

Uptake of GCE AS level subjects in England 2001-2006

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This statistical report investigates the uptake of AS levels in England from 2001 to 2006. The data analysed were extracted from the 16+/18+ databases, which are compiled by the DCFS from data supplied by all the awarding bodies.

The data includes all AS levels (including vocational or applied AS levels) and A-levels (since candidates cannot enter for an A-level without having also entered for the AS level). If there was an entry in the database for both an AS and an A-level in the same subject for the same candidate this was only counted as one entry, and re-sits of AS levels were excluded.

Most candidates took their AS levels in year 12. However, a substantial number were taken by candidates in year 13¹. Thus the data could be presented in two ways: either a count of all AS levels taken in a particular academic year, or for all candidates in year 13, the total number of AS level entries in either year 12 or 13. Given that the 16+/18+ databases are arranged by candidate age it was decided that the easiest way would be the latter.

Therefore, in all the tables the year columns refer to the two years in which the candidates in the database could have entered for an AS level. E.g. 2001/2 refers to candidates who finished year 13 in 2002 and thus could have entered for AS levels in either 2001 or 2002.

Table 1: Number of AS levels taken, by candidate, in 2001-2006 (% of AS level entry)

No of AS levels	2001/2	2002/3	2003/4	2004/5	2005/6
1	11	11	10	9	8
2	8	8	8	8	7
3	16	17	16	16	16
4	33	32	32	32	34
5	25	25	27	27	29
6+	6	7	8	8	6
No of candidates	271,597	283,540	285,041	285,590	292,301

Table 2: Number of AS levels taken, by candidate, excluding General Studies in 2001-2006 (% of AS level entry)

No of AS levels	2001/2	2002/3	2003/4	2004/5	2005/6
1	11	11	10	9	8
2	10	10	9	9	8
3	24	24	24	24	24
4	43	42	42	43	46
5	11	11	12	13	12
6+	2	2	2	3	2
No of candidates	270,355	282,370	283,844	284,253	291,075

In Tables 3-5 the uptake of the most popular AS levels are presented. Candidates were classified by gender (Table 4) and by prior attainment at GCSE level (Table 5). The GCSE grades for all candidates taking at least one AS level were converted into scores (A* = 8, A = 7, B = 6 etc) and a mean GCSE score was computed for each candidate. This was then used to divide the candidates into three approximately equal attainment groups in each year: low, medium and high.

¹ For more detail on the numbers of AS levels taken in year 13 see Appendix A.

Table 3: Uptake of individual subjects in 2001-2006 (% of AS level entry)

All					
Subject	2001/2	2002/3	2003/4	2004/5	2005/6
General Studies	37	37	39	39	39
English Literature	21	20	20	21	21
Biology	21	20	20	21	21
Mathematics	19	17	17	18	22
History	17	17	18	18	19
Psychology	17	18	21	22	23
Chemistry	16	15	16	16	16
Bus. Studs: Single	15	15	14	14	13
Geography	15	15	14	13	13
Physics	14	13	12	12	12
Sociology	11	11	12	12	12
Inform Comm Tech	10	10	9	8	7
Mathematics (Appld)	10	11	11	9	0
Media/Film/TV Stds	9	10	11	11	11
Sport/P.E. Studies	8	9	9	9	9
French	8	8	7	7	7
English Language	7	7	8	8	8
D&T Product Design	7	7	7	7	8
English	7	6	6	7	7
Art&Des - Fine Art	7	7	7	7	7
Economics	7	6	6	6	6
Drama & Theat. Stds	6	7	7	7	7
Art & Design	6	5	5	5	5
Com.Stds/Computing	5	5	4	3	3
Law	5	6	6	7	7
Religious Studies	5	5	6	7	7
Applied Business	5	5	5	4	4
Applied ICT	4	6	6	6	6
German	4	4	3	3	3
Govt and Politics	4	4	4	5	5
Music	3	3	3	3	3
Art & Des(Photo.)	3	3	3	3	4
Health & Social Care	2	3	3	3	4
Spanish	2	2	2	3	3
Psychology JMB/NEA	2	3	3	3	3
Maths (Further)	2	2	2	2	3
Film Studies	1	2	2	2	3
Critical Thinking	1	2	3	5	6

Table 4: Uptake of individual subjects by gender in 2001-2006 (% of AS level entry)**Male**

Subject	2001/2	2002/3	2003/4	2004/5	2005/6
General Studies	38	37	39	39	39
Mathematics	26	23	23	24	29
Physics	22	21	20	20	20
Bus. Studs: Single	19	19	18	17	17
Geography	18	17	17	16	16
Biology	17	17	18	19	19
Chemistry	17	16	17	18	18
History	17	17	18	19	20
English Literature	13	12	13	13	13
Inform Comm Tech	13	14	13	11	10
Mathematics (Appld)	13	14	14	12	0
Sport/P.E. Studies	12	12	12	12	13
Com.Stds/Computing	10	9	8	7	6
D&T Product Design	10	10	10	10	10
Economics	10	9	10	10	10
Psychology	9	11	13	14	15
Media/Film/TV Stds	8	9	10	10	11
Applied ICT	6	8	9	9	9
Sociology	6	6	7	7	7
English Language	6	5	6	6	6
Applied Business	5	5	5	5	5
French	5	5	5	5	5
Art&Des - Fine Art	5	5	5	5	5
English	5	4	4	4	4
Govt and Politics	5	5	5	6	6
Law	5	5	6	6	6
Art & Design	4	3	3	3	3
Drama & Theat. Stds	4	4	4	4	4
Maths (Further)	3	3	3	4	4
Religious Studies	3	3	4	5	5
German	3	3	2	2	2
Music	2	2	3	3	3
Accounting/Finance	2	2	3	3	3
Art & Des(Photo.)	2	2	3	3	3
Film Studies	1	2	2	3	3
Music Technology	1	2	2	2	3
Critical Thinking	1	2	3	4	6

