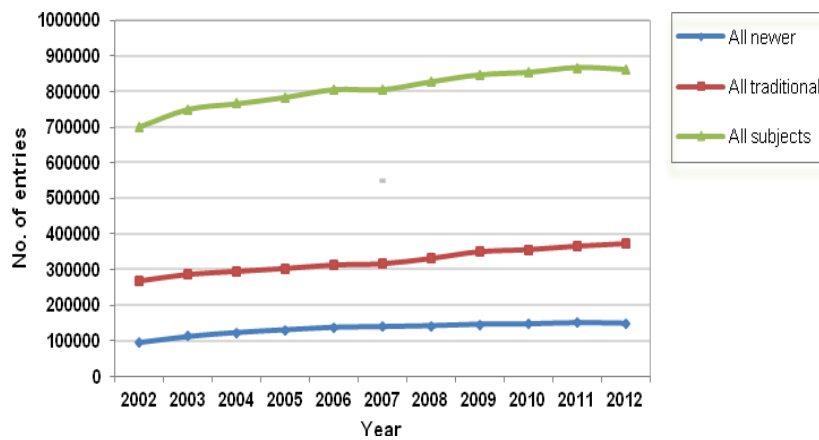


## GCE A-level trends

### Traditional vs. Newer subjects – A-level (2002 - 2012)



Traditional subjects are:

Art & Design  
Classical Subjects  
Economics  
English  
Geography  
History  
Mathematics  
Mathematics (Further)  
Religious Studies

Newer subjects are:

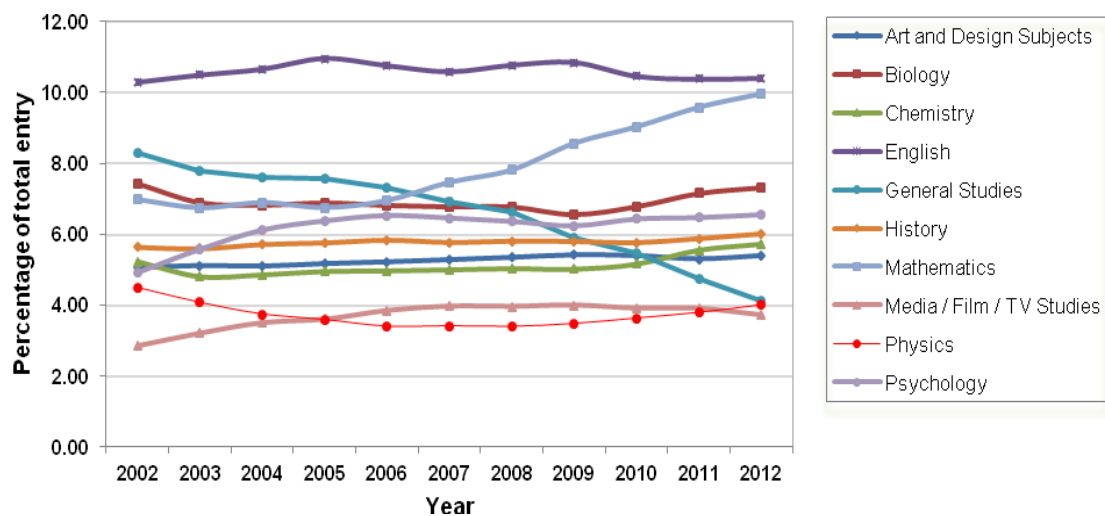
Law  
Media/Film/TV Studies  
Political Studies  
Psychology  
Sociology

**Table 1 Top GCE A-level subjects in 2012**

Ranking	Subject	% of total	Number of candidates
1 (1)	English	10.40	89638
2 (2)	Mathematics	9.95	85714
3 (3)	Biology	7.32	63074
4 (4)	Psychology	6.55	56486
5 (5)	History	5.99	51652
6 (6)	Chemistry	5.71	49234
7 (7)	Art and Design Subjects	5.39	46483
8 (8)	General Studies	4.13	35558
9 (10)	Physics	4.00	34509
10 (9)	Media / Film / TV Studies	3.73	32111

