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Official Statistics

Provisional entries for GCSE, AS and A level: summer 2024 exam series

Published 30 May 2024

Applies to England

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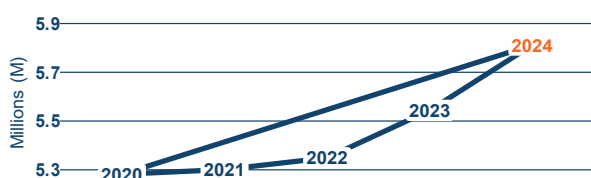
This report presents provisional figures for the number of entries for GCSEs, AS and A levels submitted by schools and colleges in England to exam boards by 18 April 2024 for qualifications which are to be awarded in summer 2024.

These figures reflect the information submitted to exam boards at that time but numbers for final entries are always expected to vary to some degree.

1. Key headlines

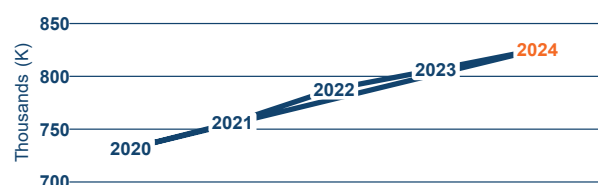
Provisional entries for GCSE, AS and A level: summer 2024

5,811,790 GCSE entries



increased by 4.8% from 2023

825,390 A level entries



increased by 2.4% from 2023

The key headlines in provisional entries for GCSEs, AS and A levels for the summer 2024 series are:

- GCSE entries have increased by 4.8% from 5,543,840 in summer 2023 to 5,811,790 in summer 2024
- the proportion of entries by tier in tiered GCSE subjects are broadly similar in summer 2024 compared with summer 2023
- A level entries have increased by 2.4% from 806,410 in summer 2023 to 825,390 in summer 2024
- AS entries have decreased by 4.5% from 62,785 in summer 2023 to 59,935 in summer 2024

2. GCSE entries

The overall entry for GCSEs has increased by 4.8% from 5,543,840 in summer 2023 to 5,811,790 in summer 2024. Overall entries for GCSEs have been slowly but steadily increasing for the past 5 years, but over the past 2 years a more pronounced increase in entries has been seen.

GCSE entries have increased by 4.8% in summer 2024

GCSE entries from summer 2020 to summer 2024

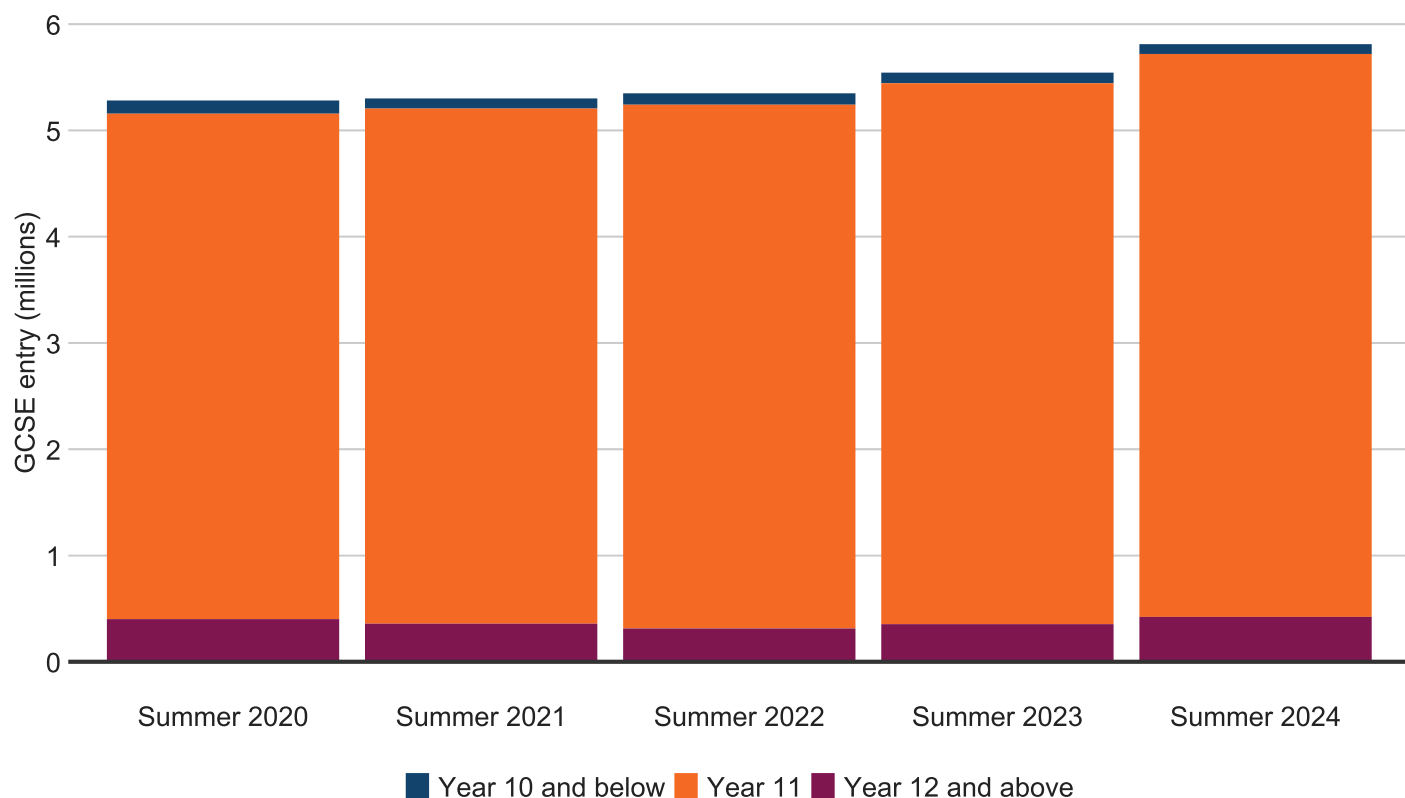


Table 1. GCSE entries from summer 2020 to summer 2024

Year group	Summer 2020	Summer 2021	Summer 2022	Summer 2023	Summer 2024
Year 10 and below	124,310	95,580	107,400	99,780	92,375
Year 11	4,756,135	4,847,140	4,928,640	5,090,115	5,297,100
Year 12 and above	401,300	358,350	313,210	353,940	422,310
All year groups	5,281,745	5,301,075	5,349,250	5,543,840	5,811,790

The majority of GCSE entries are from year 11 students. Entries from year 11 students have increased in summer 2024 compared with summer 2023 (an increase of 4.1%). This increase, however, should be considered in the context of a 5.2% increase in the size of the population of those aged 16 in England, from 663,078 in

2023 (according to [ONS population estimates in 2021](#)) to 697,673 in 2024 (according to [ONS population estimates in 2022](#)).

The increase of 4.8% for GCSE entries in summer 2024 is due to a rise in entries for both [EBacc subjects](#) and non-EBacc subjects.

The majority of GCSE entries are in EBacc Subjects

Percentage of GCSE entries from summer 2020 to summer 2024 for EBacc and non-EBacc subjects

