

GCE A-level trends – Summer 2017

Table 1 Top GCE A-level subjects in 2017 by entry

Ranking		Subject	% of total	Number of candidates
1	(1)	Mathematics	11.5	95244
2	(2)	Biology	7.5	61908
3	(3)	Psychology	7.1	58663
4	(5)	Chemistry	6.3	52331
5	(4)	History	6.1	50311
6	(6)	English Literature	5.6	46411
7	(7)	Art and Design Subjects	5.3	43653
8	(8)	Geography	4.6	37814
9	(9)	Physics	4.4	36578
10	(10)	Sociology	4.2	34607

(2016 ranking in brackets)

Figure 1 Top ten A-level subjects as a percentage of the total entry over the period 2008 to 2017

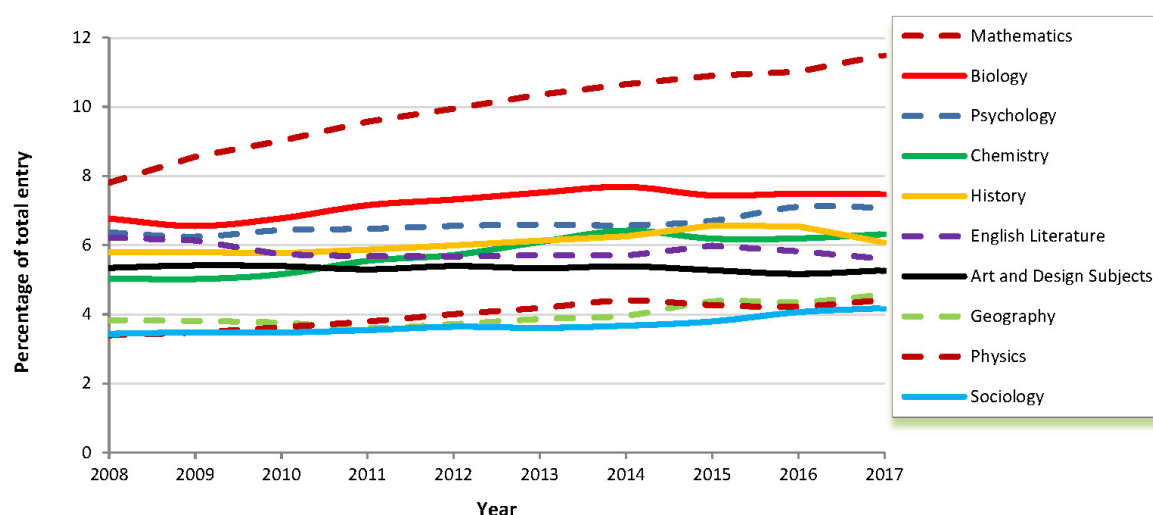


Table 2 Top GCE A-level subject increases (changes from 2016-2017)

Ranking	Subject	% change	2016 Number of candidates	2017 Number of candidates
1 (1)	Computing	33.0	6242	8299
2 (8)	Political Studies	12.8	15540	17523
3 (7)	Business Studies	6.4	28208	30023
4 (9)	Mathematics (Further)	6.0	15257	16172
5	Geography	4.0	36363	37814
6	Physics	3.5	35344	36578
7	Mathematics	3.3	92163	95244
8 (4)	Law	2.4	11272	11538
9 (2)	Economics	2.3	29385	30074

(2016 ranking in brackets. Subjects having a year-on-year decrease in 2016 are shown as blank.)

