

GCSE, Project, and Entry Level Trends - UK, 2020

GCSE full course trends

Chart 1 Total entry for GCSE full course subjects, 2010-2020

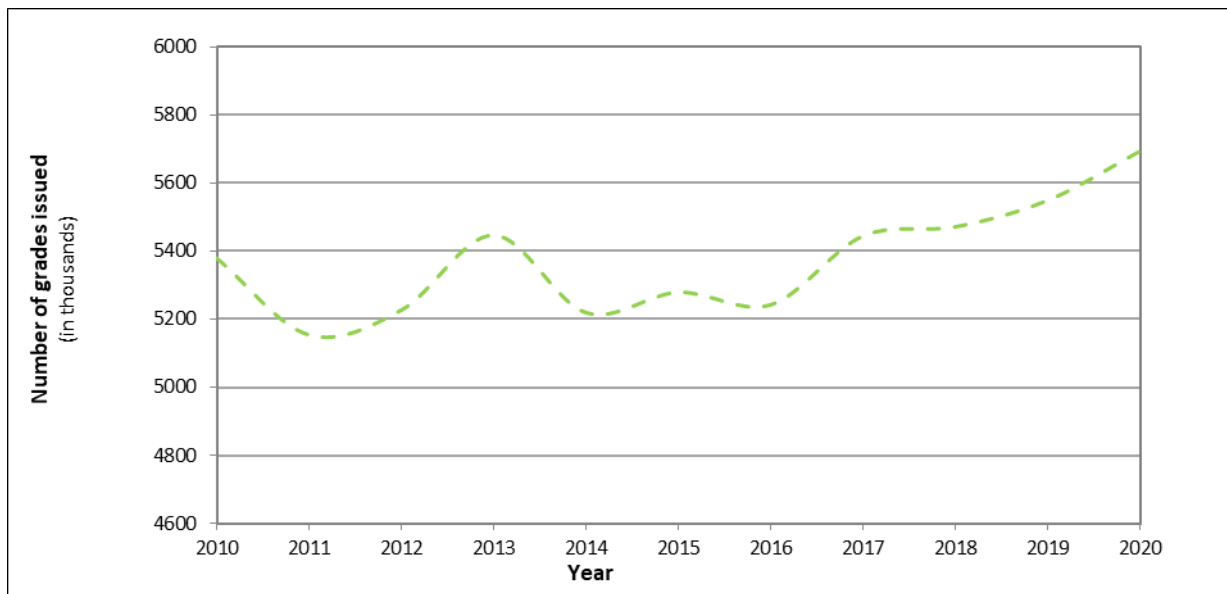


Chart 2 Cohort size 2010-2020

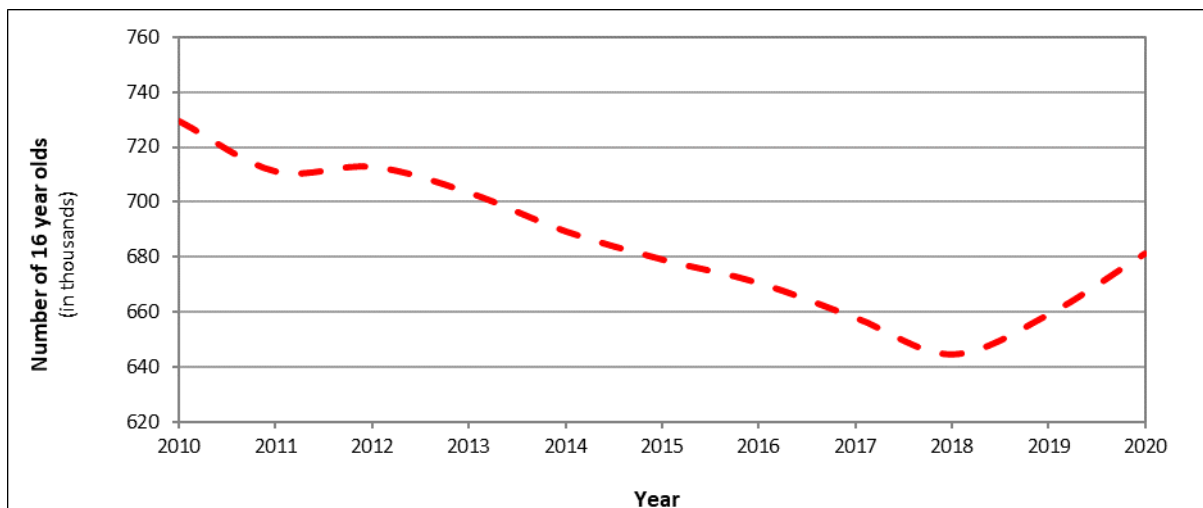


Table A Top ten GCSE full course subjects in 2020

| Ranking | | Subject | % of total | Number of entries |
|---------|------|-------------------------|------------|-------------------|
| 1 | (1) | Science: Double Award | 15.4 | 878,278 |
| 2 | (2) | Mathematics | 14.2 | 808,951 |
| 3 | (3) | English | 14.0 | 799,473 |
| 4 | (4) | English Literature | 10.5 | 599,975 |
| 5 | (5) | History | 5.1 | 292,274 |
| 6 | (6) | Geography | 4.7 | 270,311 |
| 7 | (7) | Religious Studies | 4.4 | 247,624 |
| 8 | (8) | Art and Design subjects | 3.6 | 204,855 |
| 9 | (9) | Biology | 3.1 | 178,088 |
| 10 | (10) | Chemistry | 3.0 | 170,260 |

(2019 ranking in brackets. Science: Double Award counts as two entries per candidate.)

Chart 3 Top ten GCSE full course subjects as a percentage of the total entry over the period 2010 to 2020