(2011 ranking in brackets)

### Top ten A-level subjects as a percentage of the total entry over the period 2002 to 2012



The top eight subjects have been the top eight over the whole of the period 2002-2012. Physics, at 9<sup>th</sup>, achieves its highest ranking over the period 2002-2012. This is the second consecutive year in which all sciences: Biology, Chemistry and Physics appear in the top ten. Media/Film/TV Studies, at 10<sup>th</sup>, has moved down one place compared to last year. Media/Film/TV Studies held its position at 9<sup>th</sup> place for 5 consecutive years. General Studies stays in 8<sup>th</sup> place for the second consecutive year having fallen 4 places in the top ten from 2006-2010.

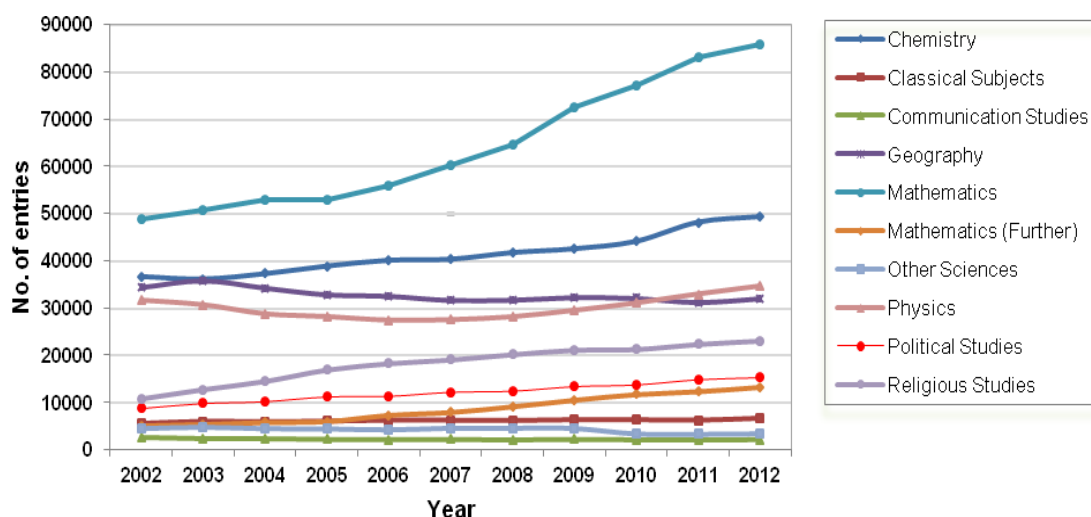
**Table 2 Top GCE A-level subject increases (Changes from 2011-2012)**

Ranking	Subject	% change	2011 Number of candidates	2012 Number of candidates
1 (7)	Mathematics (Further)	7.62	12287	13223
2	Classical Subjects	7.45	6175	6635
3 (6)	Physics	5.02	32860	34509
4	Communication Studies	4.23	2032	2118
5 (4)	Mathematics	3.28	82995	85714
6 (8)	Religious Studies	3.21	22325	23042
7	Other Sciences	2.99	3277	3375
8 (3)	Political Studies	2.77	14848	15260
9	Geography	2.49	31226	32005
10 (2)	Chemistry	2.40	48082	49234

(2011 ranking in brackets. Subjects having a year-on-year decrease in 2011 are shown as blank.)

N.B. Geography had the tenth largest decrease in 2011.

