

St Paul's and King's: what can an adviser safely claim?

A-level A* grade shares | 2022-2025 | 2026 checked separately

Does the recent published A-level A* difference support a claim that St Paul's consistently outperforms King's by about ten percentage points?

No. The checked publication versions show a positive St Paul's-minus-King's difference in all four years, but its size varies substantially. The current-page comparison gives 1.9 and 0.7 percentage points in 2022-23, then 10.30 and 8.55 in 2024-25. Publication disagreements mean the exact series is provisional. Four years are insufficient for the engine's five-year robustness assessment.

The annual differences matter more than one headline average

Year	St Paul's [1]	King's [2]	Difference, pp
2022	70%	68.1%	1.9
2023	51%	50.3%	0.7
2024	61%	50.70%	10.30
2025	59.3%	50.75%	8.55

Descriptive median: 5.2 percentage points. This summarises the four named publication versions; it is not a final corrected series, pooled grade share or estimate of a pupil benefit.

Useful conclusion: do not tell a client there is a consistent ten-point advantage. Ask about the intended subjects and qualification route, and keep the unresolved source versions beside any comparison.

Draft worked example · source-checked · final founder review and approval outstanding. This is not a signed client report.

Report TSR-SPS-KCS-20260906-v 1

A defensible statement, with its limits

The recent published A-level A* figures are higher at St Paul's in the four years examined, with a much larger reported difference in 2024-25. Differences in publication versions remain unresolved. These school-level grade shares do not establish individual prospects or how much a school adds to attainment.

Why the published percentages do not describe every pupil

King's has a separate IB population. Its 2025 A-level PDF identifies 182 A-level-route candidates plus one IB pupil taking an A level. The 666 A-level entries are not 666 pupils, and the whole sixth-form cohort is not described.

Grade shares weight subject entries, not pupils. A pupil taking four A levels contributes four entries. Subject choices and admissions selection can change aggregate percentages without identifying any teaching effect. This review does not recommend a school for an individual child.

What the source check changed

Observation	Evidence and treatment
St Paul's 2022 and 2024	Current summary gives 70% and 61%; frozen precise rows give 70.9% and 60.2%. The checked page does not verify those frozen values. Cause unresolved; neither is overwritten.
King's 2023	Original 2023 and retrospective 2024 PDFs give 50.1%; the 2025 retrospective gives 50.3%. The original counts are 288 A* / 575 entries. No revision reason or amended counts established.
St Paul's 2025	Results-day news [7] reports 57%; current results page [1] reports 59.3%. The sample explicitly uses the current page; it does not assert why the figures changed.

Version sensitivity

With the current-page inputs in this report the median is 5.225 pp (displayed as 5.2). Keeping the frozen historical St Paul's inputs and the 2025 King's retrospective gives 5.675 pp (5.7). Those historical precise St Paul's values are not newly verified here. Replacing only King's 2023 50.3 with the original 50.1 changes that year's difference from 0.7 to 0.9 pp and leaves this report's median unchanged. This is a sensitivity check, not a confidence interval.

What to check before using the claim

1. Which detailed final A-level table and issue date should control 2022 and 2024 at St Paul's? Were entry populations or reviewed grades different?
2. Why does King's 2025 retrospective give 50.3% A* for 2023, while the 2023 and 2024 PDFs give 50.1%? Are amended counts available?
3. Can both schools supply the final 2026 A-level-only grade distributions and subject-entry counts?
4. For the client's intended subjects, what are the actual entry counts and grade distributions, and which sixth-form route do they concern?

2026 update: not an extra matched year

St Paul's 13 August 2026 publication reports 60% A*. King's 13 August 2026 publication says only that more than half of A-level grades are A*. Its 56% figure includes IB equivalents. The current King's results hub links detailed tables only through 2025. Therefore no exact 2026 difference is calculated; this is a dated retrieval limit, not a claim of non-publication.

Reproduce the result

Annual difference = St Paul's published A* percentage minus King's published A* percentage. Sorted differences: 0.7, 1.9, 8.55, 10.3. Median = $(1.9 + 8.55) / 2 = 5.225$ pp. The final display rounds to one decimal place because the source precision is mixed. Every year has equal weight; no pupil or entry denominator is invented.

Four annual observations do not satisfy the five-year robustness threshold. We retain "Insufficient evidence". The reviewed versions also contain unresolved disagreements; no automatic eligible-series verdict is substituted for this descriptive comparison.

The selected period is within the offered ten-calendar-year maximum. Earlier context is omitted because the selected historical St Paul's exact values were not supported by an accessible checked original during this bounded sample check. 2020-21 assessment years are excluded. 2022 is a transitional award year; differences are calculated within the same year.

What a commissioned review adds

An agreed question, original-publication checks, explicit version conflicts, limits on the proposed client claim, questions for the schools, a reproducible calculation and reviewed handover. This example demonstrates research beyond the automatic free comparison.

An adviser may share the complete commissioned report and relevant attributed extracts/CSV for the agreed named client brief, retaining qualifications and version/date. No bulk redistribution of source publications or general dataset licence is included.

Original publications and fixed inputs

[\[1\] St Paul's current A-level results page](#)

2025 statement: 59.3% A*. Five-year summary: 2022 70%, 2023 51%, 2024 61%. Checked in browser and source text on 6 September 2026.

[\[2\] King's 2025 A-level PDF](#)

Page 1. Current 2025 totals and historical cumulative rows. All four selected King's percentages come from this explicitly named publication. Rendered table inspected.

[\[3\] King's 2024 A-level PDF](#)

Page 1. Retrospective 2023 A*=50.1%, unlike the 2025 retrospective. Rendered table inspected.

[\[4\] King's 2023 A-level PDF](#)

Page 1. 2023 A*=50.1%, 288 A* entries out of 575 total; 159 candidates. Rendered table inspected.

[\[5\] St Paul's 2026 results-day article](#)

Dated 13 August 2026.60% A*; not added to an exact two-school comparison.

[\[6\] King's 2026 results-day article](#)

Dated 13 August 2026. A-level-only result is non-exact; 56% includes IB equivalents. Rendered page inspected.

[\[7\] St Paul's 2025 results-day article](#)

Dated 14 August 2025.57% A*, versus 59.3% on the current results page. Revision cause not established.

Public evidence and files

[Open the school evidence and source checks](#)

[Read this example and download its CSV and fixed JSON inputs](#)

The CSV contains the printed values, annual differences, record IDs and publication URLs. The JSON snapshot fixes the report version, source variants, calculation inputs and original-file hashes. Later website revisions must not silently change this issued example. A correction requires a new report version, reason and effect statement.

Source access was checked during preparation; links can later change. Original publications are linked, not redistributed in the paid handover. The old Eton-Westminster 2015-2019 methodological example remains separately accessible.