Female

Subject	2001/2	2002/3	2003/4	2004/5	2005/6
General Studies	37	36	38	38	38
English Literature	28	27	26	27	27
Biology	23	22	23	23	22
Psychology	23	25	27	29	30
History	17	17	17	17	18
Sociology	16	16	16	17	17
Chemistry	15	14	14	15	15
Mathematics	14	12	13	13	16
Geography	13	13	12	11	11
Bus. Studs: Single	12	12	11	11	10
French	11	10	9	9	9
Media/Film/TV Stds	10	10	11	11	12
English Language	9	9	9	9	10
English	9	8	8	9	8
Drama & Theat. Stds	9	9	9	9	9
Art&Des - Fine Art	9	9	9	9	9
Art & Design	7	7	6	6	6
Mathematics(Appld)	7	8	8	7	0
Inform Comm Tech	7	7	6	5	5
Religious Studies	6	7	8	9	9
Physics	6	6	5	5	5
Law	6	6	7	7	8
Sport/P.E. Studies	6	6	6	6	6
D&T Product Design	5	5	5	5	6
German	5	4	4	3	3
Health & Social Care	4	5	6	6	7
Applied Business	4	4	4	4	4
Economics	4	4	4	4	4
Psychology JMB/NEA	3	4	4	4	4
Spanish	3	3	3	3	3
Travel & Tourism	3	3	3	2	2
Govt and Politics	3	3	3	3	4
Music	3	3	3	3	3
Art & Des(Photo.)	3	3	3	4	4
Biology: Human	3	3	2	2	2
Applied ICT	2	3	4	4	4
Art & Des (Textles)	2	2	2	2	3
Critical Thinking	1	2	3	5	6

Table 5: Uptake of individual subjects by attainment in 2001-2006 (% of AS level entry)**Low**

Subject	2001/2	2002/3	2003/4	2004/5	2005/6
General Studies	26	26	28	29	29
Bus. Studs: Single	14	14	14	13	13
Psychology	14	15	17	19	20
English Literature	13	12	13	13	12
Sociology	13	13	14	15	15
Inform Comm Tech	11	12	11	9	9
Media/Film/TV Stds	11	12	13	14	15
Applied Business	10	9	9	9	9
Sport/P.E. Studies	9	9	9	9	9
Geography	9	8	8	7	8
History	9	8	9	9	10
Applied ICT	8	11	12	12	12
Biology	8	8	8	8	9
D&T Product Design	7	7	7	7	8
English Language	6	6	7	7	7
Art&Des - Fine Art	6	6	6	6	6
Law	6	6	7	8	8
Drama & Theat. Stds	6	6	6	6	5
English	6	6	6	6	6
Art & Design	5	5	5	4	4
Health & Social Care	5	6	6	7	8
Com.Stds/Computing	5	4	4	3	3
Physics	4	4	4	4	5
Mathematics	4	3	3	4	7
Travel & Tourism	4	4	4	3	3
Chemistry	4	4	4	4	5
Art & Des(Photo.)	3	4	4	4	5
Mathematics(Appld)	3	3	3	2	0
Religious Studies	3	3	4	4	5
Economics	3	3	3	3	3
Psychology JMB/NEA	2	2	2	2	2
Govt and Politics	2	2	2	2	3
Film Studies	2	3	3	4	4
Accounting/Finance	2	2	2	2	3

Medium

Subject	2001/2	2002/3	2003/4	2004/5	2005/6
General Studies	41	40	42	43	43
English Literature	23	21	21	22	21
Psychology	21	23	26	28	29
Bus. Studs: Single	20	19	18	17	17
Biology	20	19	19	19	20
History	18	17	18	18	19
Geography	17	17	15	15	14
Mathematics	15	12	12	13	18
Sociology	14	14	15	15	15
Inform Comm Tech	12	13	12	10	9
Physics	12	11	10	10	10
Chemistry	12	11	11	12	13
Media/Film/TV Stds	11	12	13	13	14
Sport/P.E. Studies	11	11	11	11	12
English Language	10	9	10	10	10
D&T Product Design	9	9	9	9	9
Mathematics(Appld)	9	9	10	8	0
English	8	8	8	8	8
Art&Des - Fine Art	8	8	8	8	8
Drama & Theat. Stds	7	8	8	8	8
Com.Stds/Computing	7	6	5	4	4
Art & Design	6	6	5	5	5
Law	6	7	8	8	9
Economics	6	6	6	5	6
French	6	5	5	4	4
Religious Studies	5	6	7	7	8
Govt and Politics	4	4	4	5	5
Applied Business	4	4	4	4	4
Applied ICT	3	5	6	6	6
German	3	3	2	2	2
Psychology JMB/NEA	3	3	4	4	3
Art & Des(Photo.)	3	3	3	4	4
Music	3	3	3	3	3
Biology: Human	3	3	3	2	2
Health & Social Care	2	2	3	3	4
Accounting/Finance	2	2	2	2	2
Film Studies	1	2	2	3	3
Critical Thinking	1	2	3	4	5

