GCSE, Project, and Entry Level Trends - UK, 2024

GCSE full course trends

Chart 1   **Total entry for GCSE full course subjects, 2015 to 2024**
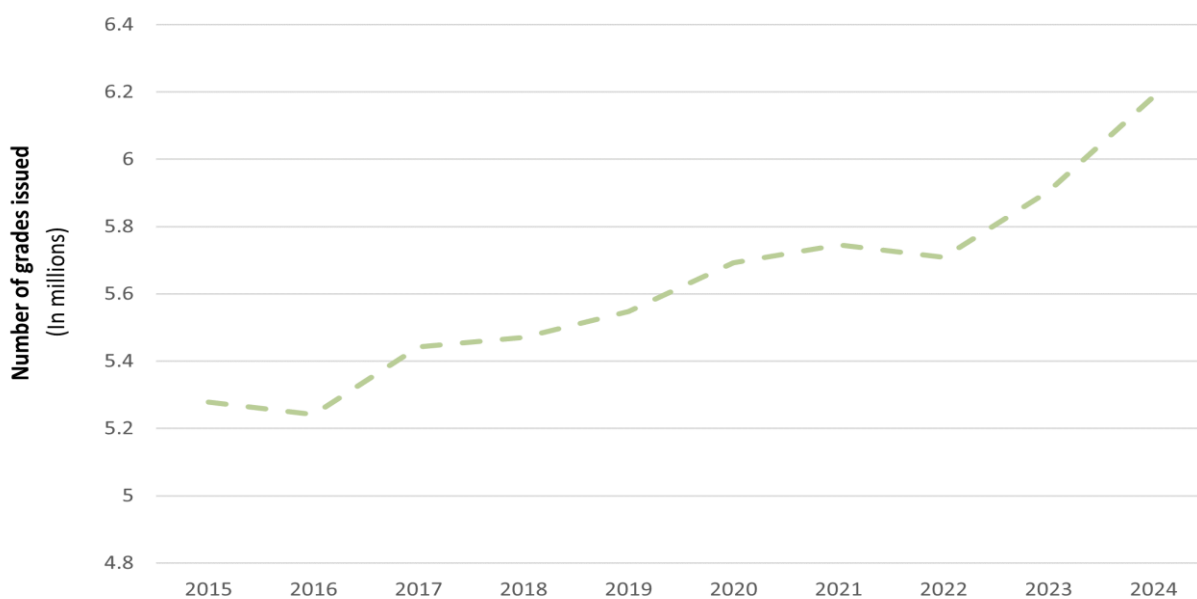

Chart 2   **Cohort size 2015 to 2024**

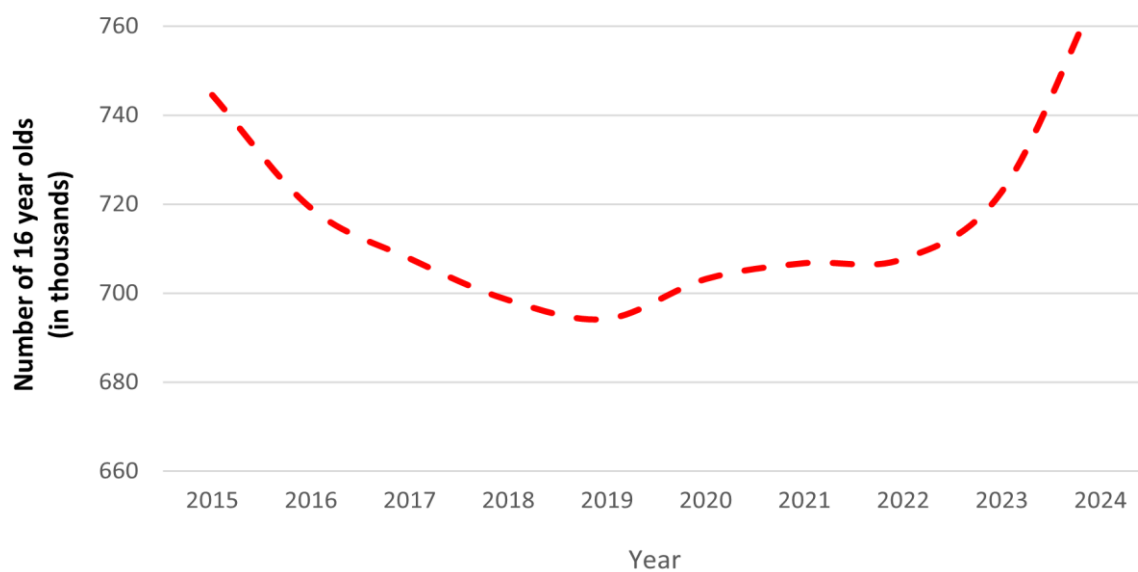**Table A   Top ten GCSE full course subjects in 2024**

