

GCE A-level trends

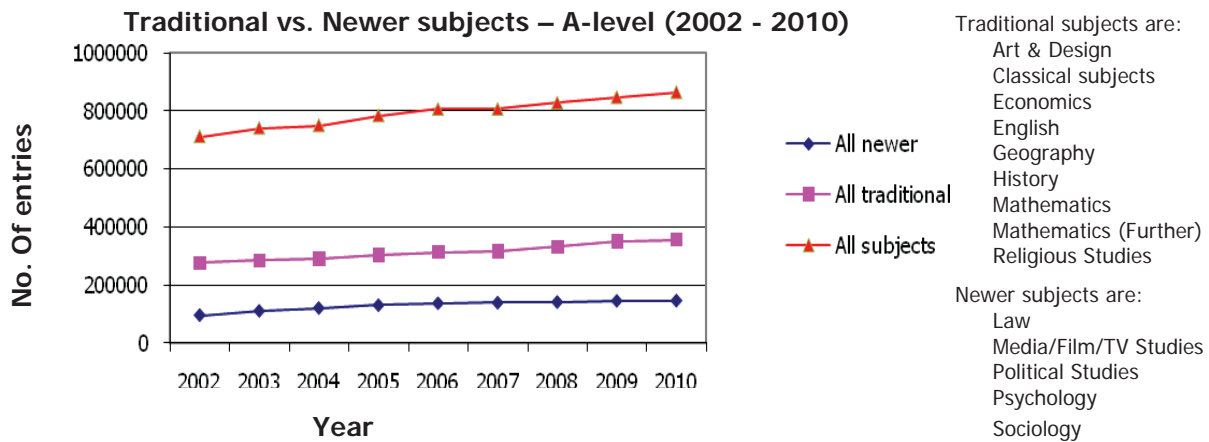
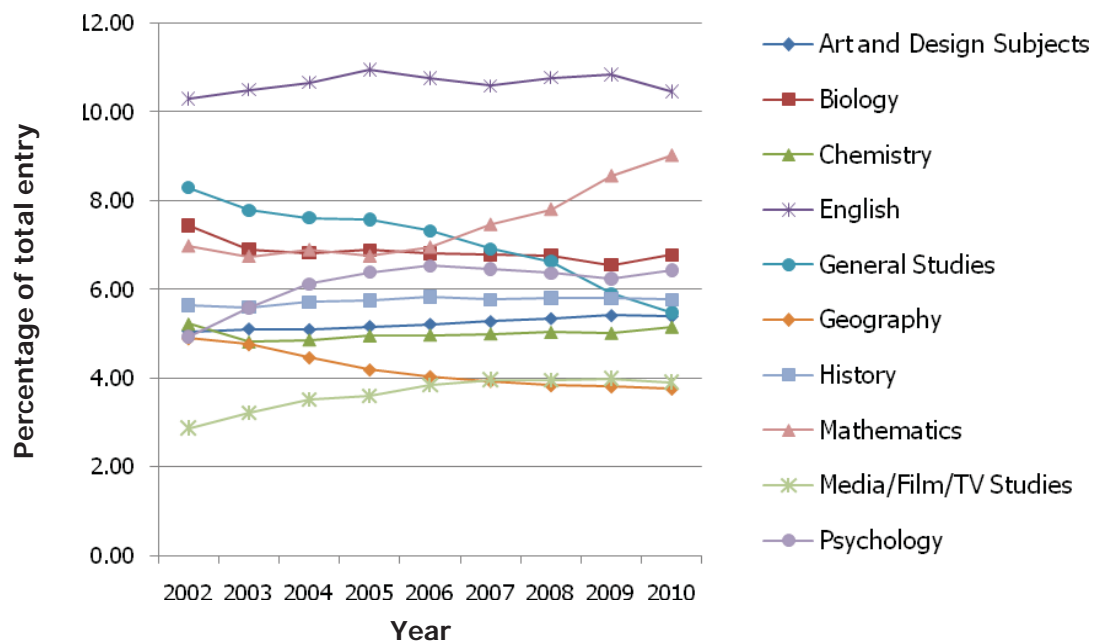