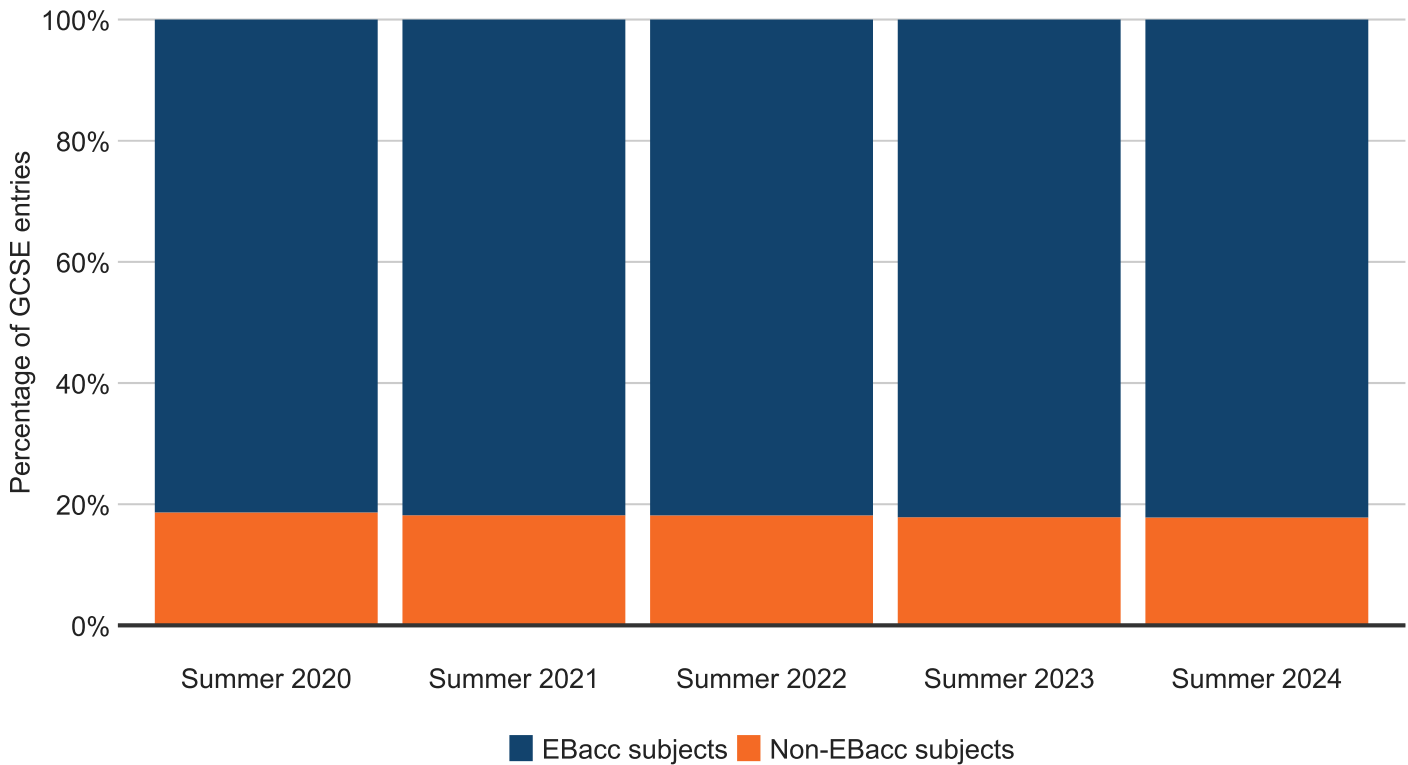


Table 2. GCSE entries for EBacc and non-EBacc subjects from summer 2020 to summer 2024

Subject types	Summer 2020	Summer 2021	Summer 2022	Summer 2023	Summer 2024
EBacc entries	4,297,100	4,337,685	4,378,110	4,554,415	4,776,980
Non-EBacc entries	984,645	963,390	971,140	989,430	1,034,805
Percent EBacc entries	81.4%	81.8%	81.8%	82.2%	82.2%
Percent non-EBacc entries	18.6%	18.2%	18.2%	17.8%	17.8%

2.1 Change from previous year in GCSE entries for EBacc subjects

The overall entry for EBacc subjects in summer 2024 has increased by 4.9% from 4,554,415 in summer 2023 to 4,776,980 in summer 2024.

Please note that entry in combined science is double counted because combined science is the equivalent of 2 GCSE grades. Please also note that ancient languages includes ancient history as well as ancient languages.

Entries increased in many EBacc subjects

Percentage change in EBacc entries in summer 2024 compared to summer 2023

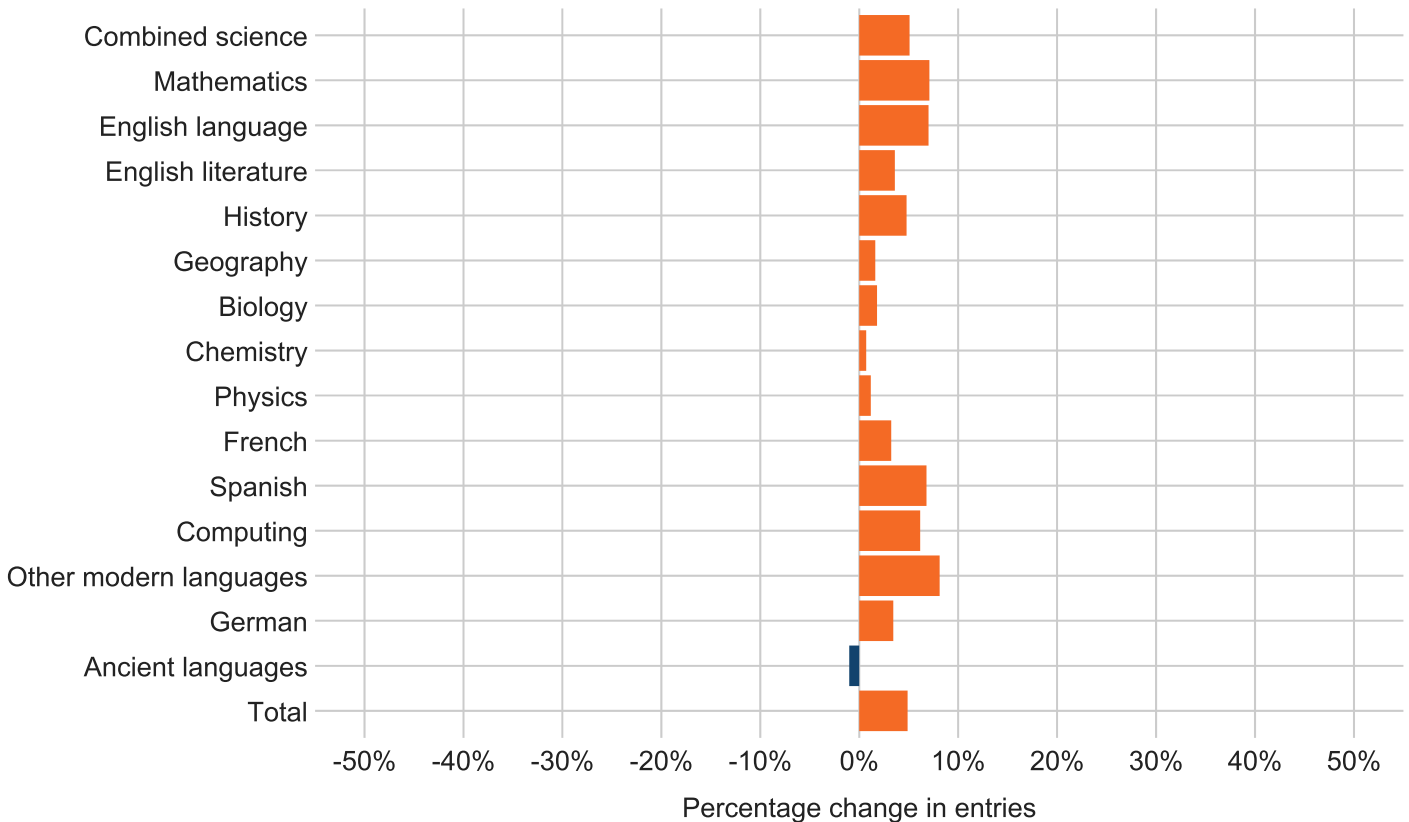


Table 3. Percentage change in EBacc entries in summer 2024 compared to summer 2023

Subject grouping	Entries in Summer 2023	Entries in Summer 2024	Percentage change in entries
------------------	------------------------	------------------------	------------------------------

Combined science	881,925	926,780	5.1%
Mathematics	786,815	842,595	7.1%
English language	754,910	807,785	7.0%
English literature	601,945	623,610	3.6%
History	298,155	312,415	4.8%
Geography	283,020	287,610	1.6%
Biology	180,125	183,370	1.8%
Chemistry	173,530	174,750	0.7%
Physics	172,725	174,745	1.2%
French	126,560	130,650	3.2%
Spanish	121,670	129,940	6.8%
Computing	88,530	93,985	6.2%
Other modern languages	39,270	42,460	8.1%
German	33,945	35,110	3.4%
Ancient languages	11,290	11,175	-1.0%
Total	4,554,415	4,776,980	4.9%

There have been increases in entries for most EBacc subjects with the largest percentage increase in other modern languages (8.1%). The increase in other modern languages entries is the same as the increase seen in [the provisional entries report for 2023](#) where there was a 8.1% increase compared with 2022. There was a small decrease in entries for ancient languages this year (- 1.0%).