**Top GCE A-level subject increases, 2012**

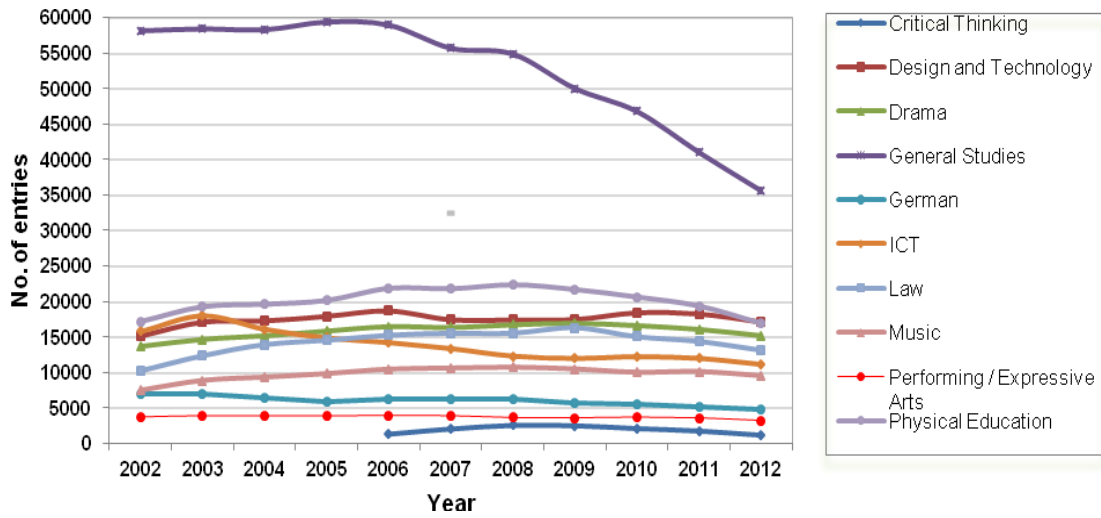


**Table 3 GCE A-level subject decreases (Changes from 2011-2012)**

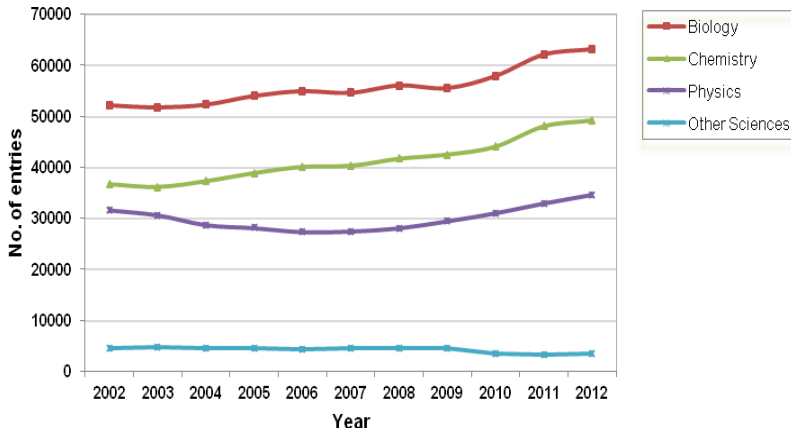
Ranking	Subject	% change	2011 Number of candidates	2012 Number of candidates
1 (1)	Critical Thinking	-35.10	1721	1117
2 (2)	General Studies	-13.24	40984	35558
3 (4)	Physical Education	-12.66	19344	16896
4 (8)	Performing / Expressive Arts	-11.83	3575	3152
5 (7)	Law	-8.52	14379	13154
6 (3)	German	-7.61	5166	4773
7 (14)	ICT	-7.29	11960	11088
8 (16)	Design and Technology	-6.27	18249	17105
9 (9)	Drama	-5.73	16059	15139
10	Music	-5.65	10064	9495

(2011 ranking in brackets. Subjects having a year-on-year increase in 2011 are shown as blank.)

