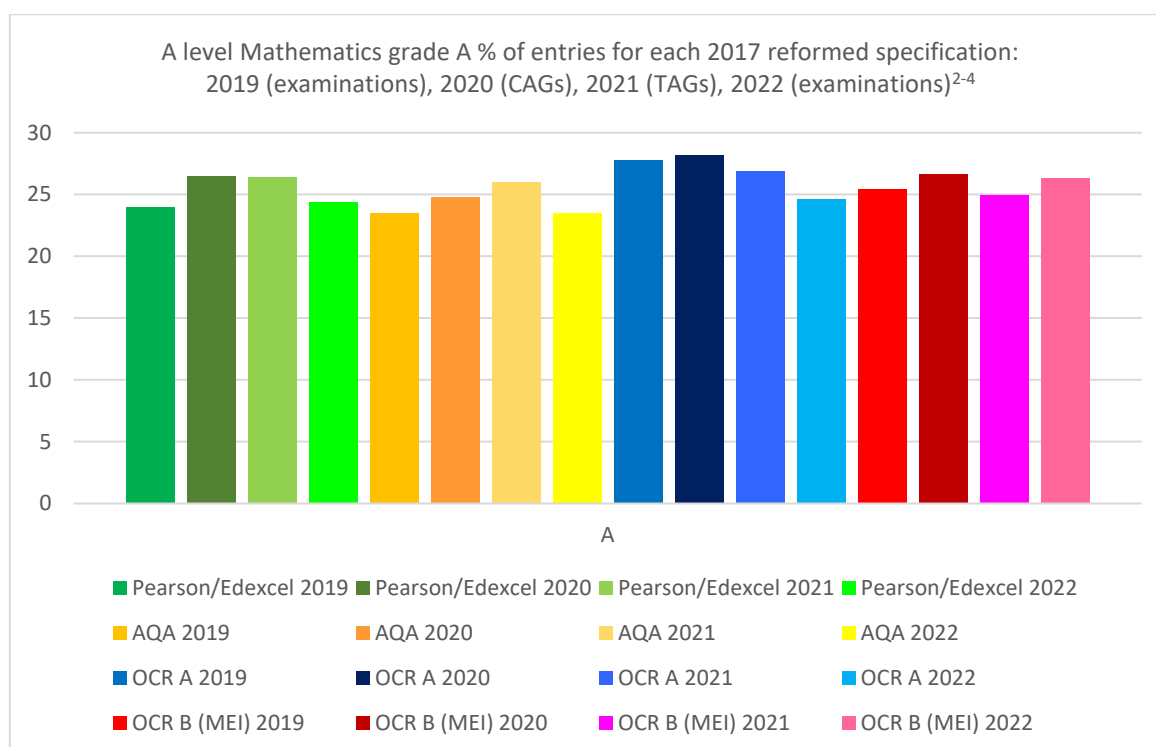


Figure 9

1. JCQ. [Examination results - JCQ Joint Council for Qualifications](#). [Accessed 19 October 2022].
2. Pearson. [Grade statistics | Pearson qualifications](#) and [Grade boundaries | Pearson qualifications](#). [Accessed 19 October 2022].
3. AQA. [AQA | Exams admin | Results days | Results statistics](#) and [AQA | Exams admin | Results days | Grade boundaries](#). [Accessed 19 October 2022].
4. OCR. [Results statistics \(ocr.org.uk\)](#) and [Grade boundaries \(ocr.org.uk\)](#) [Accessed 19 October 2022].

