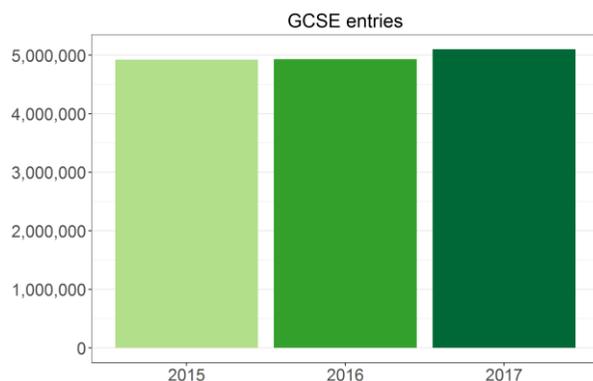


This report presents provisional figures on the number of entries for GCSEs, AS and A levels submitted by schools and colleges in England to exam boards by 19 April 2017 for the exams being sat in summer 2017.

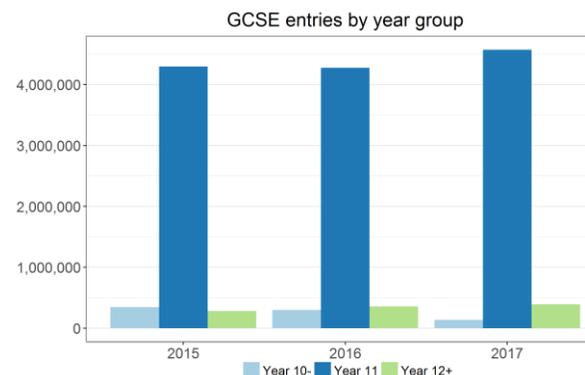
GCSE entries over time

GCSE entries in 2017 (5.1m) increased by over 3% compared to 2016. The increase is mostly in English language and English literature. For further subject-level information see page 3.



GCSE entries by year group over time

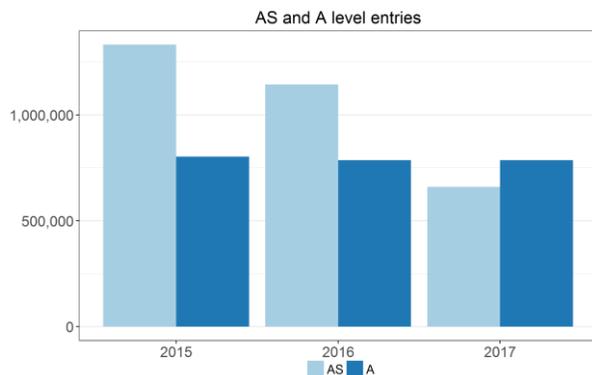
GCSE entries are mostly from year 11 students. Entries from both year 11 and year 12 and above have increased in 2017 compared to 2016, while entries from year 10 and below have fallen overall.



AS and A level entries over time

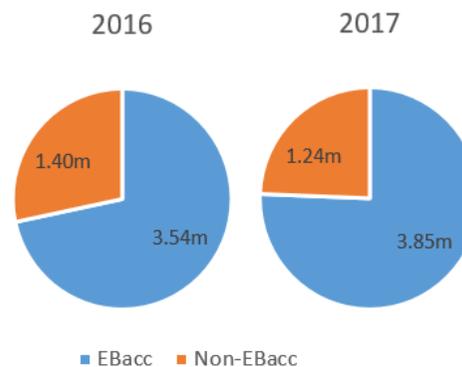
A level entries have remained stable compared to 2016.

AS entries have dropped substantially (42% fewer than 2016) and are now fewer than A level.



GCSE EBacc & non-EBacc subjects

Overall in 2017 entries in EBacc subjects increased (by 9%) and entries in non-EBacc decreased (by 11%) compared to 2016.



At a glance

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Comments and feedback are welcome.

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Provisional summer entries

In this release, Ofqual presents data on the number of provisional entries for GCSEs, AS and A levels in England received by exam boards for the summer 2017 exam series. The data tables accompanying this release include entry figures for Northern Ireland and Wales as well as entries for Level 1/2 certificates.

