

**Embargo: 00.01 hours**  
**Thursday 19 August 2004**

**2004 A level results**

Commenting on the examination results for students at A level, Steve Sinnott, NUT General Secretary, said:

“Our students and teachers are to be congratulated for their hard work which has led to these outstanding results. I’m sure they would like to be able to celebrate their successes without the constant claims of dumbing down.

“The odds of getting a grade A at A level is only slightly better than one in five – hardly the sure fire bet the critics would have us believe.

“The improvement in the performance of boys is particularly welcome. The figures do not justify a celebration of the end of the laddish culture but they are certainly pointing in the right direction.

“The continuing imbalance in the proportion of boys to girls taking subjects such as computing, physics and maths remains a cause for concern. Girls lack of involvement in these subjects needs to be addressed.”

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