Table 1 Top GCE A-level subjects

Subject (2009 ranking in brackets)			2010	
			% of total	Number of candidates
1	(1)	English	10.46	89320
2	(2)	Mathematics	9.02	77001
3	(3)	Biology	6.78	57854
4	(4)	Psychology	6.43	54940
5	(6)	History	5.76	49222
6	(5)	General Studies	5.48	46770
7	(7)	Art and Design Subjects	5.39	46054
8	(8)	Chemistry	5.16	44051
9	(9)	Media / Film / TV Studies	3.91	33375
10	(10)	Geography	3.75	32063

Top ten A-level subjects as a percentage of the total entry over the period 2002 to 2010



Nine of the top ten subjects have been the same over the whole of this period. Media/Film/TV Studies appeared for the first time in 2006. There have been no changes in the top ten subjects since 2006. Physics was at number 10 in 2002. Business Studies occupied that slot from 2003 to 2005.

Table 2 Top GCE A-level subject increases

Subject (2009 ranking in brackets)		Changes from 2009-2010			
		% change	2009 Number of candidates	2010 Number of candidates	
1	(2)	Mathematics (Further)	11.54	10473	11682
2	(3)	Economics	9.00	20987	22875
3	(4)	Mathematics	6.24	72475	77001
4	(24)	Technology Subjects	5.59	17442	18417
5	(9)	Physics	5.23	29436	30976
6	(25)	Biology	4.27	55485	57854
7	(11)	Spanish	4.02	7334	7629
8	(23)	Psychology	3.91	52872	54940
9	(19)	Chemistry	3.67	42491	44051
10	(26)	Performing / Expressive Arts	3.26	3591	3708

