



CAMBRIDGE ASSESSMENT

Uptake of GCE A-level subjects in England

2001-2005

Statistics Report Series No. 3

Carmen L. Vidal Rodeiro

September 2006

Research Division – Statistics Group
Assessment Research and Development
Cambridge Assessment
1 Regent Street, Cambridge, CB2 1GG

Cambridge Assessment is the brand name of the University of Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate, a department of the University of Cambridge.

Cambridge Assessment is a not-for-profit organisation.

This statistical report investigates the uptake of A-levels in England from 2001 to 2005. The candidates used in these analyses were extracted from the 2001-2005 16+/18+ databases. These databases contain all the candidates who had their eighteenth birthday in the relevant school year. The databases are compiled for the DfES from data supplied by all the awarding bodies in England.

More detailed analysis and interpretation of the figures presented here can be found in Bell *et al.* (2003, 2005, 2006).

Table 1: Number of A-level results in 2001-2005 (% of A-level entry)

Number of A-levels	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
1	9	10	10	11	10
2	12	14	15	16	15
3	43	48	49	47	48
4	33	25	24	24	24
5+	3	3	2	2	2
No. of candidates	213,362	202,745	209,508	210,149	215,813

Table 2: Number of A-level results, excluding General Studies, in 2001-2005 (% of A-level entry)

Number of A-levels	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
1	9	11	11	12	11
2	18	17	18	18	18
3	66	64	64	62	64
4	7	7	7	7	7
5+	*	*	*	*	*
No. of candidates	210,652	201,345	208,468	208,964	214,734

* less than 0.5

In the following tables the uptake of some of the commonest A-levels is presented. Candidates were classified by sex (Table 3) and by prior attainment at GCSE level (Table 4). The GCSE grades for the candidates were converted into scores (A* - 8, A - 7, B - 6, etc.) and a mean GCSE score was computed and used to divide the candidates into three attainment groups: low, medium and high.

Table 3: Uptake of individual subjects by sex in 2001-2005 (% of A-level entry)

All					
Subject	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
General Studies	41	28	27	26	26
English Literature	21	21	20	20	20
Mathematics	24	19	19	20	18
Biology	19	19	18	18	18
History	15	17	16	16	18
Geography	15	15	14	14	12
Chemistry	16	14	13	14	14
Business Studies	14	13	13	12	12
Physics	13	13	12	10	10
Psychology	10	13	14	16	18
Sociology	9	9	9	10	10
Media/Film/TV. Stds.	6	8	8	8	8
Sport/P.E. Stds.	7	7	8	8	8
ICT	3	7	7	6	6
English Language	6	7	6	6	8
English	7	6	6	6	6
French	7	6	6	6	6
D & T design	2	6	-	-	-
Economics	7	6	6	6	6
Art & Des. – Fine Art	-	6	6	6	6
Drama	4	6	6	6	6
Art & Design	9	5	4	4	4
Com.Stds/Computing	5	4	4	2	2
Religious Stds.	3	4	5	6	6
Law	3	4	4	4	6
Politics	3	3	4	4	4
German	4	3	3	2	2
Music	2	3	3	2	2
Spanish	2	2	2	2	2
Maths (Further)	2	2	2	2	2
D&T Product Design	-	-	6	6	6

- not applicable

Male

Subject	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
General Studies	42	29	28	28	28
English Literature	13	14	12	12	14
Mathematics	32	26	26	26	26
Biology	16	16	15	14	16
History	15	17	17	18	18
Geography	18	17	17	16	14
Chemistry	18	15	14	14	16
Business Studies	16	17	16	16	14
Physics	22	21	20	18	18
Psychology	5	6	7	8	10
Sociology	4	4	4	4	4
Media/Film/TV. Stds.	5	7	7	8	8
Sport/P.E. Stds.	9	10	11	10	10
ICT	4	10	10	8	8
English Language	4	5	5	4	6
English	4	4	4	4	4
French	4	4	4	4	4
D & T design	4	9	-	-	-
Economics	10	9	9	8	8
Art & Des. – Fine Art	-	4	4	4	4
Drama	2	3	4	4	4
Art & Design	7	3	3	2	2
Com.Stds/Computing	9	8	7	6	4
Religious Stds.	2	2	3	4	4
Law	3	3	4	4	4
Politics	4	4	5	4	6
German	2	2	2	2	2
Music	2	2	2	2	2
Spanish	1	1	1	2	2
Maths (Further)	4	3	3	4	4
D&T Product Design	-	-	9	8	9