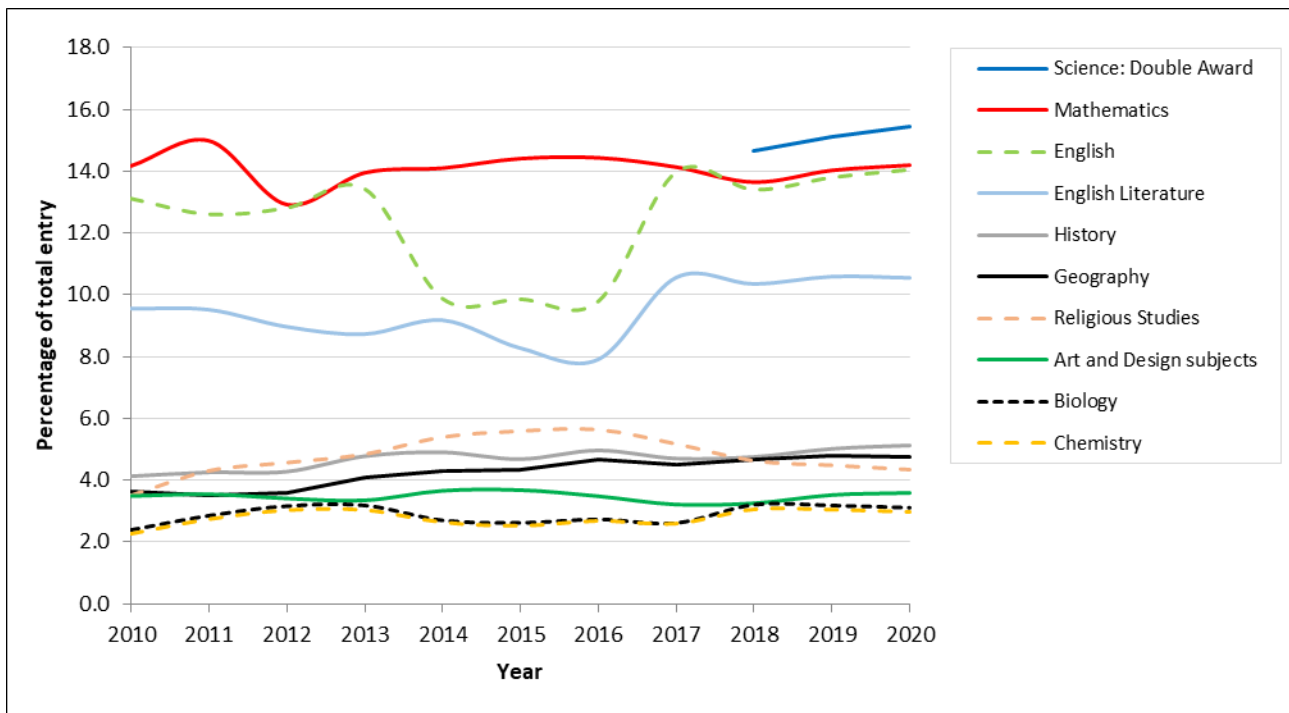


Table B Top GCSE full course subject increases (entry greater than 100,000)
(Changes from 2019-2020)

| Ranking | Subject | % change | 2019 Number of entries | 2020 Number of entries |
|---------|-------------------------|----------|------------------------|------------------------|
| 1 (2) | Spanish | 7.2 | 102,242 | 109,594 |
| 2 (3) | History | 4.8 | 278,759 | 292,274 |
| 3 (4) | Science: Double Award | 4.6 | 839,258 | 878,278 |
| 4 (1) | Art and Design subjects | 4.6 | 195,928 | 204,855 |
| 5 (5) | English | 4.5 | 765,332 | 799,473 |
| 6 (6) | Mathematics | 3.9 | 778,858 | 808,951 |
| 7 (7) | English Literature | 2.2 | 587,051 | 599,975 |
| 8 (8) | Geography | 1.9 | 265,169 | 270,311 |
| 9 (9) | French | 0.9 | 130,831 | 132,036 |
| 10 (12) | Biology | 0.4 | 177,454 | 178,088 |

(2019 ranking in brackets. Subjects having a year-on-year decrease in 2019 are shown as blank.)

Chart 4 Top GCSE full course subject increases, 2020 (entry greater than 100,000)