High

Subject	2001/2	2002/3	2003/4	2004/5	2005/6
General Studies	46	46	47	46	45
Mathematics	38	36	35	34	39
Biology	34	33	34	35	33
Chemistry	31	30	31	31	30
English Literature	28	27	27	28	29
History	25	26	27	27	28
Physics	25	23	22	22	19
Geography	20	20	19	18	18
Mathematics(Appld)	17	19	20	18	0
French	17	16	15	14	15
Psychology	15	17	19	20	21
Bus. Studs: Single	12	11	11	10	10
Economics	11	10	11	10	10
German	7	7	7	6	6
Sociology	7	7	7	7	7
Art&Des - Fine Art	7	7	8	8	8
English	7	6	6	6	6
English Language	7	7	7	7	8
Religious Studies	6	7	8	9	9
Drama & Theat. Stds	6	7	7	7	7
Inform Comm Tech	6	7	6	5	4
D&T Product Design	6	6	6	6	6
Art & Design	6	5	5	5	5
Sport/P.E. Studies	6	6	6	7	7
Maths (Further)	6	5	6	6	7
Govt and Politics	6	6	6	7	7
Com.Stds/Computing	5	5	4	3	3
Media/Film/TV Stds	5	5	6	5	6
Spanish	5	5	5	5	5
Music	4	5	5	5	5
Law	3	4	4	4	5
Class. Civilisation	2	2	2	3	3
Psychology JMB/NEA	2	2	3	3	3
Biology: Human	2	2	2	2	2
Critical Thinking	2	3	5	7	11

Table 6 gives the most popular combinations of AS levels (for candidates taking at least three subjects, and excluding General Studies) in each year. To give an idea of the number of possible combinations available to candidates, in 2005/6 there were just over 70,000 different combinations in this data. If we had included the candidates taking fewer than three AS levels and also included General Studies, this number would have been much larger.

Table 6: Most common combinations of at least three AS-level subjects in 2001-2006, excluding General Studies

2001/2

Combination				%	Cum %	
Biology	Chemistry	Physics	Mathematics	0.91	0.91	
Biology	Chemistry	Physics	Mathematics	Mathematics(Appld)	0.35	1.26
Chemistry	Physics	Mathematics	Maths (Further)	0.31	1.56	
Biology	Chemistry	Physics	Mathematics(Appld)	0.29	1.86	
Biology	Chemistry	Mathematics		0.27	2.12	
Biology	Chemistry	Physics		0.26	2.38	
Biology	Chemistry	Mathematics	Geography	0.25	2.64	
Chemistry	Physics	Mathematics		0.25	2.89	
Biology	Chemistry	Physics	Geography	0.20	3.09	
Psychology	Sociology	English Literature		0.16	3.25	

2002/3

Combination				%	Cum %	
Biology	Chemistry	Physics	Mathematics	0.67	0.67	
Biology	Chemistry	Physics	Mathematics	Mathematics(Appld)	0.41	1.08
Biology	Chemistry	Physics	Mathematics(Appld)	0.27	1.35	
Chemistry	Physics	Mathematics	Maths (Further)	0.25	1.60	
Biology	Chemistry	Physics		0.24	1.84	
Biology	Chemistry	Mathematics	Geography	0.18	2.03	
Biology	Chemistry	Physics	Geography	0.18	2.21	
Biology	Chemistry	Mathematics		0.18	2.39	
Chemistry	Physics	Mathematics		0.17	2.55	
Biology	Chemistry	Psychology		0.16	2.71	

2003/4

Combination				%	Cum %	
Biology	Chemistry	Physics	Mathematics	0.65	0.65	
Biology	Chemistry	Physics	Mathematics	Mathematics(Appld)	0.42	1.07
Biology	Chemistry	Physics	Mathematics(Appld)	0.26	1.34	
Biology	Chemistry	Physics		0.22	1.56	
Chemistry	Physics	Mathematics	Maths (Further)	0.21	1.77	
Biology	Chemistry	Mathematics		0.18	1.95	
Biology	Chemistry	Mathematics	Geography	0.17	2.12	
Biology	Chemistry	Mathematics	Psychology	0.17	2.30	
Biology	Chemistry	Physics	Geography	0.17	2.47	
Psychology	Sociology	English Literature		0.17	2.64	