2.2 Entries in EBacc subjects over time and by year group

The growth in the population of those aged 16 in recent years' [ONS population estimates](#) is likely to explain the increase in entries in Ebacc subjects. In the uptake of individual subjects, however, there are other factors at play, such as individual preferences and other existing trends.

Entries for most Ebacc subjects have consecutively increased each year for the past 5 years. Entries for ancient languages have decreased each year.

Entries for most Ebacc subjects have consecutively increased each year for the past 5 years

Entries in EBacc subjects from summer 2020 to summer 2024

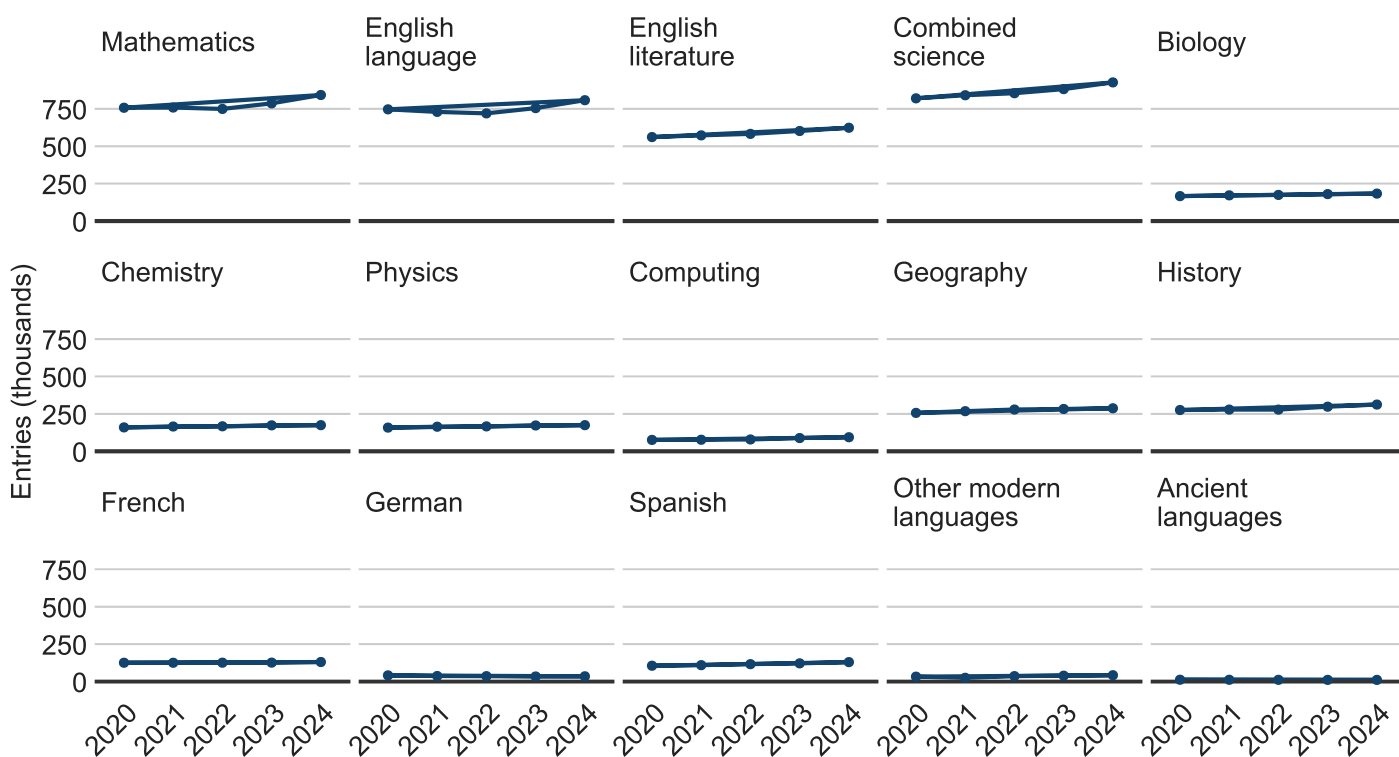


Table 4. Entries in EBacc subjects from summer 2020 to summer 2024

Subject	Summer 2020	Summer 2021	Summer 2022	Summer 2023	Summer 2024
Mathematics	757,235	758,755	749,390	786,815	842,595
English language	746,705	729,605	719,790	754,910	807,785

English literature	561,315	572,765	582,680	601,945	623,610
Combined science	820,270	840,955	854,450	881,925	926,780
Biology	166,635	171,835	174,605	180,125	183,370
Chemistry	159,760	165,710	167,190	173,530	174,750
Physics	158,395	164,330	166,550	172,725	174,745
Computing	76,180	77,245	79,135	88,530	93,985
Geography	256,805	268,180	279,205	283,020	287,610
History	275,910	278,880	278,750	298,155	312,415
French	125,770	125,655	126,185	126,560	130,650
German	41,320	37,035	36,000	33,945	35,110
Spanish	105,840	109,655	116,355	121,670	129,940
Other modern languages	32,755	25,225	36,310	39,270	42,460
Ancient languages	12,215	11,860	11,510	11,290	11,175

There are some slight changes to entries by year group in 2024 compared to previous years. In all subjects most entries are from candidates in year 11, but the proportion of entries from candidates in year 10 and below (“early entries”) in other modern languages is consistently higher than in other subjects. The percentage of entries for mathematics, English language, and English literature from students in year 12 and above has increased in summer 2024 when compared with summer 2023. In these subjects, the percentages of students from year 12 and above are similar to those seen in 2020 and, for mathematics and English language, it is likely that these changes reflect returning to normal grading arrangements after changes were introduced due to the pandemic.