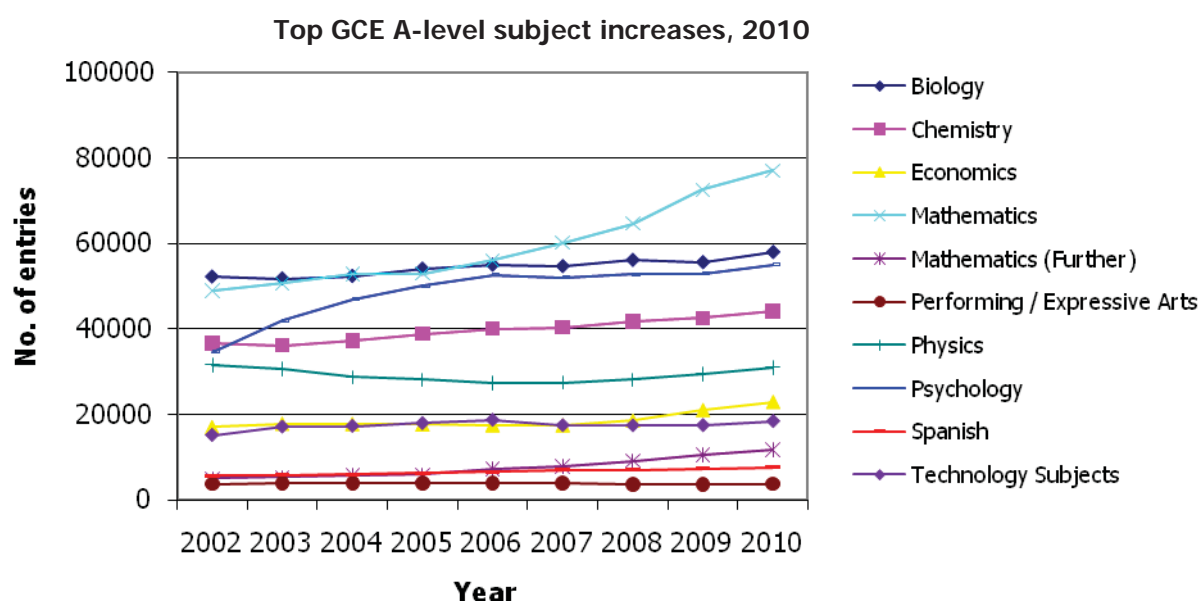
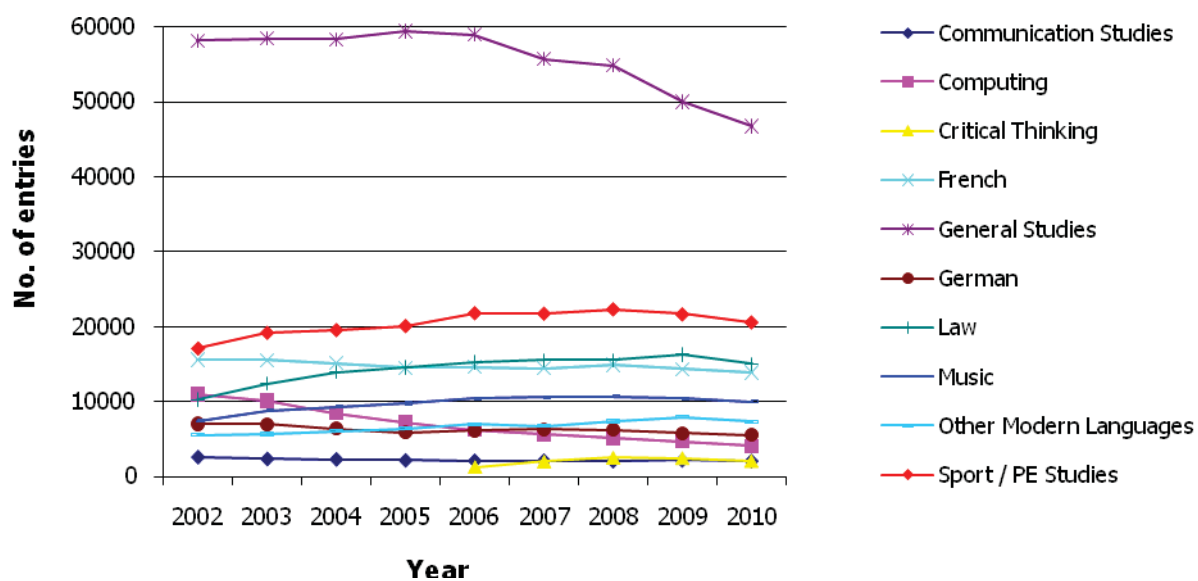


Table 3 GCE A-level subject decreases

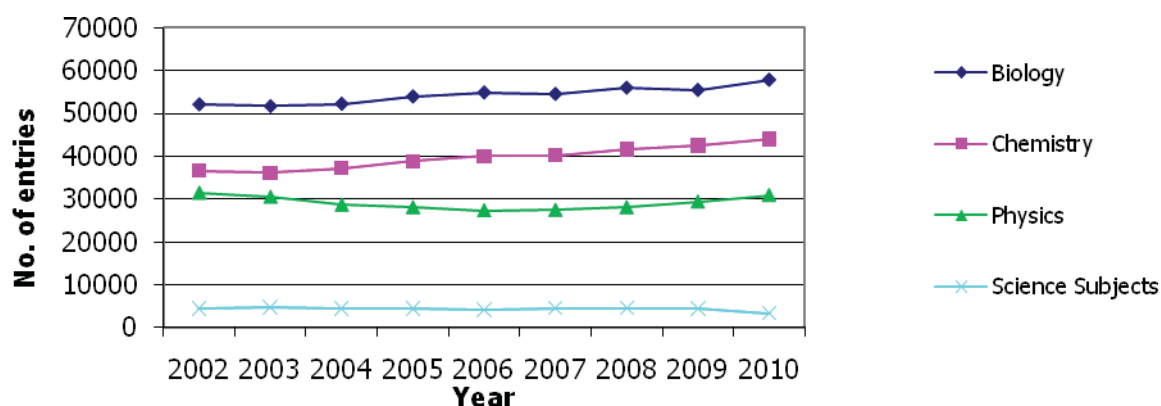
Subject (2009 ranking in brackets)		Changes from 2009-2010			
		% Change	2009 Number of candidates	2010 Number of candidates	
1	(8)	Critical Thinking	-16.42	2491	2082
2	(3)	Computing	-13.69	4710	4065
3	(28)	Law	-7.73	16288	15029
4	(31)	Other Modern Languages	-7.09	7932	7370
5	(1)	General Studies	-6.48	50012	46770
6	(5)	Sport / PE Studies	-4.89	21672	20612
7	(7)	Music	-4.37	10425	9969
8	(29)	Communication Studies	-4.01	2168	2081
9	(2)	German	-3.76	5765	5548
10	(4)	French	-3.37	14333	13850