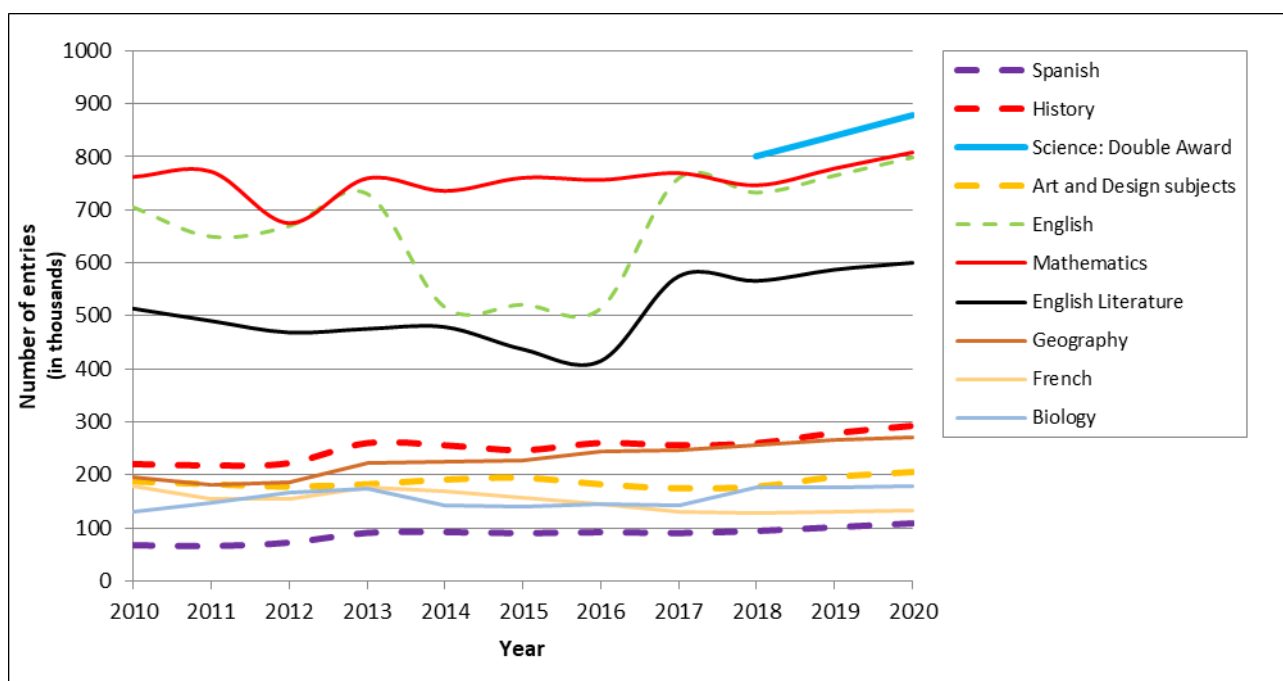
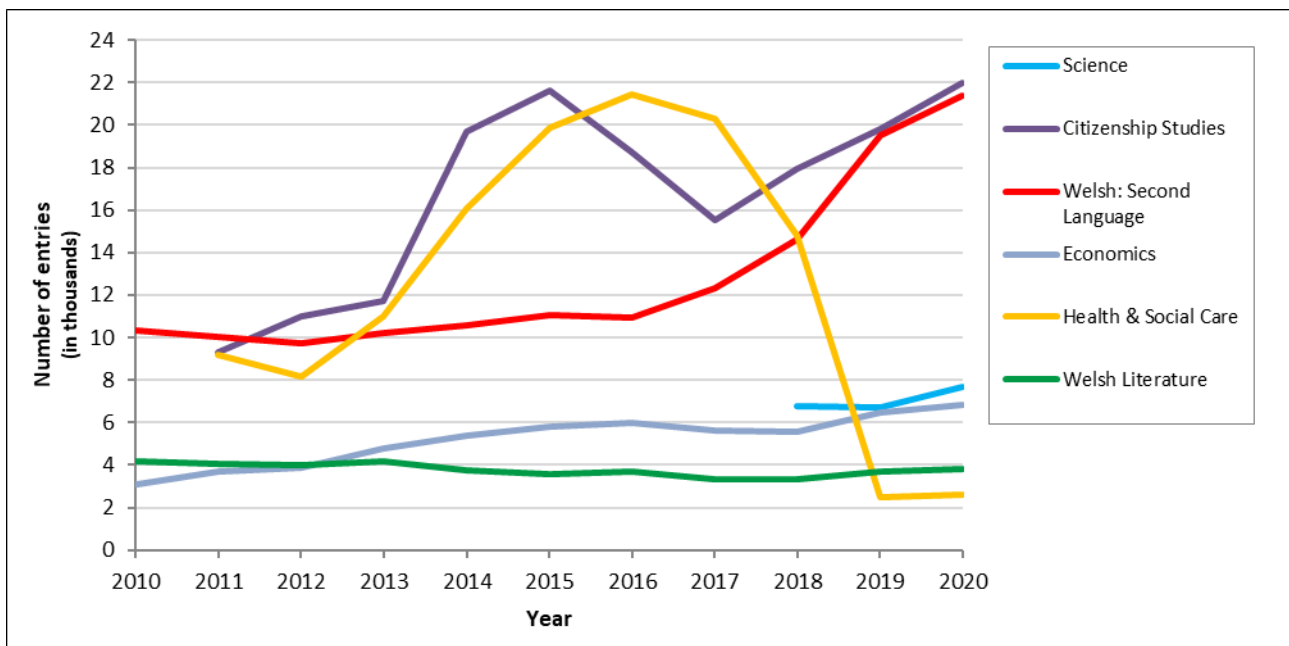