Female

Subject	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
General Studies	40	27	26	26	26
English Literature	29	27	26	26	26
Mathematics	17	13	13	14	12
Biology	22	22	20	20	20
History	15	16	16	16	16
Geography	13	12	12	12	10
Chemistry	14	14	13	12	12
Business Studies	12	10	10	8	8
Physics	5	5	5	4	4
Psychology	15	18	20	22	24
Sociology	13	13	13	12	14
Media/Film/TV. Stds.	6	8	9	10	10
Sport/P.E. Stds.	5	5	5	6	6
ICT	2	4	5	4	4
English Language	8	8	8	8	8
English	9	8	7	8	8
French	9	8	7	6	6
D & T design	1	4	-	-	-
Economics	4	3	3	2	2
Art & Des. – Fine Art	-	7	8	8	8
Drama	5	8	8	8	8
Art & Design	11	6	6	6	6
Com.Stds/Computing	1	1	1	*	*
Religious Stds.	5	5	6	6	8
Law	4	4	5	6	6
Politics	3	3	3	2	2
German	4	4	3	4	2
Music	3	3	3	2	2
Spanish	3	3	3	2	2
Maths (Further)	1	1	1	*	*
D&T Product Design	-	-	4	4	4

Table 4: Uptake of individual subjects by attainment in 2001-2005 (% of A-level entry)

Low					
Subject	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
General studies	34	21	19	18	18
Mathematics	8	4	4	6	6
English Literature	16	17	15	14	16
Biology	9	7	6	6	6
Chemistry	5	3	3	4	4
History	10	11	10	10	10
Geography	11	11	10	8	8
Business Studies	17	15	15	14	12
Physics	5	4	3	4	4
Psychology	11	12	13	14	14
Art & Design - Fine Art	10	6	6	6	6
Sociology	13	12	12	12	12
French	2	1	1	2	2
Sport/P.E. Stds.	10	10	11	10	10
Economics	4	3	2	2	2
English	8	7	6	6	6
English Language	7	7	7	6	8
Media/Film/TV. Stds.	9	12	13	14	14
Com.Stds/Computing	6	4	3	2	2
Drama	4	7	7	6	6
German	1	1	1	2	2
Religious Stds.	3	3	4	4	4
Politics	2	2	2	2	2
Law	5	5	5	6	6
ICT	4	9	10	8	8
D & T design	3	8	-	-	-
Maths (Further)	*	*	*	*	*
Music	1	2	1	2	2
Spanish	1	1	1	*	*
Art & Design	-	5	5	4	4
D&T Product Design	-	-	8	8	8

Medium

Subject	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
General studies	43	29	28	28	28
Mathematics	21	13	13	12	12
English Literature	23	21	20	20	20
Biology	19	17	16	14	14
Chemistry	12	10	8	8	8
History	16	16	16	16	16
Geography	18	16	16	14	14
Business Studies	17	16	16	14	14
Physics	11	10	9	8	8
Psychology	12	16	18	20	22
Art & Design - Fine Art	10	6	7	6	6
Sociology	10	11	11	12	12
French	6	4	4	4	4
Sport/P.E. Stds.	8	9	10	10	10
Economics	7	5	5	4	4
English	7	7	7	6	8
English Language	7	8	8	8	8
Media/Film/TV. Stds.	6	9	9	10	10
Com.Stds/Computing	6	5	4	4	2
Drama	4	7	7	6	8
German	3	2	2	2	2
Religious Stds.	4	4	5	6	6
Politics	3	3	3	4	4
Law	3	4	5	6	6
ICT	3	8	9	8	6
D & T design	3	7	-	-	-
Maths (Further)	1	1	1	*	*
Music	2	2	2	2	2
Spanish	2	2	1	2	2
Art & Design	-	5	5	4	4
D&T Product Design	-	-	8	8	8