Figure 2 Top GCE A-level subject increases, 2017

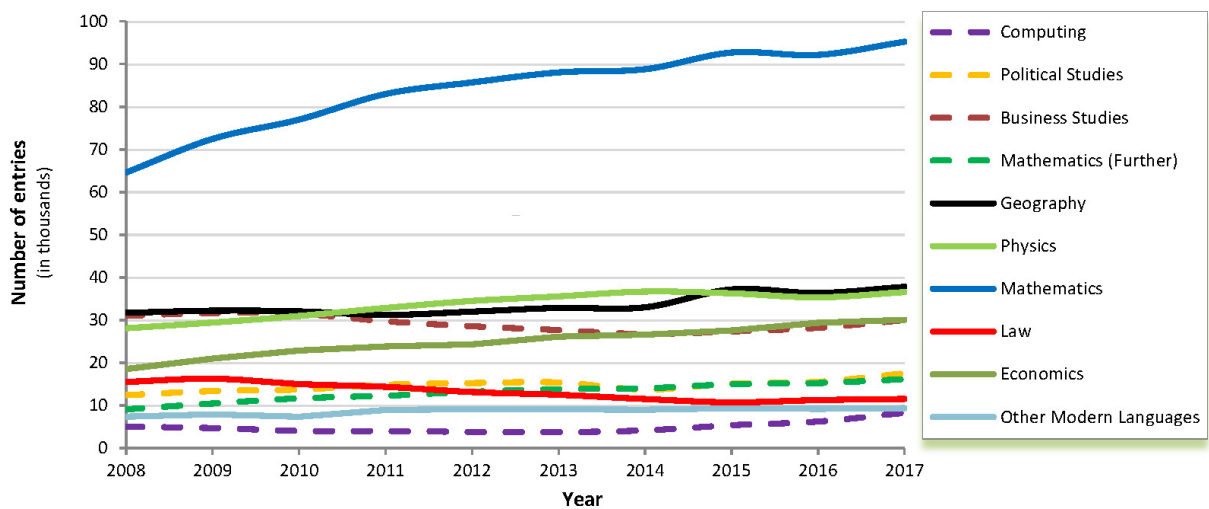


Table 3 GCE A-level subject decreases (changes from 2016-2017)

Ranking		Subject	% change	2016 Number of candidates	2017 Number of candidates
1	(1)	General Studies	-39.2	11759	7147
2		Communication Studies	-17.0	1851	1537
3	(10)	Other Sciences	-14.0	3304	2840
4	(12)	ICT	-12.9	8737	7607
5	(2)	English Language & Literature	-11.1	12438	11058
6	(3)	Performing / Expressive Arts	-10.6	2179	1948
7	(21)	English Language	-10.2	23575	21178
8	(4)	Music	-9.3	7089	6428
9	(3)	History	-8.1	54731	50311
10	(11)	English Literature	-4.7	48697	46411

(2016 ranking in brackets. Subject have a year-on-year increase in 2016 are shown as blank. Subjects over 1000 candidates shown.)