The majority of entry is from year 11 candidates for EBacc subjects

Percentage of candidates by year group in EBacc subjects

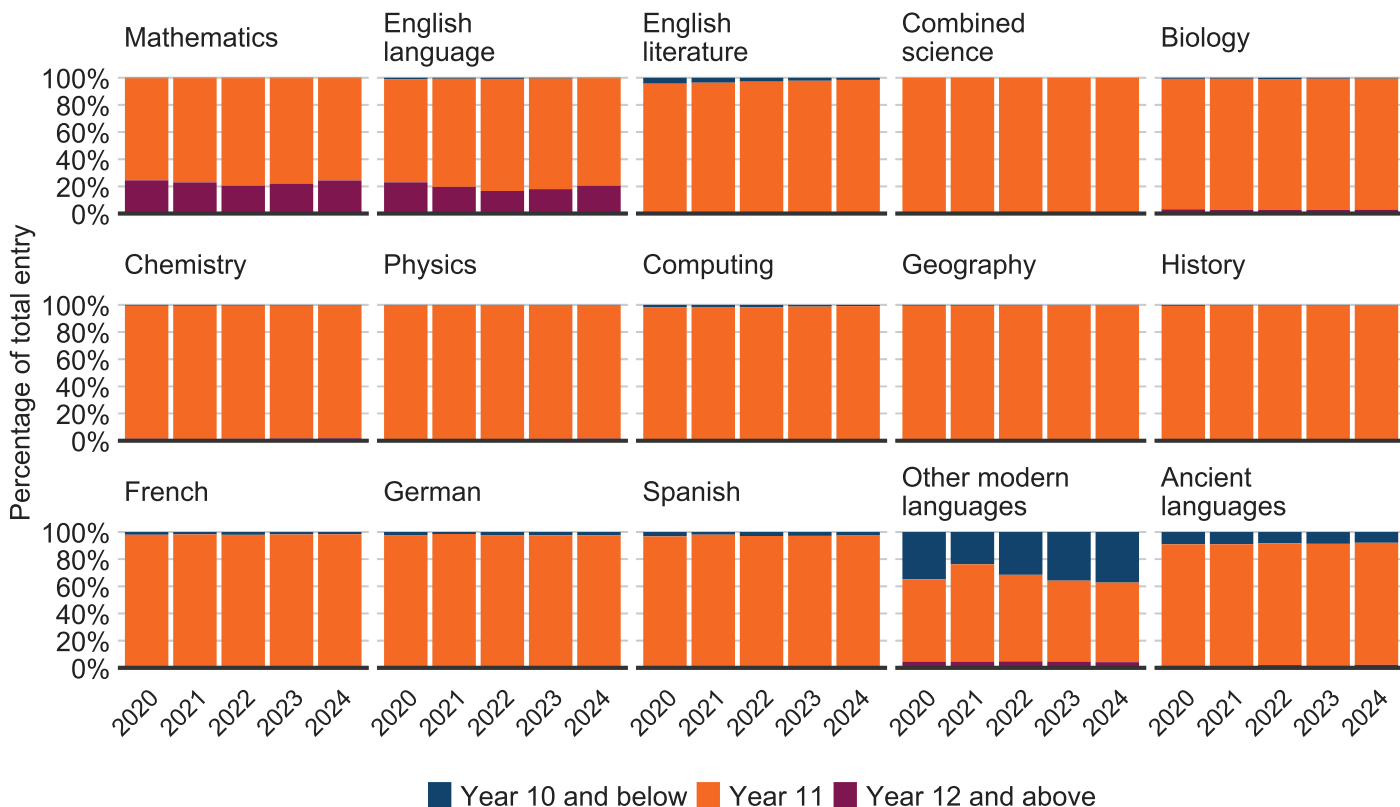


Table 5. Percentage of candidates by year group in EBacc subjects from summer 2020 to summer 2024

Subject	Year group	Summer 2020	Summer 2021	Summer 2022	Summer 2023	Summer 2024
Ancient languages	Year 10 and below	9.1%	9.0%	8.3%	8.7%	7.9%
Ancient languages	Year 11	89.3%	89.4%	89.7%	89.6%	89.9%
Ancient languages	Year 12 and above	1.6%	1.6%	2.0%	1.7%	2.2%
Biology	Year 10 and below	0.8%	0.7%	0.9%	0.7%	0.6%

Biology	Year 11	96.0%	96.5%	96.3%	96.6%	96.5%
Biology	Year 12 and above	3.1%	2.8%	2.8%	2.7%	2.9%
Chemistry	Year 10 and below	0.6%	0.7%	0.6%	0.5%	0.5%
Chemistry	Year 11	97.9%	98.1%	98.0%	97.8%	97.8%
Chemistry	Year 12 and above	1.5%	1.3%	1.4%	1.6%	1.8%
Combined science	Year 10 and below	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%
Combined science	Year 11	98.7%	98.7%	98.9%	98.8%	98.7%
Combined science	Year 12 and above	1.3%	1.1%	1.0%	1.1%	1.3%
Computing	Year 10 and below	1.9%	1.5%	1.7%	1.3%	0.9%
Computing	Year 11	97.2%	97.6%	97.4%	97.6%	97.8%
Computing	Year 12 and above	0.9%	0.9%	0.9%	1.2%	1.2%
English language	Year 10 and below	1.0%	0.7%	0.8%	0.6%	0.4%
English language	Year 11	76.0%	79.6%	82.5%	81.4%	79.1%

English language	Year 12 and above	23.0%	19.7%	16.6%	18.0%	20.5%
English literature	Year 10 and below	4.4%	3.7%	2.9%	2.2%	1.6%
English literature	Year 11	94.9%	95.7%	96.5%	97.1%	97.7%
English literature	Year 12 and above	0.7%	0.7%	0.6%	0.7%	0.8%
French	Year 10 and below	2.0%	1.7%	2.1%	1.8%	1.7%
French	Year 11	97.4%	97.8%	97.4%	97.7%	97.8%
French	Year 12 and above	0.6%	0.5%	0.5%	0.5%	0.5%
Geography	Year 10 and below	0.6%	0.6%	0.5%	0.4%	0.3%
Geography	Year 11	98.6%	98.7%	98.9%	98.9%	98.8%
Geography	Year 12 and above	0.7%	0.7%	0.6%	0.8%	0.9%
German	Year 10 and below	2.2%	1.5%	2.2%	2.4%	2.3%
German	Year 11	97.2%	98.1%	97.3%	97.2%	97.1%
German	Year 12	0.5%	0.5%	0.5%	0.5%	0.6%

	and above					
History	Year 10 and below	0.7%	0.5%	0.5%	0.5%	0.4%
History	Year 11	98.6%	98.9%	99.0%	99.0%	99.0%
History	Year 12 and above	0.6%	0.6%	0.5%	0.6%	0.6%
Mathematics	Year 10 and below	0.4%	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%
Mathematics	Year 11	75.2%	76.7%	79.1%	77.6%	75.3%
Mathematics	Year 12 and above	24.5%	23.0%	20.6%	22.1%	24.4%
Other modern languages	Year 10 and below	34.9%	23.8%	31.5%	35.8%	37.2%
Other modern languages	Year 11	60.5%	71.6%	63.7%	59.6%	58.6%
Other modern languages	Year 12 and above	4.6%	4.6%	4.8%	4.6%	4.2%
Physics	Year 10 and below	0.4%	0.5%	0.4%	0.5%	0.5%
Physics	Year 11	98.3%	98.5%	98.5%	98.2%	98.0%
Physics	Year 12 and above	1.2%	1.0%	1.1%	1.4%	1.5%

Spanish	Year 10 and below	3.2%	2.0%	2.9%	2.8%	2.6%
Spanish	Year 11	96.0%	97.4%	96.5%	96.6%	96.8%
Spanish	Year 12 and above	0.8%	0.6%	0.6%	0.6%	0.6%

2.3 Change from previous year in GCSE entries for non-EBacc subjects

The overall entry for non-EBacc subjects has increased by 4.6% from 989,430 in summer 2023 to 1,034,805 in summer 2024. This mirrors the increase in the number of 16 year olds in the population between the 2 years.

