

GCE A-level trends – Summer 2018

Table 1 Top GCE A-level subjects in 2018 by entry

Ranking		Subject	% of total	Number of candidates
1	(1)	Mathematics	12.0	97627
2	(2)	Biology	7.9	63819
3	(3)	Psychology	7.4	59708
4	(4)	Chemistry	6.7	54134
5	(5)	History	6.0	48937
6	(6)	English Literature	5.5	44290
7	(7)	Art and Design Subjects	5.3	43034
8	(9)	Physics	4.7	37806
9	(10)	Sociology	4.3	34873
10	(8)	Geography	4.1	33538

(2017 ranking in brackets)

Figure 1 Top ten A-level subjects as a percentage of the total entry over the period 2009 to 2018

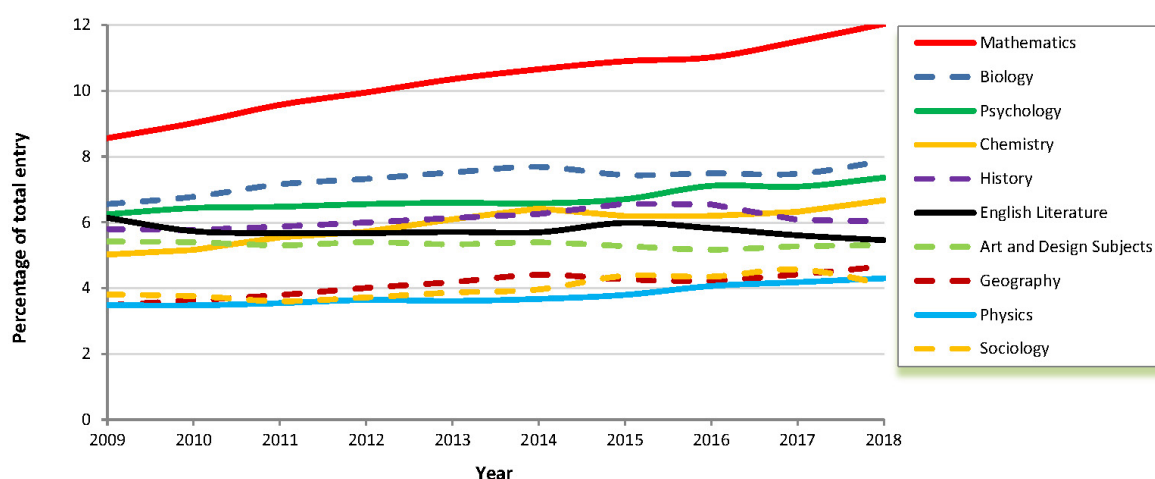


Table 2 Top GCE A-level subject increases (changes from 2017-2018)

Ranking		Subject	% change	2017 Number of candidates	2018 Number of candidates
1	(1)	Computing	23.9	8299	10286
2	(3)	Business Studies	9.5	30023	32867
3	(13)	Chemistry	3.4	52331	54134
4	(6)	Physics	3.4	36578	37806
5		Biology	3.1	61908	63819
6	(10)	Other Modern Languages	3.1	9386	9673
7	(2)	Political Studies	2.5	17523	17964
8	(7)	Mathematics	2.5	95244	97627
9	(9)	Economics	2.4	30074	30810
10		Psychology	1.8	58663	59708

(2017 ranking in brackets. Subjects over 5000 candidates shown. Subjects having a year-on-year decrease in 2017 are shown as blank.)