Table C Top GCSE full course subject increases (entry less than 100,000)
(Changes from 2019-2020)

| Ranking | Subject | % change | 2019 Number of entries | 2020 Number of entries |
|---------|------------------------|----------|------------------------|------------------------|
| 1 | Science | 14.2 | 6,719 | 7,673 |
| 2 (5) | Citizenship Studies | 10.8 | 19,821 | 21,970 |
| 3 (2) | Welsh: Second Language | 9.4 | 19,514 | 21,358 |
| 4 (3) | Economics | 5.8 | 6,470 | 6,843 |
| 5 | Health & Social Care | 5.7 | 2,484 | 2,626 |
| 6 (4) | Welsh Literature | 4.6 | 3,671 | 3,840 |

(2019 ranking in brackets. Subjects having a year-on-year decrease in 2019 are shown as blank.)

Chart 5 Top GCSE full course subject increases, 2020 (entry less than 100,000*)



*Entries less than 1,000 excluded.

Table D Top GCSE full course subject decreases (entry greater than 100,000)
(Changes from 2019-2020)

| Ranking | Subject | % change | 2019 Number of entries | 2020 Number of entries |
|---------|-------------------|----------|------------------------|------------------------|
| 1 (1) | Religious Studies | -0.6 | 247,344 | 247,624 |
| | | | | |
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| | | | | |

(2019 ranking in brackets. Subjects having a year-on-year increase in 2019 are shown as blank.)

Chart 6 Top GCSE full course subject decreases, 2020 (entry more than 100,000)