Overall entries increased in non-EBacc subjects

Percentage change in non-EBacc entries in summer 2024 compared to summer 2023

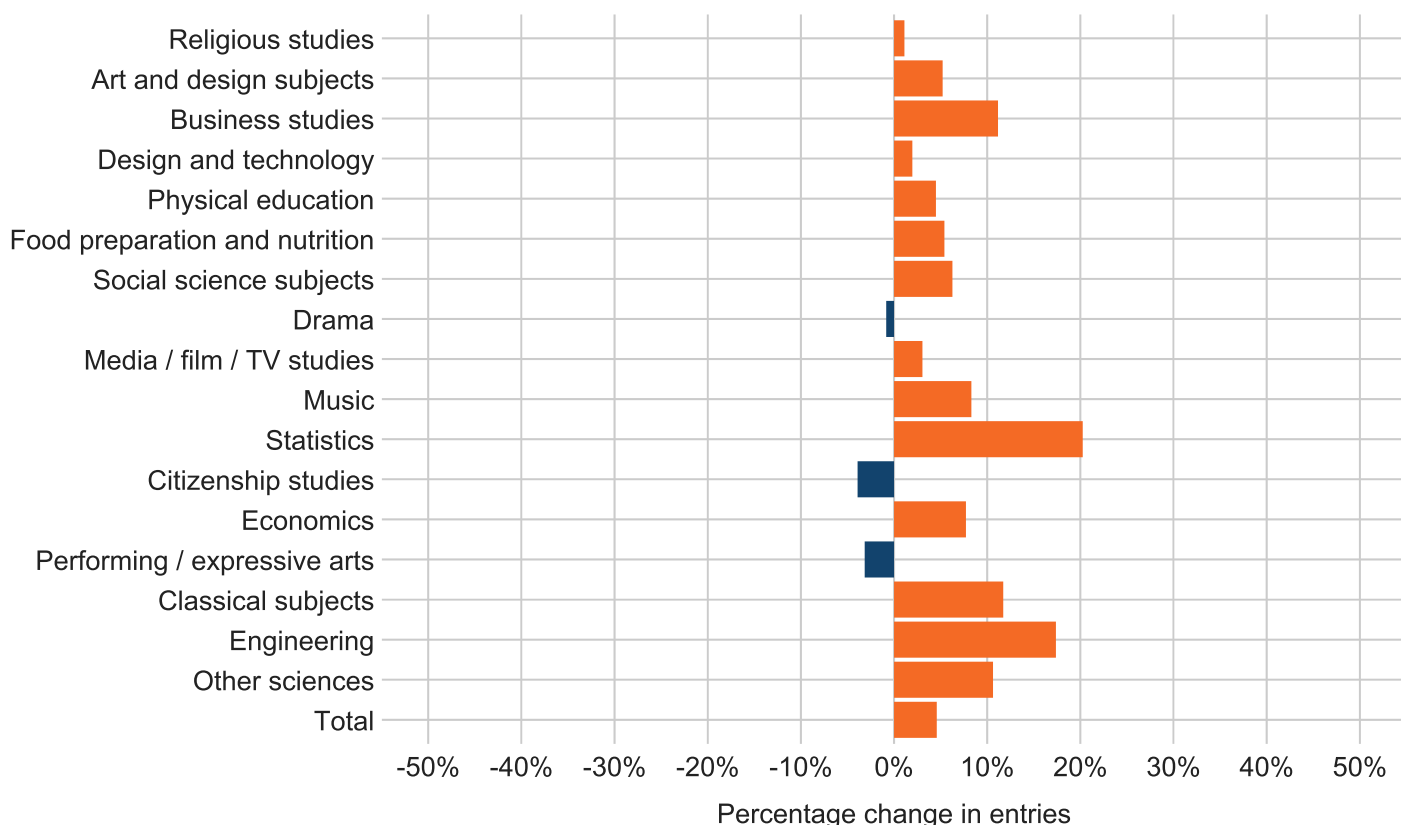


Table 6. Percentage change in non-EBacc entries in summer 2024 compared

to summer 2023

Subject grouping	Entries in Summer 2023	Entries in Summer 2024	Percentage change in entries
Religious studies	245,385	248,120	1.1%
Art and design subjects	187,710	197,505	5.2%
Business studies	114,525	127,310	11.2%
Design and technology	79,025	80,580	2.0%
Physical education	74,550	77,905	4.5%
Food preparation and nutrition	53,380	56,265	5.4%
Social science subjects	49,270	52,360	6.3%
Drama	49,825	49,410	-0.8%
Media / film / TV studies	32,905	33,910	3.0%
Music	30,115	32,615	8.3%
Statistics	26,785	32,210	20.3%
Citizenship studies	22,410	21,535	-3.9%
Economics	7,205	7,760	7.7%
Performing / expressive arts	6,890	6,675	-3.1%
Classical subjects	4,480	5,005	11.7%
Engineering	2,490	2,925	17.4%

Other sciences	2,465	2,730	10.6%
Total	989,430	1,034,805	4.6%

Most non-EBacc subjects had an increase in entries. The largest percentage increase was in statistics (20.3%). There was a decrease in entries in performing/expressive arts (-3.1%) and citizenship studies (-3.9%).

2.4 Entries for tiered GCSEs

In some subjects, there are 2 tiers of entry: foundation and higher. Entry by tier has remained broadly similar in most tiered subjects in summer 2024 compared with summer 2023. There has been a slight decrease in the percentage of students entering higher tier across all subjects in 2024 when compared with the previous 5 years.

Percentage entry by tier has remained broadly similar in most subjects in summer 2024 compared to summer 2023

Percentage of entries to foundation and higher tiers from summer 2020 to summer 2024

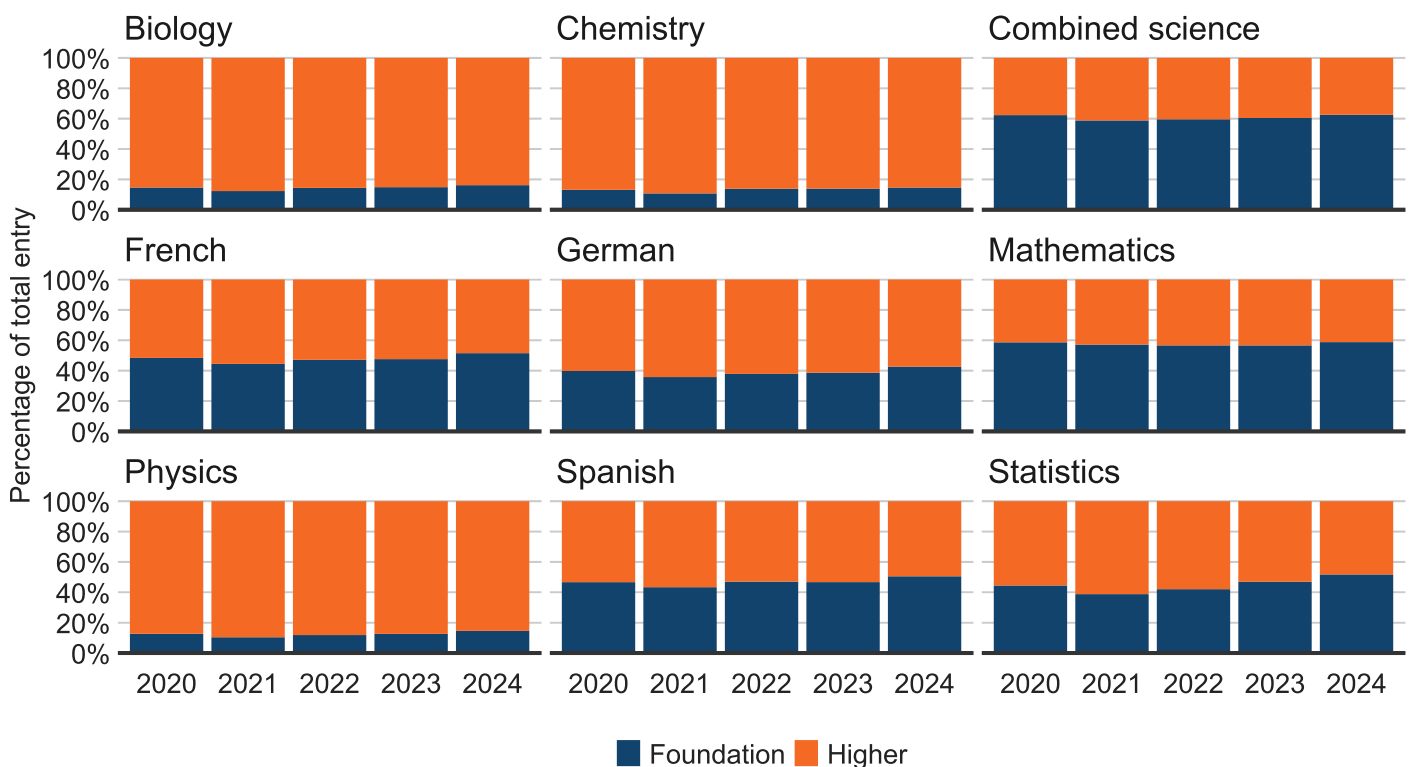


Table 7. Percentage of entries for higher tier from summer 2020 to summer 2024

Subject	Summer 2020	Summer 2021	Summer 2022	Summer 2023	Summer 2024
Biology	85%	88%	86%	85%	84%
Chemistry	87%	89%	86%	86%	85%
Combined science	38%	41%	40%	40%	37%
French	52%	56%	53%	52%	48%
German	60%	64%	62%	61%	57%
Mathematics	41%	43%	43%	43%	41%
Physics	87%	90%	88%	87%	85%
Spanish	53%	57%	53%	53%	49%
Statistics	56%	61%	58%	53%	48%

3. AS and A level entries

The overall entries for A level have increased by **2.4%** from **806,410** in summer 2023 to **825,390** in summer 2024. This is likely to be partially explained by a 1.2% increase in the size of the population of those aged 18, which increased from 648,066 in 2023 (according to [ONS population estimates in 2021](#)) to 655,635 in 2024 (according to [ONS population estimates in 2022](#)).

The overall entries for AS have decreased by 4.5% from 62,785 in summer 2023 to 59,935 in summer 2024. AS level entries have significantly decreased in previous years following the [decoupling of AS and A levels](#).