2004/5

Combination					%	Cum %
Biology	Chemistry	Physics	Mathematics		0.72	0.72
Biology	Chemistry	Physics	Mathematics	Mathematics(Appld)	0.38	1.10
Biology	Chemistry	Physics			0.22	1.32
Biology	Chemistry	Mathematics			0.22	1.54
Biology	Chemistry	Physics	Mathematics(Appld)		0.21	1.75
Biology	Chemistry	Psychology			0.20	1.95
Chemistry	Physics	Mathematics	Maths (Further)		0.20	2.15
Biology	Chemistry	Mathematics	Psychology		0.20	2.35
Psychology	Sociology	English Literature			0.18	2.52
Biology	Chemistry	Physics	Geography		0.17	2.69

2005/6

Combination					%	Cum %
Biology	Chemistry	Physics	Mathematics		1.19	1.19
Biology	Chemistry	Mathematics	Psychology		0.43	1.63
Biology	Chemistry	Mathematics	Geography		0.32	1.95
Chemistry	Physics	Mathematics	Maths (Further)		0.30	2.25
Biology	Chemistry	Mathematics			0.29	2.54
Biology	Chemistry	Mathematics	History		0.25	2.79
Chemistry	Physics	Mathematics			0.23	3.02
Biology	Chemistry	Mathematics	Economics		0.21	3.23
Biology	Chemistry	Mathematics	French		0.20	3.43
Biology	Chemistry	Physics	Mathematics	Maths (Further)	0.19	3.63

Table 7 presents the uptake of five different subject areas at AS level. The subject areas were Arts, English, Languages, Science/Mathematics and Social Science/Humanities. Grouping subjects is not a straightforward task and the allocation to subject areas is always debatable. Details of the subject areas can be found in Appendix B. This analysis is restricted to those candidates with at least three AS level results. The total number of low attaining candidates is reduced because they were less likely to have taken three AS levels.

Table 7: Uptake of subject areas at AS level by gender and attainment in 2001-2006 (% of candidates with at least three AS levels, excluding General Studies)

2001/2

Subject Area	Male	Female	Low	Medium	High	All
Arts	34	39	45	41	29	37
English	31	56	43	47	43	45
Languages	12	20	8	11	26	16
Science/Maths	73	54	53	58	73	63
Social Science/Humanities	79	82	82	84	76	80
Number of students	95,754	112,525	49,116	76,653	82,510	208,279

2002/3

Subject Area	Male	Female	Low	Medium	High	All
Arts	36	41	45	43	30	38
English	29	55	41	45	43	43
Languages	11	19	7	10	26	16
Science/Maths	72	53	53	57	71	62
Social Science/Humanities	80	82	82	85	77	81
Number of students	99,642	117,913	52,001	78,575	86,979	217,555

2003/4

Subject Area	Male	Female	Low	Medium	High	All
Arts	38	42	47	44	31	40
English	29	56	41	45	42	43
Languages	11	18	7	10	25	15
Science/Maths	71	52	52	56	71	61
Social Science/Humanities	81	83	83	85	79	82
Number of students	102,269	120,245	56,175	79,323	87,017	222,515

2004/5

Subject Area	Male	Female	Low	Medium	High	All
Arts	38	42	47	45	32	40
English	31	55	42	47	43	44
Languages	10	17	6	9	24	14
Science/Maths	69	51	50	54	70	59
Social Science/Humanities	81	84	83	86	80	83
Number of students	102,128	122,249	55,829	80,821	87,727	224,377

2005/6

Subject Area	Male	Female	Low	Medium	High	All
Arts	40	43	47	46	34	41
English	30	54	38	45	44	43
Languages	10	17	6	8	25	14
Science/Maths	69	50	51	55	67	59
Social Science/Humanities	81	85	83	86	81	83
Number of students	108,188	128,763	60,769	84,015	92,167	236,951

For the following analysis subjects were also grouped into three different domains: Science and Mathematics, Arts and Languages and Social Science and Humanities (Bell *et al.*, 2005). Table 8 also presents the proportion of candidates classified as specialists (those entering subjects in only one domain), partly mixed (those entering subjects in two different domains) and those entering subjects in all three domains.

Table 8: Uptake of combinations of AS level subjects by gender and attainment in 2001-2006 (% of candidates with at least three AS levels - General Studies not included)

2001/2

Arts	Sci-Mat	SocHum	Male	Female	Low	Medium	High	All
Yes	-	-	2	5	6	4	2	4
-	Yes	-	9	3	5	5	8	6
-	-	Yes	3	3	5	4	1	3
Specialist			14	11	15	12	11	12
Yes	Yes	-	10	10	8	8	14	10
Yes	-	Yes	22	38	36	34	24	30
-	Yes	Yes	28	14	19	20	22	20
Partly Mixed			60	62	62	62	60	61
Yes	Yes	Yes	26	27	22	27	29	27

2002/3

Arts	Sci-Mat	SocHum	Male	Female	Low	Medium	High	All
Yes	-	-	2	5	6	4	2	4
-	Yes	-	8	3	4	4	7	5
-	-	Yes	4	3	6	4	2	4
Specialist			14	11	16	12	11	13
Yes	Yes	-	10	10	8	8	13	10
Yes	-	Yes	22	38	35	34	25	31
-	Yes	Yes	28	14	19	20	22	21
Partly Mixed			60	62	61	62	60	61
Yes	Yes	Yes	26	26	23	26	29	26

