

Entry Trends 2008 - AS, A level and AEA Tables
GCE A level trends
Table 1 Top 10 GCE A level subjects

Subject (2007 ranking in brackets)		2008 Provisional numbers	
		% of total	Number of candidates
1	(1) English	10.73	89778
2	(2) Mathematics	7.79	65239
3	(4) Biology	6.75	56494
4	(3) General Studies	6.64	55604
5	(5) Psychology	6.36	53266
6	(6) History	5.77	48333
7	(7) Art & Design Subjects	5.35	44789
8	(8) Chemistry	5.04	42209
9	(9) Media/Film/TV Studies	3.98	33337
10	(10) Geography	3.80	31819

Table 2 Top 10 GCE A level subject increases

Subject (2007 ranking in brackets)		Changes from 2007-2008		
		% change	2007 Number of candidates	2008 P Number of candidates
1	(1) Critical Thinking	16.61	2173	2534
2	(2) Mathematics (Further)	15.75	8193	9483
3	Welsh	11.49	844	941
4	Other Modern Languages	9.46	7107	7779
5	(5) Mathematics	7.39	60750	65239
6	Economics	6.47	17578	18716
7	(7) Religious Studies	6.09	19144	20310
8	English	4.06	86272	89778
9	Art & Design subjects	3.80	43149	44789
10	Sociology	3.44	27763	28719

N.B Welsh, Other Modern Languages and English had the second, seventh and ninth largest decreases respectively in 2007.

Table 3 GCE A level subject decreases

Subject (2007 ranking in brackets)		Changes from 2007-2008		
		% change	2007 Number of candidates	2008 P Number of candidates
1	(1) Irish	-11.97	284	250
2	(3) Computing	-9.38	5690	5156
3	(5) Information and Communication Technology	-7.99	13584	12499
4	Performing / Expressive Arts	-7.32	3973	3682
5	Communication Studies	-3.65	2162	2083
6	(6) General Studies	-2.23	56874	55604
7	Classical subjects	-1.82	6253	6139
8	German	-1.33	6406	6321
9	Technology subjects	-0.56	17590	17491
10	Law	-0.15	15912	15888

N.B German and Law had the tenth and ninth largest increases in 2007.

GCE AS trends

Table 4 Top 10 GCE AS subjects

Subject (2007 ranking in brackets)		2008 Provisional numbers	
		% of total	Number of candidates
1	(1) English	9.36	107564
2	(2) General Studies	7.45	85622
3	(4) Mathematics	7.41	85150
4	(3) Psychology	7.10	81620
5	(5) Biology	6.39	73394
6	(6) Art & Design subjects	5.52	63454
7	(7) History	4.91	56388
8	(8) Chemistry	4.80	55206
9	(9) Media / Film / TV Studies	4.10	47074
10	(10) Business Studies	3.75	43044

Table 5 Top 10 GCE AS subject increases

Subject (2007 ranking in brackets)		Changes from 2007-2008		
		% change	2007 Number of candidates	2008 P Number of candidates
1	(2) Mathematics (Further)	20.62	7794	9401
2	Communication Studies	10.49	3328	3677
3	(6) Economics	10.42	22389	24722
4	Irish	10.23	342	377
5	(3) Mathematics	8.14	78737	85150
6	Law	4.75	24865	26046
7	(8) Sociology	4.61	40781	42663
8	Political Studies	4.16	15190	15822
9	Business Studies	3.86	41445	43044
10	Media / Film / TV Studies	3.30	45568	47074

N.B Irish had the largest and Communication Studies the sixth largest decreases in 2007

Table 6 Top 10 GCE AS subject decreases

Subject (2007 ranking in brackets)		Changes from 2007-2008		
		% change	2007 Number of candidates	2008 P Number of candidates
1	(4) Computing	-11.18	8999	7993
2	German	-7.80	8330	7680
3	French	-7.56	21179	19577
4	(7) General Studies	-6.43	91509	85622
5	(3) Information and Communication Technology	-6.35	21055	19717
6	Critical Thinking	-4.87	24207	23028
7	Welsh	-3.95	1064	1022
8	Music	-3.67	14856	14311
9	(9) Classical subjects	-3.21	7313	7078
10	Sport / PE Studies	-2.24	28627	27986

N.B Critical Thinking had the largest and Welsh the fourth largest increases in 2007

Applied GCE trends

Table 7 Top 3 Applied GCE A level double award subjects (out of a total of 7 subjects)

Subject (2007 ranking in brackets)			2008 Provisional numbers	
			% of total	Number of candidates
1	(1)	Health & Social Care	37.83	5425
2	(2)	Applied Business	25.78	3697
3	(3)	Applied ICT	19.17	2749

Table 8 Top Applied GCE A level double award increases and decreases

Given the number of subjects and the size of the entries, the only change to report is, with the exception of Applied Science, an across the board decline in entry.

Table 9 Top 3 Applied GCE A level single award subjects (out of a total of 10 subjects)

Subject (2007 ranking in brackets)			2008 Provisional numbers	
			% of total	Number of candidates
1	(1)	Applied ICT	36.92	12263
2	(2)	Applied Business	23.10	7674
3	(3)	Health & Social Care	18.78	6240

Table 10 Top Applied GCE A level single award increases and decreases

Given the number of subjects and the size of the entries, the only change to report is, with the exception of Leisure, an across the board increase in entry, with an increase of over 40% for Applied Science.

Table 11 Top 3 Applied GCE AS double award subjects (out of a total of 7 subjects)

Subject (2007 ranking in brackets)			2008 Provisional numbers	
			% of total	Number of candidates
1	(1)	Health & Social Care	42.34	5615
2	(2)	Applied Business	22.74	3016
3	(3)	Applied ICT	16.52	2191

Table 12 Top Applied GCE A double award increases and decreases

Given the number of subjects and the size of the entries, the only change to report is an across the board decrease in entry, with a decrease of over 34% for Applied ICT.

