



National Association of Teachers  
of Religious Education

## Gender Patterns in A level Religious Studies 2025: Entries and Performance

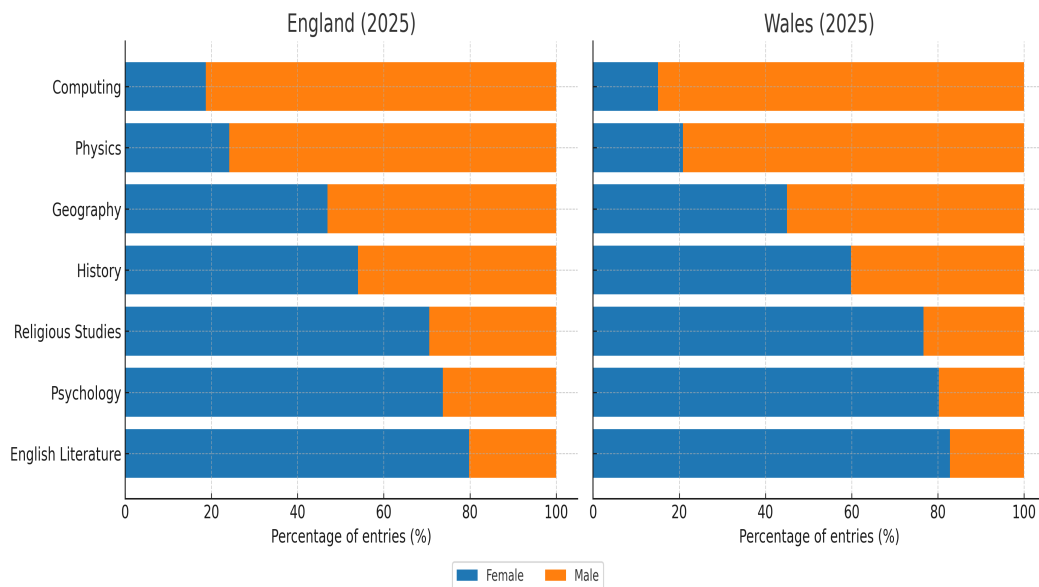
The Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) has released the 2025 A level results. Analysis of subject entries and outcomes by gender reveals striking insights for Religious Studies (RS).

### RS Entries Continue to Show a Strong Female Majority

In England, 14,268 students took A level RS in 2025. Of these, 71% were female (10,064 entries) and 29% male (4,204 entries).

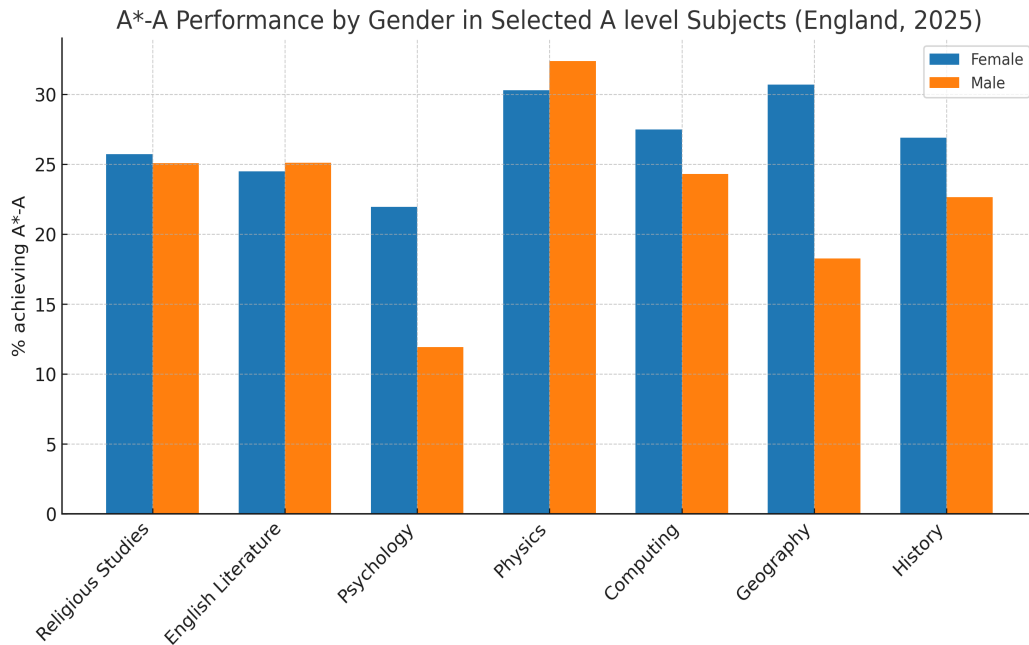
In Wales, the gender skew was even more pronounced. Out of 737 entries, 77% were female (565 entries) compared with 23% male (172 entries).

A-level Entries by Gender: England vs Wales (2025)



### Relative Performance: Boys and Girls in RS

When it comes to outcomes, RS stands out. While entry is dominated by girls, performance at the top grades is almost identical. In 2025, 25.7% of girls achieved A\*-A compared with 25.1% of boys. This contrasts with other subjects: in Psychology, girls achieved 22% A\*-A compared to only 12% of boys; in Geography, girls outperformed boys by 13 percentage points; while in Physics, boys marginally outperformed girls.



### **Why This Matters**

These results raise important questions for policymakers, schools and subject associations:

- Why does RS attract significantly fewer boys than girls, despite boys performing equally well?
- What strategies could increase male uptake, particularly post-16?
- How can we build on the strong female participation without reinforcing stereotypes?

### **NATRE's Response**

NATRE will continue to monitor these trends closely. We encourage members to:

- Reflect on how their departments engage male students in RS.
- Share examples of effective practice with colleagues across the RE community.
- Use these findings to strengthen the case for RS as a subject equally relevant and rewarding for all pupils.

### **Call to Action**

If you have strategies, resources, or classroom experiences that have helped engage boys in RS, please share them with NATRE so we can highlight effective practice nationally.