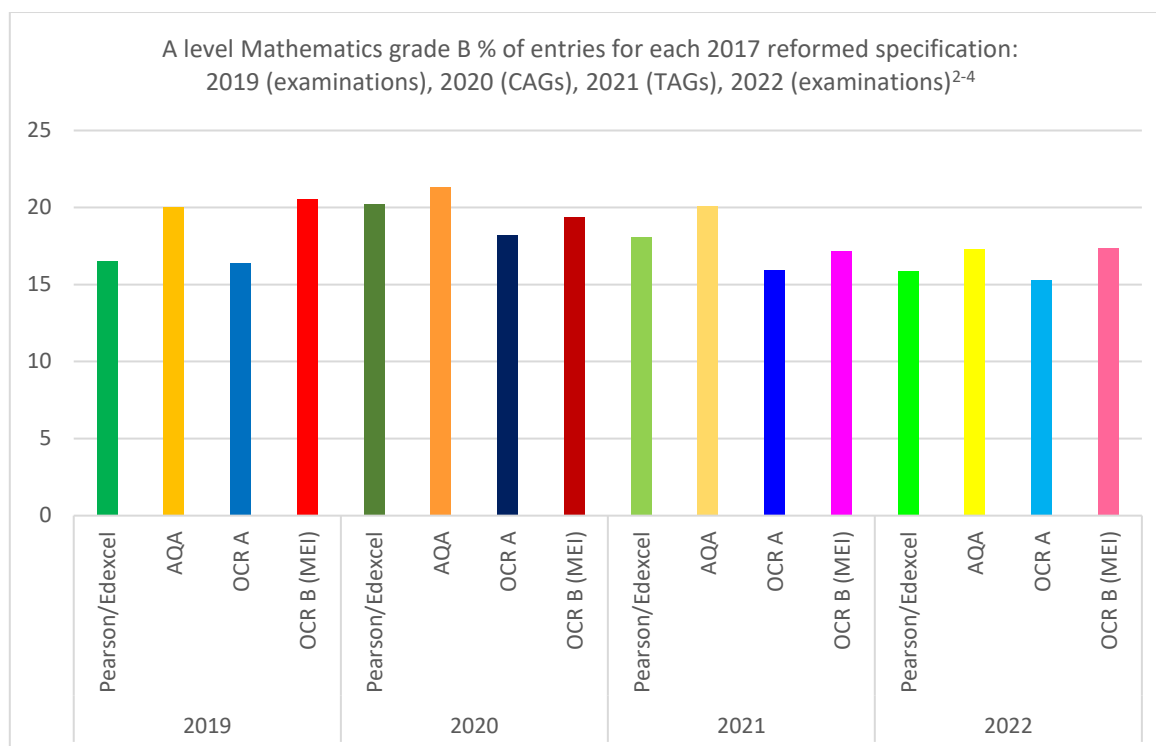


Figure 10

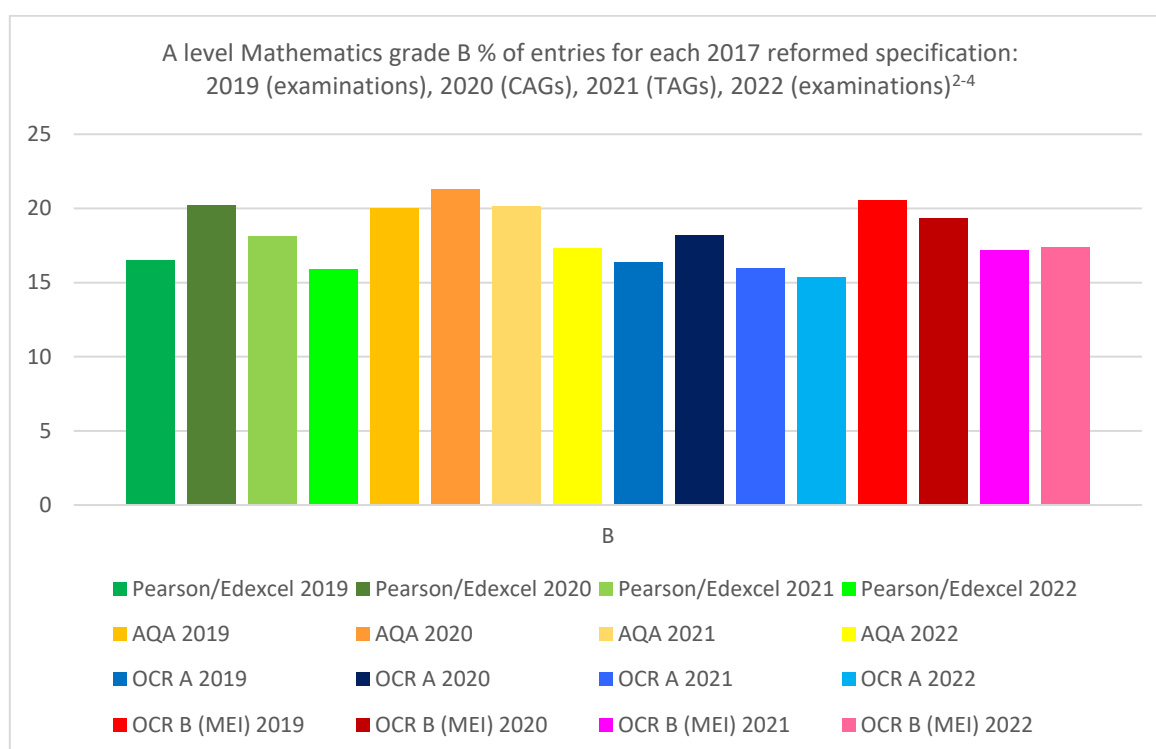


Figure 11

Finally, Figures 12 and 13 show the A level Mathematics Grade Boundaries as % for 2019 national examinations and 2022 national examinations – ordered by Specification and Year, respectively, for the 2017 reformed Specifications.

1. JCQ. [Examination results - JCQ Joint Council for Qualifications](#). [Accessed 19 October 2022].
2. Pearson. [Grade statistics | Pearson qualifications](#) and [Grade boundaries | Pearson qualifications](#). [Accessed 19 October 2022].
3. AQA. [AQA | Exams admin | Results days | Results statistics](#) and [AQA | Exams admin | Results days | Grade boundaries](#). [Accessed 19 October 2022].
4. OCR. [Results statistics \(ocr.org.uk\)](#) and [Grade boundaries \(ocr.org.uk\)](#) [Accessed 19 October 2022].