Table 13 Top 3 Applied GCE AS single award subjects (out of a total of 10 subjects)

Subject			2008 Provisional numbers	
			% of total	Number of candidates
1	(1)	Applied ICT	36.09	19773
2	(2)	Applied Business	21.13	11577
3	(3)	Health & Social Care	18.24	9996

Table 14 Top 3 Applied GCE AS single award increases and decreases

The entry for eight of the Applied GCE AS single award subjects shows an increase from 2007. Applied Art & Design and Leisure, however, show a decrease of about 8%.

AEA trends

AEA Irish and Welsh have not been included in this exercise since their entries are significantly lower than those of the other AEA specifications.

Table 15 Top 6 AEA subjects

Subject (2007 ranking in brackets)		2008 Provisional numbers	
		% of total	Number of candidates
1	(1) English	23.65	2632
2	(2) Mathematics	14.10	1569
3	(3) History	10.35	1152
4	(5) Chemistry	8.24	917
5	Biology	6.61	735
6	Physics	6.59	733

Table 16 AEA subject increases

Subject (2007 ranking in brackets)		Changes from 2007-2008		
		% change	2007 Number of candidates	2008 P Number of candidates
1	Mathematics	14.11	1375	1569
2	Religious Studies	6.85	219	234
3	English	0.42	2621	2632

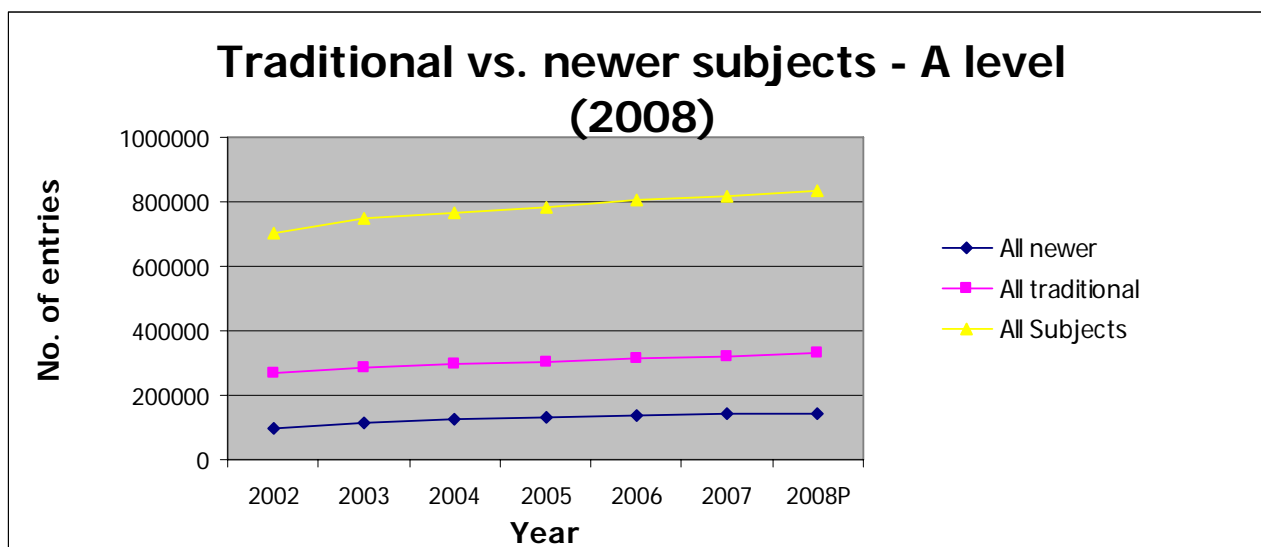
Table 17 Top 3 AEA subject decreases

Subject (2007 ranking in brackets)		Changes from 2007-2008		
		% change	2007 Number of candidates	2008 P Number of candidates
1	(3) Psychology	-41.89	1110	645
2	(2) Critical Thinking	-22.30	269	209
3	(1) Business	-20.83	240	190

GCE A level Entry Trends – 2002 - 2008

All data are for the period for which the Curriculum 2000 GCE A level specifications have been awarded.

Chart 1



The group of 'traditional' A level subjects is:

Art & Design subjects, Classical subjects, Economics, English, Geography, History, Mathematics, Mathematics (Further) and Religious Studies

The group of 'newer' A level subjects is:

Law, Media/Film/TV Studies, Political Studies, Psychology and Sociology

Chart 2

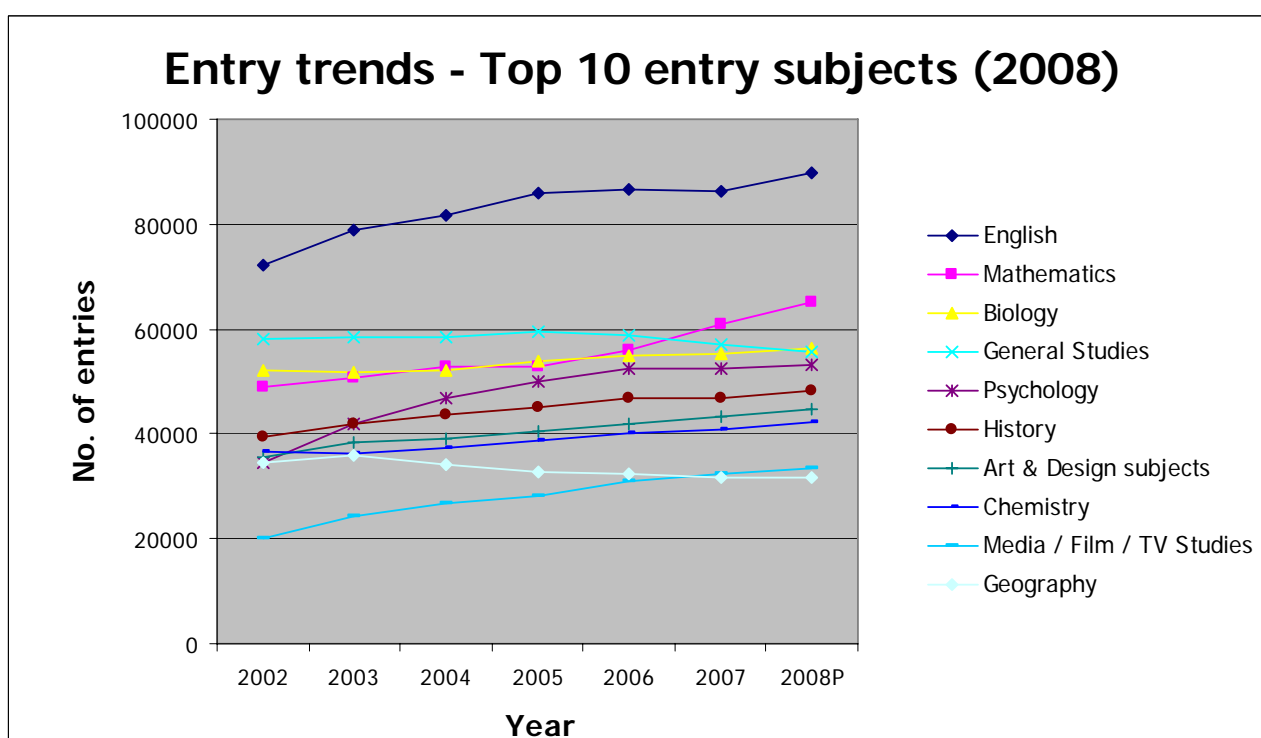


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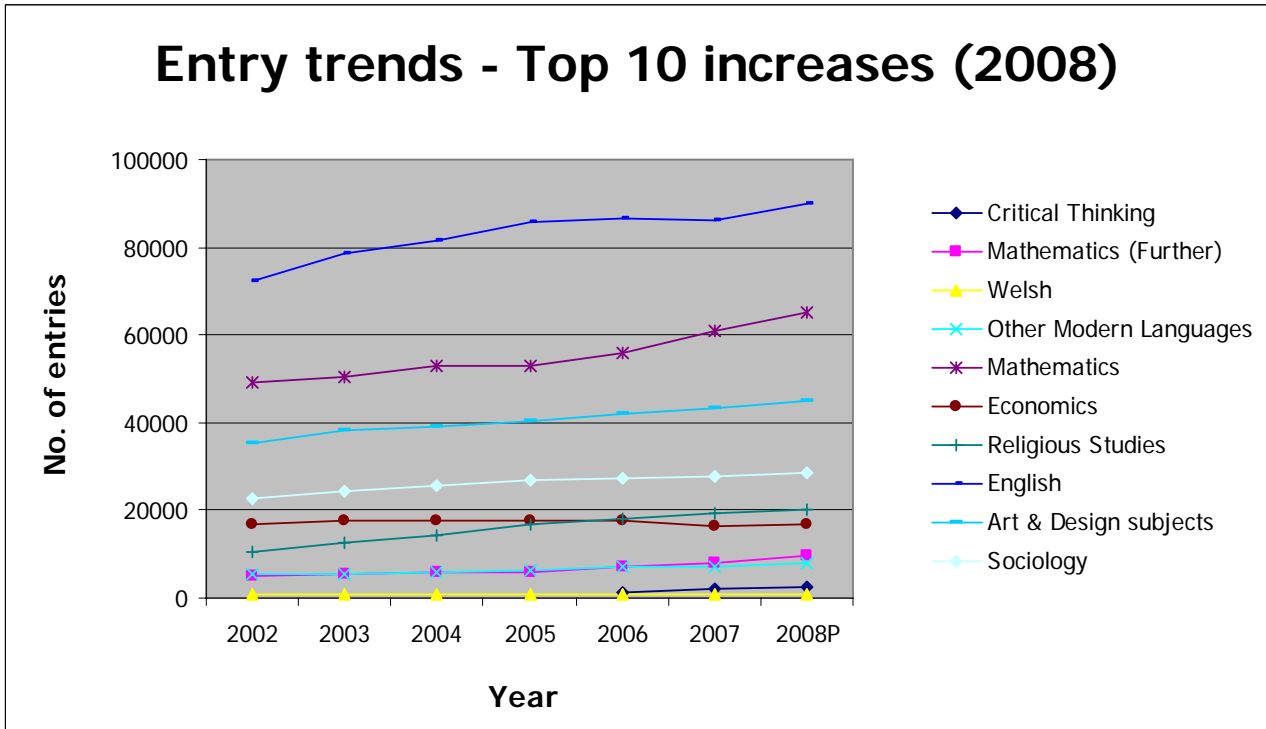


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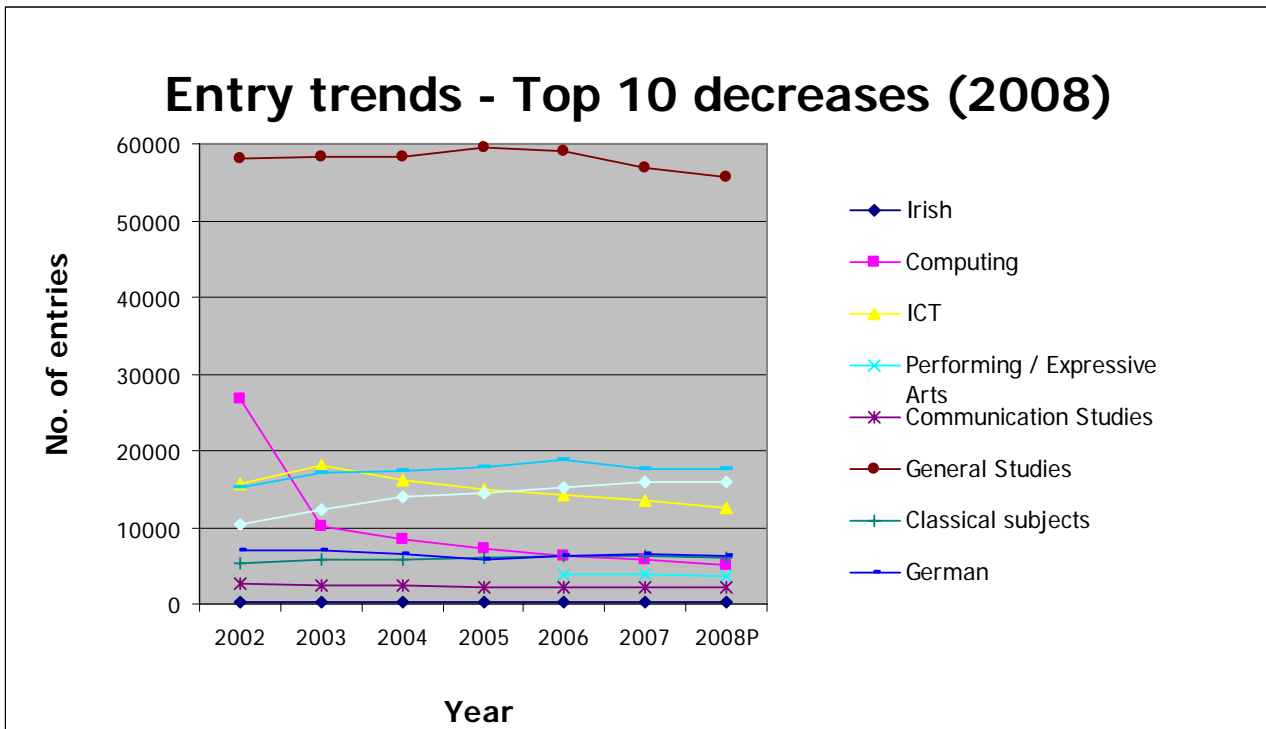