Schools and colleges enter students with exam boards to sit exams in the summer. The figures for entries can change daily up to the day of the exams. We collect provisional data at the point when it is reasonably complete, although final entry numbers may be slightly different from these. The figures presented here are the provisional figures as submitted by exam boards to Ofqual on 19 April 2017.

In this report, all figures for the number of entries are rounded to the nearest 50 to aid understanding.

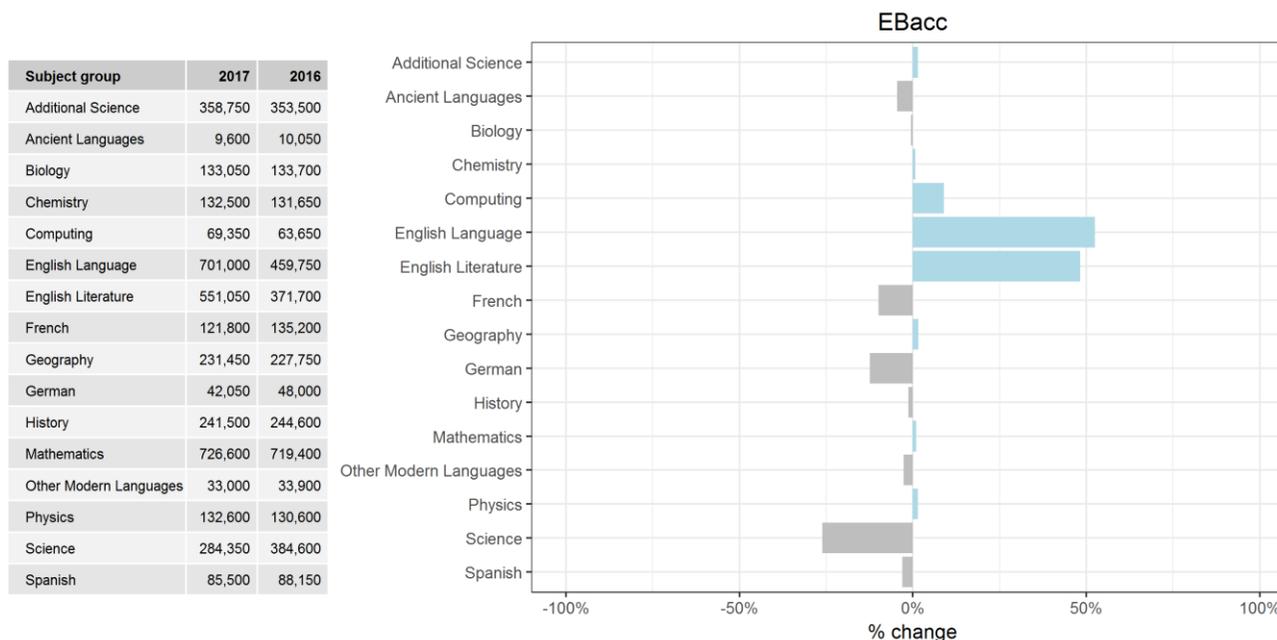
[Background information](#) accompanying this report includes factors which may have an impact upon the entries in 2017 as well as information on data collected for this release and definitions of important terms used in the report.

[Data tables](#) published along with this report give provisional entry data (rounded to the nearest 10) for different subjects broken down by year group for GCSE, Level 1/2 certificates, AS and A levels.

GCSEs

The overall entry for GCSEs in England in summer 2017 increased by over 3% from 4,932,600 in 2016 to 5,098,050 in 2017. The largest increases were seen in EBacc subjects, particularly English language and English literature. The removal of Level 1/2 certificates from performance tables has encouraged centres to move students back to GCSE qualifications in these subjects. In the reformed GCSEs, English literature GCSE is now the main route in order to gain a qualification containing literature (whereas previously, students could take just English GCSE which incorporated both language and literature). This, coupled with the way in which Progress 8 measures are calculated this year, explains the increased uptake of English Literature. Progress 8 measures are calculated such that where students have taken both English language and English literature GCSEs, schools use the highest grade that each student achieves and this will then be double weighted.

Change in GCSE entries for EBacc subjects between 2016 and 2017



Unlike GCSEs in English language and English literature, GCSE mathematics continues to have two tiers of entry, foundation and higher. In the new 9 to 1 mathematics specifications, the entry is reasonably balanced between the two tiers: 53% for higher tier and 47% for foundation tier in 2017.