High

Subject	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
General studies	47	33	32	32	32
Mathematics	42	35	34	34	32
English Literature	26	25	24	22	24
Biology	30	30	29	28	30
Chemistry	30	27	25	26	26
History	21	22	22	22	22
Geography	17	17	16	16	16
Business Studies	8	9	8	8	8
Physics	22	21	19	18	16
Psychology	7	11	13	14	14
Art & Design - Fine Art	8	5	6	6	6
Sociology	4	5	5	6	6
French	14	12	11	10	10
Sport/P.E. Stds.	3	4	5	4	6
Economics	9	9	9	8	8
English	5	6	5	4	4
English Language	4	5	5	6	6
Media/Film/TV. Stds.	2	3	4	4	4
Com.Stds/Computing	3	3	3	2	2
Drama	3	5	5	6	6
German	6	5	5	4	4
Religious Stds.	4	5	5	6	6
Politics	4	4	5	4	6
Law	2	2	3	4	4
ICT	1	4	4	4	2
D & T design	1	4	-	-	-
Maths (Further)	6	4	4	4	4
Music	4	3	4	4	4
Spanish	4	4	4	4	4
Art & Design	-	4	4	4	4
D&T Product Design	-	-	4	4	4

Table 5: Most common combinations of at least three A-level subjects in 2001-2005 excluding General Studies (% of candidates with at least three A-levels)

2001

Combination				%	Cum %
Biology	Chemistry	Mathematics		4.2	4.2
Chemistry	Physics	Mathematics		2.9	7.1
Biology	Chemistry	Physics		1.6	8.7
Biology	Chemistry	Geography		1.0	9.7
Physics	Mathematics	Computing		0.9	10.6
Chemistry	Physics	Mathematics	Further Mathematics	0.9	11.5
Physics	Mathematics	Geography		0.6	12.1
Biology	Chemistry	Physics	Mathematics	0.6	12.7
History	Sociology	English Literature		0.6	13.3
History	English Literature	French		0.6	13.9

2002

Combination				%	Cum %
Biology	Chemistry	Mathematics		2.7	2.7
Chemistry	Physics	Mathematics		1.9	4.6
Biology	Chemistry	Physics		1.4	6.1
Biology	Chemistry	Geography		1.0	7.1
Physics	Mathematics	Computing		0.7	7.9
Biology	Chemistry	Physics	Mathematics	0.7	8.6
Biology	Chemistry	Psychology		0.7	9.3
Chemistry	Physics	Mathematics	Further Mathematics	0.7	10.0
History	Sociology	English Literature		0.5	10.5
Physics	Mathematics	D&T Product Design		0.5	11.0

2003

Combination				%	Cum %
Biology	Chemistry	Mathematics		2.7	2.7
Chemistry	Physics	Mathematics		1.8	4.5
Biology	Chemistry	Physics		1.3	5.8
Biology	Chemistry	Geography		0.9	6.7
Biology	Chemistry	Psychology		0.8	7.5
Physics	Mathematics	Computing		0.7	8.2
Biology	Chemistry	Physics	Mathematics	0.6	8.8
Chemistry	Physics	Mathematics	Further Mathematics	0.6	9.4
History	Psychology	English Literature		0.6	9.9
Physics	Mathematics	Geography		0.5	10.4

2004

Combination				%	Cum %
Biology	Chemistry	Mathematics		2.9	2.9
Chemistry	Physics	Mathematics		1.6	4.5
Biology	Chemistry	Physics		1.1	5.6
Biology	Chemistry	Geography		0.9	6.5
Biology	Chemistry	Psychology		0.9	7.4
Biology	Chemistry	Physics	Mathematics	0.8	8.2
Chemistry	Physics	Mathematics	Further Mathematics	0.7	8.9
History	Psychology	English Literature		0.5	9.4
History	Religious Studies	English Literature		0.5	9.9
Physics	Mathematics	D&T Product Design		0.5	10.4