2003/4

Arts	Sci-Mat	SocHum	Male	Female	Low	Medium	High	All
Yes	-	-	2	5	6	4	2	4
-	Yes	-	8	3	4	4	7	5
-	-	Yes	4	4	6	4	2	4
Specialist			14	11	16	12	11	12
Yes	Yes	-	9	9	7	7	12	9
Yes	-	Yes	23	39	36	35	25	32
-	Yes	Yes	28	15	19	20	23	21
Partly Mixed			61	63	62	62	61	62
Yes	Yes	Yes	26	26	22	26	29	26

2004/5

Arts	Sci-Mat	SocHum	Male	Female	Low	Medium	High	All
Yes	-	-	2	5	6	4	2	4
-	Yes	-	7	2	4	4	6	5
-	-	Yes	4	4	7	5	2	4
Specialist			14	11	16	12	10	12
Yes	Yes	-	9	9	7	7	12	9
Yes	-	Yes	24	41	38	37	26	33
-	Yes	Yes	27	14	18	19	22	20
Partly Mixed			61	63	63	63	61	62
Yes	Yes	Yes	25	26	21	25	29	26

2005/6

Arts	Sci-Mat	SocHum	Male	Female	Low	Medium	High	All
Yes	-	-	2	5	6	4	2	4
-	Yes	-	7	2	4	3	5	4
-	-	Yes	4	4	7	5	2	4
Specialist			14	11	17	12	10	12
Yes	Yes	-	9	8	7	7	11	9
Yes	-	Yes	25	40	36	36	28	33
-	Yes	Yes	26	14	19	19	21	20
Partly Mixed			61	63	62	63	61	62
Yes	Yes	Yes	26	26	21	25	29	26

In the following tables the percentage (and numbers) of candidates dropping each subject after AS level is displayed (excluding candidates who did not take any A-levels at all). For this we did not include AS levels that were taken in year 13. We also did not include any AS levels or A-levels taken early. We also excluded those subjects for which only an AS is available (e.g. Critical Thinking). Of course we cannot know which candidates only intended to take the AS level and which subjects were genuinely 'dropped' after AS level. The subjects included here are the most popular at AS level, as in tables 3-5.

Table 9: Subjects dropped after AS level 2001-2006 (candidates with at least one A-level)

All

<i>Subject</i>	2001/2 (%)	2002/3 (%)	2003/4 (%)	2004/5 (%)	2005/6 (%)	2001/2 (n)	2002/3 (n)	2003/4 (n)	2004/5 (n)	2005/6 (n)
French	33	34	33	31	32	6274	5972	5630	4888	5170
German	33	34	34	32	29	2878	2751	2547	2183	1997
Inform Comm Tech	28	30	31	29	27	5286	6134	5843	4564	4110
General Studies	24	27	31	30	32	17967	20043	24959	23636	26218
Com.Stds/Computing	24	28	31	29	31	2747	2935	2759	2113	2004
Spanish	24	26	25	24	23	1249	1398	1401	1415	1386
Physics	21	22	24	24	24	6602	6817	6897	6872	6733
Psychology	24	23	23	22	23	8039	8713	10150	10543	11653
Chemistry	22	23	23	22	22	8146	8276	8557	8182	8610
Psychology JMB/NEA	22	20	22	20	21	1045	1139	1326	1259	1319
Biology	19	20	22	21	21	9197	9325	10419	10197	10692
Law	21	21	20	20	20	1950	2329	2556	2650	2955
Art & Des(Photo.)	23	19	19	19	20	819	815	934	1036	1343
Economics	19	18	20	19	20	2779	2589	2991	2662	2976
Music	18	18	19	19	20	1072	1223	1301	1337	1488
Govt and Politics	20	19	18	18	18	1645	1722	1644	1901	1917
Religious Studies	20	19	19	18	17	2012	2260	2493	2820	2889
History	16	18	17	18	18	6555	7275	7507	7811	8523
D&T Product Design	20	17	16	16	16	3056	2672	2584	2650	2863
Art & Design	18	16	16	17	16	2191	1838	1722	1801	1665
Geography	17	17	16	17	17	6108	5859	5497	5357	5368
Art&Des - Fine Art	17	16	16	17	16	2435	2469	2545	2719	2615
English Language	17	17	17	16	15	2638	2798	2829	2828	2935
Sociology	18	17	16	15	14	3891	3702	3720	3448	3599
Bus. Studs: Single	17	15	16	15	15	5398	4819	4878	4290	4318
English Literature	14	14	14	15	14	6716	6867	6746	7309	7319
Drama & Theat. Stds	15	15	15	12	12	2162	2279	2246	1881	1956
Mathematics	18	12	10	9	20	8508	5209	4433	3937	10558
English	14	15	14	14	13	2075	2080	1947	2071	1949
Media/Film/TV Stds	14	13	13	13	12	2514	2632	2848	2721	2863
Sport/P.E. Studies	15	12	13	12	12	2692	2342	2532	2305	2589
Maths (Further)	3	2	2	2	3	127	103	100	92	187