Main percentage **increases** in 2017 entries compared to 2016 are:

- English language: 52%, schools who had previously entered students for level 1/2 certificates are now entering for GCSE (see above);
- English literature: 48%, Progress 8 measure double weights the best grade from English language or English literature providing that both are taken; and
- Computing: 9%, GCSE Computing is a relatively new qualification and still growing.

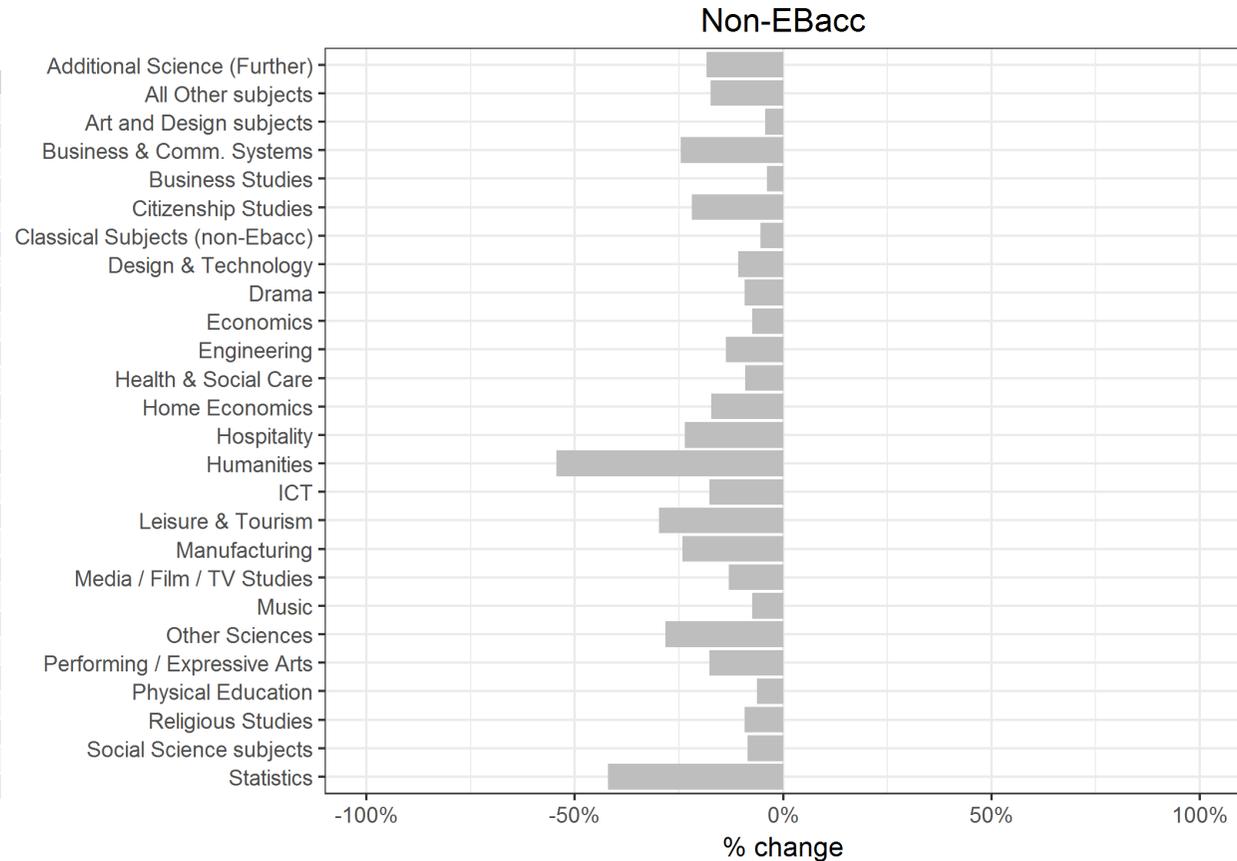
Main percentage **decreases** in 2017 entries compared to 2016 are:

- Science: 26%, while year 11 entry in science has increased, overall entries have fallen due to year 10 students generally not taking it in the numbers seen in previous years and waiting until 2018 for the reformed qualifications; and
- German (12%), French (10%), and Spanish (3%).