2005

Combination				%	Cum %
Biology	Chemistry	Mathematics		2.9	2.9
Chemistry	Physics	Mathematics		1.5	4.4
Biology	Chemistry	Physics		1.1	5.6
Biology	Chemistry	Psychology		1.0	6.5
Biology	Chemistry	Geography		0.8	7.4
Biology	Chemistry	Physics	Mathematics	0.7	8.1
Chemistry	Physics	Mathematics	Further Mathematics	0.7	8.8
History	Psychology	English Literature		0.7	9.4
History	Religious Studies	English Literature		0.5	10.0
History	Politics	English Literature		0.5	10.5

In the following tables (Tables 6 and 7), the uptake of five subject areas at A-level and AS-level is presented. The subjects were grouped into five areas: Science/Mathematics, English, Languages, Social Science/Humanities and Arts. Grouping subjects is not a straightforward task and the allocation of subject areas is always debatable. Details of the subject areas can be found in the Appendix. This analysis is restricted to those candidates with at least three A-level results. The number of low attaining candidates is reduced because they were less likely to have taken three A-levels.

Table 6: Uptake of subject areas at A-level by sex and attainment (% of candidates with at least three A-levels)

2001

Subject Area	F	M	Low	Medium	High	All
Science/Maths	46	65	38	51	67	55
English	51	26	44	41	35	39
Languages	18	10	6	11	22	15
Social Science/Humanities	70	67	77	74	60	69
Arts	33	26	40	32	21	29
Number of students	90,904	77,303	38,614	59,171	67,167	168,207

2002

Subject Area	F	M	Low	Medium	High	All
Science/Maths	46	65	37	48	65	55
English	51	28	47	43	36	40
Languages	16	10	4	8	20	13
Social Science/Humanities	70	66	75	73	63	68
Arts	32	25	41	33	21	29
Number of students	79,411	65,607	21,928	50,567	70,377	145,018

2003

Subject Area	F	M	Low	Medium	High	All
Science/Maths	48	67	42	51	66	57
English	50	26	46	42	35	39
Languages	15	9	4	7	19	13
Social Science/Humanities	71	67	74	74	64	69
Arts	33	26	42	35	23	30
Number of students	85,939	70,700	24,793	54,114	75,338	156,639

2004

Subject Area	F	M	Low	Medium	High	All
Science/Maths	47	65	41	48	65	55
English	49	27	44	42	35	39
Languages	15	9	6	7	19	12
Social Science/Humanities	72	68	73	75	65	70
Arts	34	28	42	37	23	31
Number of students	84,802	69,037	25,281	54,670	73,888	153,839

2005

Subject Area	F	M	Low	Medium	High	All
Science/Maths	46	64	40	48	64	54
English	51	28	45	43	36	40
Languages	14	9	5	7	18	12
Social Science/Humanities	73	68	74	75	66	71
Arts	34	28	42	37	24	31
Number of students	89,145	72,534	26,740	58,027	76,912	161,679

Table 7: Uptake of subject areas at A-level and AS-level by sex and attainment (% of candidates with at least three A-levels)

2001

Subject Area	F	M	Low	Medium	High	All
Science/Maths	48	66	40	53	68	56
English	51	26	44	42	36	39
Languages	19	11	6	11	24	15
Social Science/Humanities	71	68	78	75	62	70
Arts	33	26	41	33	22	30
Number of students	90,904	77,303	38,614	59,171	67,167	168,207

2002

Subject Area	F	M	Low	Medium	High	All
Science/Maths	56	74	47	56	67	64
English	58	32	51	49	43	46
Languages	23	14	6	13	28	19
Social Science/Humanities	78	74	81	80	72	76
Arts	37	30	45	38	27	34
Number of students	79,411	65,607	21,928	50,567	70,377	145,018

2003

Subject Area	F	M	Low	Medium	High	All
Science/Maths	58	76	50	61	74	66
English	57	31	42	47	42	45
Languages	22	14	6	12	27	18
Social Science/Humanities	79	74	81	81	73	77
Arts	39	31	46	40	28	35
Number of students	85,939	70,700	24,793	54,114	75,338	156,639