Table 10: Subjects dropped after AS level by gender 2001-2006 (candidates with at least one A-level)

Males

<i>Subject</i>	2001/2 (%)	2002/3 (%)	2003/4 (%)	2004/5 (%)	2005/6 (%)	2001/2 (n)	2002/3 (n)	2003/4 (n)	2004/5 (n)	2005/6 (n)
French	32	33	32	29	30	1818	1833	1691	1405	1463
Psychology	30	29	30	29	29	2468	2832	3547	3674	4073
General Studies	23	26	30	29	32	7936	9017	11205	10478	11866
Com.Stds/Computing	22	27	30	28	30	2190	2466	2374	1821	1777
Inform Comm Tech	26	27	29	27	26	3029	3498	3439	2693	2465
Chemistry	23	24	24	22	22	4198	4205	4329	4053	4292
Law	24	25	22	21	21	885	1119	1136	1139	1245
Physics	19	20	22	22	22	4550	4748	4822	4816	4688
Biology	20	21	21	21	22	3724	3714	4069	4052	4522
Sociology	22	20	20	17	17	1076	1025	1073	943	991
English Language	20	20	19	18	17	1091	1088	1121	1156	1161
Religious Studies	19	19	20	17	18	531	643	787	806	939
Economics	18	17	19	18	19	1791	1674	1966	1799	1943
Music	16	17	18	19	20	373	442	487	561	639
Art & Design	20	18	17	17	16	742	577	529	501	489
Govt and Politics	18	17	16	17	16	840	882	868	1035	982
Art&Des - Fine Art	17	15	16	17	16	797	747	797	853	811
D&T Product Design	19	16	16	15	16	1879	1613	1549	1515	1590
Geography	17	16	15	16	16	3193	2982	2765	2751	2699
English	17	16	16	16	15	795	686	683	712	674
History	14	15	15	15	15	2675	2867	3068	3213	3483
English Literature	14	15	15	15	15	2063	2123	2034	2187	2177
Drama & Theat. Stds	16	16	14	12	12	615	667	611	516	556
Bus. Studs: Single	15	14	14	13	13	2584	2466	2431	2071	2076
Mathematics	17	11	9	8	18	4779	2934	2509	2193	5907
Sport/P.E. Studies	15	12	13	12	11	1647	1432	1495	1361	1497
Media/Film/TV Stds	13	12	12	12	11	969	988	1105	1042	1125
Maths (Further)	3	2	2	2	3	88	66	68	56	115

Females

<i>Subject</i>	2001/2 (%)	2002/3 (%)	2003/4 (%)	2004/5 (%)	2005/6 (%)	2001/2 (n)	2002/3 (n)	2003/4 (n)	2004/5 (n)	2005/6 (n)
French	34	34	34	32	33	4456	4139	3939	3483	3707
German	33	34	34	33	30	1899	1856	1706	1449	1325
Inform Comm Tech	32	34	34	32	29	2257	2636	2404	1871	1645
Physics	27	28	31	32	32	2052	2069	2075	2056	2045
General Studies	26	27	32	31	32	10031	11026	13754	13158	14352
Spanish	25	27	26	26	24	898	1015	1029	1080	1022
Chemistry	21	22	23	22	23	3948	4071	4228	4129	4318
Economics	22	21	23	20	23	988	915	1025	863	1033
Govt and Politics	23	22	20	20	21	805	840	776	866	935
Psychology	22	20	20	20	20	5571	5881	6603	6869	7580
Biology	19	20	22	21	21	5473	5611	6350	6145	6170
History	18	20	20	20	21	3880	4408	4439	4598	5040
Music	19	19	20	20	21	699	781	814	776	849
Law	19	19	19	19	19	1065	1210	1420	1511	1710
Art & Des(Photo.)	21	18	18	19	18	496	500	574	660	798
Bus. Studs: Single	20	18	19	19	18	2814	2353	2447	2219	2242
Psychology JMB/NEA	20	18	19	18	19	684	738	860	831	848
Religious Studies	20	19	18	18	17	1481	1617	1706	2014	1950
D&T Product Design	21	17	17	17	18	1177	1059	1035	1135	1273
Geography	18	18	18	18	18	2915	2877	2732	2606	2669
Art & Design	17	16	16	17	16	1449	1261	1193	1300	1176
Art&Des - Fine Art	17	16	16	17	16	1638	1722	1748	1866	1804
Mathematics	21	14	11	11	22	3729	2275	1924	1744	4651
English Language	15	16	15	14	14	1547	1710	1708	1672	1774
Sociology	17	16	15	14	14	2815	2677	2647	2505	2608
English Literature	14	14	14	14	14	4653	4744	4712	5122	5142
Drama & Theat. Stds	15	15	15	12	12	1547	1612	1635	1365	1400
Sport/P.E. Studies	16	13	14	13	13	1045	910	1037	944	1092

Table 11: Subjects dropped after AS level by attainment 2001-2006 (candidates with at least one A-level)

