Ranking of candidates' best GCSE grades by subject in 2015

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Introduction

This statistics report explores which GCSE subjects candidates are most likely to achieve their best grade in. For every candidate a ranking of their subjects was generated, based on the grade attained in that subject. Then, for each subject, the percentage of candidates for whom the grade achieved in the subject was their best grade was calculated. This was repeated for the percentage of candidates for whom the grade achieved was in the top two, top three, top four or top five grades.

Data and method

The data for this analysis were taken from the National Pupil Database (NPD) Key Stage 4 (KS4) extract for 2012/13 and Key Stage 5 (KS5) extract for 2014/15. The main analysis looked at how often each GCSE (or IGCSE[1]) subject was ranked amongst the best grades for each candidate. For this the KS4 extract from 2012/13 was used. However, a further analysis focused only on students in this cohort who went on to take A levels. This required data from the KS5 extract from 2014/15, linked to the KS4 extract from two years previously.

For each GCSE subject, the results show the percentage of *all* GCSE candidates for whom the grade achieved in the subject was their best grade. Also presented is the percentage of *candidates taking a subject* for whom the grade in that subject was the best. Both these analyses are repeated for the percentage of candidates for whom the grade achieved was in the top two, top three, top four or top five grades. Where a candidate has multiple subjects with the same grade, all the subjects are given the highest rank available and are then weighted by the reciprocal of the number of subjects. For example, if a candidate achieved A* grades in Maths, Physics and Chemistry (and no other subjects) then all three subjects would count as their best subject, but with a weighting of one third.

The analysis was undertaken for all candidates together and for boys and girls separately. Candidates with fewer than five GCSEs were excluded from the analysis, as were subjects taken by fewer than 500 candidates.

Results

All GCSE candidates
Table 1 presents the percentages for each subject, overall and by gender. In each case there are two different percentages: Percentage (1) refers to the percentage of all GCSE candidates in the dataset (or all girls or boys); percentage (2) is the percentage of candidates (or girls or boys) taking the GCSE in question. For example, the results show that 2.84% of all candidates achieved their best grade in additional science and this was 6.09% of the candidates taking the subject (n=247,333). Similarly, 2.26% of girls achieved their best grade in additional science and this was 4.70% of the girls taking the subject. This table is ordered by subject, but it is also of interest to look at the rank order of subjects in terms of both percentages in the table. Figure 1 presents the top 20 subjects in terms of the overall percentage (1) and Figure 2 the top 20 subjects in terms of the overall

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[1] These qualifications are officially called Level 1 / Level 2 Certificates, but are commonly referred to as IGCSEs.

percentage (2). The figures include an overall line and also one for each gender, which provides some interesting contrasts.

Table 1: Candidates for whom the grade achieved in the subject was their best grade

Subject	Candidates taking subject	Overall % (1)	Overall % (2)	Girls % (1)	Girls % (2)	Boys % (1)	Boys % (2)
Additional Science	247,333	2.84	6.09	2.26	4.70	3.44	7.59
Ancient History	898	0.01	8.77	0.01	7.98	0.02	9.40
Applications of Mathematics	15,678	0.23	7.85	0.13	4.50	0.34	11.00
Applied Art & Design	991	0.04	23.36	0.06	24.20	0.03	21.83
Applied Engineering	2,054	0.02	5.72	0.00	5.10	0.04	5.78
Arabic	2,573	0.18	36.09	0.19	34.56	0.16	38.09
Art & Design	76,315	3.32	23.03	4.77	24.24	1.84	20.34
Art & Design (3D Studies)	1,944	0.10	26.59	0.10	28.75	0.10	24.66
Art & Design (Fine Art)	48,313	2.09	22.94	2.94	24.13	1.22	20.45
Art & Design (Graphics)	6,288	0.28	23.50	0.28	27.12	0.28	20.73
Art & Design (Photography)	13,254	0.82	32.91	1.14	35.75	0.50	27.76
Art & Design (Textiles)	7,377	0.31	22.35	0.60	22.44	0.02	19.94
Astronomy	2,362	0.01	1.54	0.00	0.99	0.01	1.89
Bengali	936	0.05	27.70	0.06	29.27	0.04	25.80
Biology	171,588	2.44	7.52	2.22	7.20	2.66	7.82
Business Studies: Single	59,861	0.75	6.65	0.55	6.04	0.96	7.07
Business Studies & Economics	4,231	0.03	3.44	0.01	2.40	0.04	4.01
Chemistry	168,659	2.45	7.69	2.03	6.74	2.88	8.56
Chinese	3,309	0.22	35.05	0.21	35.37	0.23	34.74
Classical Civilisation	3,842	0.04	5.00	0.04	6.17	0.03	3.97
Classical Greek	1,118	0.02	7.78	0.01	7.82	0.02	7.76
Computer Studies/Computing	3,979	0.04	5.36	0.01	3.11	0.07	5.74
D&T Electronic Products	8,221	0.20	12.92	0.04	16.53	0.37	12.61
D&T Food Technology	40,167	1.46	19.24	2.16	22.66	0.74	13.30
D&T Graphic Products	34,677	0.72	11.01	0.73	14.37	0.71	8.85
D&T Product Design	30,761	0.75	12.88	0.56	15.36	0.94	11.73
D&T Resistant Materials	47,759	1.46	16.18	0.44	16.53	2.50	16.12
D&T Systems & Control	3,339	0.06	8.98	0.01	8.20	0.11	9.04
D&T Textiles Technology	26,246	1.00	20.14	1.94	20.31	0.03	13.57
Dance	11,230	0.34	16.00	0.61	15.51	0.06	23.24
Drama & Theatre Studies	67,374	2.01	15.78	2.44	15.77	1.56	15.80
Economics	4,280	0.02	2.71	0.01	2.45	0.03	2.82
Electronics	564	0.01	13.08	0.00	6.97	0.03	13.29
English Language	436,673	10.44	12.66	11.92	13.90	8.92	11.27
English Lang & Lit	98,112	3.20	17.27	3.18	20.89	3.22	14.70
English Literature	433,192	9.44	11.54	11.53	13.49	7.31	9.36
English Studies	1,912	0.01	2.72	0.01	3.21	0.01	2.29
ESOL	1,068	0.02	11.16	0.02	10.78	0.03	11.44
Environmental Science	2,124	0.02	4.87	0.02	4.38	0.02	5.24
Expressive Arts & Perf.	3,739	0.14	20.06	0.21	23.62	0.07	13.95
Film Studies	4,730	0.15	16.25	0.14	16.41	0.15	16.10
French	165,165	1.90	6.11	2.32	6.60	1.48	5.45
General Studies	4,531	0.03	3.90	0.04	5.09	0.02	2.71

Subject	Candidates taking subject	Overall % (1)	Overall % (2)	Girls % (1)	Girls % (2)	Boys % (1)	Boys % (2)
Geography	200,990	2.86	7.53	2.82	8.12	2.90	7.02
Geology	749	0.02	12.73	0.00	5.32	0.03	14.79
German	61,963	0.67	5.72	0.75	6.28	0.58	5.12
Gujarati	557	0.02	15.98	0.02	19.00	0.01	11.28
Health & Social Care	2,681	0.07	13.50	0.13	13.85	0.00	6.20
History	236,402	4.04	9.05	3.94	8.85	4.15	9.26
Home Ec.: Child Dev.	14,781	0.53	18.96	1.04	19.11	0.00	5.53
Home Economics: Food	9,075	0.24	13.74	0.35	15.62	0.12	10.21
Humanities: Single	11,520	0.09	4.35	0.10	4.74	0.09	3.96
ICT	55,191	1.27	12.17	1.02	11.24	1.52	12.91
Italian	4,104	0.19	24.10	0.20	23.42	0.17	25.00
Japanese	841	0.03	19.54	0.03	19.15	0.03	20.03
Latin	8,980	0.11	6.49	0.12	6.71	0.10	6.26
Law	2,344	0.01	2.61	0.01	2.97	0.01	2.17
Mathematics	518,594	17.24	17.60	11.17	11.40	23.45	23.97
Media/Film/TV Studies	47,605	1.57	17.41	1.88	20.75	1.24	13.94
Methods in Mathematics	17,049	0.28	8.62	0.17	5.55	0.39	11.48
Music	40,952	0.89	11.51	0.72	9.39	1.07	13.64
Office Technology	11,638	0.21	9.55	0.23	11.73	0.19	7.70
Performing Arts	3,390	0.13	20.39	0.21	23.25	0.05	13.33
PE/Sports Studies	90,484	2.74	16.06	1.33	11.34	4.19	18.55
Physics	168,182	2.47	7.77	1.62	5.41	3.34	9.92
Polish	3,030	0.44	77.60	0.45	75.35	0.44	80.11
Portuguese	1,380	0.14	52.82	0.15	52.39	0.13	53.33
Psychology	11,989	0.13	5.71	0.20	6.54	0.06	4.03
Punjabi	857	0.04	26.52	0.05	26.72	0.04	26.23
Religious Studies	224,680	6.86	16.16	8.77	19.23	4.90	12.51
Russian	1,819	0.14	40.34	0.13	42.24	0.14	38.68
Science (Core)	309,226	3.77	6.46	2.72	4.57	4.84	8.48
Science: Double Award*	6,398	0.08	6.64	0.07	5.93	0.09	7.38
Social Science: Citizenship	10,364	0.20	10.29	0.24	11.78	0.16	8.62
Sociology	18,652	0.34	9.52	0.51	10.13	0.16	7.94
Spanish	86,108	1.56	9.57	1.87	10.19	1.24	8.76
Statistics	43,662	0.38	4.61	0.33	4.26	0.43	4.93
Turkish	1,376	0.20	75.24	0.21	77.75	0.18	72.37
Urdu	3,881	0.23	31.55	0.31	32.30	0.15	30.09