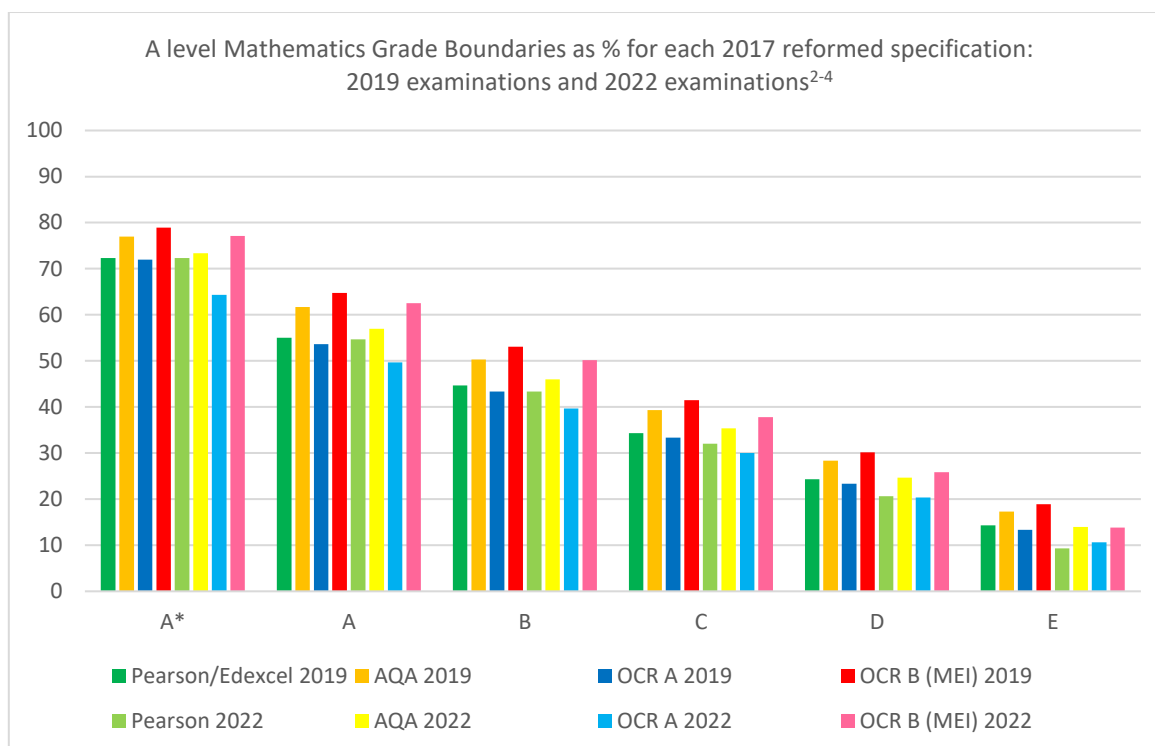


Figure 12

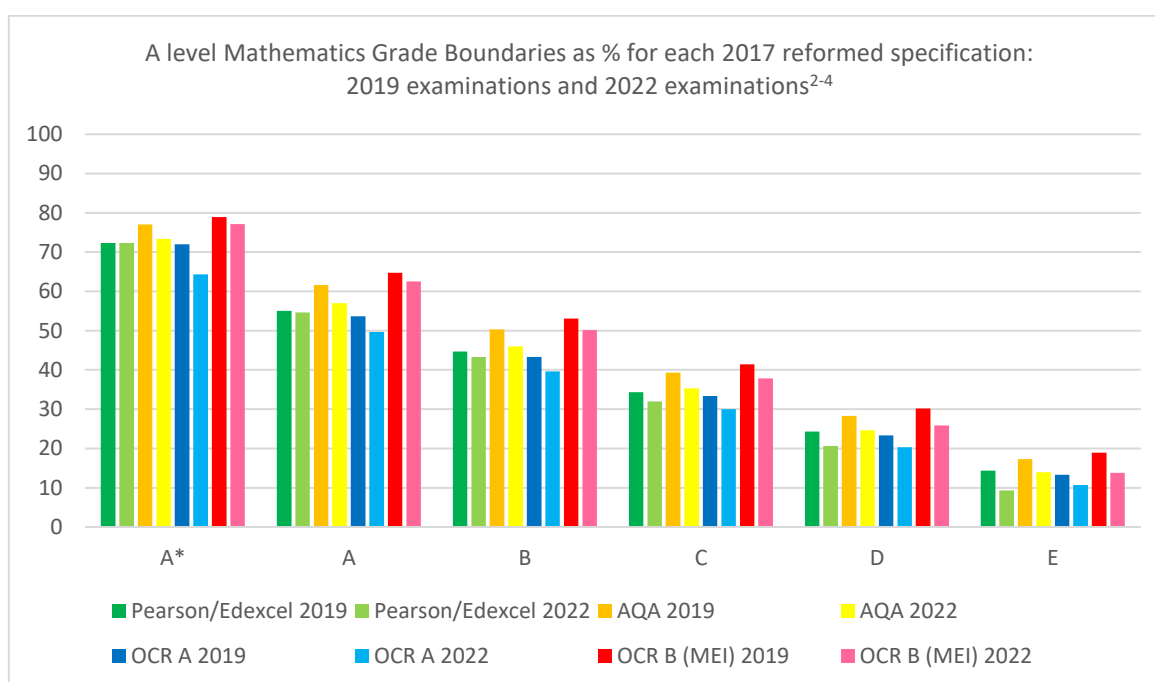


Figure 13

1. JCQ. [Examination results - JCQ Joint Council for Qualifications](#). [Accessed 19 October 2022].
2. Pearson. [Grade statistics | Pearson qualifications](#) and [Grade boundaries | Pearson qualifications](#). [Accessed 19 October 2022].
3. AQA. [AQA | Exams admin | Results days | Results statistics](#) and [AQA | Exams admin | Results days | Grade boundaries](#). [Accessed 19 October 2022].
4. OCR. [Results statistics \(ocr.org.uk\)](#) and [Grade boundaries \(ocr.org.uk\)](#) [Accessed 19 October 2022].