N.B Law and Other Modern Languages had the eighth and sixth largest increases respectively in 2009.

GCE A-level subject decreases, 2010

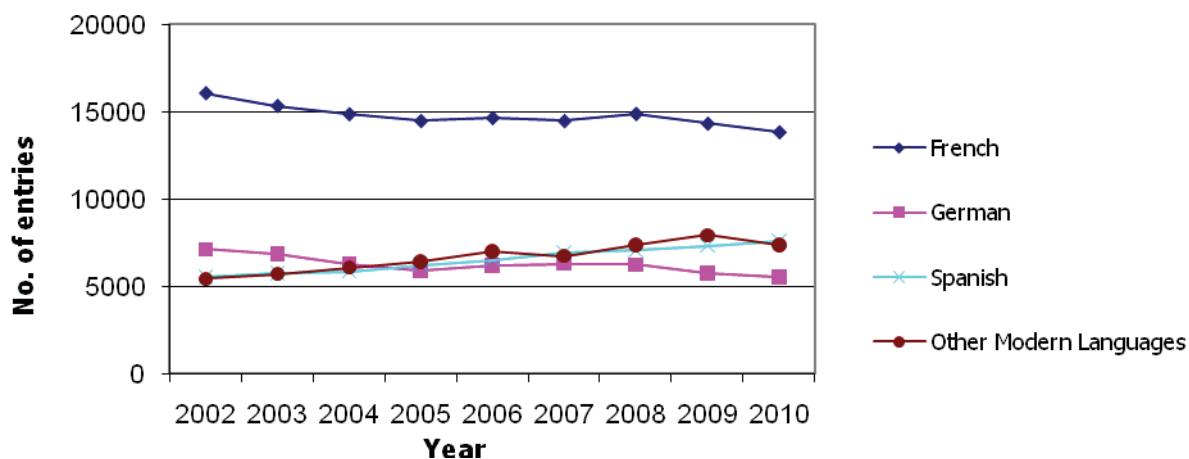


GCE A-level Sciences, 2010



Note: In 2010, there is no longer a specification entitled Environmental Science. The new specification is Environmental studies and as such is reported under 'All Other Subjects'. The removal of this specification accounts for the decrease in entry for 'Science Subjects' in 2010.

GCE A-level Languages, 2010



GCE AS trends

Traditional vs. Newer subjects – AS (2002 - 2010)