A level entries have increased and AS entries have decreased in summer 2024 compared to summer 2023

AS and A level entries from summer 2020 to summer 2024

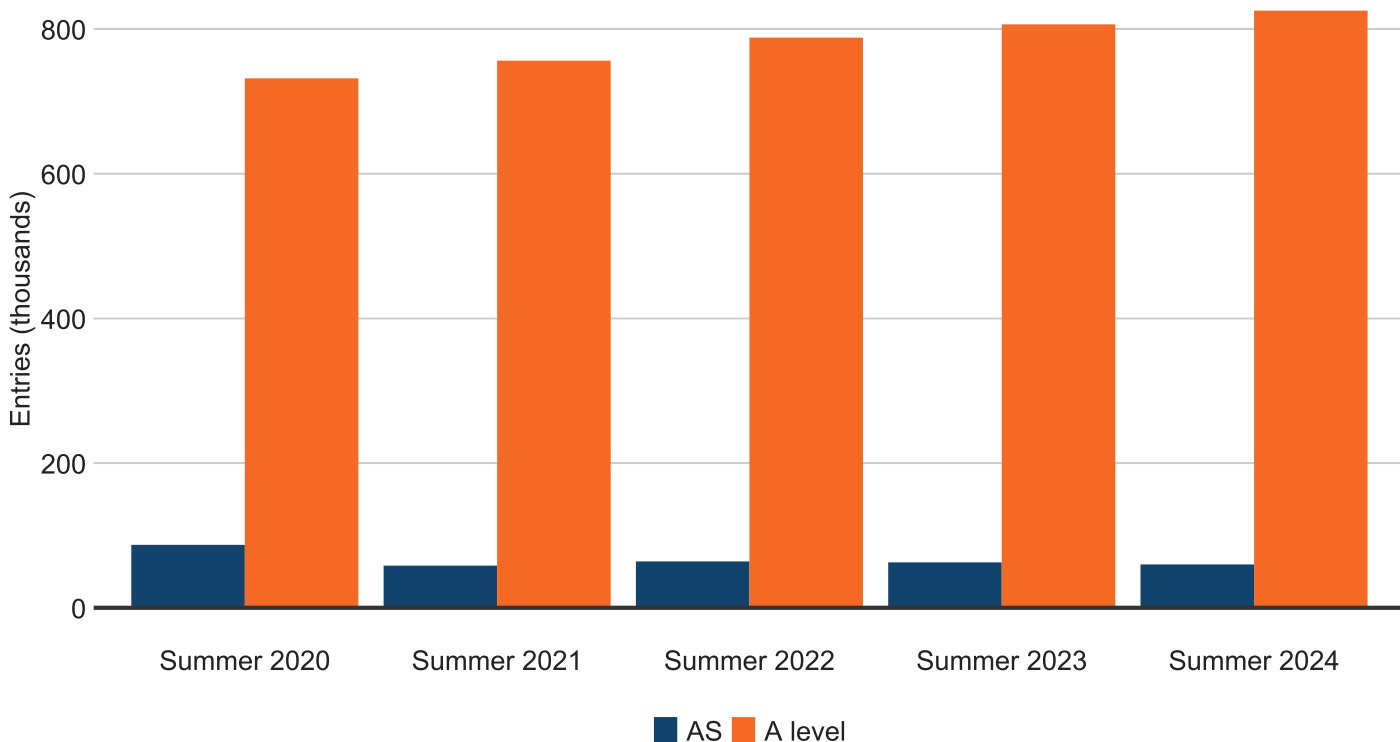


Table 8. AS and A level entries from summer 2020 to summer 2024

Qualification	Summer 2020	Summer 2021	Summer 2022	Summer 2023	Summer 2024
AS	86,970	58,300	64,080	62,785	59,935
A level	731,855	756,230	788,125	806,410	825,390
Total	818,825	814,525	852,200	869,195	885,325

3.1 A level entries

Most A level subjects increased in entry size in summer 2024 compared with summer 2023. Further mathematics showed the biggest overall percentage increase (19.8%) in summer 2024 compared with summer 2023. The subjects with the largest percentage decrease in summer 2024 when compared with summer

2023 are drama (-5.8%) and sociology (-6.9%).

Please note that entries in 'other subjects' is the combination of subjects with fewer than 2,000 entries as well as those grouped as 'all other subjects' by the [Joint Council for Qualifications \(JCQ\)](#) for the purposes of results reporting.

Entries increased in many A level subjects

Percentage change in A level entries in summer 2024 compared to summer 2023

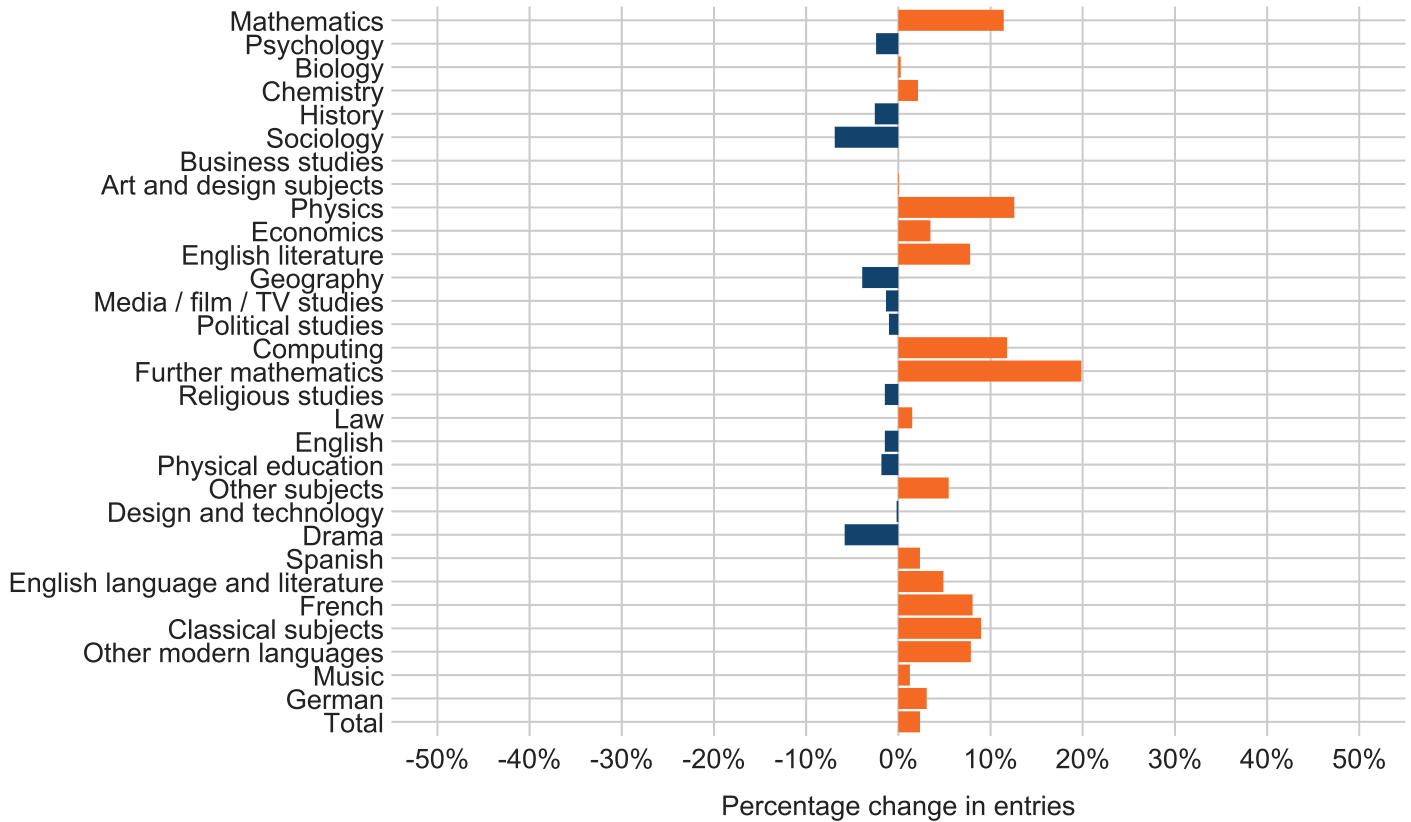


Table 9. Percentage change in A level entries in summer 2024 compared to summer 2023

Subject grouping	Entries in Summer 2023	Entries in Summer 2024	Percentage change in entries
Mathematics	90,845	101,230	11.4%
Psychology	78,015	76,130	-2.4%
Biology	68,870	69,045	0.3%
Chemistry	57,620	58,850	2.1%
History	44,545	43,410	-2.6%

Sociology	45,730	42,575	-6.9%
Business studies	41,265	41,265	-0.0%
Art and design subjects	40,930	40,965	0.1%
Physics	35,815	40,320	12.6%
Economics	38,325	39,660	3.5%
English literature	34,000	36,650	7.8%
Geography	34,870	33,505	-3.9%
Media / film / TV studies	21,530	21,245	-1.3%
Political studies	20,630	20,420	-1.0%
Computing	17,420	19,475	11.8%
Further mathematics	14,535	17,420	19.8%
Religious studies	14,900	14,685	-1.5%
Law	14,170	14,385	1.5%
English	13,200	13,010	-1.5%
Physical education	12,035	11,815	-1.8%
Other subjects	10,130	10,680	5.5%
Design and technology	9,000	8,985	-0.2%
Drama	8,385	7,895	-5.8%
Spanish	7,545	7,720	2.3%
English language and literature	6,755	7,085	4.9%

French	6,510	7,035	8.0%
Classical subjects	5,855	6,380	9.0%
Other modern languages	5,825	6,280	7.9%
Music	4,945	5,005	1.3%
German	2,210	2,280	3.1%
Total	806,410	825,390	2.4%

3.2 Change in A level entries over time

Entries in business studies and biology have increased each year from summer 2020 to summer 2024. Entries remain relatively stable in other high entry subjects.