Figure 2 Top GCE A-level subject increases, 2018

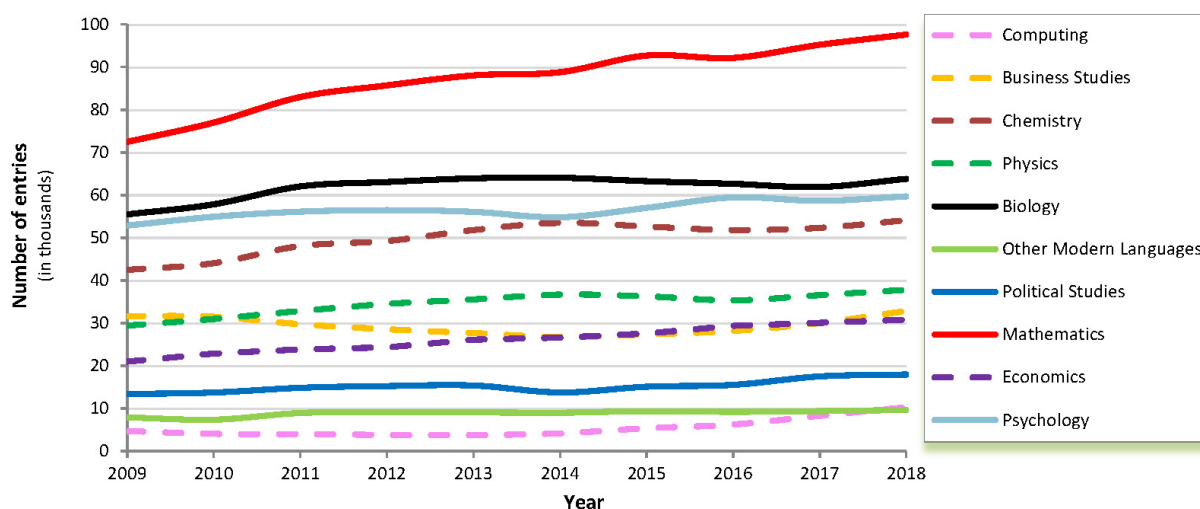


Table 3 GCE A-level subject decreases (changes from 2017-2018)

Ranking	Subject	% change	2017 Number of candidates	2018 Number of candidates
1 (4)	ICT	-25.8	7607	5643
2 (16)	Religious Studies	-21.3	26086	20527
3 (7)	English Language	-14.8	21178	18049
4 (5)	English Language & Literature	-12.5	11058	9676
5 (17)	Classical Subjects	-12.0	6430	5657
6	Geography	-11.3	37814	33538
7 (18)	French	-8.0	9468	8713
8 (21)	Design and Technology	-7.8	12415	11448
9 (13)	Media / Film / TV Studies	-5.8	26956	25384
10 (15)	Drama	-5.7	11914	11239

(2017 ranking in brackets. Subjects over 1000 candidates shown. Subjects having a year-on-year increase in 2017 are shown as blank.)