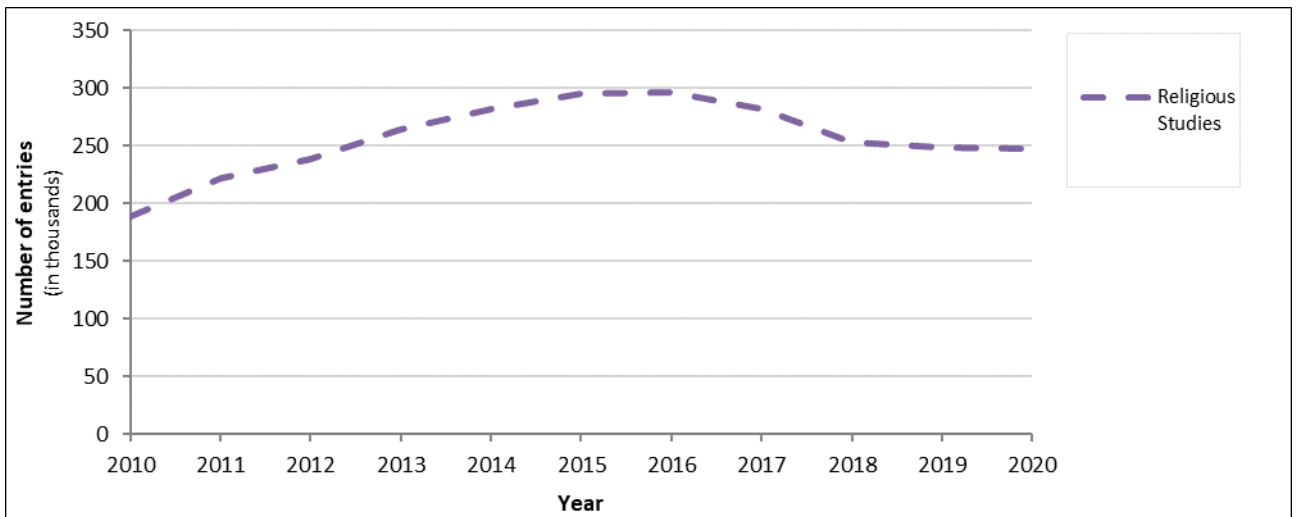
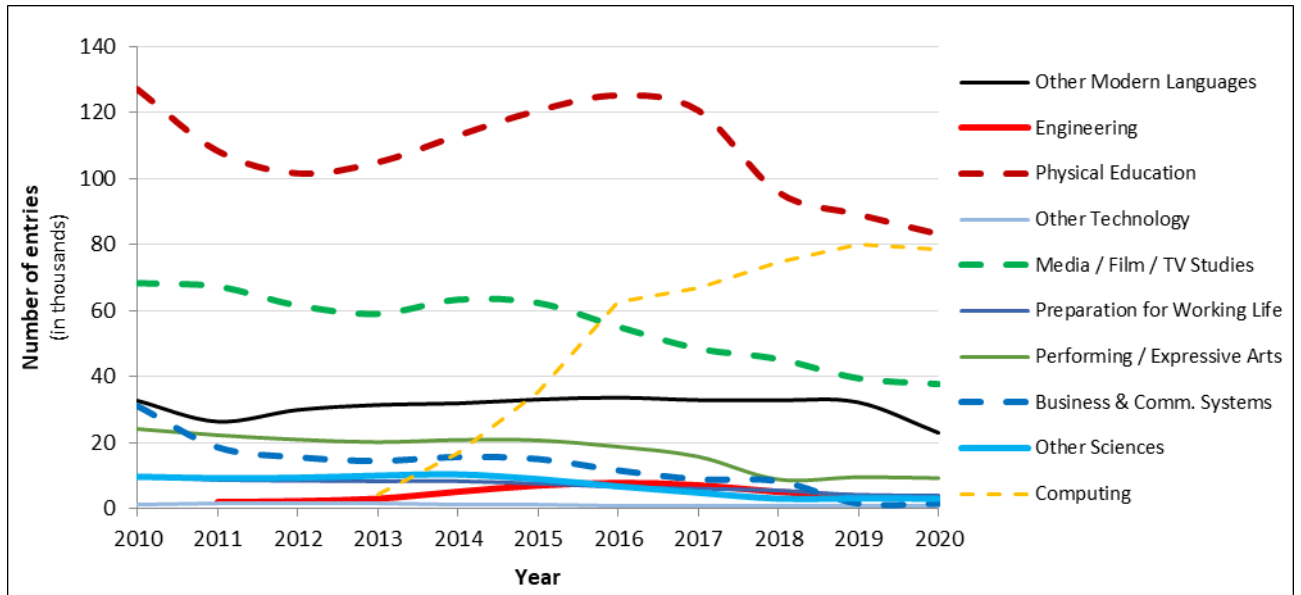


Table E GCSE full course subject decreases (entry less than 100,000)
(Changes from 2019-2020)

| Ranking | Subject | % change | 2019 Number of entries | 2020 Number of entries |
|---------|------------------------------|----------|------------------------|------------------------|
| 1 (16) | Other Modern Languages | -28.3 | 32,183 | 23,076 |
| 2 (8) | Engineering | -6.7 | 3,424 | 3,194 |
| 3 (13) | Physical Education | -6.4 | 89,141 | 83,404 |
| 4 (22) | Other Technology | -6.3 | 937 | 878 |
| 5 (11) | Media / Film / TV Studies | -4.4 | 39,538 | 37,781 |
| 6 (9) | Preparation for Working Life | -3.8 | 4,301 | 4,139 |
| 7 (29) | Performing / Expressive Arts | -3.3 | 9,351 | 9,043 |
| 8 (6) | Business & Comm. Systems | -2.5 | 1,685 | 1,643 |
| 9 | Other Sciences | -2.0 | 3,179 | 3,113 |
| 10 | Computing | -1.9 | 80,027 | 78,459 |

(2019 ranking in brackets. Subjects having a year-on-year increase or entry >100K in 2019 are shown as blank.)