Please note that according to the JCQ subject classifications, English includes English language, English literature, and English language and literature specifications. Also note that modern foreign languages contains French, German, and Spanish as they have been grouped together to allow any trends in entries to be shown.

Entries remain relatively stable across most high entry subjects over time

Entries in selected A level subjects from summer 2020 to summer 2024

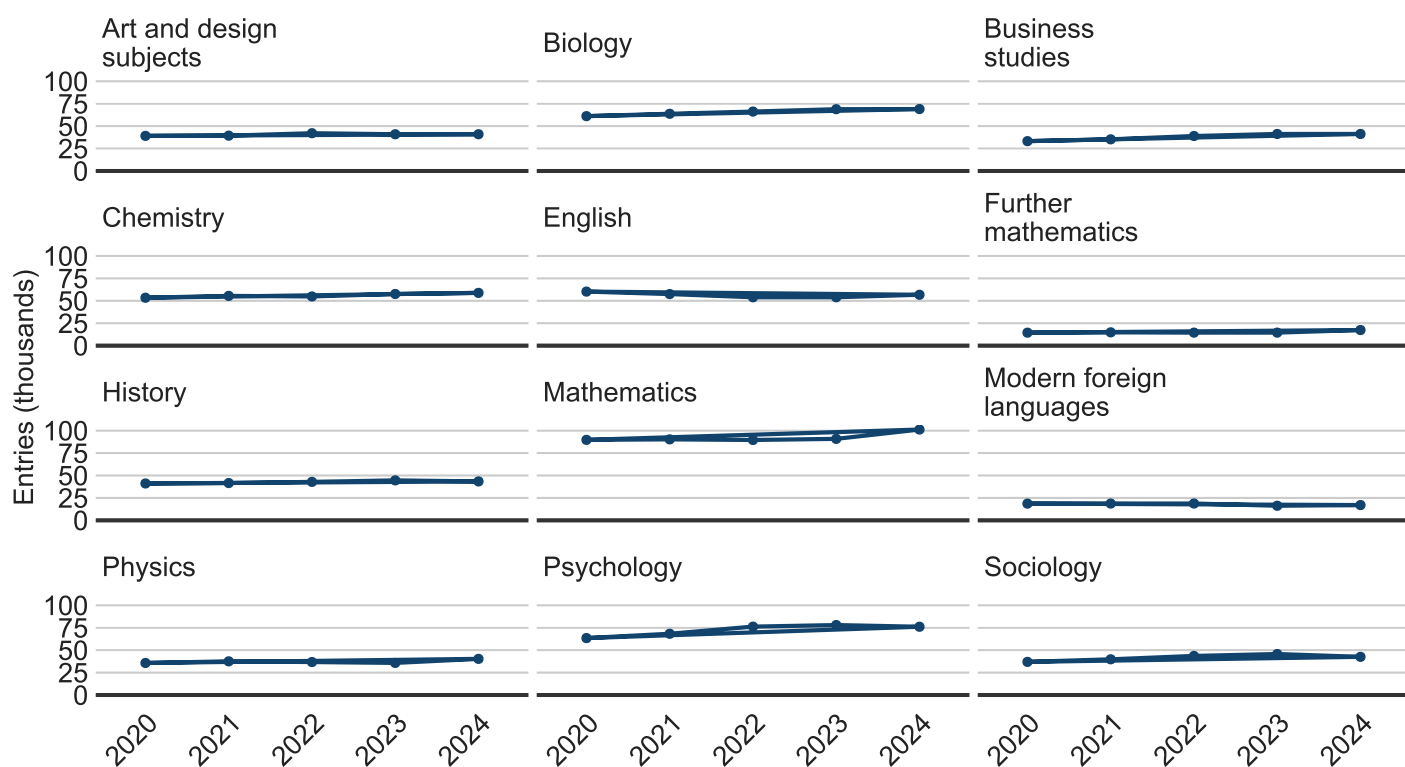


Table 10. Entries in selected A level subjects from summer 2020 to summer 2024

Subject	Summer 2020	Summer 2021	Summer 2022	Summer 2023	Summer 2024
Art and design subjects	39,145	39,370	42,100	40,930	40,965
Biology	61,130	63,765	66,220	68,870	69,045
Business studies	33,260	35,285	38,980	41,265	41,265
Chemistry	53,435	55,485	54,865	57,620	58,850
English	60,275	57,515	53,965	53,960	56,745
Further mathematics	14,475	14,850	14,520	14,535	17,420
History	41,120	41,585	42,885	44,545	43,410

Mathematics	89,730	90,290	89,605	90,845	101,230
Modern foreign languages	18,645	18,715	18,750	16,265	17,035
Physics	35,740	37,560	36,770	35,815	40,320
Psychology	63,490	68,315	76,265	78,015	76,130
Sociology	36,965	39,825	43,590	45,730	42,575

3.3 AS entries

AS entries in most subjects decreased in summer 2024 compared with summer 2023, although entries increased in mathematics, further mathematics and art and design subjects. The biggest percentage increase from summer 2023 to summer 2024 is in further mathematics with a 9.6% increase in entries. The biggest decrease in entries from summer 2023 to summer 2024 can be seen in psychology (-15.3%).

Please note that entries in 'other subjects' is the combination of subjects with fewer than 2,000 entries as well as those grouped as 'all other subjects' by JCQ.