* In all the analysis this IGCSE is counted as one subject only, even though candidates receive two grades for it. When calculating the rank for this subject it is assumed that, for example, a grade A*A is between a grade A* and a grade A.
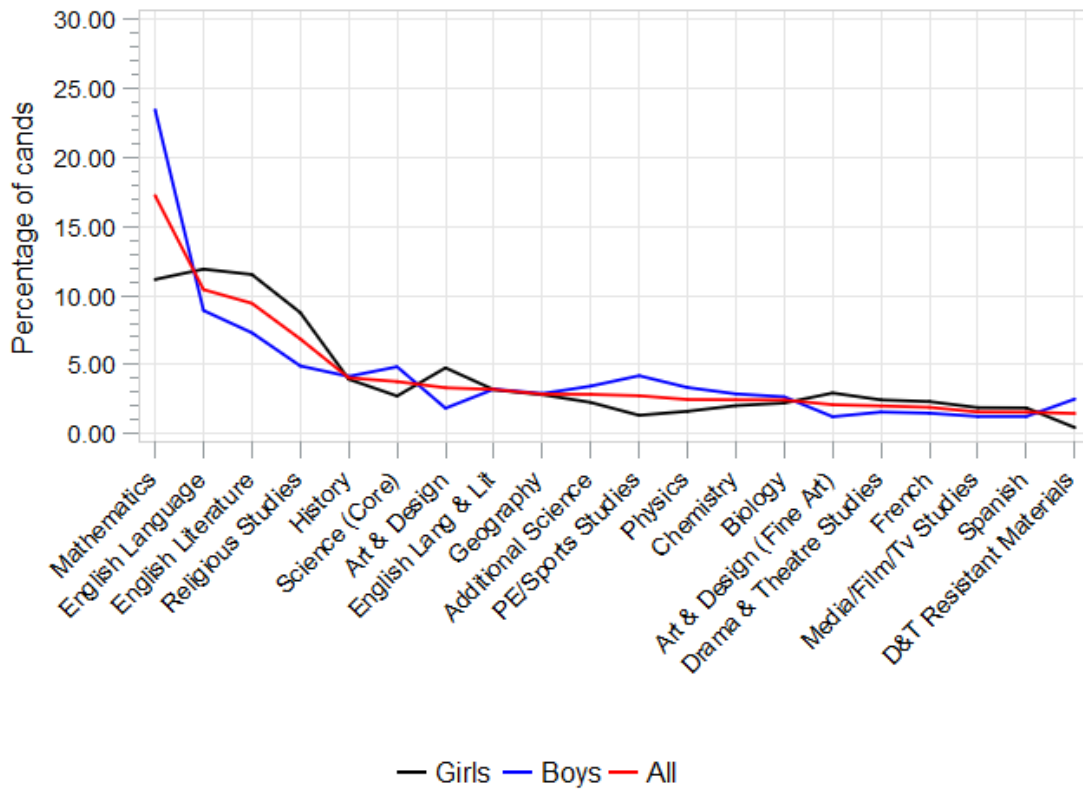
Figure 1: Candidates achieving best grade in a subject (% of all candidates, top 20)
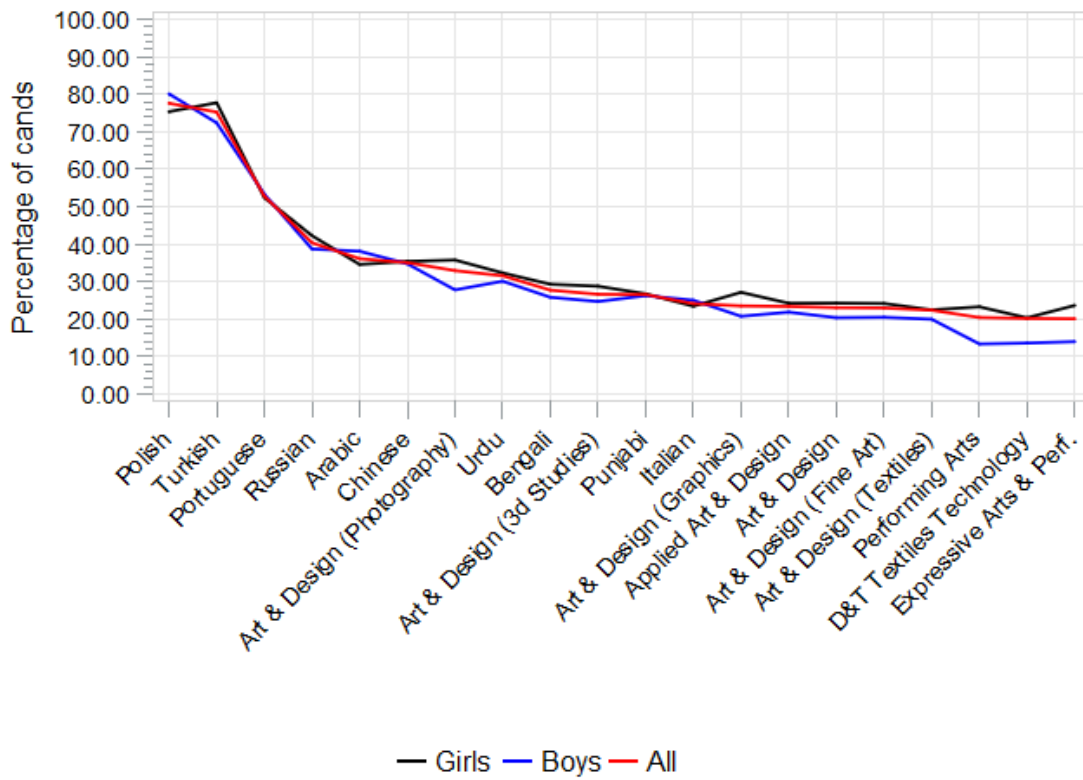

Figure 2: Candidates achieving best grade in a subject (% of those taking subject, top 20)

In Figure 1 it is clear that the subjects with the highest percentages were also those most likely to be taken. This makes sense because in order for a candidate to achieve their best grade in a subject they must take it. Maths was by some distance the most likely to be the best grade, followed by English Language and English Literature (these had the three highest entries). Some subjects with relatively high percentages given their entry numbers included Art & Design, English Language & Literature and Religious Studies. Subjects with relatively low percentages included the separate sciences and French.

In contrast, the subjects with the highest percentages in Figure 2 were mainly modern languages, which were taken by relatively few candidates. This reflects the fact that for these subjects a high proportion of the candidates were native speakers and therefore found it easy to do well. The other subjects in the figure were mainly Art & Design subjects. One way of interpreting the results in Figure 2 would be as a measure of the 'difficulty' of a subject, since it tells us which subject students were most likely to find 'easiest' (amongst the ones that they studied). These results are very similar to those presented by Benton (2016), who compared the difficulty of GCSE subjects using the Kelly method (see Bramley, 2014). However, it should be noted that, although interesting, analyses of this type do not account for the impact of students' own role in selecting of subjects they are likely to be good at. For this reason, it is possible for methods of this type to reveal seeming differences in difficulty when in fact none exist (see Bramley, 2016).

Comparing the results for girls and boys there was a very clear advantage for boys in maths, with 23.48% of all boys achieving their best grade in the subject, compared with just 11.19% of all girls. Boys were also more likely than girls to achieve their best grade in Core Science or PE/Sports Studies, whereas girls were more likely to achieve their best grade in English Literature, Religious Studies or Art & Design. For the subjects with the highest percentages in Figure 2 there were only small differences between genders. However, girls were much more likely than boys to have Art & Design or D & T subjects as their best grade, and boys were more likely than girls to have Mathematics as their best grade. Beyond the subjects in Figure 2 there was a marked difference between genders for Home Economics: Child Development. Amongst those taking the subject, girls were more than 3 times as likely to have it as their best GCSE than boys.

Tables 2-5 present the percentages of times that each subject was in a candidate's best two, best three, best four and best five grades. Figures 3 to 10 present the same data for the top 20 subjects, in terms of the percentage of all students and the percentage of those taking the subject.

These show only very few changes in the order of the top 20 subjects, compared to Figures 1 and 2. However, Art and Design and English Language and Literature were ranked lower and Additional Science was ranked higher.