Low

<i>Subject</i>	2001/2 (%)	2002/3 (%)	2003/4 (%)	2004/5 (%)	2005/6 (%)	2001/2 (n)	2002/3 (n)	2003/4 (n)	2004/5 (n)	2005/6 (n)
General Studies	36	39	47	43	45	4582	5083	6737	5979	6771
Biology	38	41	44	42	39	1847	1828	2027	1757	2042
Physics	35	37	39	37	35	1027	1017	1026	926	1062
Chemistry	37	36	38	34	34	982	868	986	873	1154
Psychology	31	31	31	31	30	2078	2345	2855	2912	3238
Inform Comm Tech	29	32	33	30	28	1630	1956	1848	1365	1318
Law	27	26	24	23	24	674	785	876	835	1019
Mathematics	31	20	19	18	31	1123	653	655	610	1573
Geography	22	23	22	23	23	1198	1161	1108	1015	1081
History	20	22	22	21	21	1123	1223	1315	1260	1349
Religious Studies	23	21	20	18	18	374	399	461	478	486
Sociology	21	20	19	16	17	1296	1288	1339	1195	1286
Bus. Studs: Single	20	18	20	18	18	1561	1368	1495	1272	1327
English Language	19	19	17	16	17	653	673	679	639	697
D&T Product Design	20	17	16	15	17	785	680	644	605	755
Art&Des - Fine Art	18	15	17	16	16	570	478	590	543	557
English Literature	16	16	17	17	16	1308	1289	1402	1415	1221
Art & Design	18	15	16	16	14	514	397	405	376	321
English	16	16	16	15	14	532	521	532	522	493
Sport/P.E. Studies	15	13	15	13	13	731	669	728	630	672
Drama & Theat. Stds	14	12	12	10	10	459	440	422	342	341
Media/Film/TV Stds	12	11	11	11	10	709	710	810	798	787

Medium

<i>Subject</i>	2001/2 (%)	2002/3 (%)	2003/4 (%)	2004/5 (%)	2005/6 (%)	2001/2 (n)	2002/3 (n)	2003/4 (n)	2004/5 (n)	2005/6 (n)
French	42	44	44	42	42	1909	1681	1571	1360	1335
Chemistry	33	35	35	34	32	2857	2842	2861	2827	3158
General Studies	26	29	34	32	34	7097	7977	9830	9251	10340
Physics	26	29	31	31	31	2320	2383	2371	2333	2418
Biology	26	27	31	30	28	3815	3799	4275	4253	4329
Com.Stds/Computing	23	28	30	27	29	1134	1180	1099	849	832
Inform Comm Tech	26	27	30	26	26	2272	2534	2513	1925	1707
Economics	21	22	25	22	24	968	909	1042	900	1032
Psychology	23	22	22	22	22	3453	3602	4276	4437	4955
Mathematics	28	20	17	15	30	3246	1901	1670	1458	4198
Psychology JMB/NEA	22	19	21	21	22	453	462	550	556	587
Govt and Politics	21	21	20	20	20	582	645	610	693	687
Law	20	21	20	19	19	828	1008	1078	1166	1219
Religious Studies	20	20	18	19	19	748	874	897	1085	1098
Music	17	17	21	18	21	343	348	437	379	455
Art & Des(Photo.)	22	18	18	18	18	331	325	383	436	511
History	17	18	18	19	19	2363	2524	2585	2705	2995
Geography	16	16	16	17	17	2184	2085	1905	1966	1997
Art & Design	17	15	15	16	15	811	668	614	620	552
Art&Des - Fine Art	16	15	15	16	15	884	903	897	959	931
English Language	16	16	16	15	14	1105	1096	1128	1159	1116
D&T Product Design	17	15	14	15	14	1157	1041	984	1058	1058
Sociology	17	16	14	13	14	1683	1570	1494	1421	1512
English Literature	14	15	14	15	15	2461	2549	2371	2565	2603
Bus. Studs: Single	15	14	15	14	14	2191	1978	1957	1722	1755
English	14	14	13	14	13	846	825	807	906	804
Drama & Theat. Stds	14	14	13	11	11	762	820	791	670	707
Media/Film/TV Stds	13	13	12	12	12	1087	1135	1127	1139	1206
Sport/P.E. Studies	13	11	11	10	11	1082	932	957	925	1043

