

## **95% of students more likely to challenge exam results as faith in the system shaken**

Exam boards are set to be overwhelmed next summer, as research by The Student Room shows 95% of students say they're more likely to challenge their exam results, following the discovery that up to 45% of exam papers in key A-level and GCSE subjects were marked incorrectly.

In a report published on November 14, exam regulator Ofqual revealed the result of an investigation into the marking of 12 GCSE and A-level subjects. Nine of these subjects were found to have, on average, less than 75% marking accuracy. English literature fared worst with around 45% of papers graded incorrectly, but subjects such as history also performed badly with only around 63% of grades being correct.

The Student Room (TSR), the world's largest online student community, asked 1,364 GCSE and A-level students about Ofqual's findings. The survey showed the research has damaged confidence in the exam system for 77% of students, with over a third (38%) saying their faith is "completely shaken".

95% of students have said they will now question future results, with 67% saying they are a lot more likely and 28% saying they are a little more likely.

To prevent the same problems next year, students in the survey called for more supervision for examiners (31%), better training for examiners (28%) and clearer mark schemes (24%).

Students flocked to the TSR website to vent their frustrations. One TSR user said: "This has the potential to ruin people's lives and is an extremely serious problem. It's completely ruined my confidence." TSR member Gomc said: "It makes me want to sob into my exam paper".

Pete Langley, ex-teacher and director of learning at The Student Room, says: "Minor errors in marking can make major differences to students' lives - a place at university missed, a job opportunity lost.

"Students need to feel confident when they walk into an exam hall that their work will be fairly rewarded. There's a danger that this confidence will evaporate if exam boards don't heed the lessons of this Ofqual research and act now to improve the reliability of marking."

*\*The Student Room polled 1364 students - 21/11/16*

### **ABOUT THE OFQUAL STUDY**

Ofqual, the organisation that checks the work of exam boards, compared the marks of thousands of examiners with the marks given by senior examiners. The study found significant discrepancies across a range of subjects at GCSE and A-level. Ofqual's data is specific to individual exam papers. Full findings here:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/568424/Marking\\_consistency\\_metrics\\_-\\_November\\_2016.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/568424/Marking_consistency_metrics_-_November_2016.pdf)

### **ABOUT THE STUDENT ROOM**

*Founded in 2001, The Student Room is the world's largest online student community and the UK's no.1 education website according to ComScore data. The Student Room has over 3 million registered members, primarily aged between 14-24 and attracts over 8 million visitors a month. It provides student-to-student advice on studying, educational career choice and lifestyle issues. The Student*

*Room works directly with most UK universities as well as a wide range of leading brands and companies.*