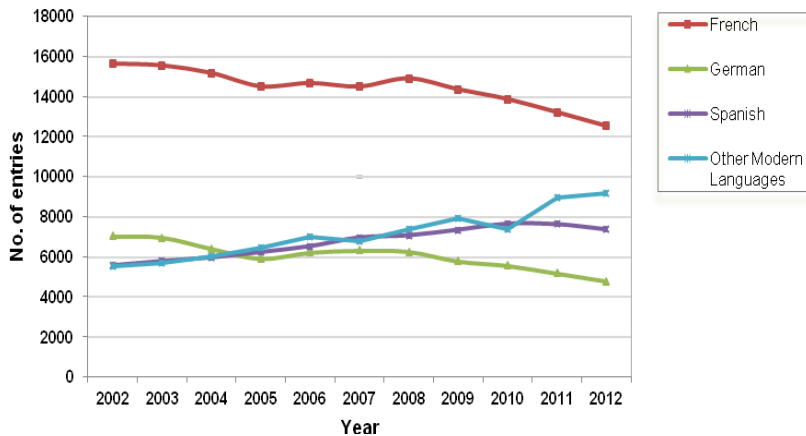
### Top GCE A-level subject decreases, 2012



### GCE A-level Sciences, 2012

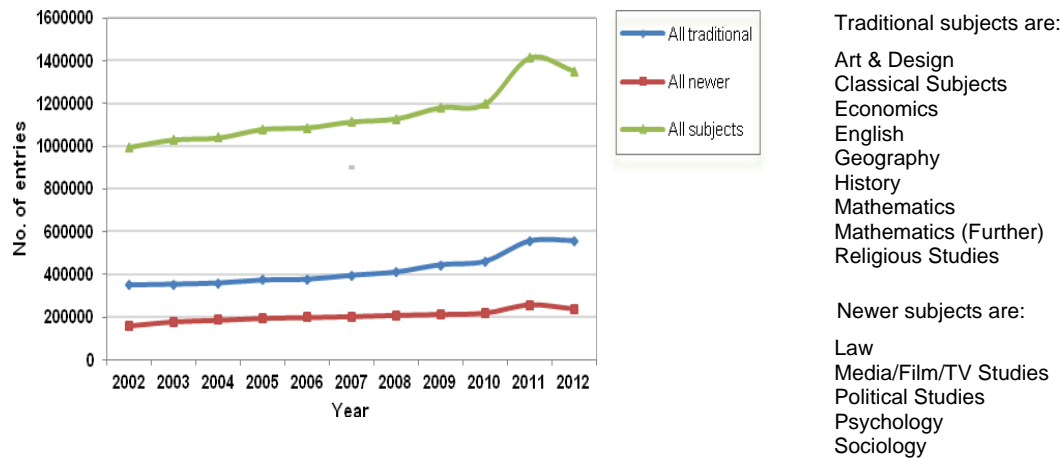


### GCE A-level Languages, 2012



## GCE AS trends

**Traditional vs. Newer subjects – AS (2002 - 2012)**

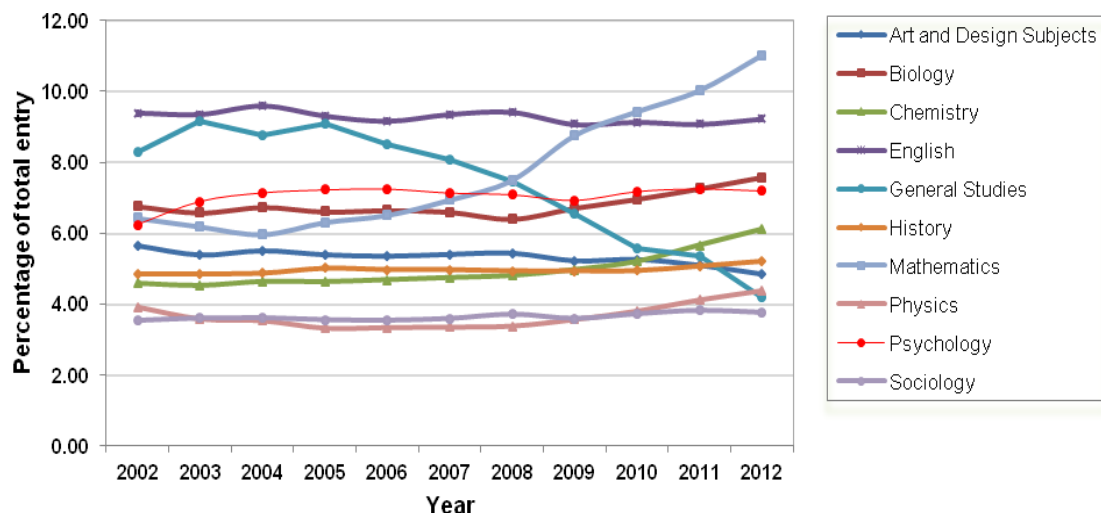


**Table 4 Top GCE AS subjects in 2012**

Ranking	Subject	% of total	Number of candidates
1 (1)	Mathematics	11.00	148550
2 (2)	English	9.23	124578
3 (3)	Biology	7.58	102387
4 (4)	Psychology	7.19	97095
5 (5)	Chemistry	6.10	82390
6 (8)	History	5.22	70426
7 (7)	Art and Design Subjects	4.84	65403
8 (9)	Physics	4.38	59172
9 (6)	General Studies	4.19	56552
10 (10)	Sociology	3.77	50851