Table 2: Candidates for whom the grade achieved in the subject was in their best two grades

Subject	Candidates taking subject	Overall % (1)	Overall % (2)	Girls % (1)	Girls % (2)	Boys % (1)	Boys % (2)
Additional Science	247,333	7.13	15.27	5.80	12.06	8.50	18.75
Ancient History	898	0.03	18.75	0.03	16.93	0.04	20.18
Applications of Mathematics	15,678	0.51	17.36	0.31	10.88	0.73	23.44
Applied Art & Design	991	0.08	40.19	0.10	41.02	0.05	38.67
Applied Engineering	2,054	0.04	11.39	0.01	11.70	0.08	11.37
Arabic	2,573	0.23	46.82	0.25	46.03	0.20	47.85
Art & Design	76,315	5.38	37.34	7.70	39.16	3.01	33.30
Art & Design (3D Studies)	1,944	0.16	43.24	0.16	46.30	0.16	40.50
Art & Design (Fine Art)	48,313	3.40	37.22	4.75	38.95	2.01	33.61
Art & Design (Graphics)	6,288	0.46	38.58	0.45	43.76	0.47	34.63
Art & Design (Photography)	13,254	1.23	49.15	1.68	52.75	0.77	42.62
Art & Design (Textiles)	7,377	0.53	38.18	1.02	38.30	0.03	34.91
Astronomy	2,362	0.02	3.89	0.01	2.49	0.03	4.79
Bengali	936	0.07	39.18	0.08	39.82	0.06	38.40
Biology	171,588	5.52	17.04	4.96	16.13	6.09	17.88
Business Studies: Single	59,861	1.66	14.68	1.24	13.57	2.09	15.45
Business Studies & Economics	4,231	0.07	8.57	0.04	6.85	0.10	9.50
Chemistry	168,659	5.52	17.33	4.53	15.04	6.53	19.42
Chinese	3,309	0.32	50.45	0.31	51.53	0.32	49.43
Classical Civilisation	3,842	0.08	11.30	0.09	13.58	0.07	9.29
Classical Greek	1,118	0.03	15.81	0.03	15.79	0.04	15.82
Computer Studies/Computing	3,979	0.09	12.35	0.02	7.48	0.17	13.19
D&T Electronic Products	8,221	0.37	23.97	0.07	28.18	0.68	23.61
D&T Food Technology	40,167	2.63	34.63	3.77	39.55	1.46	26.04
D&T Graphic Products	34,677	1.40	21.36	1.37	26.98	1.43	17.75
D&T Product Design	30,761	1.42	24.52	1.05	28.91	1.81	22.48
D&T Resistant Materials	47,759	2.68	29.73	0.83	31.00	4.58	29.51
D&T Systems & Control	3,339	0.11	18.17	0.01	16.70	0.22	18.28
D&T Textiles Technology	26,246	1.80	36.41	3.50	36.67	0.07	26.72
Dance	11,230	0.57	26.75	1.02	26.09	0.10	36.50
Drama & Theatre Studies	67,374	3.54	27.86	4.35	28.10	2.72	27.46
Economics	4,280	0.05	6.65	0.03	6.26	0.08	6.83
Electronics	564	0.02	23.32	0.00	16.72	0.05	23.54
English Language	436,673	22.55	27.35	25.48	29.73	19.55	24.70
English Lang & Lit	98,112	6.96	37.59	6.58	43.24	7.36	33.57
English Literature	433,192	20.40	24.93	24.61	28.79	16.09	20.61
English Studies	1,912	0.03	7.37	0.03	8.53	0.02	6.34
ESOL	1,068	0.05	27.01	0.04	25.84	0.07	27.87
Environmental Science	2,124	0.05	12.00	0.04	11.34	0.06	12.51
Expressive Arts & Perf.	3,739	0.23	32.20	0.33	37.49	0.12	23.13
Film Studies	4,730	0.28	30.80	0.28	32.34	0.27	29.28
French	165,165	3.83	12.27	4.73	13.46	2.90	10.69
General Studies	4,531	0.07	8.40	0.09	10.54	0.05	6.26
Geography	200,990	6.20	16.33	6.01	17.30	6.40	15.50
Geology	749	0.03	24.39	0.01	14.69	0.06	27.08
German	61,963	1.33	11.33	1.49	12.47	1.15	10.10

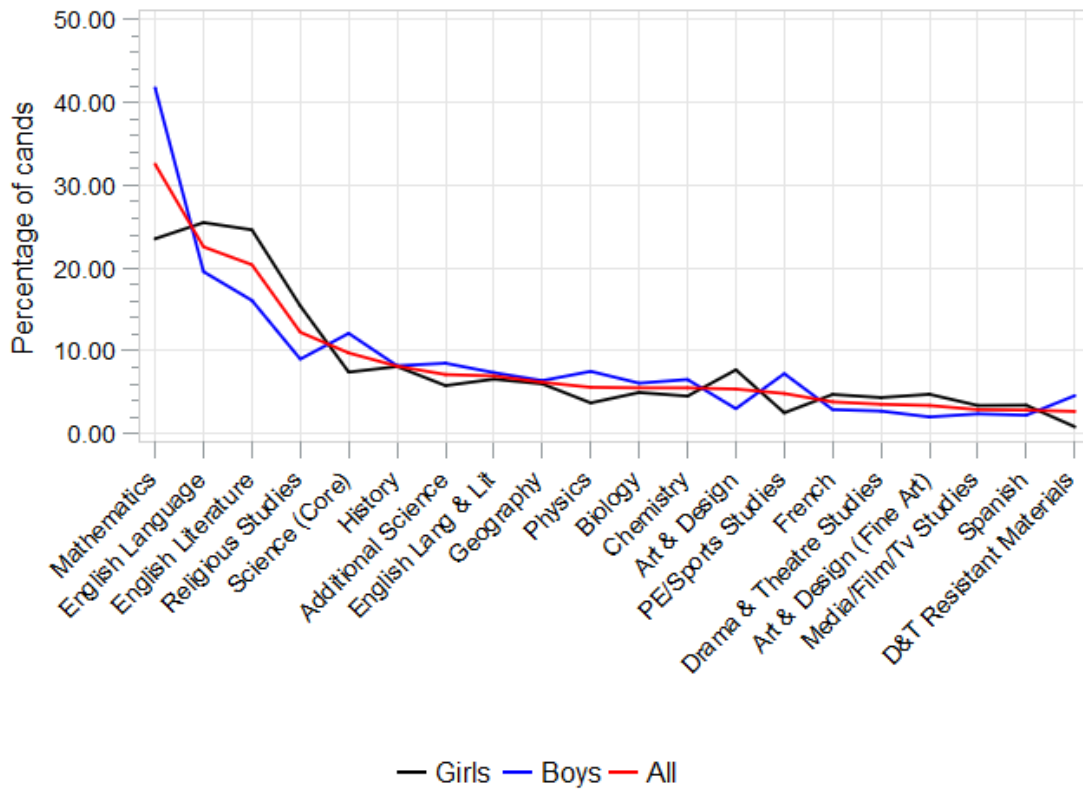| Subject	Candidates taking subject	Overall % (1)	Overall % (2)	Girls % (1)	Girls % (2)	Boys % (1)	Boys % (2)
Gujarati	557	0.03	24.07	0.03	27.03	0.02	19.46
Health & Social Care	2,681	0.13	25.08	0.24	25.62	0.01	14.00
History	236,402	8.14	18.24	8.10	18.18	8.19	18.30
Home Ec.: Child Dev.	14,781	0.98	34.95	1.92	35.21	0.01	12.62
Home Economics: Food	9,075	0.47	27.30	0.67	30.52	0.26	21.27
Humanities: Single	11,520	0.22	10.28	0.24	11.00	0.21	9.56
ICT	55,191	2.41	23.14	2.01	22.08	2.83	23.98
Italian	4,104	0.29	37.41	0.33	37.66	0.25	37.08
Japanese	841	0.05	30.97	0.05	30.66	0.04	31.36
Latin	8,980	0.23	13.32	0.24	13.79	0.21	12.82
Law	2,344	0.02	5.49	0.03	6.25	0.02	4.57
Mathematics	518,594	32.53	33.22	23.53	24.00	41.75	42.67
Media/Film/TV Studies	47,605	2.89	32.17	3.39	37.39	2.38	26.74
Methods in Mathematics	17,049	0.61	19.00	0.40	12.88	0.83	24.72
Music	40,952	1.64	21.24	1.40	18.37	1.89	24.10
Office Technology	11,638	0.43	19.50	0.45	22.85	0.40	16.67
Performing Arts	3,390	0.21	32.98	0.33	36.62	0.09	24.03
PE/Sports Studies	90,484	4.85	28.37	2.51	21.47	7.24	32.01
Physics	168,182	5.59	17.60	3.71	12.39	7.52	22.33
Polish	3,030	0.50	87.28	0.51	85.98	0.48	88.74
Portuguese	1,380	0.19	74.66	0.21	74.49	0.18	74.85
Psychology	11,989	0.28	12.51	0.42	14.09	0.14	9.29
Punjabi	857	0.06	37.28	0.07	37.54	0.05	36.92
Religious Studies	224,680	12.24	28.85	15.41	33.80	9.00	22.96
Russian	1,819	0.18	52.42	0.18	55.58	0.18	49.66
Science (Core)	309,226	9.74	16.68	7.42	12.45	12.11	21.19
Science: Double Award	6,398	0.19	16.07	0.17	13.98	0.22	18.28
Social Science: Citizenship	10,364	0.42	21.26	0.49	23.98	0.34	18.22
Sociology	18,652	0.70	19.92	1.06	21.22	0.33	16.58
Spanish	86,108	2.83	17.41	3.43	18.71	2.22	15.69
Statistics	43,662	0.97	11.71	0.80	10.21	1.14	13.08
Turkish	1,376	0.22	85.63	0.24	88.12	0.20	82.78
Urdu	3,881	0.33	45.38	0.45	46.82	0.21	42.58

