

(The) Resit Reports

College tutors on resits in GCSE English and maths



What do experts in further education think about resits in English and maths for their post-16 students?

1,000 college tutors gave us their own perspectives on resits today.

What do resits offer students?



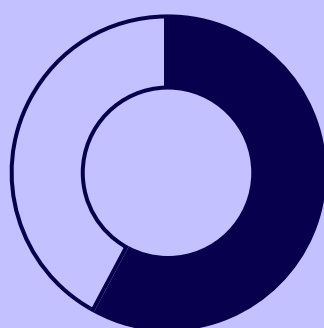
Around a third of college tutors say today's resits:

- help students **meet progression requirements** for further study/employment (**34%**).
- help **build confidence** in core skills (**35%**).
- support **student development** across other subjects/vocational courses (**35%**).

"Students who failed before often feel like failures in everything, so celebrating small progress helps rebuild their belief in themselves."

College Tutor

The second time around...



A small majority of college tutors (**58%**) say students become **more confident** in English and maths the second time around.

- **41%** say students become **less engaged**.

Thinking about their own cohort's **levels of confidence**:

- **68%** of college tutors think most of their students feel **confident about passing** their resits.
- However, just **29%** of students themselves **feel/felt confident about passing** their resits.*

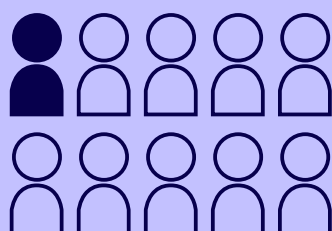
Considering the challenges



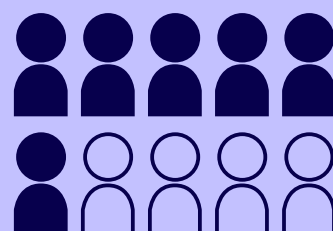
College tutors list the **top challenges resit students face** as:

- Exam **stress** (**30%**).
- Learner **anxiety** (**29%**).
- **Consolidating** prior knowledge (**27%**).
- Unsuitable assessment **formats** (**29%**).
- Content **overload** (**28%**).

Reviewing resits



More than **1 in 10** college tutors say GCSE English and GCSE maths **do not meet the needs** of post-16 students.



While **6 in 10** believe the current pressure to pass resits in these subjects affects students' confidence and motivation.

- **Around 1 in 5** say the **current assessment load is too high** and places pressure on students.
- **16% say** there aren't enough opportunities for students to **demonstrate progress**.

"Many students fail because they believe they are incapable of succeeding."

College Tutor

How can the sector help every student get more out of English and maths at GCSE and at post-16?

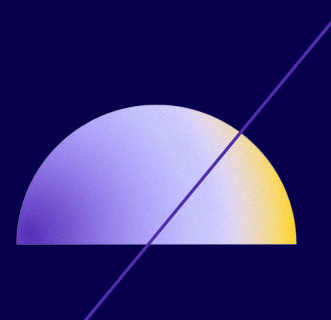
Read more from the Pearson Resit Reports.

Visit our **Post-16 page** for:

- students and tutors' views on the changes they want to see
- the student perspective on resits today.

Learn more on the resit rethink

go.pearson.com/resitrethink



*Students who have ever had to/will have to resit GCSE English or maths.

The research was conducted by Censuswide, among a sample of 1000 College teachers/tutors and SLT, with some knowledge of English or maths GCSE resits. The data was collected between 24.04.2025 - 06.05.2025. A separate study was conducted amongst 1000 College students (16+) between 24.04.2025 - 08.05.2025. Censuswide abides by and employs members of the Market Research Society and follows the MRS code of conduct and ESOMAR principles. Censuswide is also a member of the British Polling Council.