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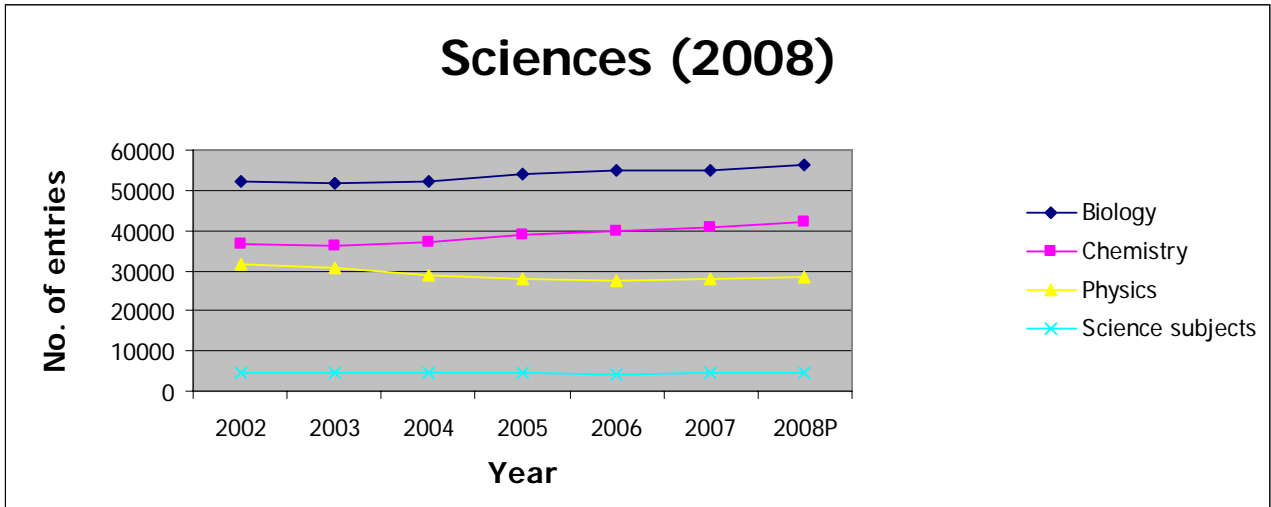
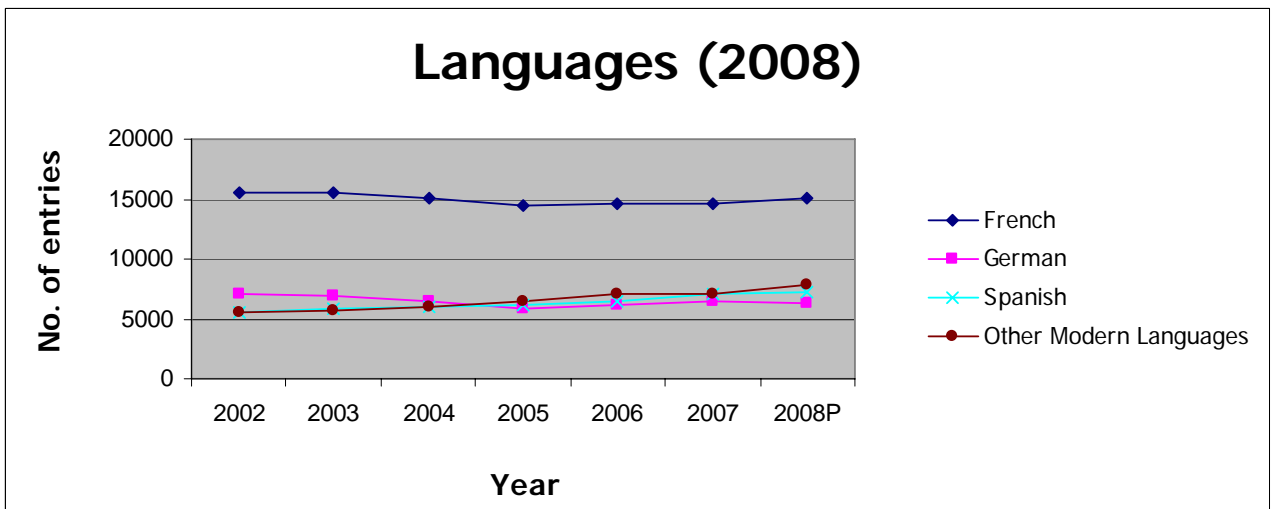