Figure 3: Candidates achieving in their best two grades in a subject (% of all candidates, top 20)
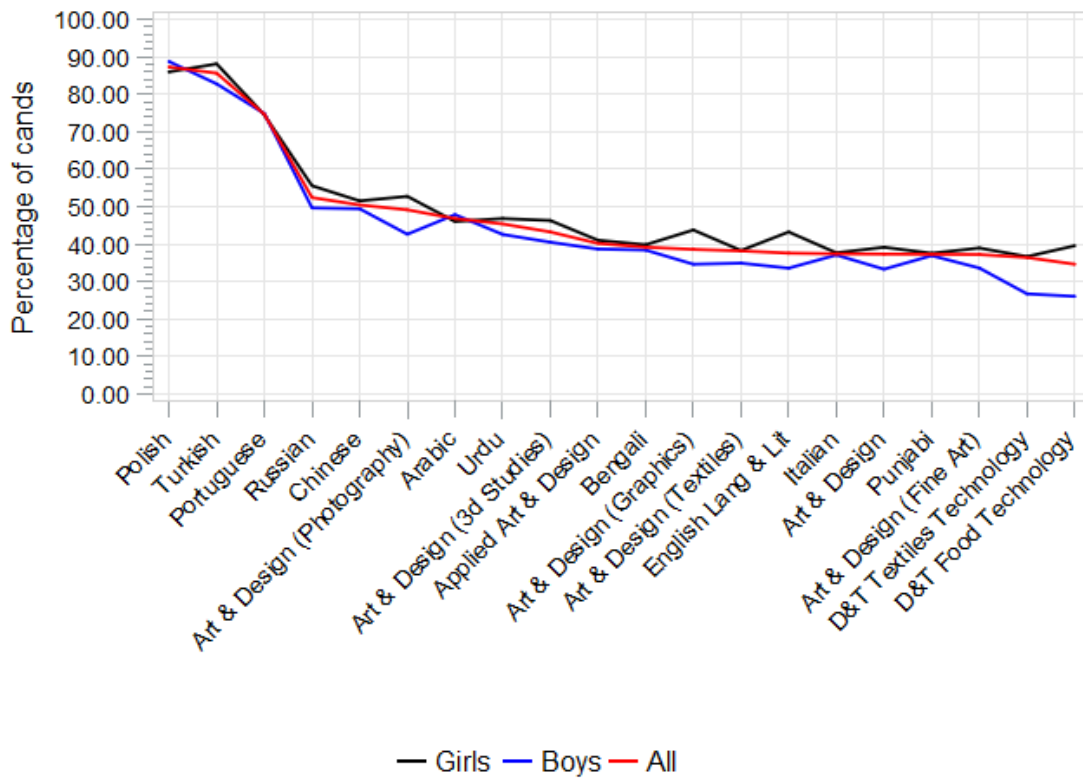

Figure 4: Candidates achieving in their best two grades in a subject (% of those taking subject, top 20)

Table 3: Candidates for whom the grade achieved in the subject was in their best three grades

Subject	Candidates taking subject	Overall % (1)	Overall % (2)	Girls % (1)	Girls % (2)	Boys % (1)	Boys % (2)
Additional Science	247,333	12.47	26.70	10.48	21.80	14.51	32.01
Ancient History	898	0.05	28.29	0.04	26.20	0.06	29.94
Applications of Mathematics	15,678	0.82	27.59	0.53	18.67	1.11	35.96
Applied Art & Design	991	0.10	52.21	0.12	52.41	0.07	51.84
Applied Engineering	2,054	0.07	17.78	0.01	17.95	0.13	17.76
Arabic	2,573	0.26	53.31	0.29	52.81	0.23	53.97
Art & Design	76,315	7.00	48.55	9.96	50.67	3.97	43.85
Art & Design (3D Studies)	1,944	0.20	54.76	0.20	57.76	0.20	52.06
Art & Design (Fine Art)	48,313	4.39	48.14	6.12	50.18	2.63	43.90
Art & Design (Graphics)	6,288	0.59	49.84	0.57	55.82	0.62	45.26
Art & Design (Photography)	13,254	1.51	60.48	2.06	64.42	0.96	53.33
Art & Design (Textiles)	7,377	0.70	49.99	1.33	50.08	0.05	47.73
Astronomy	2,362	0.03	7.06	0.02	4.70	0.05	8.59
Bengali	936	0.08	47.70	0.09	48.25	0.08	47.04
Biology	171,588	9.08	28.01	8.11	26.36	10.06	29.53
Business Studies: Single	59,861	2.69	23.83	2.05	22.52	3.35	24.73
Business Studies & Economics	4,231	0.13	15.68	0.07	13.23	0.18	17.01
Chemistry	168,659	8.96	28.13	7.40	24.57	10.56	31.39
Chinese	3,309	0.37	59.82	0.37	61.86	0.38	57.87
Classical Civilisation	3,842	0.14	18.74	0.15	21.96	0.12	15.90
Classical Greek	1,118	0.05	23.94	0.04	23.76	0.06	24.06
Computer Studies/Computing	3,979	0.15	19.85	0.03	12.72	0.27	21.09
D&T Electronic Products	8,221	0.53	34.11	0.09	38.41	0.98	33.75
D&T Food Technology	40,167	3.65	48.10	5.11	53.59	2.16	38.55
D&T Graphic Products	34,677	2.05	31.23	1.94	38.29	2.15	26.69
D&T Product Design	30,761	2.06	35.54	1.49	41.08	2.65	32.97
D&T Resistant Materials	47,759	3.79	42.03	1.19	44.36	6.45	41.61
D&T Systems & Control	3,339	0.17	27.50	0.02	24.54	0.33	27.71
D&T Textiles Technology	26,246	2.47	49.85	4.79	50.10	0.10	40.29
Dance	11,230	0.76	35.89	1.38	35.16	0.13	46.64
Drama & Theatre Studies	67,374	4.93	38.73	6.09	39.29	3.74	37.84
Economics	4,280	0.09	11.56	0.05	11.05	0.13	11.79
Electronics	564	0.04	33.98	0.00	28.33	0.07	34.17
English Language	436,673	34.27	41.56	38.28	44.66	30.18	38.13
English Lang & Lit	98,112	10.44	56.33	9.45	62.14	11.44	52.19
English Literature	433,192	31.38	38.36	37.12	43.43	25.51	32.68
English Studies	1,912	0.05	14.71	0.06	16.91	0.05	12.74
ESOL	1,068	0.09	43.04	0.07	41.20	0.10	44.39
Environmental Science	2,124	0.08	20.88	0.07	19.35	0.10	22.08
Expressive Arts & Perf.	3,739	0.29	41.29	0.42	47.24	0.16	31.09
Film Studies	4,730	0.39	43.95	0.40	46.21	0.38	41.74
French	165,165	5.88	18.86	7.30	20.76	4.44	16.34
General Studies	4,531	0.12	14.40	0.15	17.77	0.10	11.03
Geography	200,990	9.95	26.22	9.50	27.36	10.42	25.24
Geology	749	0.05	35.60	0.01	23.50	0.09	38.96
German	61,963	2.04	17.46	2.31	19.29	1.77	15.49