Figure 3 Top GCE A-level subject decreases, 2018

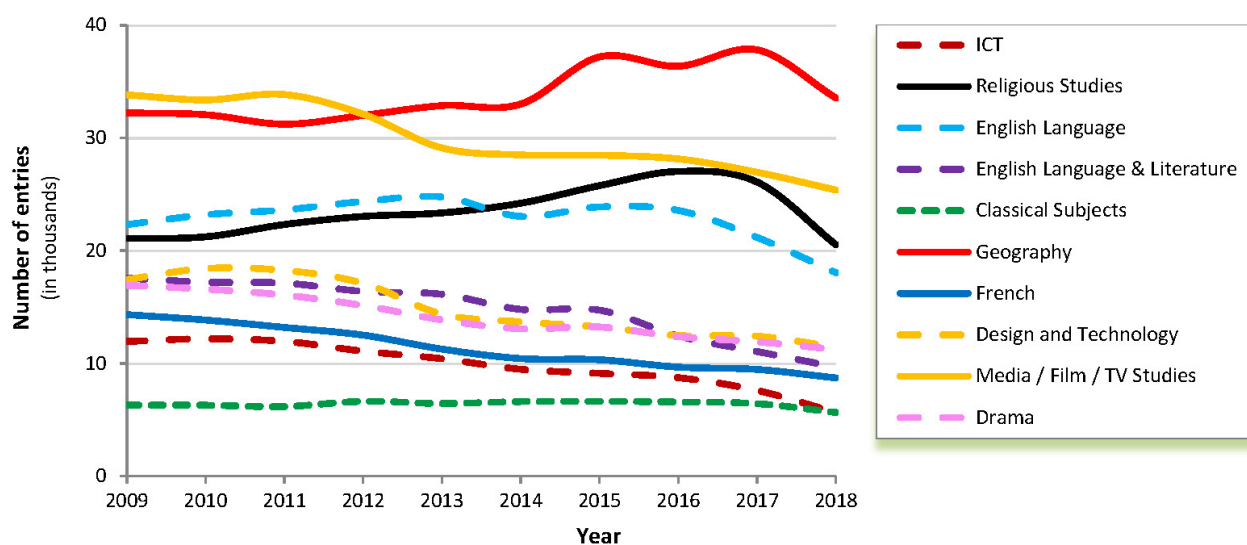


Figure 4 GCE A-level sciences, 2009-2018

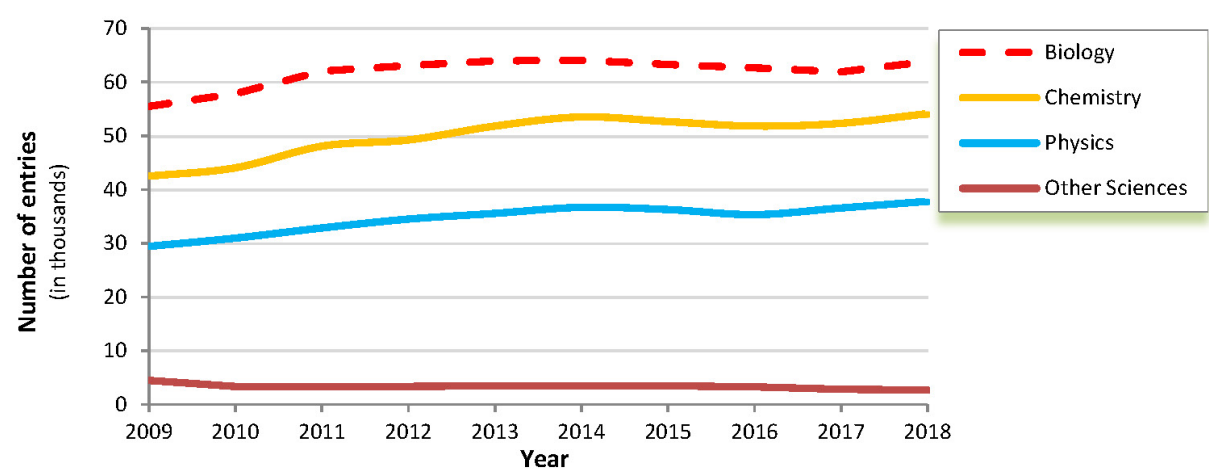
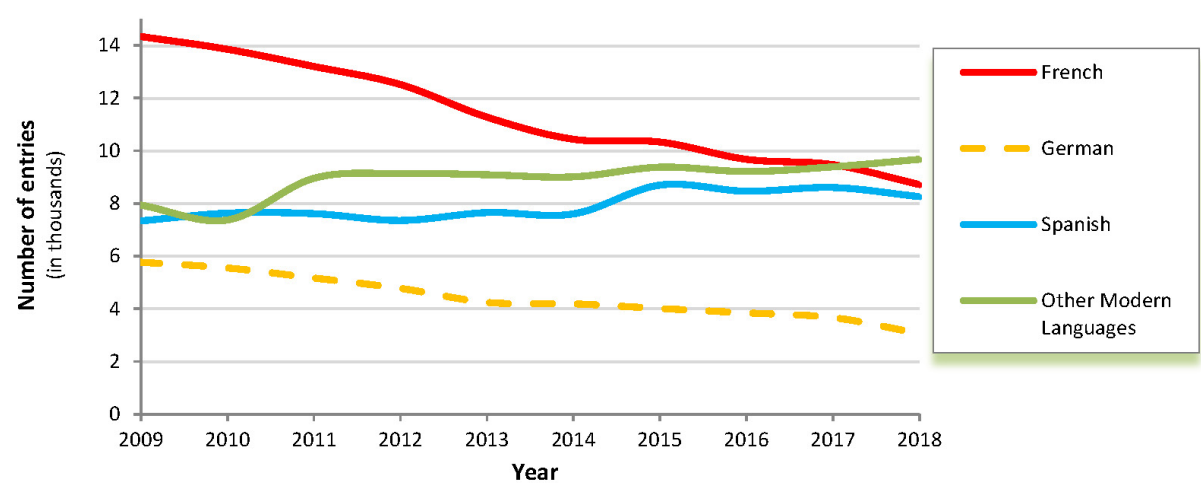


