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7 January 2026

Sent by email only to:
beccy.cooper.mp@parliament.uk

Ref: PQ97590 & PQ97591

Dear Dr Cooper,

Re: PQ97590 To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what processes are in place to ensure accountability and transparency when GCSE examination scripts are lost by exam boards

Re: PQ97591 To ask the Secretary of State for Education, how many incidents of lost exam scripts have been reported to the Department and Ofqual in each of the last two academic years.

Thank you for your questions regarding the loss of GCSE examination scripts and the processes in place to ensure accountability and transparency.

Our expectation of exam boards is that all exam scripts completed by students are kept secure. No level of exam script loss is acceptable. Further, we expect exam boards to act to reduce and eliminate script loss, where it does occur, by ensuring that scripts are securely handled and transported at all times.

Incidents of lost scripts are rare. For GCSE, AS and A levels, in 2025, 1,305 scripts were reported as lost out of approximately 17 million scripts- less than 0.008% (fewer than 8 per 100,000). This represents a reduction of over 25% compared to 2024, when 1,745 scripts were lost.

While these incidents affect only a very small proportion of scripts, we recognise that any loss is deeply frustrating and disappointing for the students involved.

The breakdown below relates solely to GCSE, AS and A level qualifications:

Qualification	2025	2024
A level	165	245
AS	45	15
GCSE	1,095	1,485
Total	1,305	1,745

Processes to ensure accountability and transparency

Awarding organisations (AOs) must notify Ofqual of all instances where a script or other evidence is lost and explain how they will ensure the learner receives a fair result. Ofqual rules require AOs to take all reasonable steps to mitigate any adverse effect. Typically, this involves calculating a grade using the learner's performance in other assessments for that subject. This must be done by exam boards in a way which is fair and consistent for all candidates.

Ofqual monitors the causes of lost scripts each series as part of our regulatory oversight and provides feedback to AOs. We report on areas for improvement through our [annual report](#). We recognise the importance of maintaining the integrity of the examination process and remain committed to ensuring fairness and transparency for all learners.

Yours sincerely,



Sir Ian Bauckham CBE

Chief Regulator, Ofqual