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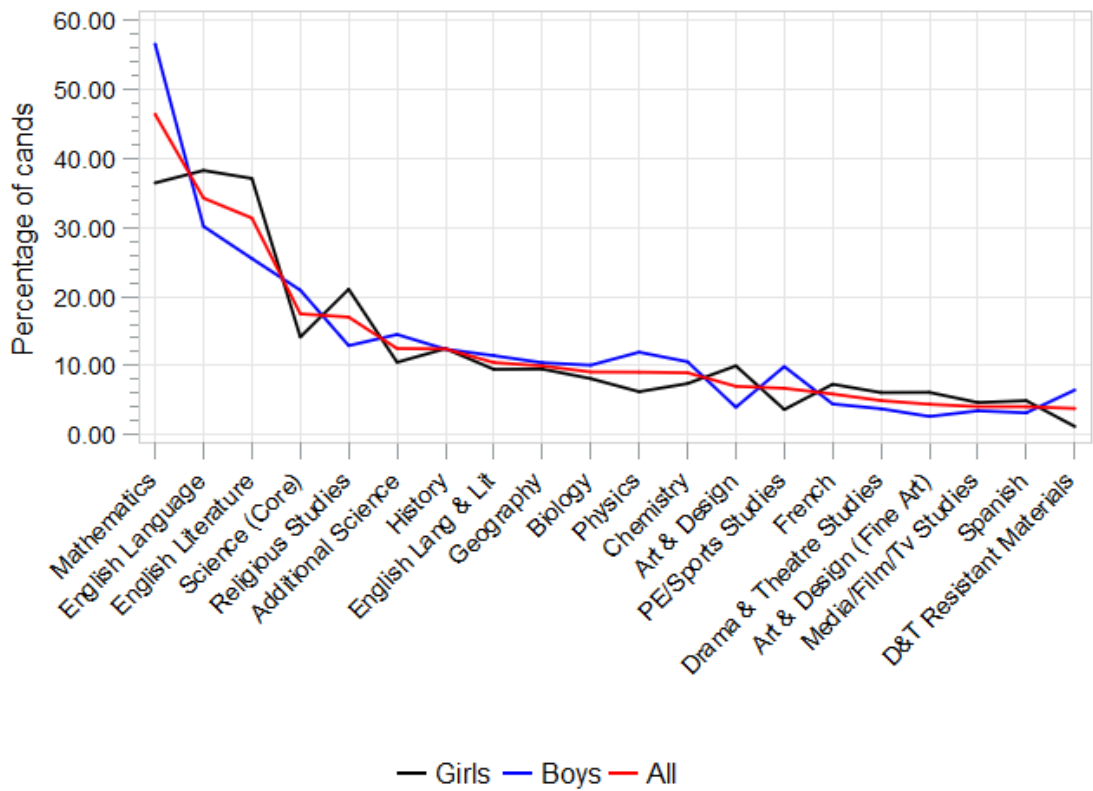| Subject	Candidates taking subject	Overall % (1)	Overall % (2)	Girls % (1)	Girls % (2)	Boys % (1)	Boys % (2)
Gujarati	557	0.03	30.23	0.04	33.43	0.02	25.25
Health & Social Care	2,681	0.19	37.22	0.36	37.91	0.01	23.08
History	236,402	12.42	27.81	12.45	27.96	12.38	27.65
Home Ec.: Child Dev.	14,781	1.38	49.36	2.71	49.67	0.01	22.57
Home Economics: Food	9,075	0.68	39.94	0.97	43.90	0.39	32.49
Humanities: Single	11,520	0.39	17.94	0.41	19.16	0.37	16.73
ICT	55,191	3.49	33.46	2.95	32.44	4.04	34.27
Italian	4,104	0.37	47.55	0.42	48.23	0.32	46.66
Japanese	841	0.06	39.63	0.07	40.14	0.06	39.01
Latin	8,980	0.35	20.56	0.37	21.14	0.33	19.94
Law	2,344	0.04	9.27	0.05	10.49	0.03	7.80
Mathematics	518,594	46.42	47.39	36.47	37.21	56.59	57.84
Media/Film/TV Studies	47,605	4.05	45.10	4.65	51.25	3.45	38.69
Methods in Mathematics	17,049	0.97	29.99	0.67	21.84	1.27	37.60
Music	40,952	2.34	30.25	2.08	27.20	2.61	33.29
Office Technology	11,638	0.66	29.88	0.67	33.90	0.64	26.49
Performing Arts	3,390	0.28	43.39	0.43	47.58	0.12	33.05
PE/Sports Studies	90,484	6.71	39.29	3.64	31.10	9.86	43.63
Physics	168,182	9.05	28.49	6.22	20.79	11.95	35.49
Polish	3,030	0.52	91.21	0.54	90.01	0.51	92.55
Portuguese	1,380	0.22	82.69	0.23	83.10	0.20	82.20
Psychology	11,989	0.46	20.34	0.68	22.74	0.23	15.43
Punjabi	857	0.07	44.07	0.08	44.85	0.06	42.97
Religious Studies	224,680	17.03	40.13	21.07	46.20	12.89	32.89
Russian	1,819	0.21	60.40	0.20	64.30	0.21	57.01
Science (Core)	309,226	17.50	29.96	14.14	23.72	20.93	36.63
Science: Double Award	6,398	0.33	27.63	0.29	23.72	0.38	31.76
Social Science: Citizenship	10,364	0.64	32.76	0.74	36.13	0.54	28.97
Sociology	18,652	1.10	31.19	1.66	33.02	0.53	26.46
Spanish	86,108	4.05	24.88	4.92	26.86	3.15	22.27
Statistics	43,662	1.65	19.97	1.36	17.37	1.94	22.37
Turkish	1,376	0.23	89.83	0.25	91.46	0.22	87.97
Urdu	3,881	0.40	54.69	0.54	56.22	0.26	51.71

Figure 5: Candidates achieving in their best three grades in a subject (% of all candidates, top 20)
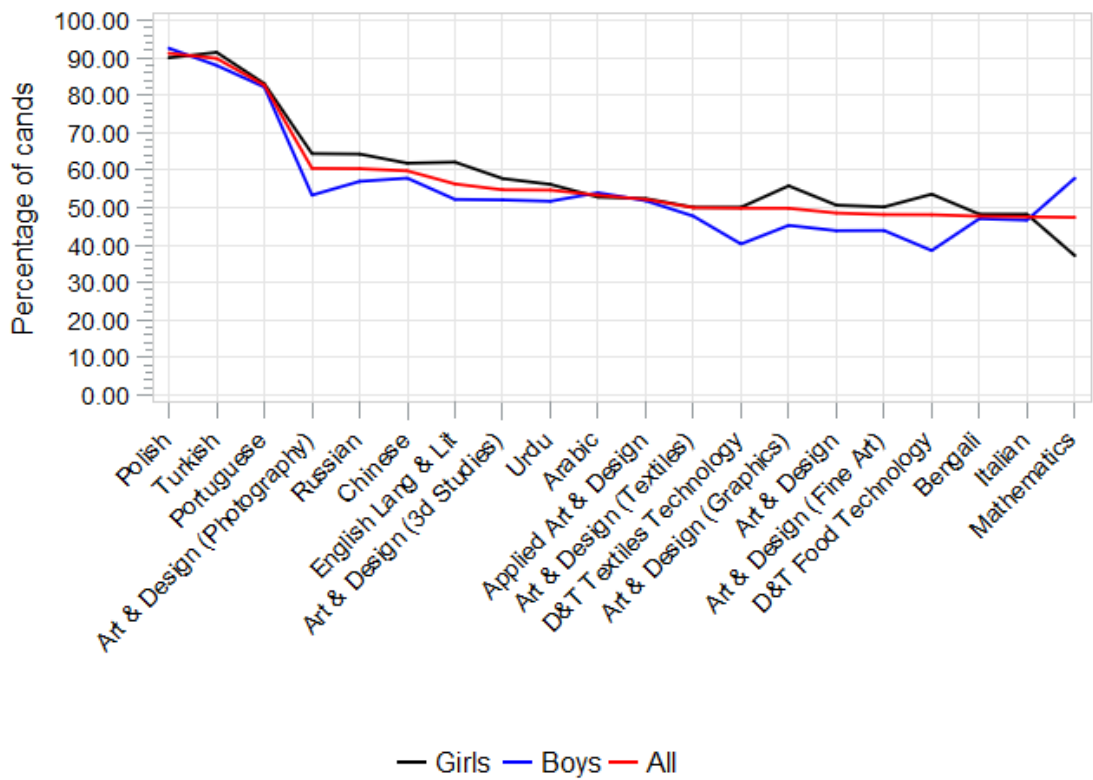

Figure 6: Candidates achieving in their best three grades in a subject (% of those taking subject, top 20)

Table 4: Candidates for whom the grade achieved in the subject was in their best four grades

Subject	Candidates taking subject	Overall % (1)	Overall % (2)	Girls % (1)	Girls % (2)	Boys % (1)	Boys % (2)
Additional Science	247,333	18.66	39.95	16.27	33.85	21.11	46.57
Ancient History	898	0.06	37.88	0.05	36.40	0.07	39.05
Applications of Mathematics	15,678	1.14	38.45	0.79	27.95	1.49	48.29
Applied Art & Design	991	0.12	61.80	0.15	62.11	0.08	61.23
Applied Engineering	2,054	0.10	25.97	0.02	24.76	0.19	26.08
Arabic	2,573	0.29	58.75	0.32	58.63	0.25	58.90
Art & Design	76,315	8.39	58.24	11.87	60.38	4.84	53.48
Art & Design (3D Studies)	1,944	0.24	64.88	0.23	67.68	0.24	62.38
Art & Design (Fine Art)	48,313	5.25	57.54	7.27	59.62	3.18	53.19
Art & Design (Graphics)	6,288	0.70	59.13	0.66	64.85	0.75	54.75
Art & Design (Photography)	13,254	1.74	69.36	2.33	73.10	1.13	62.56
Art & Design (Textiles)	7,377	0.84	60.12	1.60	60.12	0.06	60.06
Astronomy	2,362	0.05	10.96	0.03	7.41	0.07	13.23
Bengali	936	0.10	55.23	0.11	55.89	0.09	54.43
Biology	171,588	12.98	40.05	11.58	37.64	14.41	42.28
Business Studies: Single	59,861	3.88	34.33	3.01	32.99	4.77	35.26
Business Studies & Economics	4,231	0.20	24.58	0.12	21.51	0.28	26.25
Chemistry	168,659	12.61	39.58	10.55	35.04	14.71	43.73
Chinese	3,309	0.42	67.26	0.42	69.83	0.42	64.81
Classical Civilisation	3,842	0.20	27.34	0.21	30.91	0.19	24.21
Classical Greek	1,118	0.07	32.43	0.05	32.18	0.08	32.60
Computer Studies/Computing	3,979	0.21	28.14	0.04	18.13	0.39	29.87
D&T Electronic Products	8,221	0.69	44.26	0.12	49.00	1.27	43.86
D&T Food Technology	40,167	4.57	60.23	6.26	65.65	2.84	50.79
D&T Graphic Products	34,677	2.73	41.62	2.50	49.28	2.96	36.69
D&T Product Design	30,761	2.72	46.90	1.91	52.50	3.56	44.31
D&T Resistant Materials	47,759	4.85	53.74	1.51	56.40	8.26	53.27
D&T Systems & Control	3,339	0.24	37.29	0.03	32.05	0.45	37.66
D&T Textiles Technology	26,246	3.05	61.50	5.89	61.70	0.14	53.70
Dance	11,230	0.95	44.79	1.73	44.02	0.15	56.19
Drama & Theatre Studies	67,374	6.24	49.04	7.71	49.76	4.74	47.90
Economics	4,280	0.14	17.82	0.08	17.09	0.21	18.14
Electronics	564	0.05	44.71	0.00	38.54	0.09	44.91
English Language	436,673	44.82	54.35	49.37	57.61	40.16	50.74
English Lang & Lit	98,112	13.28	71.68	11.59	76.19	15.01	68.48
English Literature	433,192	41.84	51.15	48.31	56.53	35.22	45.12
English Studies	1,912	0.09	25.73	0.09	28.15	0.09	23.56
ESOL	1,068	0.12	57.73	0.09	56.22	0.14	58.85
Environmental Science	2,124	0.13	31.69	0.10	28.83	0.15	33.91
Expressive Arts & Perf.	3,739	0.35	49.92	0.49	55.96	0.21	39.57
Film Studies	4,730	0.50	56.11	0.52	59.03	0.48	53.24
French	165,165	8.21	26.33	10.17	28.93	6.21	22.88
General Studies	4,531	0.19	22.00	0.22	26.43	0.15	17.55
Geography	200,990	14.26	37.56	13.40	38.61	15.13	36.66
Geology	749	0.07	46.08	0.02	32.53	0.11	49.84
German	61,963	2.87	24.55	3.24	27.06	2.49	21.85