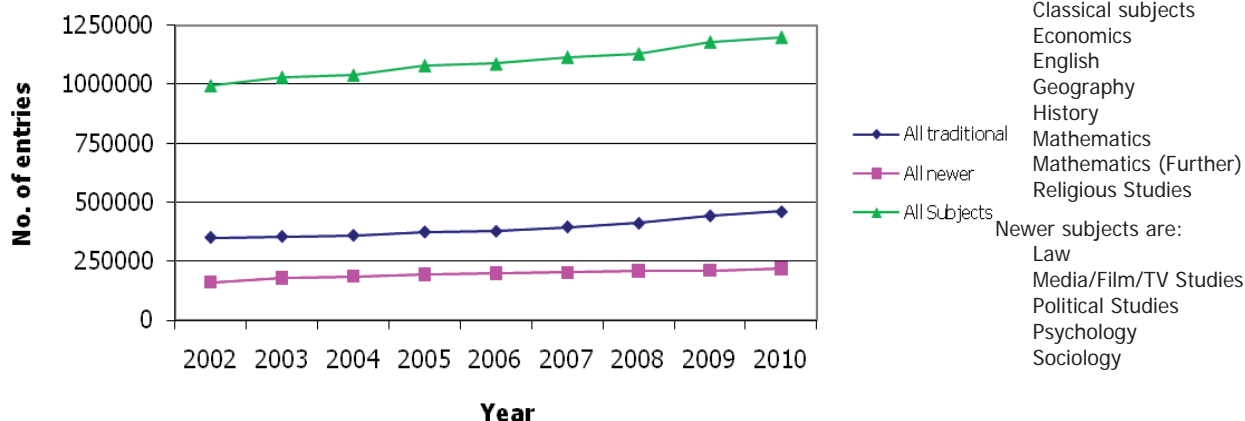
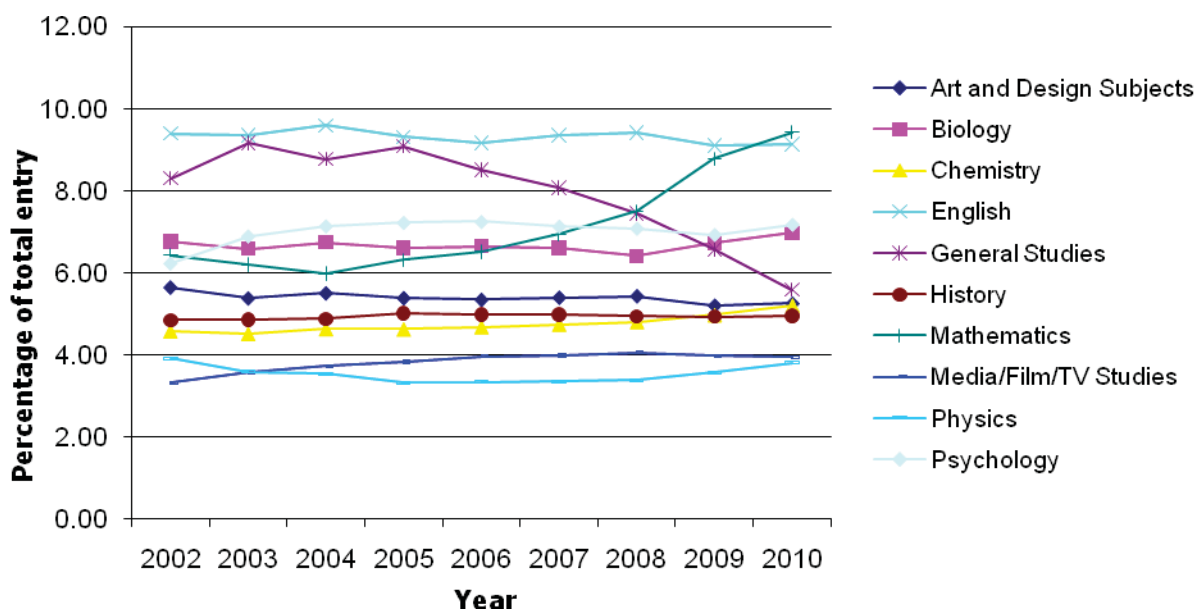


Table 4 Top GCE AS subjects

Subject (2009 ranking in brackets)		2010	
		% of total	Number of candidates
1	(2) Mathematics	9.42	112847
2	(1) English	9.14	109411
3	(3) Psychology	7.18	85927
4	(4) Biology	6.97	83408
5	(5) General Studies	5.58	66836
6	(6) Art and Design Subjects	5.25	62916
7	(7) Chemistry	5.20	62232
8	(8) History	4.95	59257
9	(9) Media / Film / TV Studies	3.95	47241
10	(12) Physics	3.80	45534

Top ten AS subjects as a percentage of the total entry over the period 2002 to 2010



Eight of the top ten subjects have been the same over the whole of the period. Geography featured in tenth place in the first two years but was replaced by Media/Film/TV Studies, which is now in ninth place. Business Studies was in ninth place, dropped to tenth in 2006 and has been replaced by Physics in 2010.

