

Andrew Snowden MP
Member of Parliament
for Fylde
House of Commons
Westminster
London
SW1A 0AA

16 January 2026

Sent by email only to:
andrew.snowden.mp@parliament.uk

Ref: PQ100138

Dear Mr Snowden,

Re: PQ100138 To ask the Secretary of State for Education, with reference to the press notice of 15 December 2025 entitled *Ofqual fines Pearson 2 million for rule breaches affecting thousands of students*, how many students were affected by each of the three cases for which Ofqual fined Pearson, broken down by qualification and year.

Minister of State (Education), Georgia Gould, has asked Ofqual to respond directly to your recent Parliamentary Question. A copy of this response will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Thank you for your question regarding the number of students who were affected by the three cases for which Ofqual fined Pearson in 2025.

Please see below the details you have requested for each of the three cases:

Case 1 - GCE Chinese:

In summary, this incident concerned non-compliances related to the setting and marking of assessments on Pearson's GCE Chinese qualification in the years set out below.

Ofqual concluded that all learners had been impacted, to one degree or another, by the non-compliances. However, it was not possible to determine the impact on any individual or group of students. Ofqual found it reasonable to conclude that the non-

compliances will have led to some individual results for the qualification not fully reflecting student performance in Chinese, however, due to the nature of the breaches it was not possible to determine a precise number of learners that may have received an incorrect outcome.

The number of entries for the years falling under this enforcement case were:

2019: total entries c 2,880 (including 2,086 in England)

2022: total entries c 3,940 (including 1,201 in England)

2023: total entries c 5,150 (including 1,314 in England)

Case 2 - Pearson PTE:

This case concerned an occurrence of malpractice on Pearson's online version of the PTE Academic test (PTEA online). In summary, Ofqual found that Pearson failed to act sufficiently promptly when malpractice affected delivery of the online version of its secure English language test.

From January 2023 to July 2023, Pearson revoked or withheld a total of 12,816 results due to malpractice.

Case 3 - Pearson 1EN2:

This case concerned the failure to identify the risk of inconsistency in grading standards when awarding its alternative GCSE English language 2.0 specification ("1EN2").

In total there were 23,165 learner entries in 2023, the year in which standards were inconsistent. It was not possible to determine the impact on any individual result.

Yours sincerely,



Sir Ian Bauckham CBE

Chief Regulator, Ofqual