2004

Subject Area	F	M	Low	Medium	High	All
Science/Maths	55	73	62	63	66	63
English	55	30	43	43	42	43
Languages	19	11	13	15	21	15
Social Science/Humanities	79	75	77	76	77	77
Arts	41	36	36	40	40	39
Number of students	84,802	69,037	25,281	54,670	73,888	153,839

2005

Subject Area	F	M	Low	Medium	High	All
Science/Maths	53	71	61	62	62	61
English	56	31	44	45	44	44
Languages	18	11	14	15	16	15
Social Science/Humanities	80	75	78	78	78	78
Arts	42	36	39	39	39	39
Number of students	89,145	72,534	26,740	58,027	76,912	161,679

For the purpose of these analyses, subjects were also grouped in three different domains Science and Mathematics, Arts and Languages, Social Science and Humanities (Bell *et al.* (2005)). Candidates who entered subjects at A-level or AS-level in only one domain have been classified as specialists, and candidates that entered for two of the domains have been classified as partly-mixed. The uptake of these domains is presented in Tables 8 and 9.

Table 8: Uptake of combinations of A-level subjects by sex and attainment in 2001-2005 (% of candidates with at least three A-levels – General Studies not included)

2001

Sci-Mat	Arts	SocHum	Female	Male	Low	Medium	High	All
Yes	-	-	16	25	11	14	29	20
-	Yes	-	6	2	6	5	3	5
-	-	Yes	28	19	28	26	20	23
Specialist			50	46	45	45	52	48
Yes	Yes	-	5	5	4	5	6	5
Yes	-	Yes	23	31	22	27	29	27
-	Yes	Yes	17	12	22	17	9	14
Partly mixed			45	48	48	49	44	46
Yes	Yes	Yes	4	6	6	6	4	5

2002

Sci-Mat	Arts	SocHum	Female	Male	Low	Medium	High	All
Yes	-	-	15	24	10	13	26	19
-	Yes	-	6	2	7	5	3	4
-	-	Yes	28	18	26	26	21	23
Specialist			49	44	43	44	50	46
Yes	Yes	-	7	7	7	7	7	7
Yes	-	Yes	24	32	23	26	30	28
-	Yes	Yes	14	10	19	15	8	12
Partly mixed			45	49	49	48	45	47
Yes	Yes	Yes	5	6	7	7	4	6

2003

Sci-Mat	Arts	SocHum	Female	Male	Low	Medium	High	All
Yes	-	-	14	23	9	11	25	18
-	Yes	-	7	2	8	6	3	5
-	-	Yes	28	18	26	26	21	23
Specialist			49	43	43	43	49	46
Yes	Yes	-	7	7	7	7	7	7
Yes	-	Yes	24	32	23	26	30	28
-	Yes	Yes	15	10	19	16	8	13
Partly mixed			46	49	49	49	45	48
Yes	Yes	Yes	5	7	7	7	5	6

2004

Sci-Mat	Arts	SocHum	Female	Male	Low	Medium	High	All
Yes	-	-	13	21	9	11	23	17
-	Yes	-	7	3	9	6	3	5
-	-	Yes	28	19	27	27	21	24
Specialist			48	43	45	44	47	46
Yes	Yes	-	6	7	7	7	7	7
Yes	-	Yes	24	32	21	25	31	27
-	Yes	Yes	16	11	21	18	9	14
Partly mixed			46	50	49	50	47	48
Yes	Yes	Yes	5	7	6	7	5	6

2005

Sci-Mat	Arts	SocHum	Female	Male	Low	Medium	High	All
Yes	-	-	12	21	9	11	23	16
-	Yes	-	8	3	9	6	3	5
-	-	Yes	28	20	28	27	22	25
Specialist			48	44	46	44	48	46
Yes	Yes	-	6	7	7	7	7	7
Yes	-	Yes	23	31	20	24	30	27
-	Yes	Yes	16	12	21	18	9	14
Partly mixed			45	50	48	49	46	48
Yes	Yes	Yes	5	6	6	7	5	6