Figure 5 GCE A-level languages, 2009-2018



GCE AS trends

Table 4 Top GCE AS subjects in 2018

Ranking	Subject	% of total	Number of candidates
1 (1)	Mathematics	23.4	81051
2 (2)	Biology	6.3	21850
3 (3)	Psychology	5.7	19893
4 (6)	Mathematics (Further)	5.3	18426
5 (5)	Chemistry	5.2	18084
6 (8)	History	4.2	14552
7 (9)	Sociology	4.1	14235
8 (10)	Physics	3.8	13007
9 (14)	Business Studies	3.5	12199
10 (13)	Art and Design Subjects	3.5	11950

(2017 ranking in brackets)

Figure 6 Top ten AS subjects as a percentage of the total entry over the period 2009 to 2018

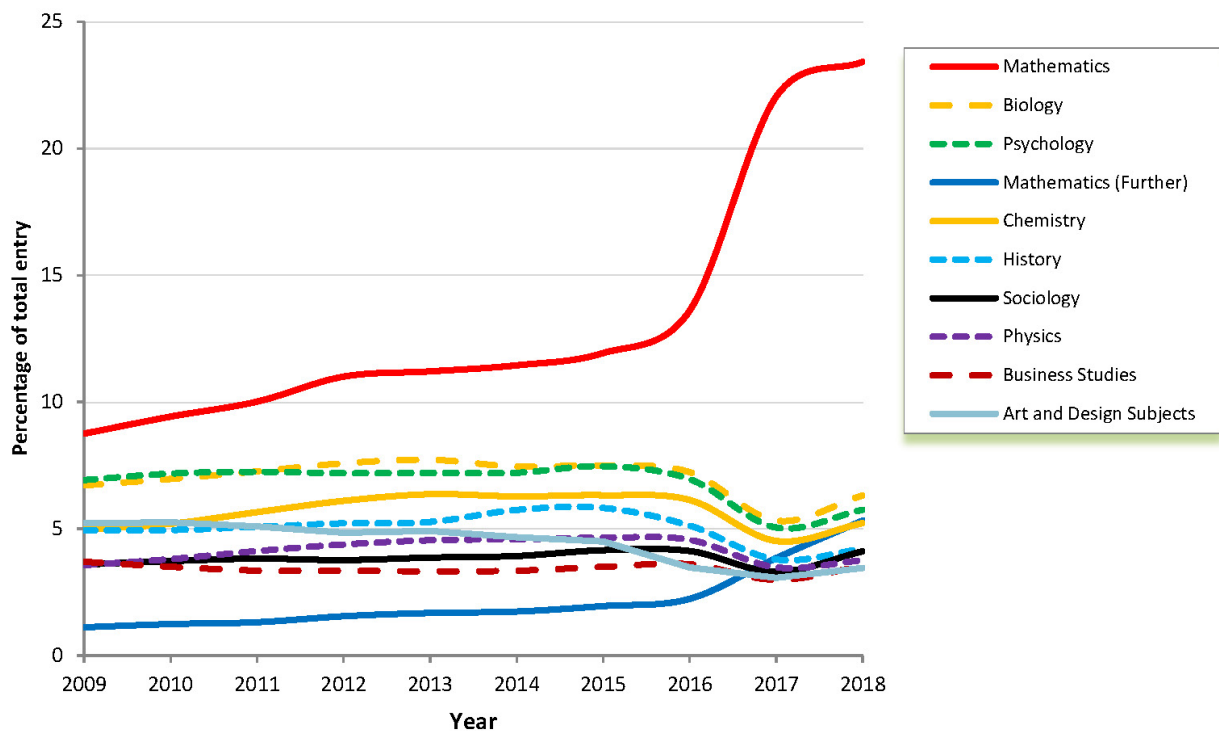


Table 5 GCE AS subject decreases (changes from 2017-2018)