High

<i>Subject</i>	2001/2 (%)	2002/3 (%)	2003/4 (%)	2004/5 (%)	2005/6 (%)	2001/2 (n)	2002/3 (n)	2003/4 (n)	2004/5 (n)	2005/6 (n)
Inform Comm Tech	30	31	32	32	29	1384	1644	1482	1274	1085
German	30	31	31	29	26	1717	1759	1657	1419	1307
French	30	30	29	28	29	3858	3826	3651	3209	3521
Com.Stds/Computing	23	25	27	26	27	877	971	870	697	587
General Studies	19	20	23	23	25	6288	6983	8392	8406	9107
Spanish	22	23	22	22	20	770	895	856	927	906
D&T Product Design	23	19	19	19	19	1114	951	956	987	1050
Psychology	21	19	19	18	19	2508	2766	3019	3194	3460
Music	18	18	18	19	20	591	722	700	782	862
Art & Design	19	18	18	19	18	866	773	703	805	792
Physics	16	17	19	20	19	3255	3417	3500	3613	3253
Media/Film/TV Stds	19	18	19	18	18	718	787	911	784	870
Religious Studies	19	18	18	17	16	890	987	1135	1257	1305
Chemistry	17	18	18	17	17	4307	4566	4710	4482	4298
Art&Des - Fine Art	18	17	16	18	16	981	1088	1058	1217	1127
Law	18	17	17	17	18	448	536	602	649	717
Drama & Theat. Stds	19	19	18	15	14	941	1019	1033	869	908
English Language	17	18	17	17	16	880	1029	1022	1030	1122
Psychology JMB/NEA	18	17	18	15	16	302	347	400	344	354
Govt and Politics	19	17	15	15	15	797	794	715	867	868
History	15	16	16	16	17	3069	3528	3607	3846	4179
Economics	16	15	17	15	17	1295	1255	1456	1319	1456
Bus. Stds: Single	17	16	16	15	15	1646	1473	1426	1296	1236
Class. Civilisation	16	17	16	14	15	307	349	318	297	343
Geography	17	15	15	15	15	2726	2613	2484	2376	2290
Sport/P.E. Studies	19	14	15	13	14	879	741	847	750	874
Sociology	17	15	15	14	13	912	844	887	832	801
Biology	13	13	14	14	15	3535	3698	4117	4187	4321
English Literature	13	13	13	14	14	2947	3029	2973	3329	3495
English	12	15	13	13	12	697	734	608	643	652
Mathematics	13	9	7	6	14	4139	2655	2108	1869	4787
Maths (Further)	3	2	2	2	3	92	84	68	56	121

Reference

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

Appendix A – AS levels taken in year 13

A large number of candidates were found to have an AS entry in the year of their cohort's A-levels. E.g. for the cohort that took A-levels in 2002 (i.e. would usually take AS levels in 2001) there were almost 210,000 AS level entries also in 2002. Of these, around 41,000 were re-sits. Of the remaining entries, 50,000 candidates also took an A-level in the same subject in 2002, whilst 118,000 did not.

The re-sits were ignored, but the remaining entries needed to be included somewhere.

Table 1: Number of AS levels taken in year 13

Year	AS levels taken	AS levels excluding re-sits	A-level also taken in same year	AS levels only taken
2002	209,670	168,639	49,994	118,645
2003	213,507	179,351	52,092	127,259
2004	215,249	179,416	49,823	129,593
2005	217,391	203,452	61,917	141,535
2006	232,847	213,938	65,023	148,915

Appendix B – Subject Classifications

Science/Maths

LEAP code	Subject Title
0008	Applied Science
0009	Applied Engineering
0010	Applied ICT
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
1920A	Sci for Public Und
2030A	Science: Other
2210B	Mathematics
2220B	Maths (Mechanics)
2230B	Mathematics (Pure)
2240B	Maths (Decision)
2250B	Mathematics (Appld)
2260B	Mathematics (Statistics)
2330B	Maths (Further)
2340B	Additional Maths
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
5515J	Welsh (2 nd Lang)
5630K	Dutch
5650K	French
5670K	German
5690K	Italian
5710K	Modern Greek
5730K	Portuguese
5750K	Spanish
5910K	Arabic
5930K	Bengali
5950K	Chinese
5970K	Gujarati
5990K	Hindi
6010K	Japanese
6030K	Modern Hebrew
6050K	Panjabi
6070K	Polish
6090K	Russian
6110K	Turkish
6130K	Urdu
6150K	Persian
6310K	Other Languages
6550K	Greek
6610K	Latin
6650K	Other Class. Langs

Social Science/Humanities

LEAP code	Subject Title
0002	Applied Business
0003	Health & Social Care
0004	Leisure & Tourism
0005	Manufacturing
0006	Construction & the Built Envnt.
0007	Hospitality & Catering
0011	Management Studies
0013	Retail & Distribution
0014	Land & Environment
0016	Leisure & Recreation
0017	Travel & Tourism
0018	Applied Hairdressing
3210D	Bus. Studs: Single
3230D	Bus. Studs & Economics
3310D	Home Economics
3330D	HE: Child Devt
3390D	HE: Home & Family
3910F	Geography
3920F	World Development
4010G	History
4150H	European Studies
4410H	Economics
4430H	Economics & Business
4610H	Religious Studies
4730H	Archaeology
4770H	Law
4790H	Logic / Philosophy
4830H	Politics
4850H	Psychology
4890H	Sociology
4895H	Social Policy
4910H	Soc Sci: Citizenship
6510K	Ancient History
6530K	Class. Civilisation
7410N	Accounting/Finance
7810P	General Studies
7830P	Critical Thinking
8900D	Design & Technology
8910D	D&T Communication
8920D	D&T Design
8930D	D&T Technology
9020D	D&T Food Technology
9030D	D&T Graphic Prods
9040D	D&T Resist. MatrIs
9060D	D&T Systems & Cont

Arts

LEAP code	Subject Title
0001	Applied Art and Design
0012	Media: Communication & Production
0015	Performing Arts
3510E	Art & Design
3550E	Art & Des (Graphcs)
3570E	Art & Des (Photo.)
3650E	Art & Des (Textiles)
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