(2011 ranking in brackets)

**Top ten AS subjects as a percentage of the total entry over the period 2002 to 2012**



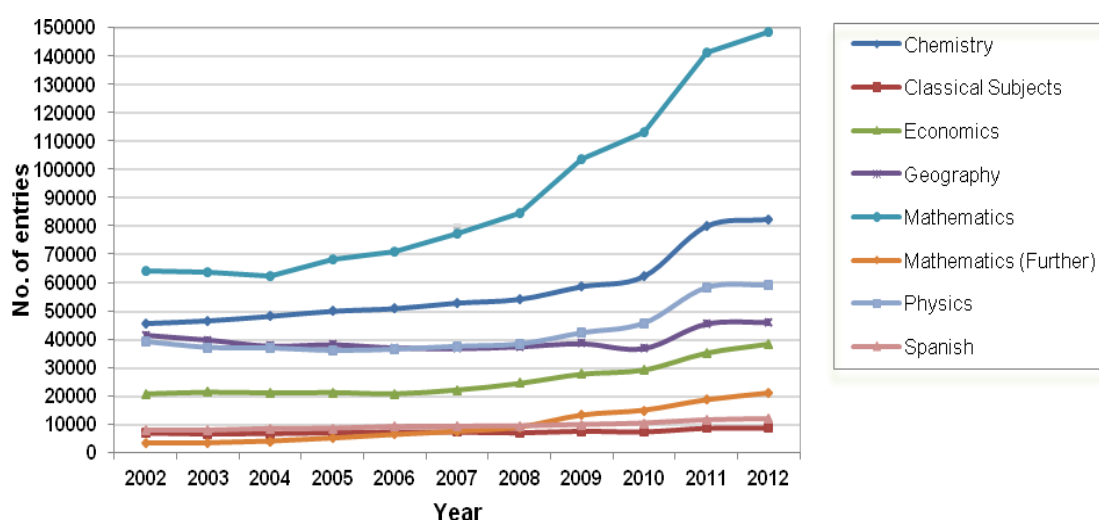
The top seven subjects have been the top seven over the whole of the period 2002-2012. Physics, at 8<sup>th</sup>, is at its highest place over this period. This is the third consecutive year in which all sciences: Biology, Chemistry and Physics appear in the top ten. History, at 6<sup>th</sup>, has climbed two places compared to last year. General Studies, at 9<sup>th</sup> has fallen 3 places compared to last year. Sociology came in at 10<sup>th</sup> place in 2011 and occupies the same position this year.