Figure 3 Top GCE A-level subject decreases, 2017

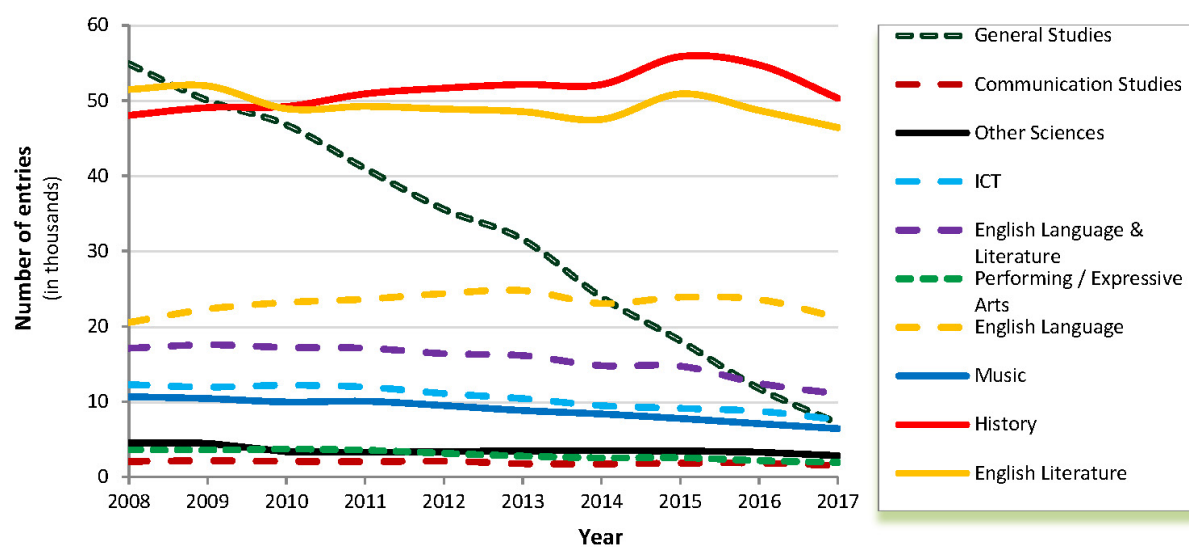


Figure 4 GCE A-level sciences, 2008-2017

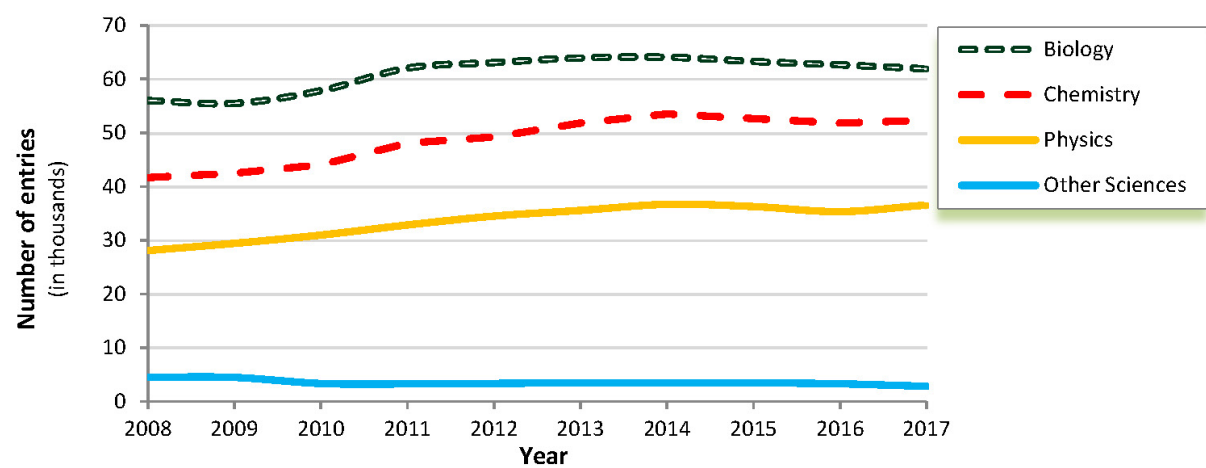
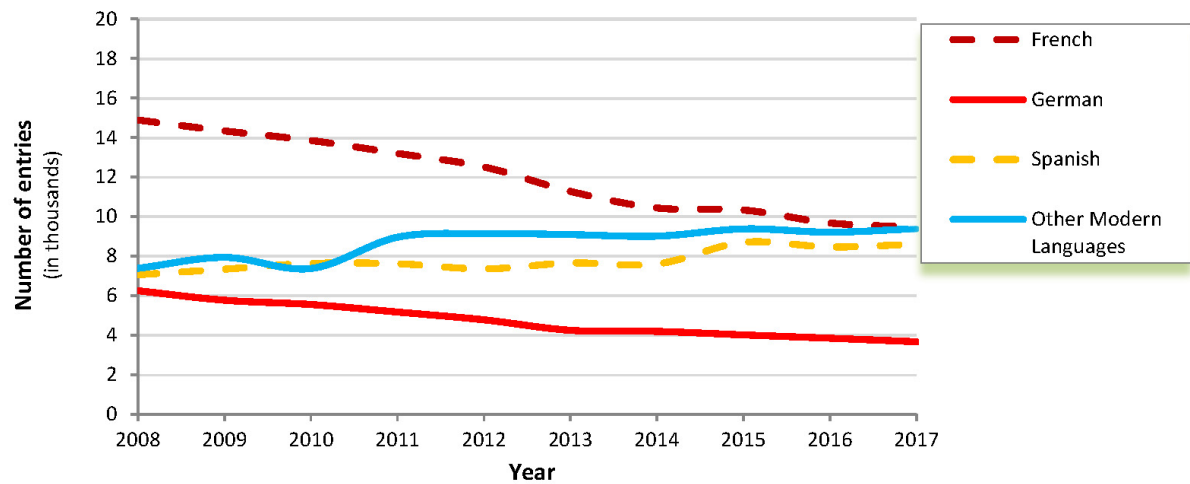