Table 9: Uptake of combinations of A-level and AS-level subjects by sex and attainment in 2001-2005 (% of candidates with at least three A-levels – General Studies not included)

2001

Sci-Mat	Arts	SocHum	Female	Male	Low	Medium	High	All
Yes	-	-	15	23	11	14	28	19
-	Yes	-	6	2	6	5	3	4
-	-	Yes	26	17	21	17	9	22
Specialist			47	42	38	36	40	45
Yes	Yes	-	6	6	5	5	5	6
Yes	-	Yes	24	33	25	28	30	28
-	Yes	Yes	17	12	21	17	9	14
Partly mixed			47	51	51	51	45	48
Yes	Yes	Yes	5	7	7	6	4	6

2002

Sci-Mat	Arts	SocHum	Female	Male	Low	Medium	High	All
Yes	-	-	9	16	8	10	18	13
-	Yes	-	4	1	5	3	2	3
-	-	Yes	21	12	18	18	14	16
Specialist			34	29	31	31	34	32
Yes	Yes	-	7	8	8	7	7	8
Yes	-	Yes	30	39	28	33	40	34
-	Yes	Yes	17	10	18	15	9	14
Partly mixed			54	57	54	55	56	56
Yes	Yes	Yes	11	13	13	14	10	12

2003

Sci-Mat	Arts	SocHum	Female	Male	Low	Medium	High	All
Yes	-	-	7	15	8	9	17	12
-	Yes	-	5	2	5	3	2	3
-	-	Yes	21	12	19	18	15	17
Specialist			33	29	32	30	34	32
Yes	Yes	-	7	8	8	8	7	8
Yes	-	Yes	29	38	27	32	39	33
-	Yes	Yes	17	11	19	16	9	14
Partly mixed			53	57	54	56	55	55
Yes	Yes	Yes	12	14	13	14	10	13

2004

Sci-Mat	Arts	SocHum	Female	Male	Low	Medium	High	All
Yes	-	-	8	14	10	10	12	11
-	Yes	-	5	2	4	4	3	3
-	-	Yes	21	12	17	17	17	17
Specialist			34	28	32	31	32	31
Yes	Yes	-	7	8	8	8	7	7
Yes	-	Yes	29	37	32	33	35	33
-	Yes	Yes	18	12	16	16	14	15
Partly mixed			54	57	56	57	56	55
Yes	Yes	Yes	12	14	13	13	12	13

2005

Sci-Mat	Arts	SocHum	Female	Male	Low	Medium	High	All
Yes	-	-	8	14	11	11	10	11
-	Yes	-	5	2	4	3	3	3
-	-	Yes	19	13	18	17	18	18
Specialist			32	29	33	31	31	32
Yes	Yes	-	7	8	7	7	7	7
Yes	-	Yes	28	36	32	32	32	32
-	Yes	Yes	19	13	16	16	17	16
Partly mixed			54	57	55	55	56	55
Yes	Yes	Yes	12	14	12	13	13	12

The University of Cambridge identified some A-levels that provide a less effective preparation for their courses (<http://www.cam.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/requirements/>). To be a realistic applicant, a student will normally need to be offering two traditional academic subjects (i.e. two subjects not on the list displayed in Table 10).

Table 10: Less effective preparation (LEP) A-level subjects for the University of Cambridge

- Accounting
- Art and Design
- Business Studies
- Communication Studies
- Dance
- Design and Technology
- Drama/Theatre Studies
- Film Studies
- Home Economics
- Information and Communication Technology
- Leisure Studies
- Media Studies
- Music Technology
- Performance Studies
- Performing Arts
- Photography
- Physical Education
- Sports Studies
- Travel and Tourism
- Health and Social Care

In the following, we investigate the number of these A-levels taken by candidates with three or more A-level results over period 2001-2005. The data is presented by sex (Table 11) and by prior attainment (Table 12). More information about the uptake of these subjects can be found in Bell *et al.* (2006).