Note: in 2016 and earlier, English language included English as well. Also, in 2017 there are some retake students on legacy English GCSE specifications.

Change in GCSE entries for non-EBacc subjects

Subject group	2017	2016
Additional Science (Further)	14,350	17,550
All Other subjects	30,100	36,450
Art and Design subjects	165,100	172,550
Business & Comm. Systems	7,650	10,100
Business Studies	87,450	91,000
Citizenship Studies	19,000	24,300
Classical Subjects (non-Ebacc)	4,000	4,200
Design & Technology	156,300	175,150
Drama	61,950	68,250
Economics	5,700	6,150
Engineering	7,000	8,100
Health & Social Care	19,050	21,000
Home Economics	20,300	24,550
Hospitality	2,550	3,300
Humanities	2,150	4,700
ICT	61,500	74,750
Leisure & Tourism	3,500	5,000
Manufacturing	100	150
Media / Film / TV Studies	45,500	52,250
Music	38,750	41,850
Other Sciences	4,200	5,850
Performing / Expressive Arts	14,950	18,150
Physical Education	112,550	120,100
Religious Studies	297,800	328,000
Social Science subjects	39,350	42,950
Statistics	23,100	39,900



Entries for all non-EBacc subjects showed a decline in 2017, most notably in humanities and leisure and tourism (which are now being discontinued as part of the reform process), and statistics. This overall decline indicates that centres are focussing more on the delivery of EBacc subjects than those subjects which do not count towards the EBacc. Progress 8 and Attainment 8 measures are also likely to be influencing these patterns as their calculation can only include a maximum of three non-EBacc GCSEs.