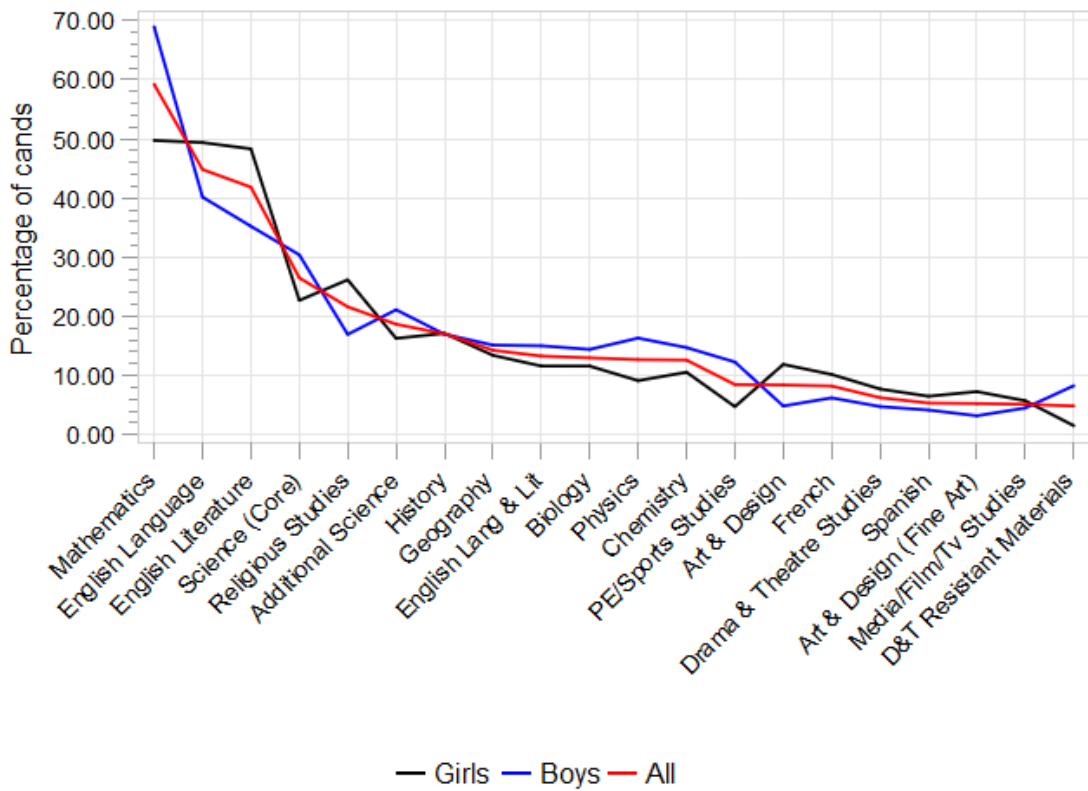| Subject	Candidates taking subject	Overall % (1)	Overall % (2)	Girls % (1)	Girls % (2)	Boys % (1)	Boys % (2)
Gujarati	557	0.04	36.34	0.05	39.75	0.03	31.04
Health & Social Care	2,681	0.25	50.26	0.49	51.05	0.02	33.96
History	236,402	17.04	38.18	17.12	38.45	16.97	37.91
Home Ec.: Child Dev.	14,781	1.75	62.56	3.43	62.88	0.02	34.86
Home Economics: Food	9,075	0.89	52.02	1.24	56.06	0.54	44.43
Humanities: Single	11,520	0.61	27.83	0.64	29.67	0.57	26.00
ICT	55,191	4.54	43.56	3.87	42.60	5.22	44.32
Italian	4,104	0.44	56.15	0.50	57.24	0.37	54.73
Japanese	841	0.08	47.98	0.09	49.30	0.07	46.35
Latin	8,980	0.48	28.36	0.50	28.92	0.46	27.75
Law	2,344	0.06	14.45	0.08	16.10	0.05	12.48
Mathematics	518,594	59.23	60.47	49.74	50.74	68.93	70.45
Media/Film/TV Studies	47,605	5.12	56.94	5.73	63.15	4.50	50.48
Methods in Mathematics	17,049	1.34	41.49	1.00	32.48	1.68	49.91
Music	40,952	3.03	39.21	2.77	36.30	3.30	42.13
Office Technology	11,638	0.91	41.30	0.90	45.31	0.91	37.92
Performing Arts	3,390	0.34	52.93	0.52	57.37	0.16	41.98
PE/Sports Studies	90,484	8.46	49.50	4.73	40.44	12.28	54.30
Physics	168,182	12.68	39.92	9.12	30.50	16.32	48.48
Polish	3,030	0.53	93.48	0.55	92.54	0.52	94.54
Portuguese	1,380	0.23	87.22	0.24	87.47	0.21	86.93
Psychology	11,989	0.67	29.65	0.98	32.68	0.35	23.43
Punjabi	857	0.08	50.44	0.10	51.54	0.07	48.88
Religious Studies	224,680	21.61	50.92	26.17	57.39	16.94	43.22
Russian	1,819	0.23	67.07	0.22	70.95	0.24	63.68
Science (Core)	309,226	26.50	45.38	22.69	38.06	30.40	53.20
Science: Double Award	6,398	0.48	40.01	0.43	35.15	0.54	45.15
Social Science: Citizenship	10,364	0.87	44.61	0.99	48.42	0.75	40.34
Sociology	18,652	1.54	43.65	2.30	45.76	0.76	38.21
Spanish	86,108	5.33	32.80	6.49	35.41	4.15	29.34
Statistics	43,662	2.42	29.38	2.02	25.88	2.83	32.62
Turkish	1,376	0.24	92.08	0.26	93.39	0.22	90.57
Urdu	3,881	0.46	62.52	0.61	63.73	0.30	60.17

Figure 7: Candidates achieving in their best four grades in a subject (% of all candidates, top 20)
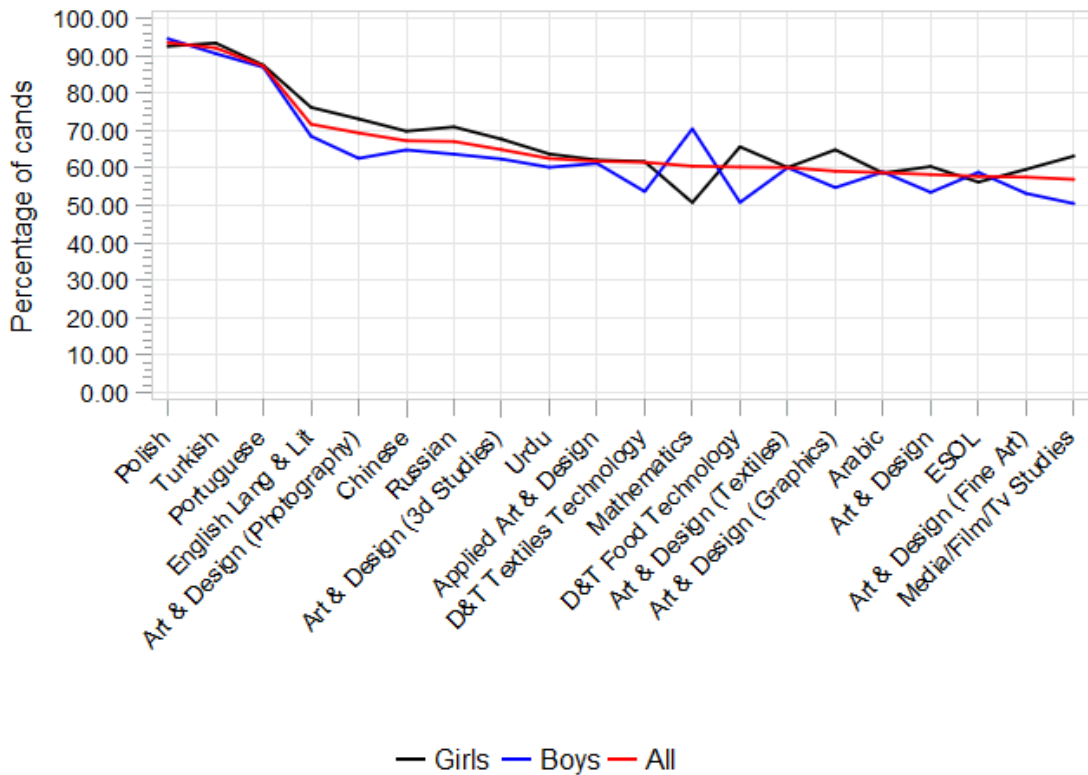