Ranking	Subject	% change	2017 Number of candidates	2018 Number of candidates
1 (11)	General Studies	-84.0	10911	2573
2 (29)	Media / Film / TV Studies	-76.4	36334	10927
3 (22)	ICT	-69.9	9925	3344
4 (26)	All Other Subjects	-69.8	17128	5838
5 (9)	English Language	-67.7	13281	4581
6 (17)	French	-66.3	7922	2759
7 (23)	Classical Subjects	-65.9	6404	2251
8 (15)	Geography	-65.5	27617	9875
9 (2)	Drama	-65.2	5811	2092
10 (25)	Design and Technology	-64.9	17890	6450

(2017 ranking in brackets. Entries over 1000)

Figure 7 GCE AS subject decreases, 2018

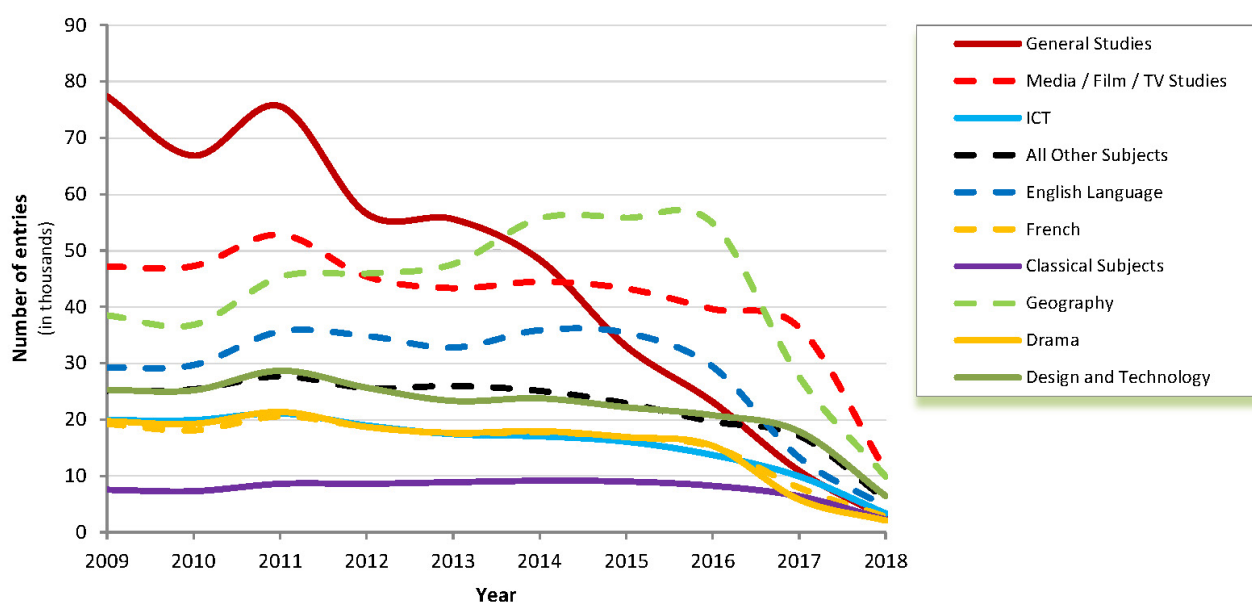


Figure 8 GCE AS sciences, 2009-2018

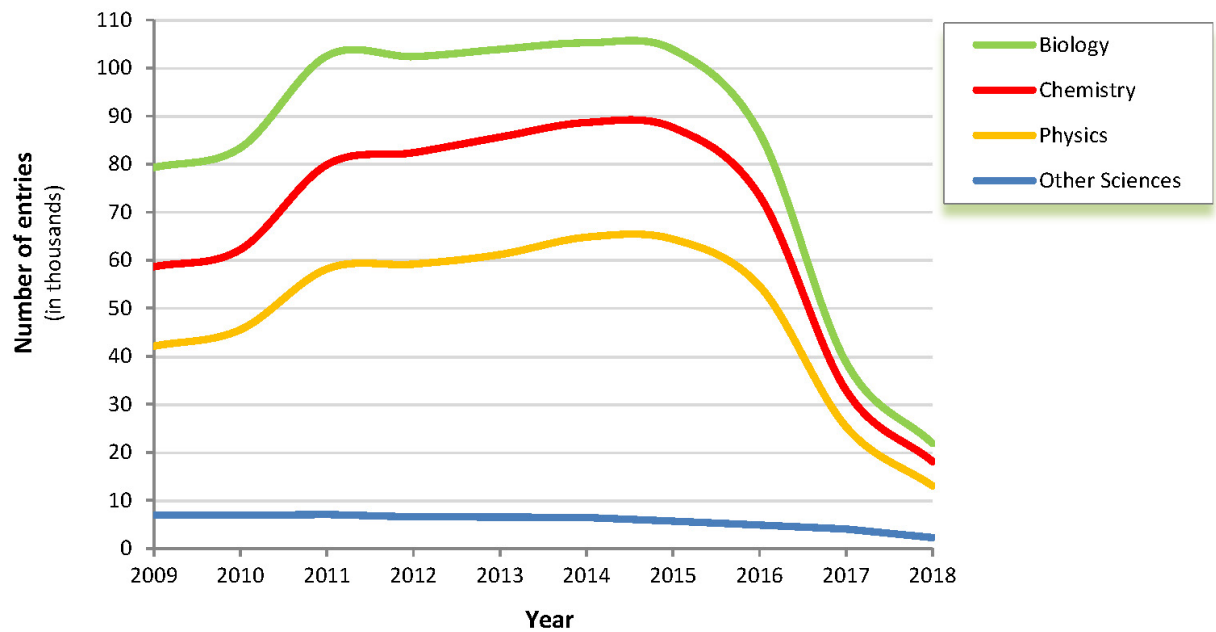
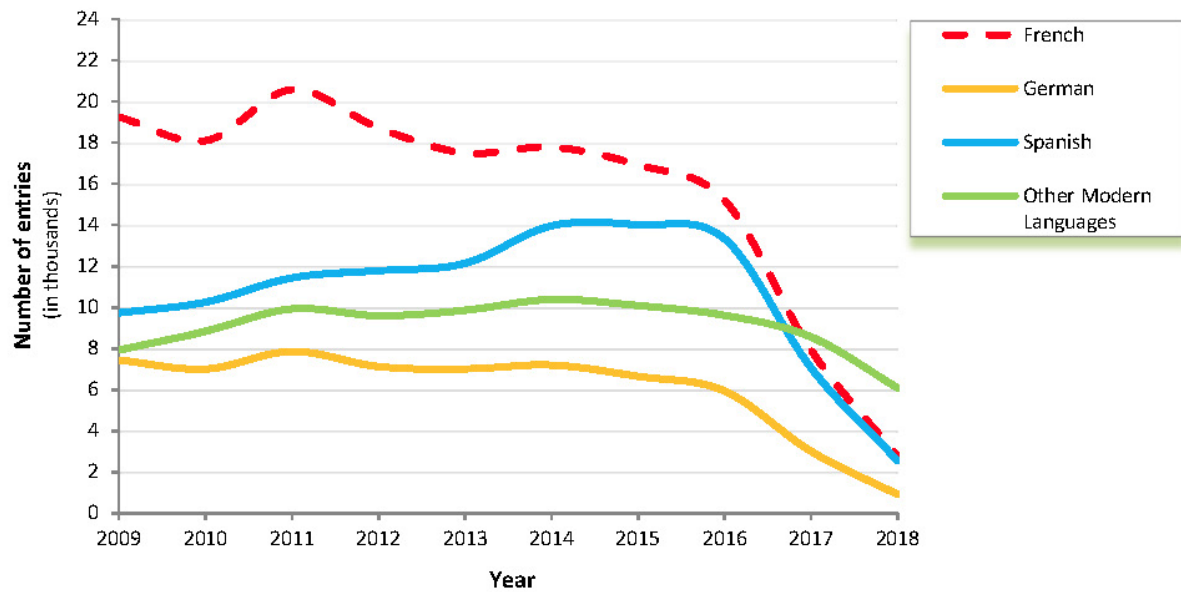


Figure 9 GCE AS languages, 2009-2018



Level 3 Extended Project trend

Table 6 Changes from 2017-2018

Subject	% change	2017 Number of candidates	2018 Number of candidates
Extended Project	1.1	40013	40437

AEA trend

Table 7 Changes from 2017-2018

Subject	% change	2017 Number of candidates	2018 Number of candidates
AEA Mathematics	-32.4	598	401