Entries for EBacc subjects by year group over time

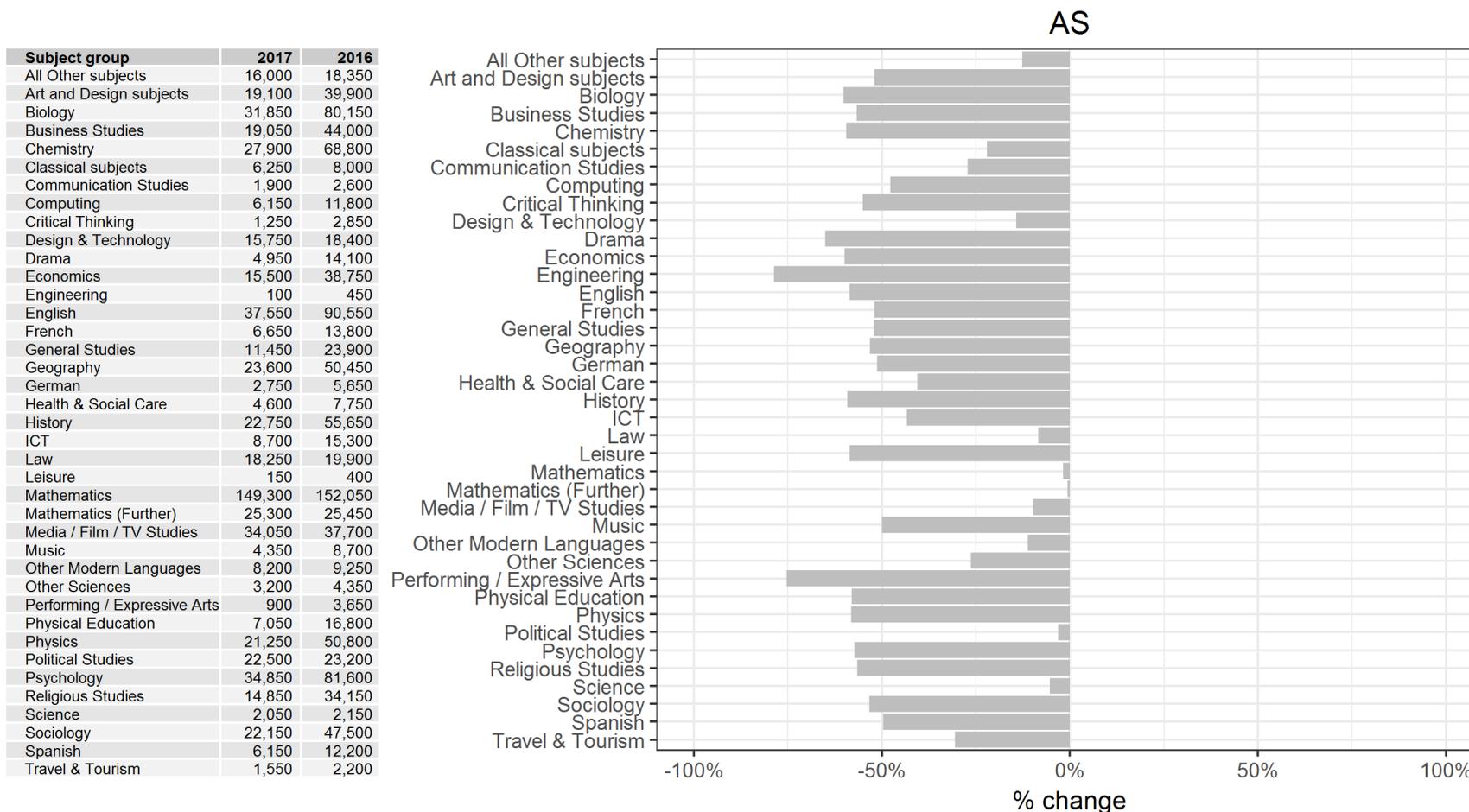


- English language: entries increased in all year groups in 2017
 - Year 11: increase of 60%, most likely due to schools who would previously have entered Level 1/2 certificates moving back to GCSE as the certificates no longer count in performance tables;
 - Year 12 and above: increase of 23%, likely to be a result of the government's requirement for full time students who do not hold a grade C in English GCSE or an equivalent qualification to continue to study towards achieving a grade C/grade 4 or above in a GCSE or Level 1/2 certificate in English;
 - Year 10 and below: increase of 605% (to 14,700), which changed the direction of what was seen between 2015 and 2016 where entries had fallen.
- English literature: Entries in year 11 increased by 43% in 2017, this could also be due to the move back from Level 1/2 certificates to GCSE and also the effect of the Progress 8 measure where English is double weighted if a student has taken both English language and literature, with the highest grade counting. Entries from year 10 and below increased by over 3000% (to 22,150) which is likely to be due to students moving back from Level 1/2 certificates to GCSE; and year 12 and above increased by 44% in 2017.
- Mathematics: Entries from year 11 students are similar to previous years. There was an increase of 6% from year 12 which is likely to be as a result of the requirement for full time students who do not hold a grade C to study towards achieving a grade C/grade 4 or above in a GCSE or Level 1/2 certificate in mathematics; and 62% drop from year 10 and below in 2017.
- Science: a 12% increase in year 11 entries, an 8% decrease in year 12 and above, and entries in year 10 and below have dropped 99% in 2017 compared to 2016.

Overall entries for all AS subjects fell by 42% from 1,143,950 in 2016 to 660,200 in 2017. This continues the trend which was seen in 2016, where overall entries dropped by 14%. Other than further mathematics, which remained stable, and mathematics, which saw a small decrease, the entries in most other subjects saw substantial decreases. Some of the largest percentage decreases were in engineering, performing/expressive arts and drama.

These falls in AS entries are due to a number of factors including the decoupling of AS from A levels as part of the government policy reforms of AS and A levels, funding for 16 to 19, and centres being more likely to enrol students onto three subjects in year 12 rather than four subjects.