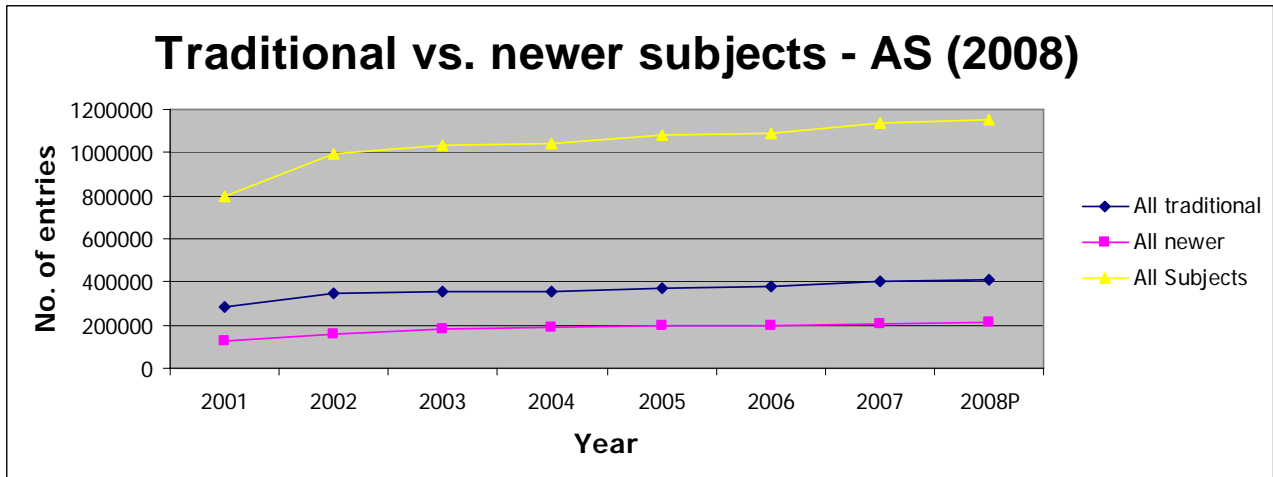
Chart 6



GCE AS Entry Trends – 2001 - 2008

All data are for the period for which the Curriculum 2000 GCE AS specifications have been awarded.

Chart 7



The group of 'traditional' AS subjects is:

Art & Design subjects, Classical subjects, Economics, English, Geography, History, Mathematics, Mathematics (Further) and Religious Studies

The group of 'newer' AS subjects is:

Law, Media/Film/TV Studies, Political Studies, Psychology and Sociology

Chart 8

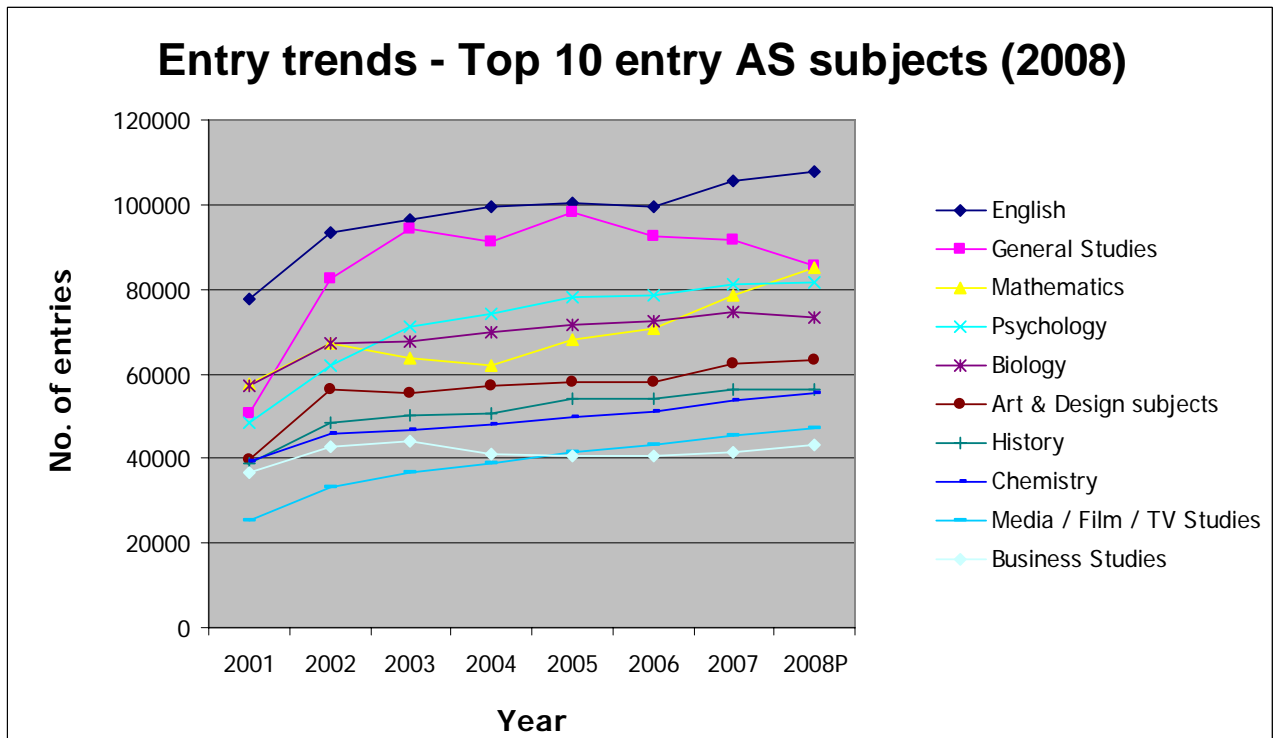


Chart 9

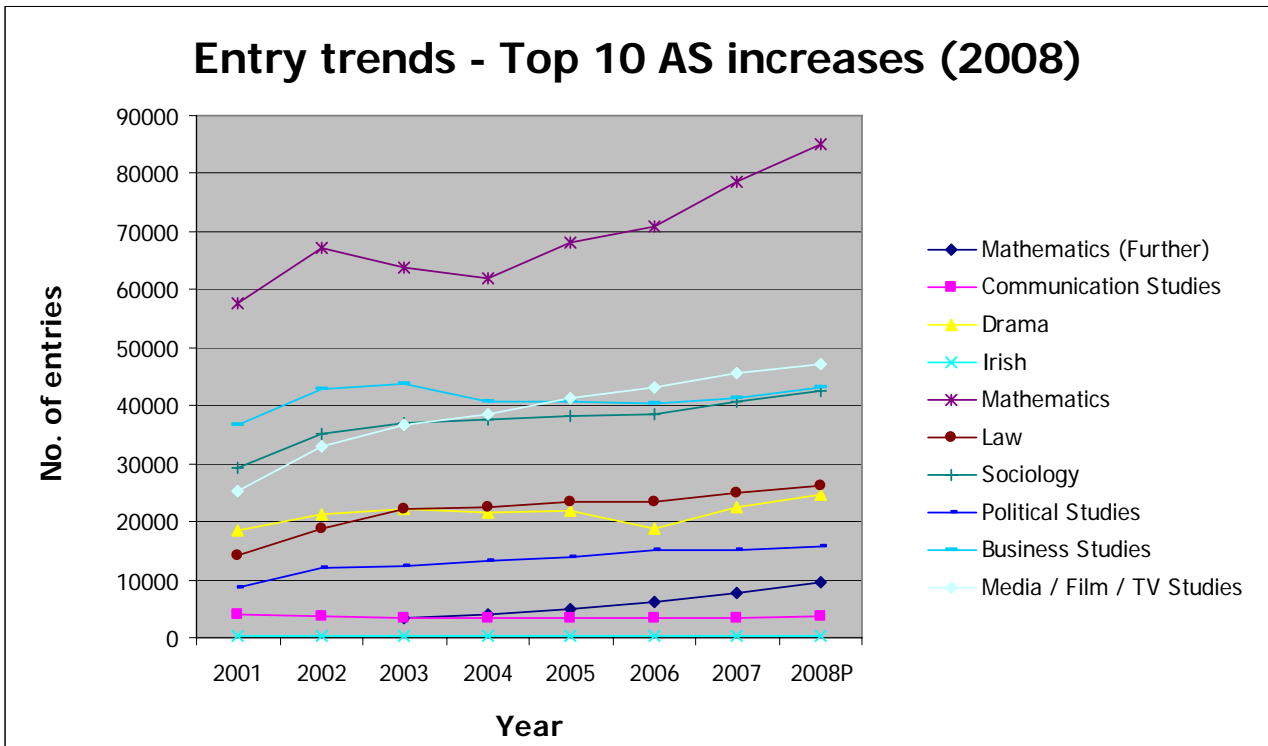