Figure 8: Candidates achieving in their best four grades in a subject (% of those taking subject, top 20)

Table 5: Candidates for whom the grade achieved in the subject was in their best five grades

Subject	Candidates taking subject	Overall % (1)	Overall % (2)	Girls % (1)	Girls % (2)	Boys % (1)	Boys % (2)
Additional Science	247,333	25.54	54.68	23.16	48.20	27.97	61.71
Ancient History	898	0.08	48.03	0.07	46.75	0.09	49.04
Applications of Mathematics	15,678	1.47	49.55	1.09	38.59	1.85	59.82
Applied Art & Design	991	0.13	70.01	0.17	70.46	0.09	69.20
Applied Engineering	2,054	0.14	37.15	0.02	34.26	0.27	37.41
Arabic	2,573	0.31	64.48	0.35	64.79	0.27	64.07
Art & Design	76,315	9.66	67.03	13.54	68.89	5.69	62.88
Art & Design (3D Studies)	1,944	0.27	73.95	0.26	76.02	0.28	72.09
Art & Design (Fine Art)	48,313	6.02	66.00	8.28	67.90	3.71	62.03
Art & Design (Graphics)	6,288	0.81	67.90	0.74	72.92	0.87	64.07
Art & Design (Photography)	13,254	1.93	77.01	2.56	80.19	1.28	71.24
Art & Design (Textiles)	7,377	0.96	69.01	1.83	68.83	0.07	73.82
Astronomy	2,362	0.07	15.98	0.04	11.12	0.10	19.11
Bengali	936	0.11	63.70	0.13	65.69	0.10	61.30
Biology	171,588	17.03	52.56	15.28	49.65	18.82	55.24
Business Studies: Single	59,861	5.30	46.85	4.13	45.33	6.49	47.89
Business Studies & Economics	4,231	0.29	35.82	0.18	31.87	0.40	37.97
Chemistry	168,659	16.32	51.25	13.92	46.25	18.78	55.82
Chinese	3,309	0.46	73.61	0.46	76.42	0.46	70.93
Classical Civilisation	3,842	0.27	37.74	0.28	41.33	0.27	34.59
Classical Greek	1,118	0.09	41.14	0.07	40.86	0.11	41.32
Computer Studies/Computing	3,979	0.28	37.90	0.05	24.97	0.52	40.14
D&T Electronic Products	8,221	0.86	55.22	0.14	58.98	1.59	54.90
D&T Food Technology	40,167	5.39	71.04	7.22	75.73	3.52	62.85
D&T Graphic Products	34,677	3.49	53.23	3.05	60.26	3.93	48.71
D&T Product Design	30,761	3.42	58.90	2.31	63.63	4.56	56.71
D&T Resistant Materials	47,759	5.90	65.39	1.80	67.35	10.09	65.04
D&T Systems & Control	3,339	0.31	48.45	0.03	40.20	0.58	49.05
D&T Textiles Technology	26,246	3.55	71.71	6.86	71.83	0.17	67.31
Dance	11,230	1.14	53.93	2.09	53.20	0.18	64.84
Drama & Theatre Studies	67,374	7.49	58.89	9.22	59.56	5.72	57.82
Economics	4,280	0.21	25.93	0.12	24.86	0.30	26.41
Electronics	564	0.06	55.58	0.00	54.31	0.12	55.62
English Language	436,673	54.10	65.60	58.72	68.51	49.37	62.38
English Lang & Lit	98,112	15.47	83.49	13.11	86.20	17.88	81.57
English Literature	433,192	51.72	63.21	58.08	67.96	45.20	57.90
English Studies	1,912	0.14	38.35	0.14	41.07	0.14	35.91
ESOL	1,068	0.15	72.45	0.12	71.58	0.17	73.09
Environmental Science	2,124	0.18	44.72	0.14	40.50	0.22	48.01
Expressive Arts & Perf.	3,739	0.41	58.38	0.56	63.83	0.26	49.04
Film Studies	4,730	0.60	67.26	0.61	69.86	0.59	64.69
French	165,165	10.92	35.01	13.41	38.17	8.37	30.83
General Studies	4,531	0.28	33.15	0.32	37.76	0.25	28.54
Geography	200,990	19.23	50.66	17.78	51.22	20.71	50.18
Geology	749	0.08	56.26	0.02	40.84	0.14	60.55
German	61,963	3.84	32.79	4.30	35.89	3.36	29.45

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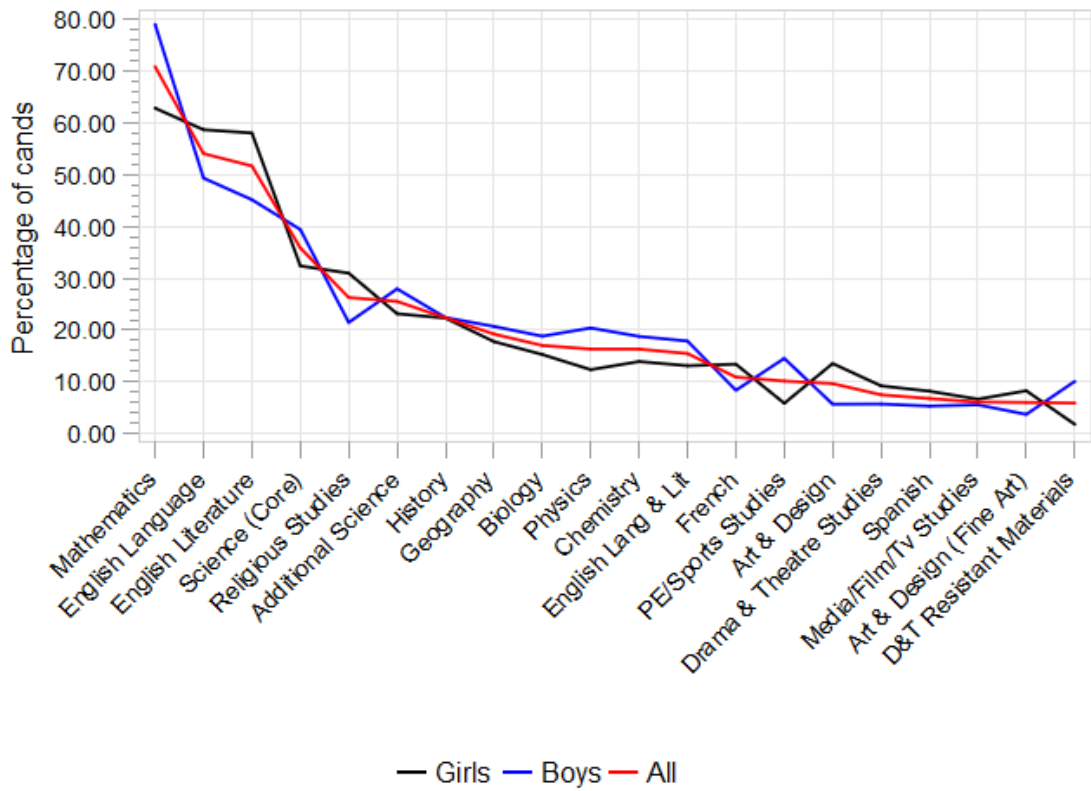| Subject	Candidates taking subject	Overall % (1)	Overall % (2)	Girls % (1)	Girls % (2)	Boys % (1)	Boys % (2)
Gujarati	557	0.04	42.10	0.06	46.02	0.03	36.01
Health & Social Care	2,681	0.32	63.79	0.62	64.62	0.02	46.73
History	236,402	22.37	50.10	22.31	50.12	22.42	50.07
Home Ec.: Child Dev.	14,781	2.08	74.62	4.09	74.88	0.03	51.76
Home Economics: Food	9,075	1.10	63.90	1.49	67.52	0.69	57.12
Humanities: Single	11,520	0.90	41.25	0.93	43.18	0.87	39.33
ICT	55,191	5.61	53.86	4.81	52.83	6.44	54.67
Italian	4,104	0.50	64.27	0.57	65.47	0.42	62.70
Japanese	841	0.09	56.38	0.10	58.13	0.08	54.21
Latin	8,980	0.63	37.07	0.65	37.45	0.61	36.66
Law	2,344	0.10	22.99	0.12	24.99	0.08	20.60
Mathematics	518,594	70.88	72.37	62.88	64.15	79.05	80.79
Media/Film/TV Studies	47,605	6.12	68.04	6.65	73.39	5.57	62.47
Methods in Mathematics	17,049	1.72	53.33	1.37	44.45	2.08	61.62
Music	40,952	3.75	48.52	3.50	45.77	4.01	51.27
Office Technology	11,638	1.18	53.76	1.13	56.98	1.23	51.04
Performing Arts	3,390	0.40	61.93	0.59	66.03	0.19	51.82
PE/Sports Studies	90,484	10.15	59.39	5.86	50.13	14.54	64.30
Physics	168,182	16.34	51.43	12.36	41.31	20.41	60.63
Polish	3,030	0.55	95.26	0.56	94.49	0.52	96.12
Portuguese	1,380	0.24	90.47	0.25	90.81	0.22	90.05
Psychology	11,989	0.93	41.08	1.34	44.48	0.51	34.13
Punjabi	857	0.09	56.81	0.11	57.65	0.08	55.63
Religious Studies	224,680	26.29	61.97	31.00	67.98	21.48	54.80
Russian	1,819	0.25	73.39	0.24	76.52	0.26	70.67
Science (Core)	309,226	35.88	61.44	32.40	54.33	39.44	69.02
Science: Double Award	6,398	0.67	55.26	0.61	49.33	0.73	61.53
Social Science: Citizenship	10,364	1.11	56.69	1.23	60.30	0.98	52.63
Sociology	18,652	2.01	57.08	2.96	59.02	1.04	52.10
Spanish	86,108	6.77	41.66	8.20	44.75	5.32	37.58
Statistics	43,662	3.32	40.26	2.82	36.03	3.83	44.16
Turkish	1,376	0.24	93.79	0.26	94.86	0.23	92.56
Urdu	3,881	0.51	69.66	0.67	70.47	0.34	68.09