Chart 7 Top GCSE full course subject decreases, 2020 (entry fewer than 100,000)



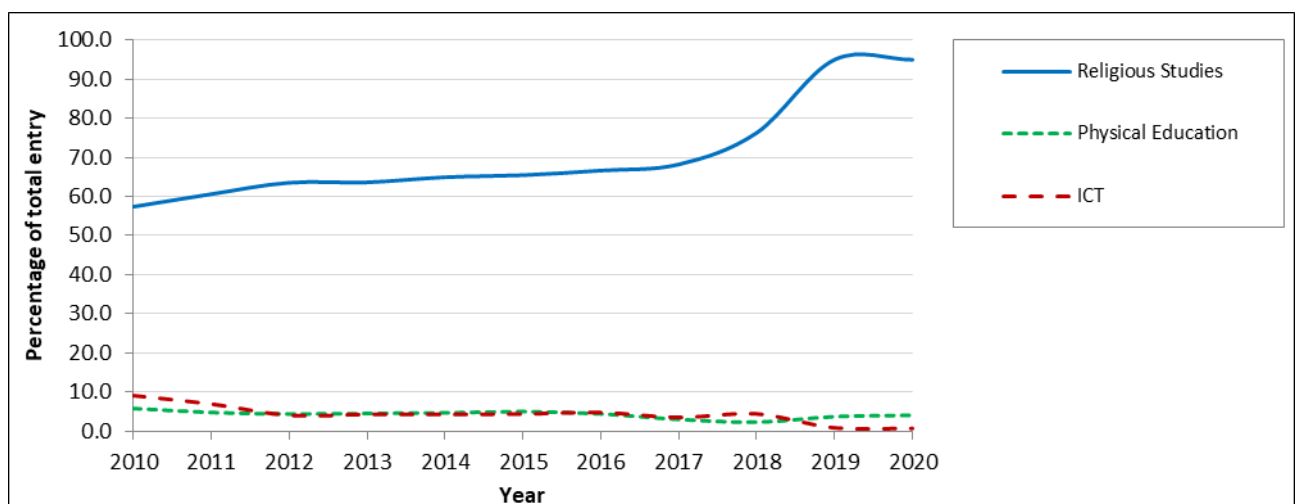
GCSE short course trends

Table F Top GCSE short course subjects in 2020

| Ranking | Subject | % of total | Number of entries |
|---------|--------------------|------------|-------------------|
| 1 (1) | Religious Studies | 95.1 | 27,114 |
| 2 (2) | Physical Education | 4.2 | 1,187 |
| 3 (3) | ICT | 0.7 | 207 |
| | | | |
| | | | |

(2019 ranking in brackets.)

Chart 8 Top GCSE short course subjects as a percentage of the total entry over the period 2010 to 2020



GCSE double award trends

Table G Top GCSE double award subjects in 2020

| Ranking | Subject | % of total | Number of entries |
|---------|----------------------|------------|-------------------|
| 1 (1) | Health & Social Care | 100.0 | 146 |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |

(2019 ranking in brackets.)

Entry Level trends

Table H Top Entry Level subjects in 2020

| Ranking | Subject | % of total | Number of entries |
|---------|--------------------|------------|-------------------|
| 1 (1) | Mathematics | 33.8 | 14,397 |
| 2 (3) | Science | 25.8 | 10,964 |
| 3 (2) | English | 24.9 | 10,610 |
| 4 (5) | Physical Education | 4.4 | 1,874 |
| 5 (4) | ICT | 3.0 | 1,292 |

(2019 ranking in brackets)

Project trends

Table I Changes from 2019-2020

| Subject | % change | 2019 Number of entries | 2020 Number of entries |
|-----------------|----------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Level 1 Project | 2.4 | 580 | 594 |
| Level 2 Project | -35.3 | 3882 | 2510 |