Changes in AS entry for all subjects between 2016 and 2017

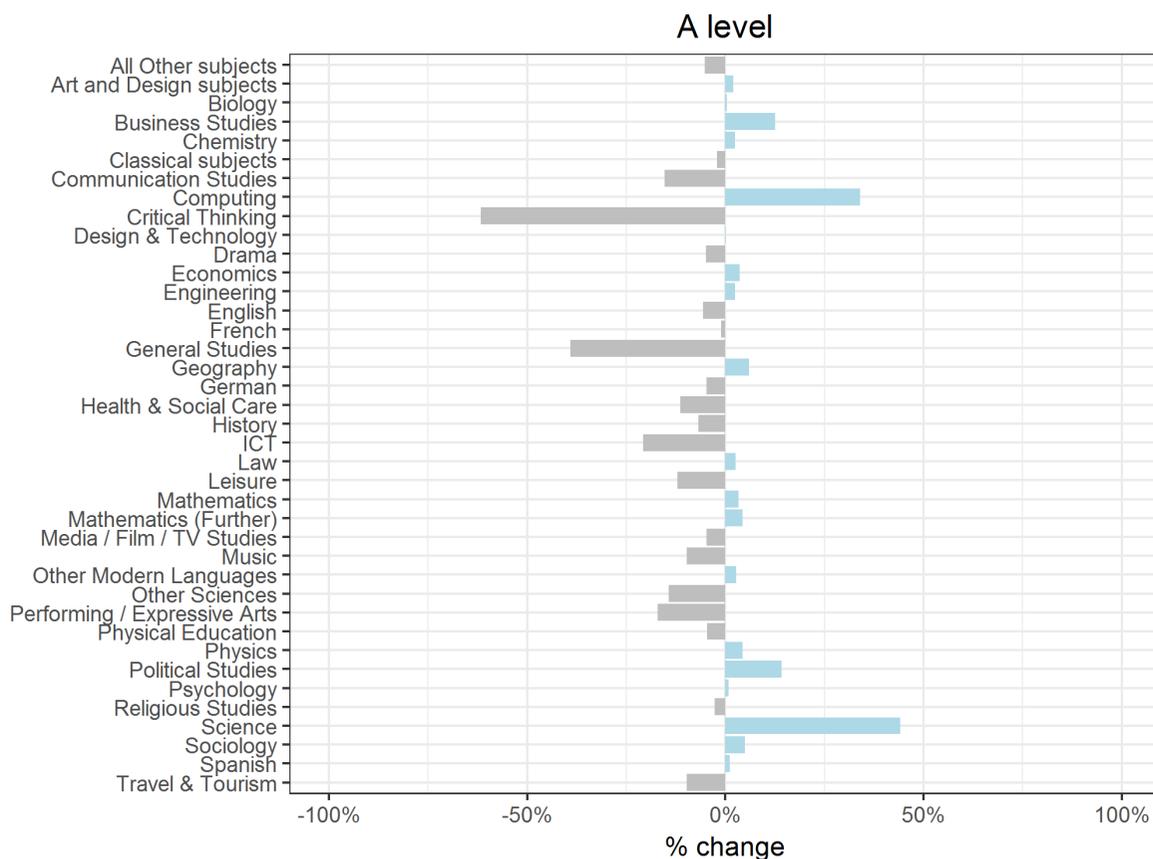


A level

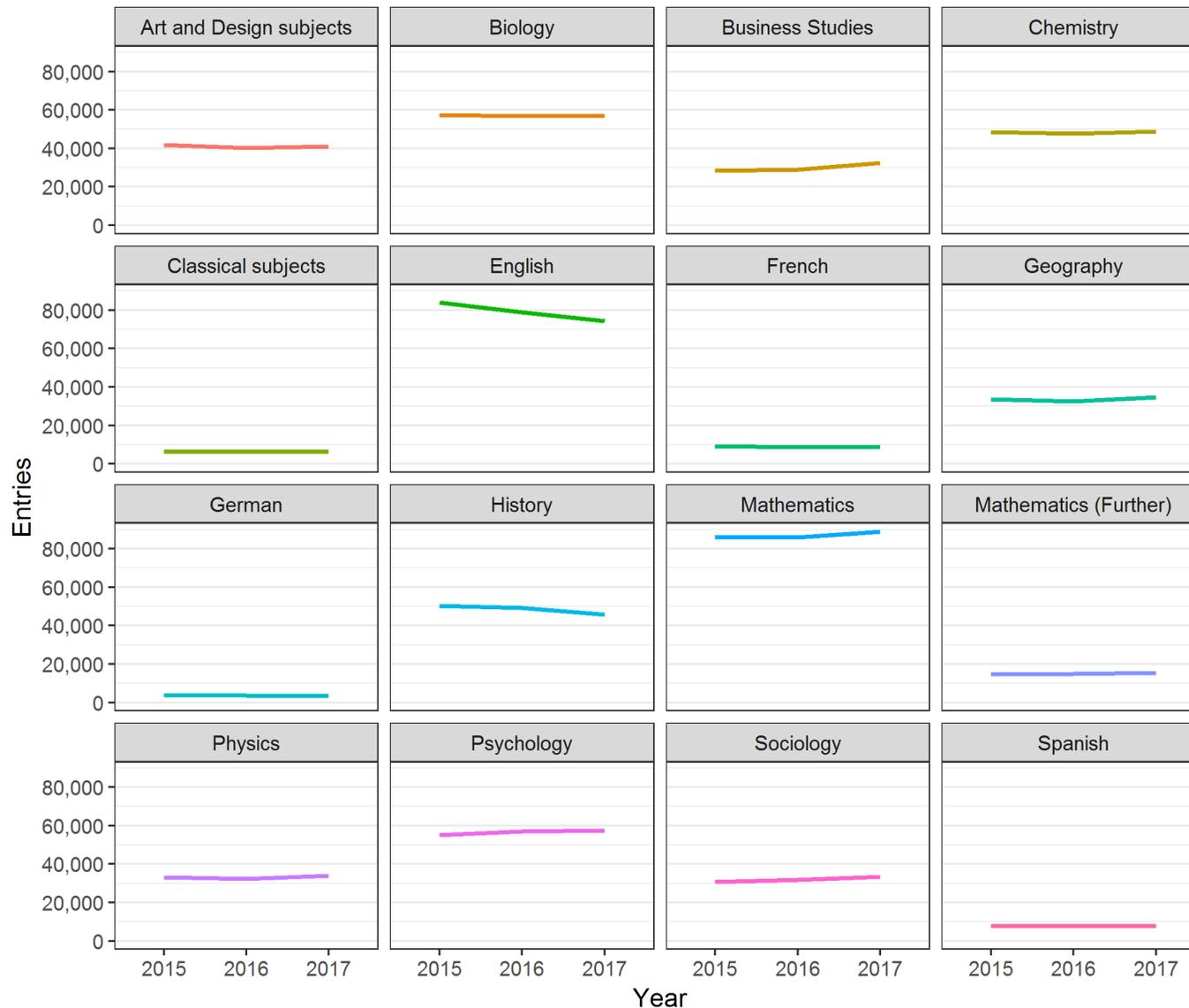
Overall entries for all A level subjects remained broadly stable, an increase of less than 1% from 785,900 in 2016 to 786,050 in 2017. The most notable increases in entry were seen in science, computing and political studies. The biggest percentage decreases were seen in critical thinking, general studies and ICT. The drop in ICT could be due to this being the last year when this qualification is available and may also account for the increase in computing.

Changes in A level entry for all subjects between 2016 and 2017

Subject group	2017	2016
All Other subjects	9,300	9,800
Art and Design subjects	41,150	40,350
Biology	56,950	56,700
Business Studies	32,550	28,900
Chemistry	48,750	47,600
Classical subjects	6,200	6,350
Communication Studies	1,550	1,850
Computing	7,700	5,750
Critical Thinking	50	100
Design & Technology	10,750	10,750
Drama	10,750	11,300
Economics	29,450	28,400
Engineering	250	250
English	74,350	78,800
French	8,600	8,700
General Studies	7,250	11,900
Geography	34,500	32,600
German	3,450	3,600
Health & Social Care	4,450	5,050
History	45,700	49,050
ICT	8,000	10,050
Law	10,850	10,600
Leisure	250	300
Mathematics	88,850	86,000
Mathematics (Further)	15,450	14,800
Media / Film / TV Studies	24,800	26,000
Music	5,650	6,250
Other Modern Languages	8,900	8,700
Other Sciences	2,500	2,900
Performing / Expressive Arts	2,300	2,800
Physical Education	9,900	10,400
Physics	33,850	32,400
Political Studies	16,250	14,200
Psychology	57,450	56,950
Religious Studies	22,500	23,100
Science	2,300	1,600
Sociology	33,350	31,750
Spanish	7,850	7,750
Travel & Tourism	1,400	1,550