Chart 10

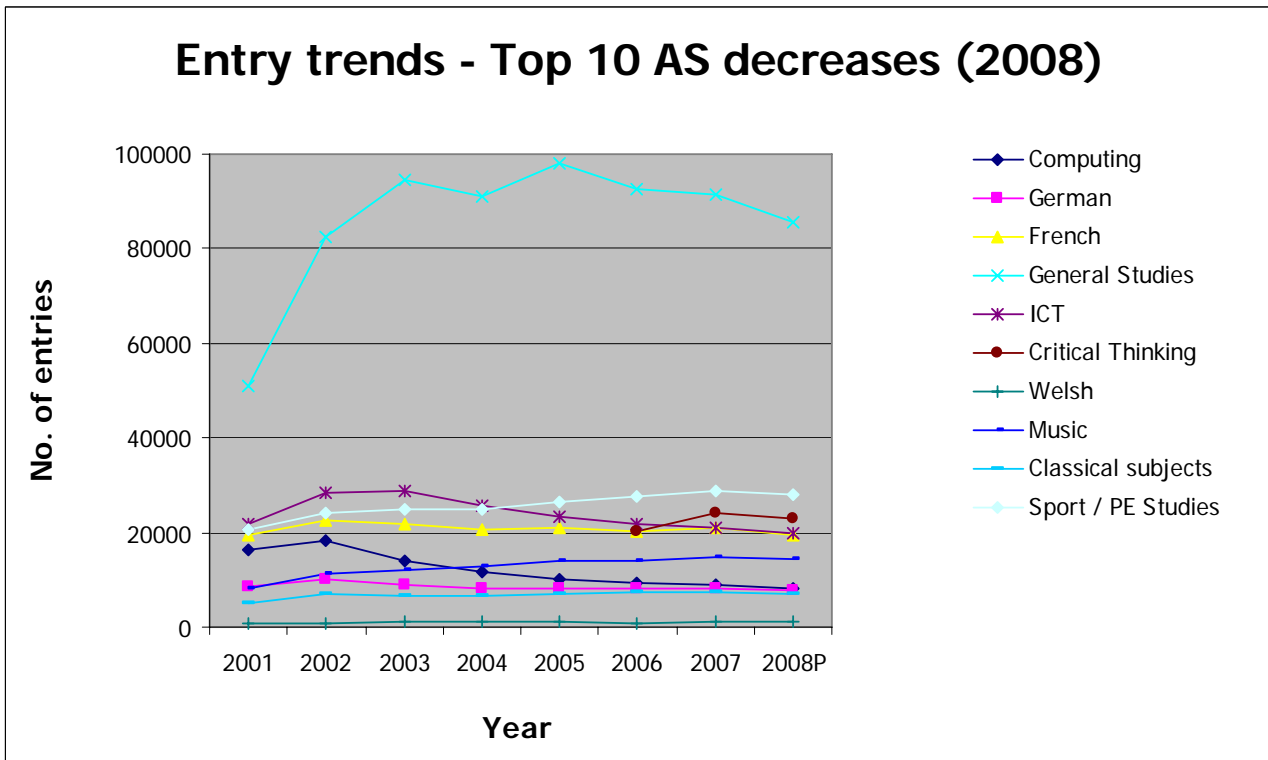


Chart 11

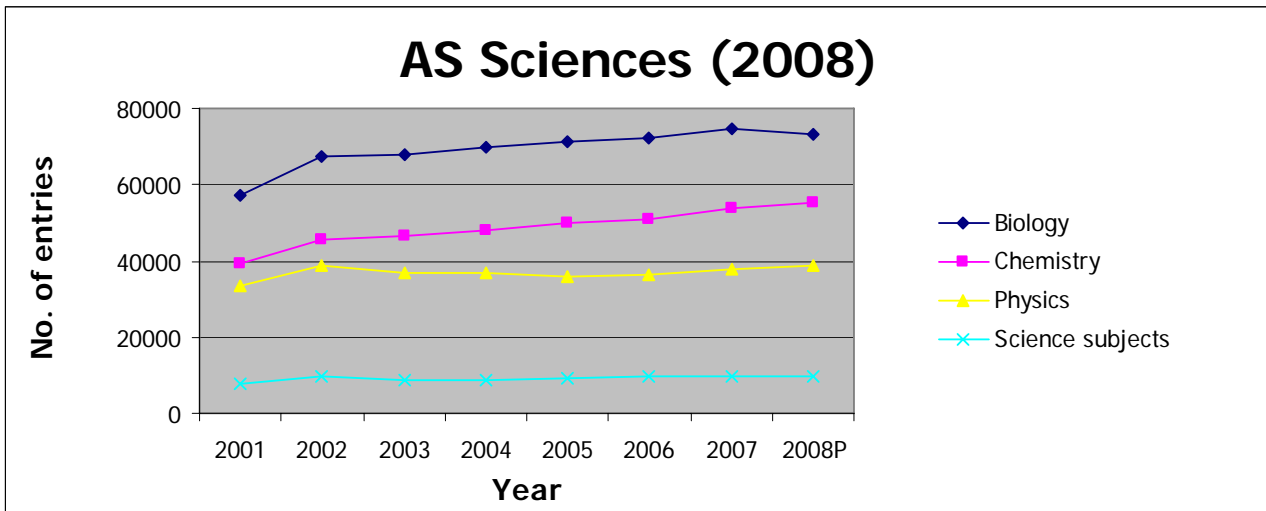
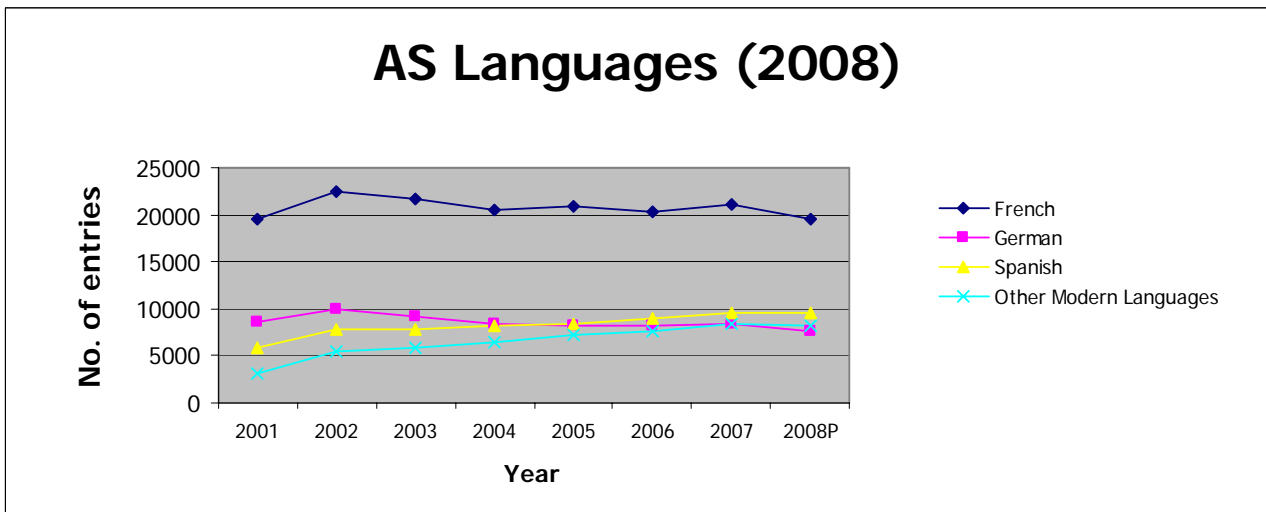


