

**EMBARGO: 0001 hours**  
**Thursday 26 August 2004**

**GCSE results – NUT comment**

Commenting on the GCSE results published today (Thursday 26 August) Steve Sinnott, NUT General Secretary, said:

“All the carping critics can’t get around the fact that our young people and their teachers have worked enormously hard and achieved improving levels of success.

“The continuing disparity in performance between boys and girls remains worrying, and is something which the Tomlinson review of 14-19 education must take on board. Teachers do their best to motivate boys but parents have a vital role in encouraging their sons’ enthusiasm to achieve particularly in subjects such as English.

“It is a matter of deep concern that the number of entries for geography, German and French has gone down. This is a direct result of the Government lifting the requirement that a foreign language and geography are taught at Key Stage 4. All youngsters should have a broad and balance curriculum. Indeed, it is mostly through modern foreign languages and geography that young people can gain an understanding of the wider world – vital in today’s world economy.”

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