Ranking		Subject	% of total	Number of Entries
1	(1)	Science: Double Award*	15.9	980,786
2	(2)	Mathematics	14.2	878,165
3	(3)	English Language	13.7	845,834
4	(4)	English Literature	10.6	655,905
5	(5)	History	5.3	325,437
6	(6)	Geography	4.8	297,411
7	(7)	Religious Studies	4.0	245,019
8	(8)	Art and Design subjects	3.4	208,934
9	(9)	Biology	3.2	194,925
10	(10)	Chemistry	3.0	185,274

(2023 ranking in brackets. *Science: double award counts as two entries per student.)

Chart 3   Top ten GCSE full course subjects as a percentage of the total entry over the period 2015 to 2024
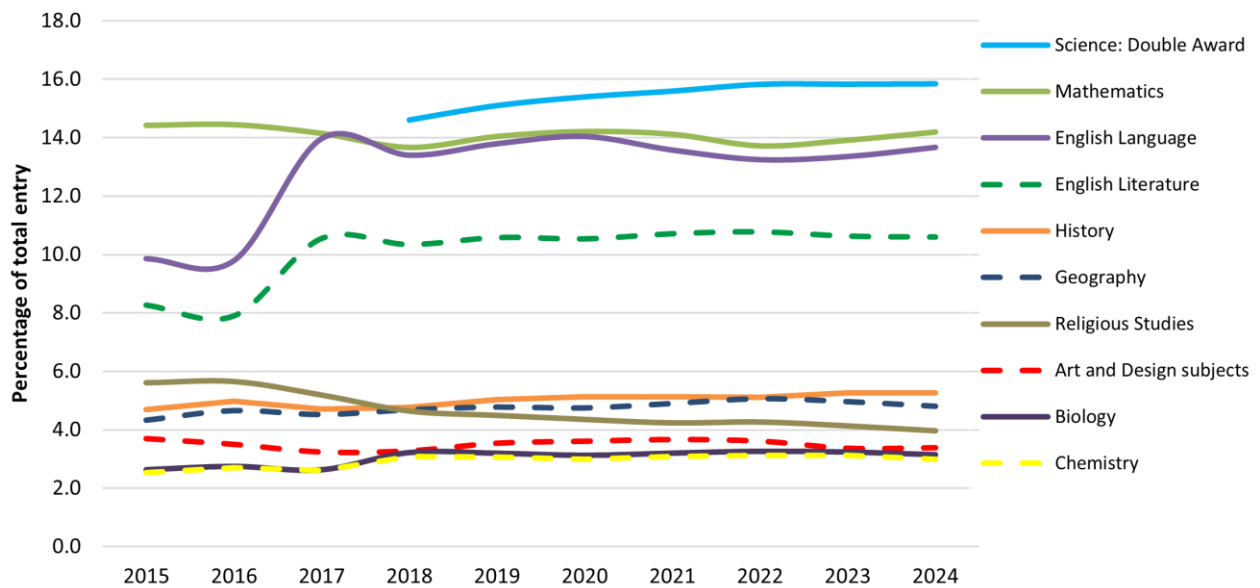
Table B   Top GCSE full course subject increases (entry greater than 100,000)
(Changes from 2023-2024)

Ranking		Subject	% Change	2023 Number of Entries	2024 Number of Entries
1	(1)	Business Studies	9.7	123,166	135,090
2	(5)	English Language	7.2	788,780	845,834
3	(4)	Mathematics	6.9	821,322	878,165
4	(2)	Spanish	6.2	125,651	133,395
5		Art and Design subjects	5.4	198,302	208,934
6	(6)	Science: Double Award	4.8	935,436	980,786
7	(3)	History	4.6	311,146	325,437
8	(10	English Literature	4.5	627,828	655,905
9	(12	French	2.9	130,901	134,651
10	(9)	Biology	1.9	191,298	194,925

(2023 ranking in brackets. Subjects having a year-on-year decrease in 2023 are shown as blank.)