Table 5 Top GCE AS subject increases

Subject		Changes from 2009-2010			
		% change	2009 Number of candidates	2010 Number of candidates	
(2009 ranking in brackets)					
1	(1)	Mathematics (Further)	13.07	13164	14884
2	(26)	Other Modern Languages	12.96	7822	8836
3	(34)	Communication Studies	11.19	3405	3786
4	(3)	Mathematics	9.23	103312	112847
5	(5)	Physics	8.53	41955	45534
6	(9)	Chemistry	6.43	58473	62232
7	(10)	Political Studies	5.84	16499	17462
8	(13)	Spanish	5.74	9694	10250
9	(25)	Sociology	5.61	42244	44612
10	(6)	Biology	5.43	79112	83408

N.B. Communication Studies had the third largest decrease in 2009.

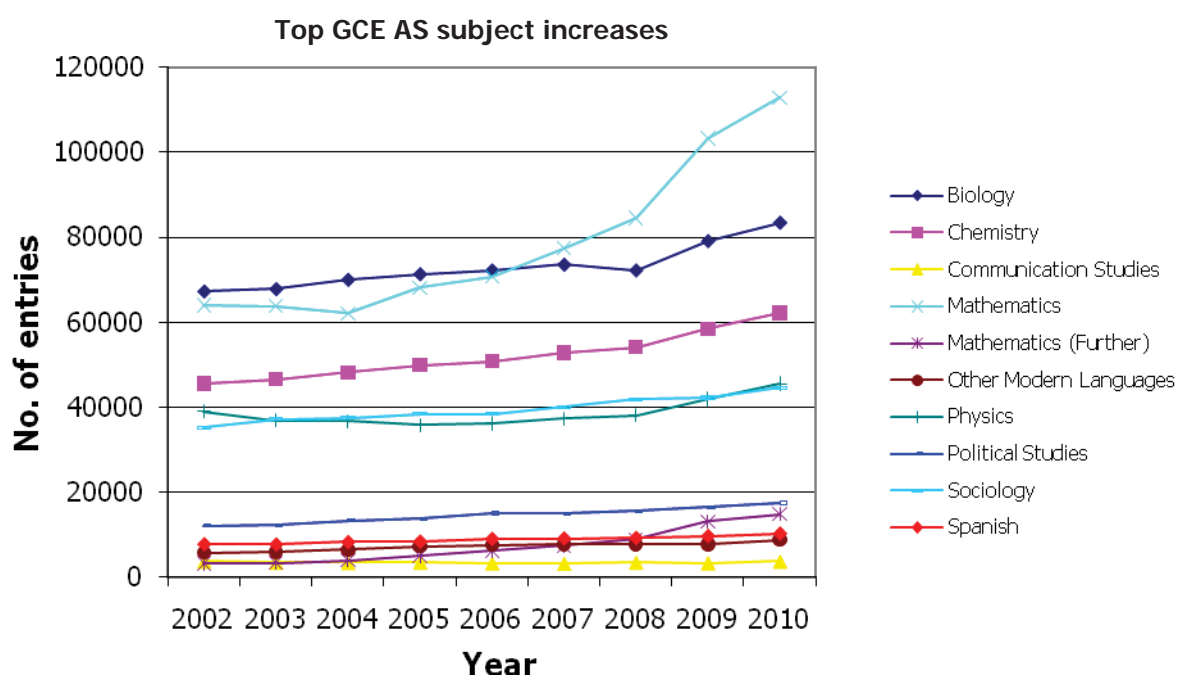
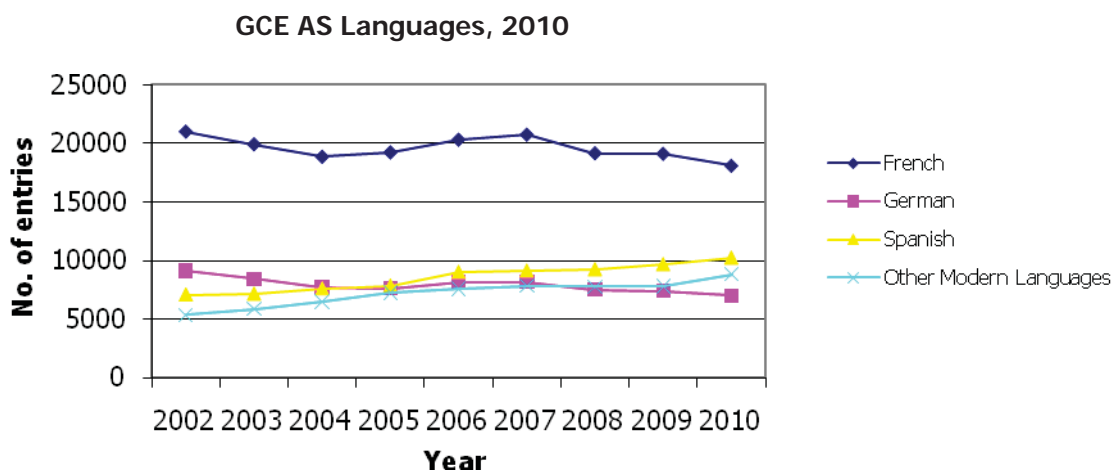
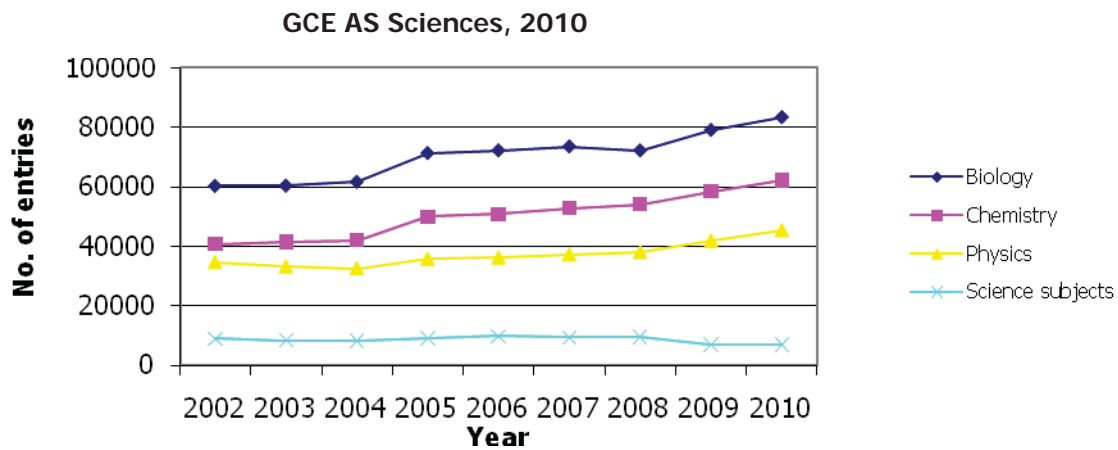
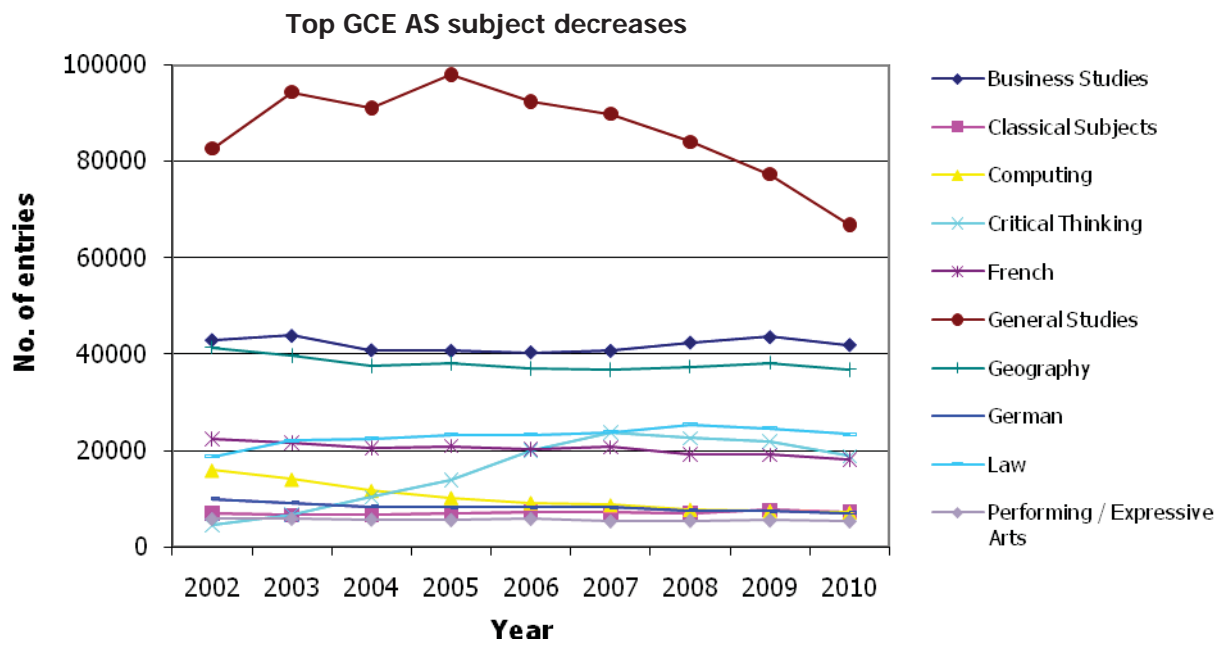