Chart 12



AEA Entry Trends – 2002 - 2008

Chart 13

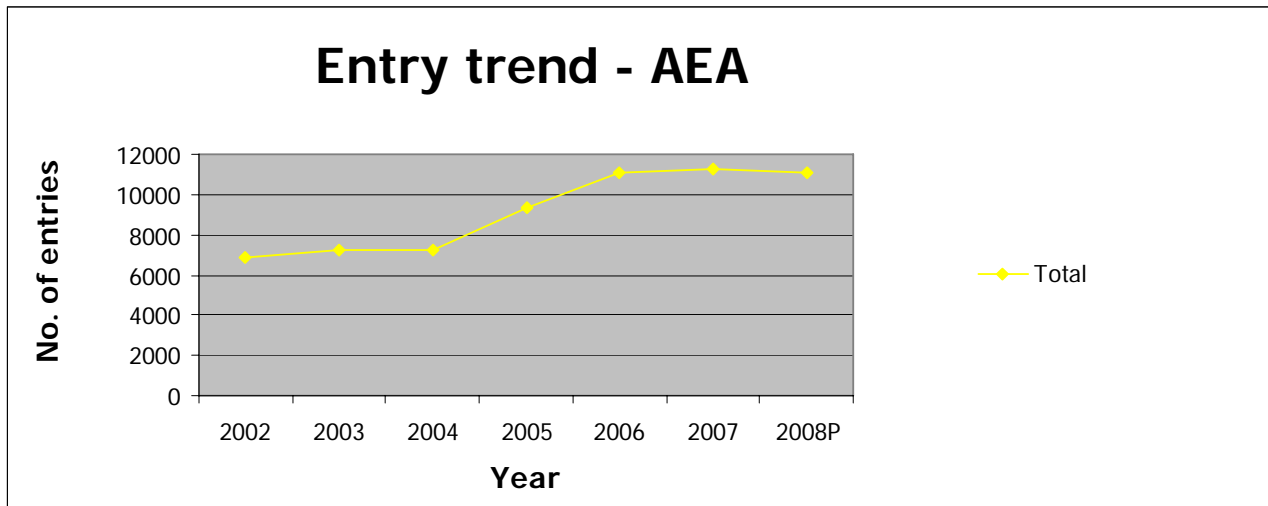


Chart 14

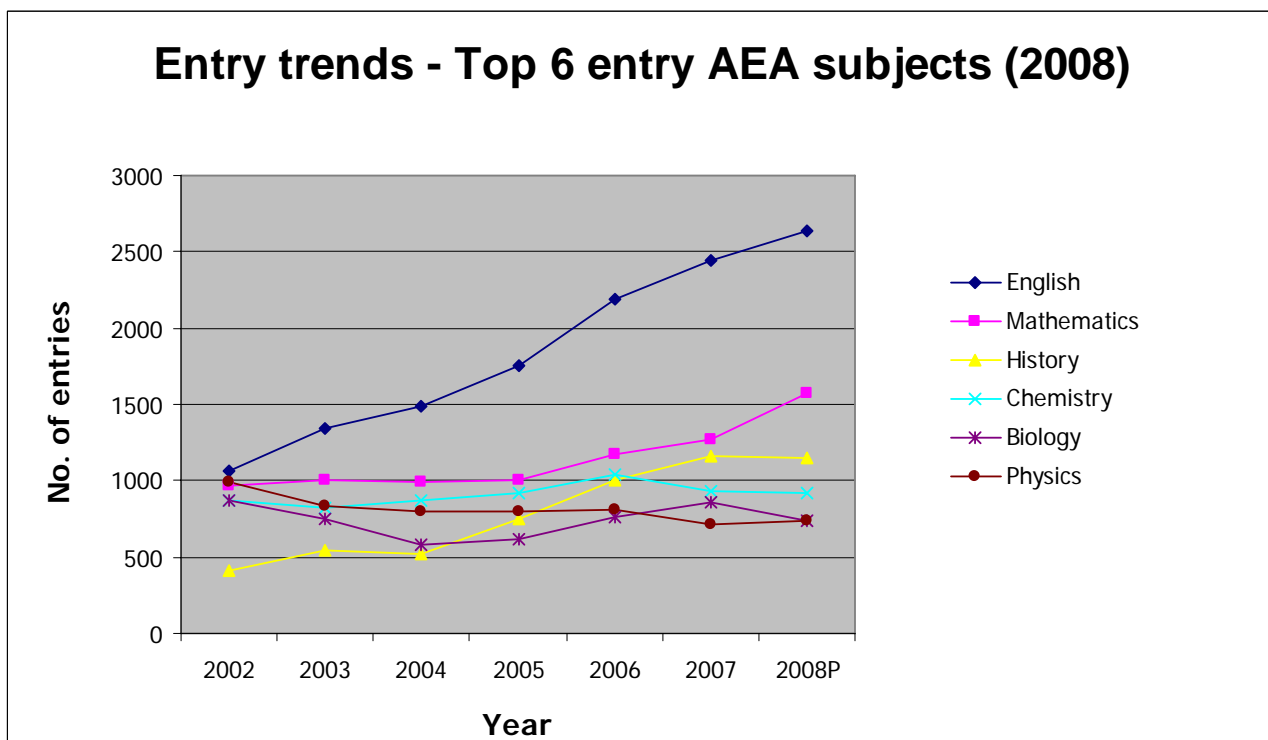


Chart 15

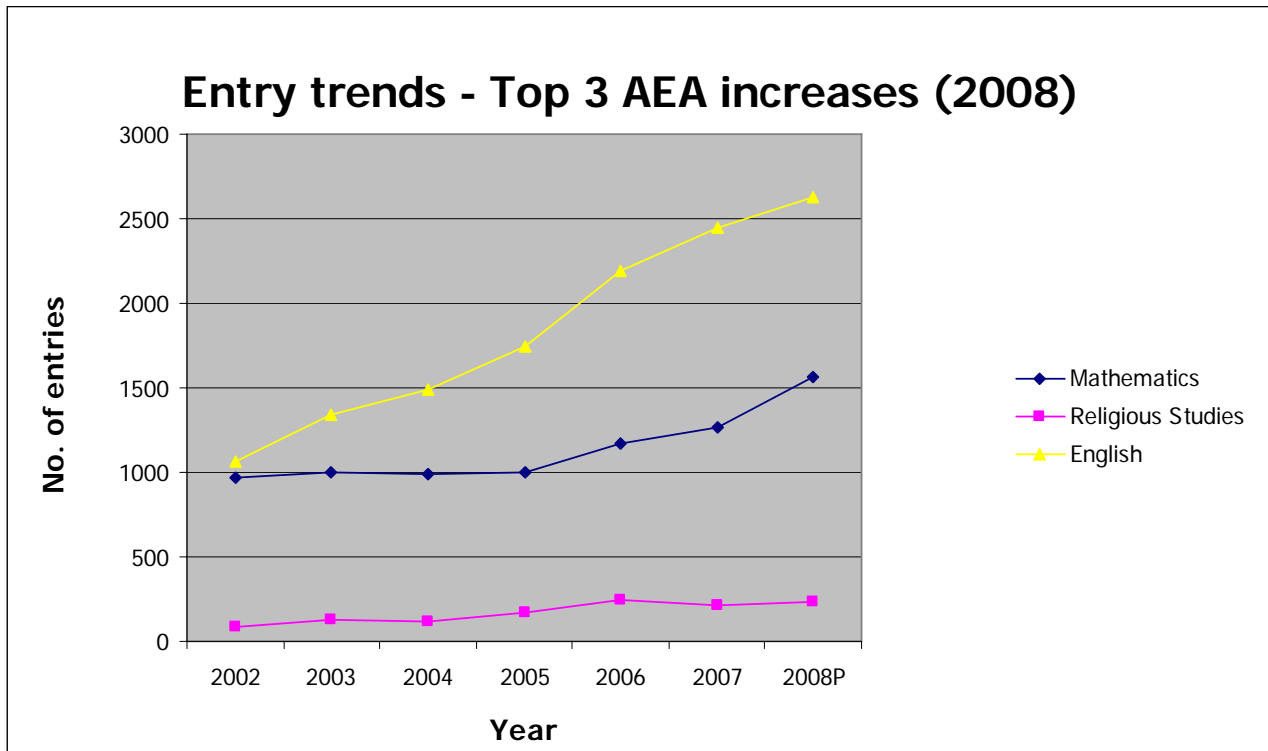


Chart 16