**Table 5 GCE AS subject increases (Changes from 2011-2012)**

Ranking	Subject	% change	2011 Number of candidates	2012 Number of candidates
1 (4)	Mathematics (Further)	12.93	18555	20954
2 (11)	Economics	9.10	35184	38386
3 (3)	Mathematics	5.06	141392	148550
4 (1)	Chemistry	3.15	79874	82390
5 (25)	Spanish	3.04	11433	11781
6 (2)	Physics	1.69	58190	59172
7 (6)	Geography	1.37	45302	45923
8 (13)	Classical Subjects	0.03	8611	8614

(2011 ranking in brackets)

**GCE AS subject increases, 2012**

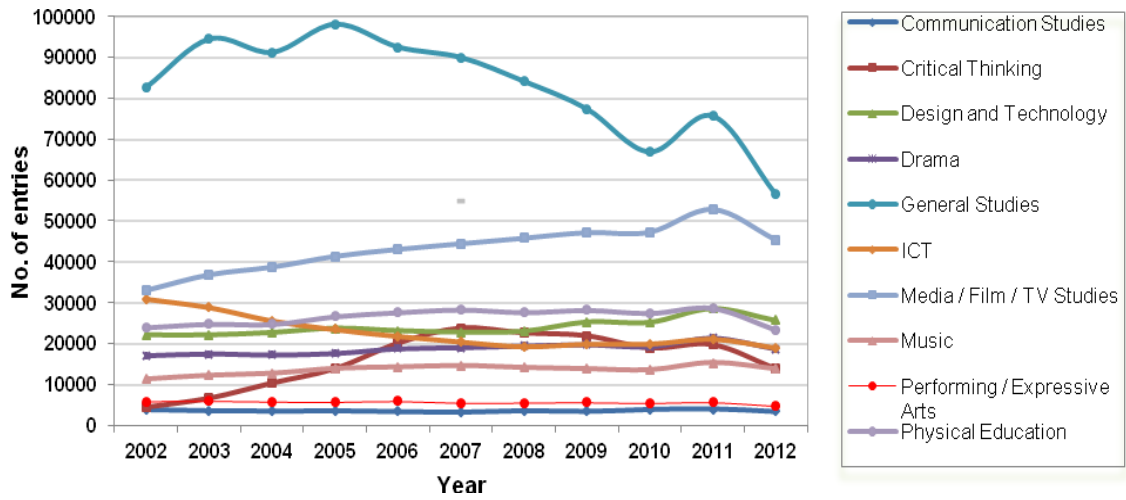


**Table 6 GCE AS subject decreases (Changes from 2011-2012)**

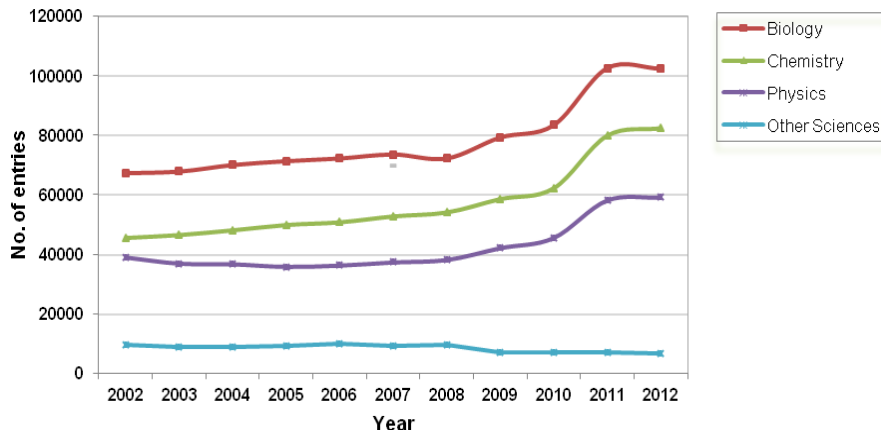
Ranking	Subject	% change	2011 Number of candidates	2012 Number of candidates
1	Critical Thinking	-29.81	19690	13820
2	General Studies	-25.20	75609	56552
3	Physical Education	-18.26	28656	23423
4	Performing / Expressive Arts	-16.91	5594	4648
5	Media / Film / TV Studies	-14.09	52818	45375
6	Communication Studies	-13.97	3924	3376
7	Drama	-12.50	21362	18691
8	Design and Technology	-10.51	28674	25661
9	ICT	-10.14	21100	18961
10	Music	-9.91	15252	13740

There are no 2011 rankings as last year's change to the cashing-in requirement meant that the vast majority of subjects showed a year-on-year increase.

