

GENERAL CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION - ADVANCED LEVEL

The figures given below are the total number of entries for GCE A Level in the UK, irrespective of age. However, it should be noted that the majority of entries will be students in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Number of A-level Entries

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Chemistry	40418	42262	41893	40920	40261	38602	36648	36110	37254	38851	40064	40285	41680
Physics	33033	33243	34209	33880	31794	30701	31543	30583	28698	28119	27368	27466	28096
Biology	52053	56706	58439	56036	54650	52647	52132	51716	52264	53968	54890	54563	56010
Maths	67072	68880	69919	69945	65836	66247	53940	55917	58508	58830	63252	67965	73684
English	87343	95223	95316	90340	86562	76808	72196	78746	81649	85858	86640	85275	89111
French	27487	25881	23923	21072	18341	17939	15614	15531	15149	14484	14650	14477	14885
Business Studies	29085	33458	37644	37926	36201	36834	27680	33133	32253	30719	30648	30193	31025
Total Entries in all Subjects	740470	777710	794262	783692	774364	748866	701380	750537	766247	783878	805698	805657	827737

The above figures have been translated into the following table showing the A-level entries as a percentage of the total number of entries.

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Chemistry	5.5	5.4	5.3	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2	4.8	4.9	4.9	5.0	5.0	5.0
Physics	4.5	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.1	4.1	4.5	4.1	3.7	3.6	3.4	3.4	3.4
Biology	7.0	7.3	7.4	7.2	7.1	7.0	7.4	6.9	6.8	6.9	6.8	6.8	6.8
Maths	9.1	8.8	8.8	8.9	8.5	8.8	7.7	7.5	7.6	7.5	7.9	8.4	8.9
English	11.8	12.2	12.0	11.5	11.2	10.3	10.3	10.5	10.7	11.0	10.8	10.6	10.8
French	3.7	3.3	3.0	2.7	2.4	2.4	2.2	2.1	2.0	1.9	1.8	1.8	1.8
Business Studies	3.9	4.3	4.7	4.8	4.8	4.9	3.9	4.4	4.2	3.9	3.8	3.7	3.7

The table below shows the A-level entries as a percentage of the 18-year old population (number of 18-year olds taken from the Government Actuary Department 2000 and 2006-based population projection)

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
18-year-old population (000's)	729	738	738	768	777	792	810	797	809
Chemistry	5.5	5.2	5.0	4.7	4.8	4.9	4.9	5.1	5.2
Physics	4.4	4.2	4.3	4.0	3.7	3.6	3.4	3.4	3.5
Biology	7.5	7.1	7.1	6.7	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.9
Maths	9.0	9.0	7.3	7.3	7.6	7.4	7.8	8.5	9.1
English	11.9	10.4	9.8	10.3	10.5	10.8	10.7	10.7	11.0
French	2.5	2.4	2.1	2.0	2.0	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8
Business Studies	5.0	5.0	3.8	4.3	4.2	3.9	3.8	3.8	3.8

Overleaf is a table of data showing the number of entries and passes for the period 1965-2008. The data are not available for some years in the 1980s.

Chemistry A Level Entries and Passes 1965-2008

Year	Number of entries	Number of passes	% of passes
1965	32,017	21,810	68.1
1966	31,314	21,582	68.9
1967	31,023	20,966	67.6
1968	30,883	20,971	67.9
1969	29,722	20,475	68.9
1970	30,770	21,437	69.7
1971	31,963	22,158	69.3
1972	32,371	23,736	73.3
1973	33,598	23,782	70.8
1974	33,656	23,741	70.5
1975	33,637	23,828	70.8
1976	34,558	24,508	70.9
1977	39,948	27,948	70.0
1978	39,651	18,079	45.6
1979	41,857	30,086	71.9
1980	42,973	30,797	71.7
1981	44,850	32,592	72.7
1982	47,035	34,557	73.5
1983	47,792	35,417	74.1
1984	48,068	35,712	74.3
1985	40,337	34,650	85.9
1986	38,770		
1987	38,078		

1988	43,314		
1989	44,593		
1990	46,197	35,550	77.0
1991	44,440	34,579	77.8
1992	42,967	34,343	79.9
1993	40,975	32,719	79.9
1994	41,231	33,456	81.1
1995	42,293	34,689	82.0
1996	40,418	34,878	86.3
1997	42,262	37,199	88.0
1998	41,893	37,317	89.1
1999	40,920	37,126	90.7
2000	40,261	36,782	91.4
2001	38,602	33,468*	86.7
2002	36,648	31,883*	87.0
2003	36,110	34,341*	95.1
2004	37,254	35,689*	95.8
2005	38,851	37,142*	95.6
2006	40,064	38,502*	96.1
2007	40,285	38,835*	96.4
2008	41,680	40,222*	96.5

* These numbers were calculated using the fact that a certain percentage was reported as having passed and therefore cannot be quoted as exact figures.