Figure 5 GCE A-level languages, 2008-2017



GCE AS trends

Table 4 Top GCE AS subjects in 2017

Ranking		Subject	% of total	Number of candidates
1	(1)	Mathematics	22.0	160450
2	(3)	Biology	5.3	38744
3	(4)	Psychology	5.0	36755
4		Media / Film / TV Studies	5.0	36334
5	(5)	Chemistry	4.5	32909
6		Mathematics (Further)	3.8	27980
7	(7)	Geography	3.8	27617
8	(6)	History	3.8	27587
9	(7)	Physics	3.5	25331
10	(9)	Sociology	3.3	24022

(2016 ranking in brackets. Subjects which were not in the top 10 in 2016 are left blank).

Figure 6 Top ten AS subjects as a percentage of the total entry over the period 2008 to 2017

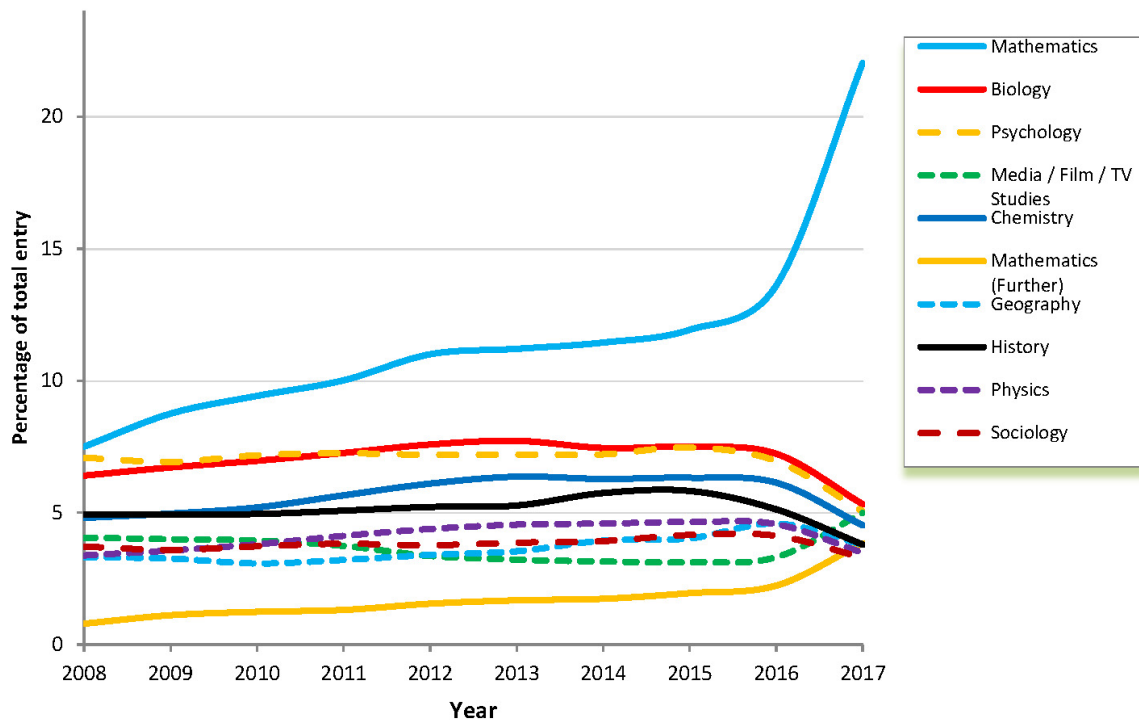


Table 5 GCE AS subject decreases (changes from 2016-2017)

Ranking	Subject	% change	2016 Number of candidates	2017 Number of candidates
1 (13)	Performing / Expressive Arts	-63.1	3019	1114
2 (26)	Drama	-62.1	15349	5811
3 (19)	Economics	-58.9	39811	16369
4 (10)	English Language & Literature	-57.7	13713	5795
5 (7)	Psychology	-55.8	83228	36755
6 (11)	Biology	-55.2	86506	38744
7 (12)	Chemistry	-55.2	73414	32909
8 (6)	History	-55.0	61304	27587
9 (5)	English Literature	-54.9	52437	23639
10 (10)	English Language	-54.8	29388	13281

(2016 ranking in brackets.)