Table 6 Top GCE AS subject decreases

Subject		Changes from 2009-2010			
		% change	2009 Number of candidates	2010 Number of candidates	
(2009 ranking in brackets)					
1	(5)	Critical Thinking	-13.66	21856	18871
2	(2)	General Studies	-13.59	77350	66836
3	(8)	German	-5.58	7415	7001
4	(9)	French	-5.37	19122	18096
5	(6)	Law	-4.94	24569	23355
6	(28)	Classical Subjects	-4.54	7643	7296
7	(4)	Computing	-4.51	7564	7223
8	(22)	Business Studies	-3.82	43594	41930
9	(20)	Geography	-3.75	38253	36819
10	(16)	Performing / Expressive Arts	-3.23	5578	5398



Applied GCE trends

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

Subject (2009 ranking in brackets)			2010	
			% of total	Number of candidates
1	(1)	Health & Social Care	43.65	4180
2	(2)	Applied Business	23.38	2239
3	(3)	Applied ICT	13.87	1328

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

Subject (2009 ranking in brackets)			2010	
			% of total	Number of candidates
1	(1)	Applied ICT	33.39	12291
2	(2)	Applied Business	23.45	8631
3	(3)	Health & Social Care	19.30	7106

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

Subject (2009 ranking in brackets)			2010	
			% of total	Number of candidates
1	(1)	Health & Social Care	48.17	4126
2	(2)	Applied Business	17.49	1498
3	(3)	Applied ICT	12.41	1063

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

Subject (2009 ranking in brackets)			2010	
			% of total	Number of candidates
1	(1)	Applied ICT	32.56	16529
2	(3)	Health & Social Care	20.46	10387
3	(2)	Applied Business	19.53	9916

The entries for the Applied GCE Single and Double Award AS and A-level subjects generally all show a decrease from 2009. The exceptions where there have been significant increases are:

GCE Single Award A-level Applied Science:	increase of 17.6%
GCE Double Award AS Applied Science:	increase of 12.4%
GCE Single Award AS Applied Science:	increase of 36.5%
GCE Single Award AS Health & Social Care:	increase of 17.6%

AEA trend

Table 15 AEA subject increase

Subject		Changes from 2009-2010		
		% change	2010 Number of candidates	2010 Number of candidates
1	Mathematics	9.92	1496	1566

Note: The AEA in Mathematics will continue until a new A-level specification is introduced. This year the entry has increased by 4.68%