Table 11: Number of less effective preparation A-levels by sex (% of candidates with at least three A-levels)

Number of LEP studies	Year	Male	Female	All
0	2001	49	55	52
1		35	33	34
2		14	10	12
3+		2	1	2
0	2002	45	51	48
1		35	34	35
2		16	13	14
3+		3	2	3
0	2003	45	50	48
1		35	34	35
2		16	13	15
3+		4	2	3
0	2004	46	50	48
1		35	34	35
2		16	13	14
3+		4	3	3
0	2005	47	50	49
1		34	34	34
2		15	13	14
3+		3	3	3

Table 12: Number of less effective preparation A-levels by attainment (% of candidates with at least three A-levels)

Number of LEP studies	Year	Low	Medium	High
0	2001	33	45	69
1		41	39	26
2		21	14	5
3+		4	2	*
0	2002	29	38	63
1		40	40	29
2		25	18	7
3+		6	4	1
0	2003	28	37	62
1		40	40	30
2		25	19	8
3+		7	4	1
0	2004	30	37	62
1		39	40	29
2		24	19	8
3+		7	4	1
0	2005	32	39	63
1		38	39	29
2		23	18	8
3+		7	4	1

References

Bell J.F., Malacova E. and Shannon M. (2003) *The changing pattern of A-level/AS uptake in England*. Paper presented at the British Educational Research Association Annual Conference, Edinburgh.

Bell J.F., Malacova E. and Shannon M. (2005) The changing pattern of A-level/AS uptake in England. *The Curriculum Journal*, 16(3): 391-400.

Bell J.F., Malacova E., Vidal Rodeiro C.L. and Shannon M. (2006) A-level Uptake: “crunchier subjects” and the “cracker effect”. *Research Matters* (in press).

Appendix – Subject Classifications

Science/Maths

LEAP code	Subject Title
1010A	Biology
1030A	Biology: Human
1050A	Biology: Social
1110A	Chemistry
1210A	Physics
1310A	Sci: Single Award
1730A	Sci: Electronics
1750A	Sci: Environmental
1770A	Science: Geology
1830A	Psychology JMB/NEA
2030A	Science: Other
2210B	Mathematics
2230B	Mathematics (Pure)
2240B	Maths (Decision)
2250B	Mathematics(Appld)
2260B	Mathematics (Statistics)
2510B	Statistics
2610C	Com.Stds/Computing
2650C	Information Tech

English

LEAP code	Subject Title
5010I	English
5030I	English Language
5110I	English Literature
5210I	Drama
5310I	Communication Stds
5330I	Expressive Arts

Languages

LEAP code	Subject Title
5650K	French
5670K	German
5690K	Italian
5710K	Modern Greek
5730K	Portuguese
5750K	Spanish
6030K	Modern Hebrew
6050K	Panjabi
6070K	Polish
6090K	Russian
6110K	Turkish
6130K	Urdu
6310K	Other Languages
6550K	Greek
6610K	Latin
6650K	Other Class. Langs

Social Science/Humanities

LEAP code	Subject Title
3210D	Bus. Studs:Single
3230D	Bus.Stds&Economics
3310D	Home Economics
3330D	HE: Child Devt
3390D	HE: Home & Family
3910F	Geography
4010G	History
4410H	Economics
4430H	Economics&Business
4610H	Religious Studies
4730H	Archaeology
4770H	Law
4790H	Logic / Philosophy
4830H	Politics
4850H	Psychology
4890H	Sociology
6510K	Ancient History
6530K	Class.Civilisation
7410N	Accounting/Finance
7810P	General Studies
7830P	Critical Thinking

Arts

LEAP code	Subject Title
3510E	Art & Design
3550E	Art & Des(Graphcs)
3570E	Art & Des(Photo.)
3650E	Art & Des(Textles)
3670E	Art & Des(3D Stds)
3680E	Art&Des(Crit.Stds)
3690E	Art&Des - Fine Art
3810E	Art
3830E	History Of Art
5350I	Media/Film/TV Stds
5360I	Film Studies
5370I	Theatre Studies
7010L	Music
7020L	Music: Practical
7210M	Sport/P.E. Studies
7230M	Dance
7570N	Photography