Figure 7 GCE AS subject decreases, 2017

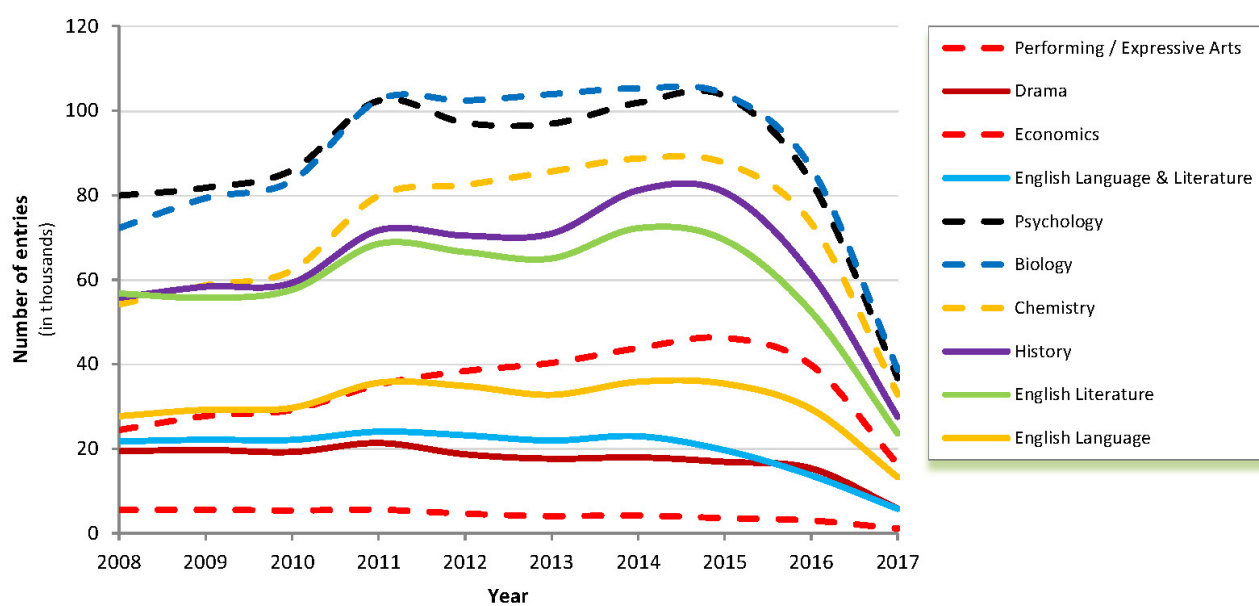


Figure 8 GCE AS sciences, 2008-2017

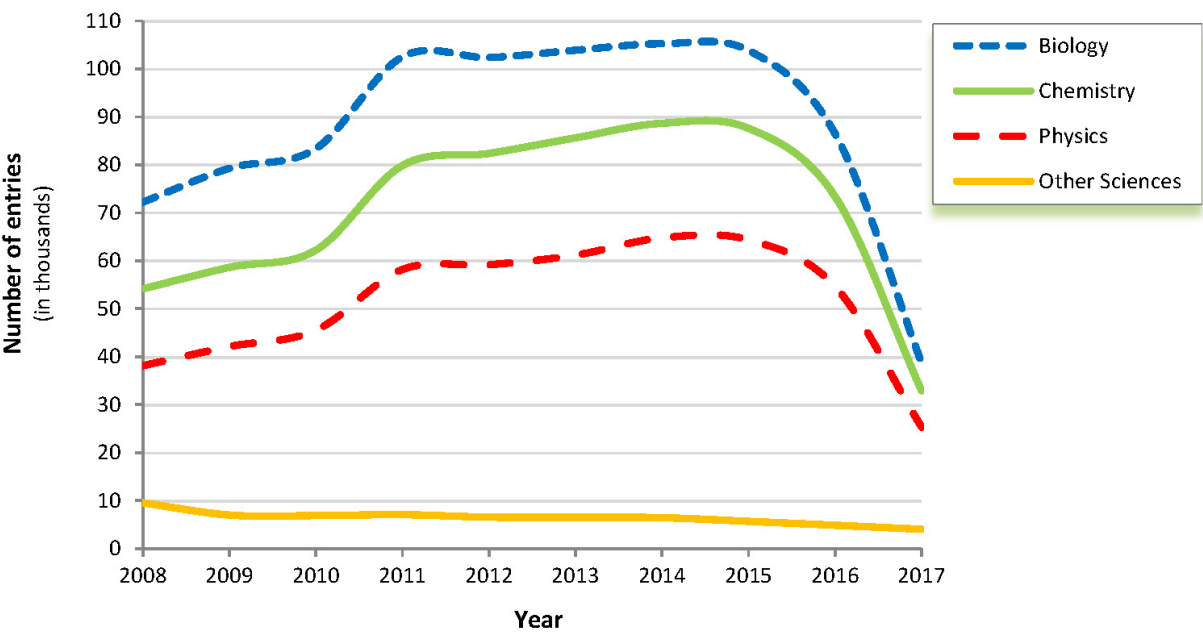
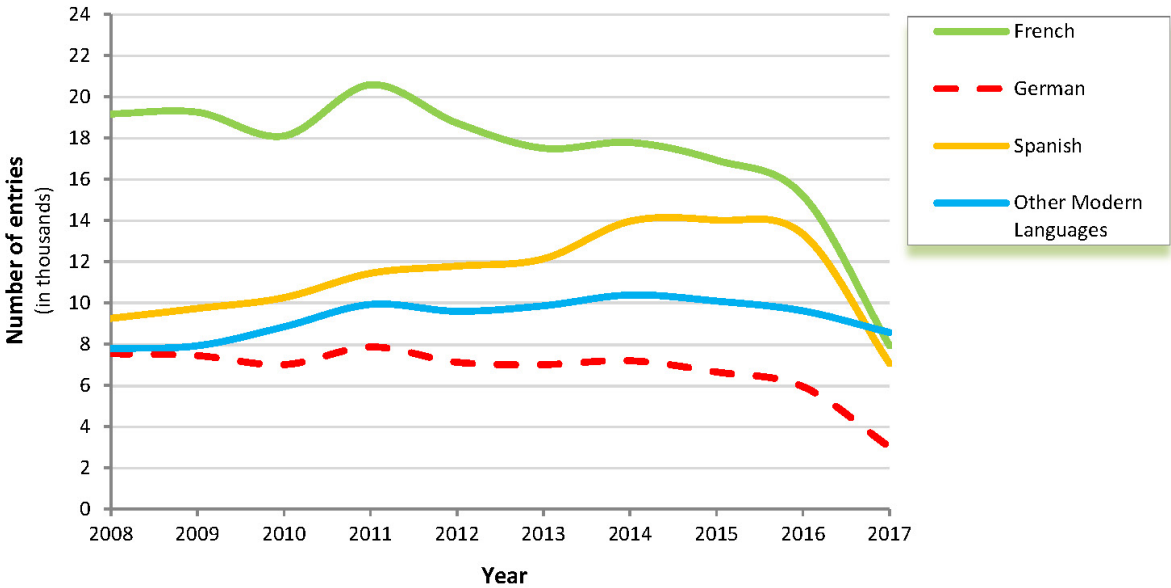


Figure 9 GCE AS languages, 2008-2017



Level 3 Extended Project trend

Table 6 Changes from 2016-2017

Subject	% change	2016 Number of candidates	2017 Number of candidates
Extended Project	12.3	35608	40013

AEA trend

Table 7 Changes from 2016-2017

Subject	% change	2016 Number of candidates	2017 Number of candidates
AEA Mathematics	-19.4	742	598