Chart 4   Top GCSE full course subject increases, 2015 to 2024 (entry greater than 100,000)
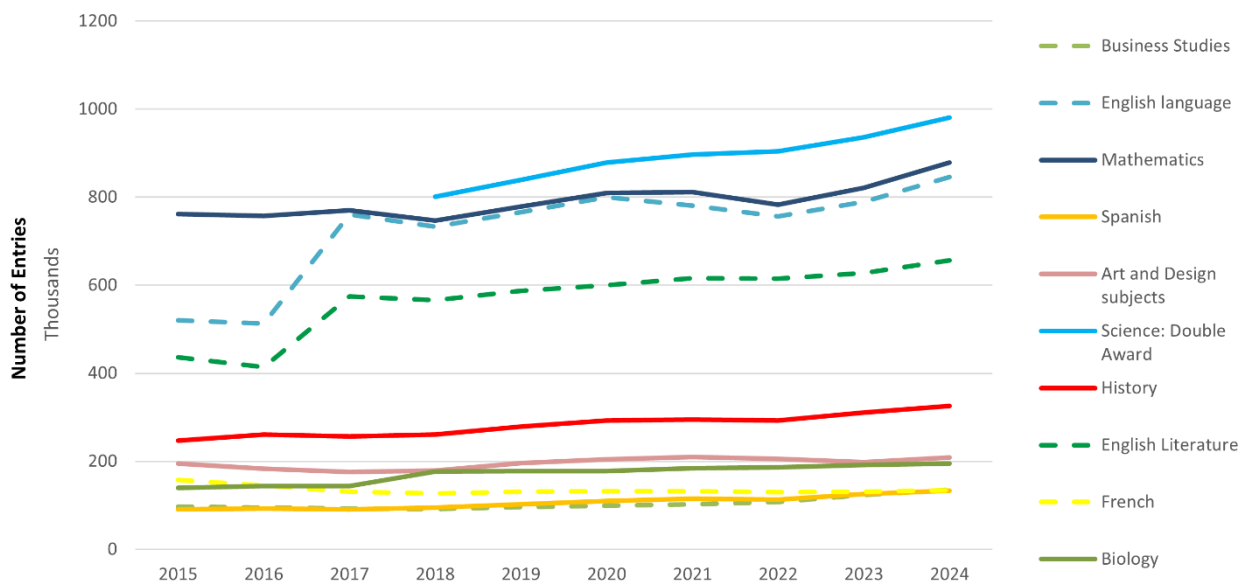
Table C   Top GCSE full course subject increases (entry less than 100,000)
      (Changes from 2023-2024)

Ranking		Subject	% Change	2023 Number of Entries	2024 Number of Entries
1	(1)	Statistics	19.9	26,559	31,844
2	(11	Science	10.3	7,927	8,746
3		Music	8.7	32,980	35,861
4	(3)	Economics	6.9	7,572	8,093
5	(2)	Computing	5.8	90,558	95,841
6	(12)	Food Preparation & Nutrition	5.1	57,804	60,767
7	(5)	Physical Education	4.4	84,062	87,799
8		Welsh: Second Language	4.1	21,032	21,900
9	(17)	Health & Social Care	3.7	6,460	6,697
10		German	3.5	34,707	35,913

(2023 ranking in brackets. Subjects having a year-on-year decrease in 2023 are shown as blank.)
Entries less than 5,000 are excluded.

Table D   GCSE full course subject increases for titles that cover a range of subjects
      (Changes from 2023-2024)

Ranking		Subject	% Change	2023 Number of Entries	2024 Number of Entries
1		Other Technology	17.7	880	1,036
2	(3)	Other Sciences	13.2	3,107	3,518
3	(2)	Other Modern Languages	8.1	39,896	43,121
4	(1)	Social Science subjects	6.2	50,794	53,922
5	(4)	Classical subjects	2.9	15,959	16,429

(2023 ranking in brackets. Subjects with a year-on-year decrease in 2023 are blank.)

Table E   Top GCSE full course subject decreases, 2024 (entry fewer than 100,000)

Ranking		Subject	% Change	2023 Number of Entries	2024 Number of Entries
1		Citizenship Studies	-4.7	21,813	20,790
2	(2)	Performing / Expressive Arts	-2.9	6,835	6,640
3	(6)	Digital Technology	-2.6	8,753	8,527
4	(10)	Welsh: First Language	-2.2	5,828	5,698
5		Citizenship Studies	-4.7	21,813	20,790

(2023 ranking in brackets. Subjects with a year-on-year increase or entry.)

GCSE short course trends

Table F   GCSE short course subjects in 2024

Ranking		Subject	% of total	Number of Entries
1	(1)	Religious Studies	96.9	25,762
2	(2)	Physical Education	3.1	837

(2023 ranking in brackets.)

Entry Level trends

Table G   Top Entry Level subjects in 2024

Ranking		Subject	% of total	Number of Entries
1	(1)	Mathematics	39.4	18,357
2	(2)	English	24.2	11,272
3	(3)	Science	21.9	10,199

(2023 ranking in brackets.)

Project trends

Table H   Changes from 2023-2024

Subject	% Change	2023 Number of Entries	2024 Number of Entries
Level 1 Project	18.8	881	715
Level 2 Project	1.6	4,199	4,130

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