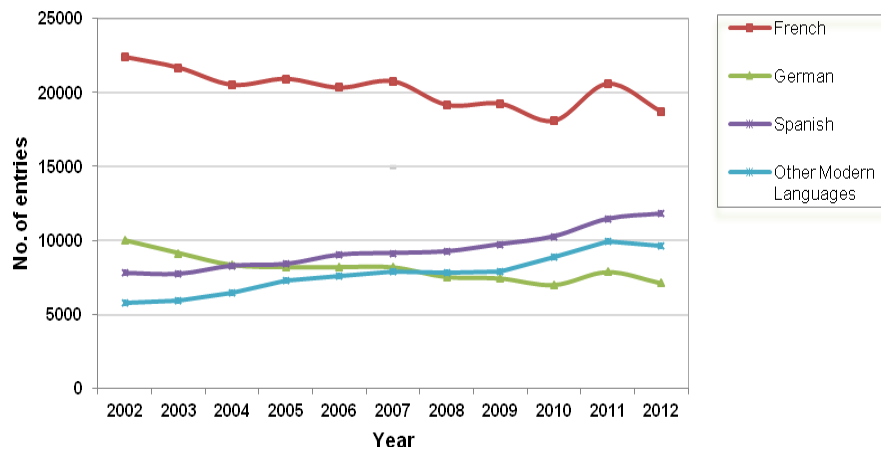
### GCE AS subject decreases, 2012



### GCE AS Sciences, 2012



### GCE AS Languages, 2012



## Applied GCE trends

**Table 7 Top Applied GCE A-level double award subjects, 2012 (out of a total of 7 subjects)**

Ranking	Subject	% of total	Number of candidates
1 (1)	Health and Social Care	47.74	3168
2 (2)	Business	21.47	1425
3 (4)	Science	9.09	603

(2011 ranking in brackets)

**Table 8 Top Applied GCE A-level single award subjects, 2012 (out of a total of 10 subjects)**

Ranking	Subject	% of total	Number of candidates
1 (1)	ICT	29.57	9594
2 (3)	Health and Social Care	23.01	7466
3 (2)	Business	22.06	7159

(2011 ranking in brackets)

**Table 9 Top Applied GCE AS double award subjects, 2012 (out of a total of 7 subjects)**

Ranking	Subject	% of total	Number of candidates
1 (1)	Health and Social Care	50.68	3605
2 (2)	Business	20.01	1423
3 (3)	Science	11.11	790

(2011 ranking in brackets)

**Table 10 Top Applied GCE AS single award subjects, 2012 (out of a total of 10 subjects)**

Ranking	Subject	% of total	Number of candidates
1 (1)	ICT	29.53	14816
2 (2)	Health and Social Care	22.78	11428
3 (3)	Business	20.71	10391

(2011 ranking in brackets)

The entries for the Applied GCE single and double Award A-levels subjects all show a decrease from 2011. The exception is GCE single award A-level Health and Social Care. This shows an increase of 4.3%.

## Level 3 Extended Project trend

**Table 11 Changes from 2011-2012**

Subject	% change	2011 Number of candidates	2012 Number of candidates
Level 3 Extended Project	18.59	24099	28572

## AEA trend

**Table 12 Changes from 2011-2012**

Subject	% change	2011 Number of candidates	2012 Number of candidates
Mathematics	-16.45	918	767

Note: It is intended that the AEA in Mathematics will continue until a new A-level specification in Mathematics is introduced.