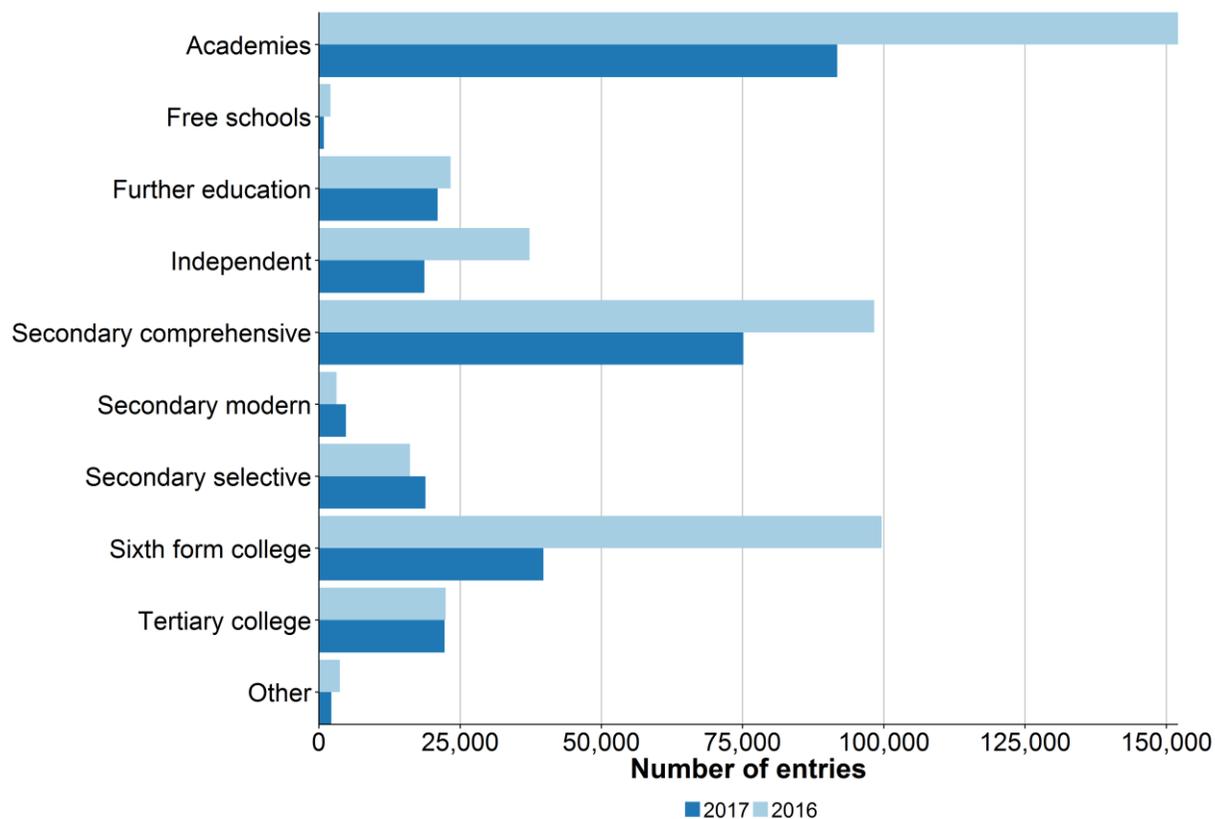
Changes in entries for A level over time for facilitating and larger entry subjects



The graphs above show the change in entries from 2015 to 2017 for subjects with large entry in 2017 (more than 30,000) and subjects which are regarded as facilitating subjects at A level, ie those which are recognised by universities as giving the widest range of options for university study. Entries have increased in mathematics, further mathematics, geography and business studies. A decline is seen in English subjects and history.

Centre type and reformed AS entries

In the summer 2016 series, 13 new AS qualifications were offered in England¹. Entries in these phase 1 reformed AS qualifications in 2016 and their corresponding entries in 2017 according to type of centre are shown below.



Apart from secondary selective and secondary modern centres, most centre types saw a drop in entries in 2017 compared with 2016. This fall in entries is due to reasons outlined on page 6.

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/get-the-facts-gcse-and-a-level-reform/get-the-facts-as-and-a-level-reform>

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