Entries increased in many AS subjects

Percentage change in AS entries in summer 2024 compared to summer 2023

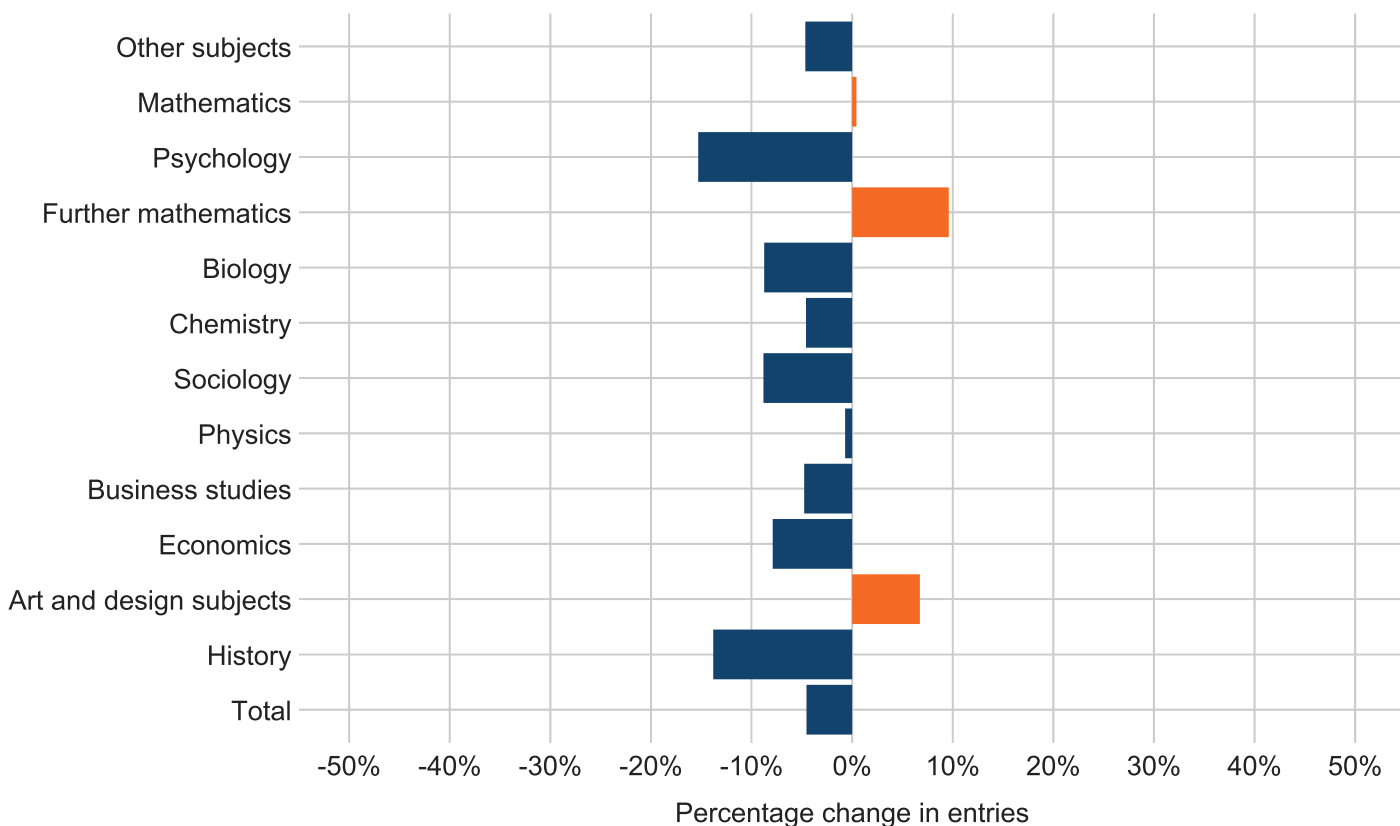


Table 11. Percentage change in AS entries in summer 2024 compared to summer 2023

Subject grouping	Entries in Summer 2023	Entries in Summer 2024	Percentage change in entries
Other subjects	14,520	13,845	-4.7%
Mathematics	8,485	8,520	0.4%
Psychology	6,295	5,330	-15.3%
Further mathematics	4,655	5,100	9.6%
Biology	5,535	5,050	-8.7%
Chemistry	4,795	4,575	-4.6%
Sociology	4,785	4,365	-8.8%

Physics	3,435	3,410	-0.7%
Business studies	3,105	2,955	-4.8%
Economics	2,595	2,390	-7.9%
Art and design subjects	2,155	2,300	6.7%
History	2,435	2,095	-13.8%
Total	62,785	59,935	-4.5%

4. Entries by centre type

For GCSEs, AS and A levels, the majority of entries are from secondary non-selective, maintained centres. Entries from Sixth form and FE centres are much higher for AS and A level subjects when compared with GCSE as would be expected for these qualifications.

The majority of entries are from secondary non-selective schools

Percentage of total entries by centre type for GCSEs, AS and A levels in summer 2024

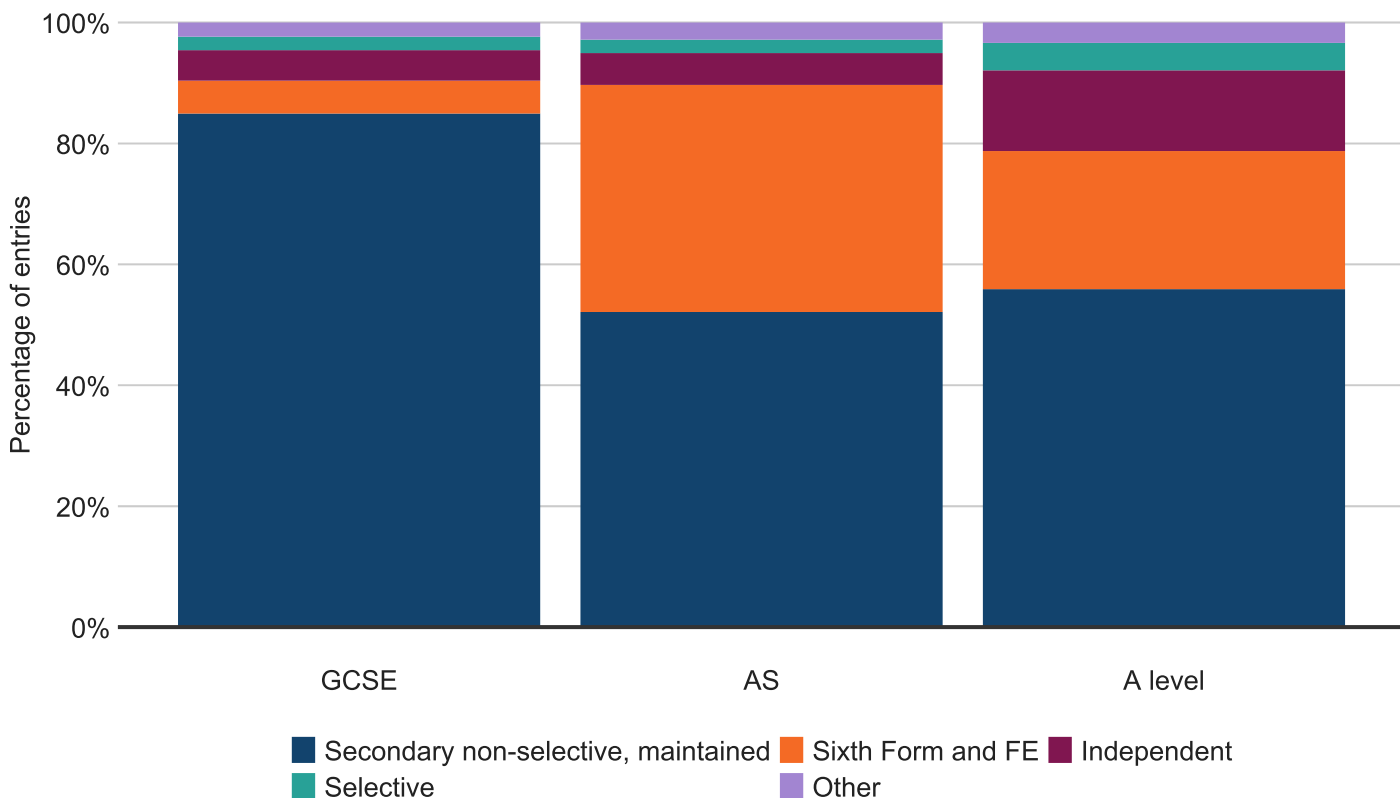


Table 12. Number of entries by centre type for GCSEs, AS and A levels

Centre Type	Number of entries at GCSE	Percentage of total entries at GCSE	Number of entries at AS	Percentage of total entries at AS	Number of entries at A level	Percentage of total entries at A level
Secondary non-selective, maintained	4,936,845	85.0%	31,245	52.0%	461,425	52.0%
Sixth Form and FE	316,010	5.0%	22,510	38.0%	188,520	38.0%
Independent	293,225	5.0%	3,155	5.0%	110,185	5.0%
Selective	129,455	2.0%	1,330	2.0%	37,430	2.0%

Other	136,255	2.0%	1,700	3.0%	27,830
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5. Background information

In this report, Ofqual presents data on the number of provisional entries for GCSEs, AS and A levels in England received by exam boards for the summer 2024 series.

Schools and colleges enter students with exam boards to take these qualifications in the summer. The figures for entries can normally change up to the day of the exams. We collect provisional data at around the same time every year, at a point when it should be reasonably complete. The figures presented here are the provisional figures as received by exam boards by 18 April 2024. Final entry numbers are always expected to vary slightly from these.

In this report, all figures for the number of entries are rounded to the nearest 5.

[Background information](#) accompanying this report includes factors that may have an impact upon the entries in summer 2024, as well as information on data collected for this release and definitions of important terms used in the report.

[Data tables](#) published along with this report give provisional entry data (rounded to the nearest 5) for different subjects broken down by year group for GCSEs, AS and A levels.

6. User feedback

We welcome your feedback on publications. Should you have any comments on this statistical release and how to improve it to meet your needs please contact us at data.analytics@ofqual.gov.uk.

Lead Analyst: Dovile Rama

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