Figure 9: Candidates achieving in their best five grades in a subject (% of all candidates, top 20
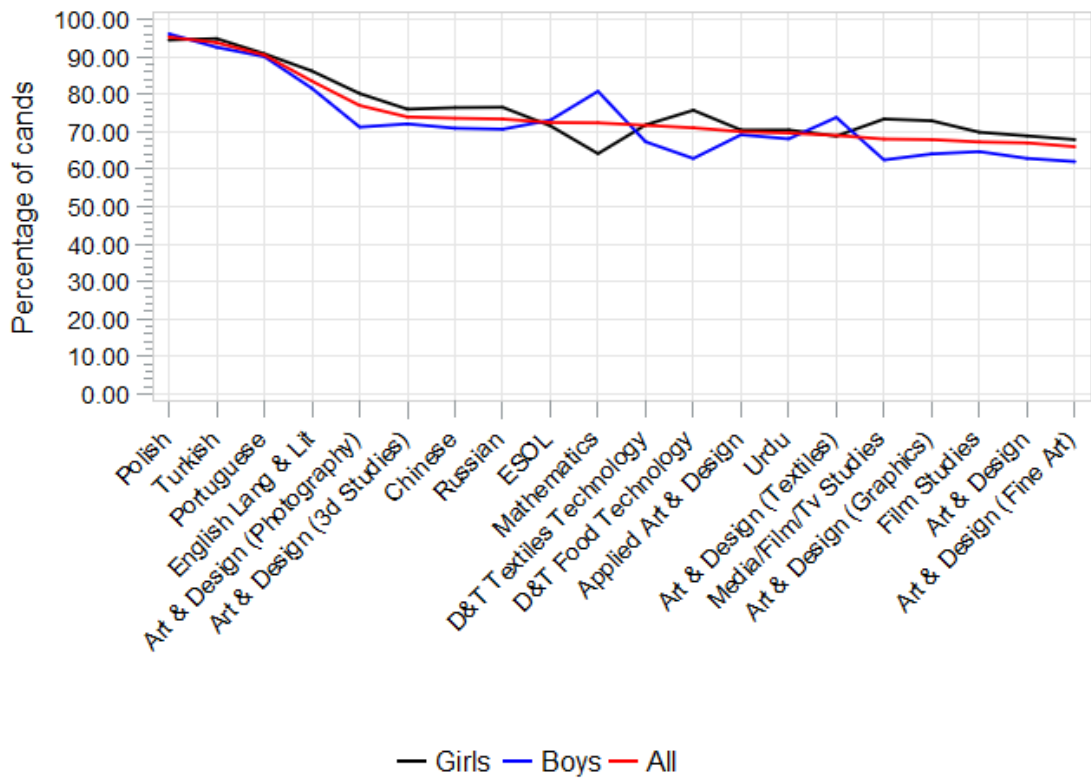

Figure 10: Candidates achieving in their best five grades in a subject (% of those taking subject, top 20)

GCSE candidates going on to take A levels

The analysis was repeated, restricting to candidates who went on to take any A levels before June 2015. The results are presented in Tables 6-10 and Figures 11-20. This is of interest as these candidates' best GCSE subjects may represent the subjects that they are most likely to go on and study further at A level. For example, the fact that boys going on to take A levels are almost twice as likely as girls to have Physics amongst their best 3 GCSEs may partially explain the difference in the take up of A level Physics across genders (see Gill & Williamson, 2016).

Table 6: Candidates for whom the grade achieved in the subject was their best grade (A level candidates only)

Subject	Candidates taking subject	Overall % (1)	Overall % (2)	Girls % (1)	Girls % (2)	Boys % (1)	Boys % (2)
Additional Science	98,422	2.79	6.76	2.49	5.47	3.17	8.84
Ancient History	544	0.02	10.70	0.02	10.12	0.03	11.14
Applications of Mathematics	7,888	0.24	7.40	0.13	4.36	0.39	10.75
Applied Engineering	668	0.01	3.71	0.00	5.14	0.02	3.45
Arabic	1,332	0.17	30.59	0.19	29.79	0.15	31.92
Art & Design	33,867	2.52	17.75	3.67	18.99	1.04	13.71
Art & Design (3D Studies)	643	0.06	20.96	0.07	24.10	0.04	16.74
Art & Design (Fine Art)	24,138	1.84	18.17	2.57	19.46	0.91	14.66
Art & Design (Graphics)	2,453	0.21	20.46	0.23	24.15	0.19	16.50
Art & Design (Photography)	4,820	0.57	28.00	0.79	30.58	0.28	21.36
Art & Design (Textiles)	3,236	0.26	18.83	0.45	18.88	0.01	15.78
Astronomy	1,824	0.01	1.46	0.01	1.00	0.02	1.79
Biology	124,091	4.17	8.02	3.61	7.67	4.89	8.39
Business Studies: Single	29,847	0.96	7.66	0.70	6.95	1.29	8.24
Business Studies & Economics	2,747	0.04	3.36	0.02	2.63	0.06	3.80
Chemistry	123,052	4.30	8.35	3.38	7.27	5.48	9.45
Chinese	2,652	0.35	31.44	0.32	32.08	0.38	30.79
Classical Civilisation	3,062	0.07	5.38	0.07	6.52	0.07	4.35
Classical Greek	988	0.03	7.79	0.02	7.92	0.04	7.70
Computer Studies/Computing	2,345	0.05	5.44	0.01	3.30	0.11	5.88
D&T Electronic Products	3,525	0.17	11.57	0.05	15.46	0.33	11.07
D&T Food Technology	13,628	1.04	18.30	1.56	21.18	0.39	10.84
D&T Graphic Products	14,693	0.72	11.72	0.77	14.71	0.66	8.99
D&T Product Design	11,864	0.59	11.91	0.52	14.54	0.68	10.13
D&T Resistant Materials	15,524	0.82	12.54	0.36	14.50	1.39	12.00
D&T Systems & Control	1,457	0.04	7.30	0.01	6.74	0.09	7.37
D&T Textiles Technology	12,199	1.01	19.86	1.80	19.92	0.02	14.98
Dance	5,305	0.31	13.83	0.51	13.45	0.05	21.45
Drama & Theatre Studies	33,824	1.79	12.65	2.17	12.86	1.32	12.24
Economics	3,169	0.04	2.93	0.02	2.68	0.06	3.05
English Language	215,757	8.50	9.40	9.76	10.60	6.89	7.81
English Lang & Lit	16,089	0.80	11.90	0.85	14.33	0.74	9.53
English Literature	216,508	9.66	10.65	11.28	12.17	7.58	8.61
English Studies	650	0.00	1.18	0.00	1.28	0.00	1.06
Environmental Science	579	0.00	1.44	0.00	1.14	0.00	1.80
Expressive Arts & Perf.	1,479	0.11	17.62	0.16	20.02	0.04	11.43
Film Studies	1,681	0.11	15.12	0.11	15.26	0.10	14.91
French	104,259	2.69	6.16	3.11	6.75	2.15	5.32
General Studies	1,957	0.04	4.99	0.05	6.23	0.03	3.47

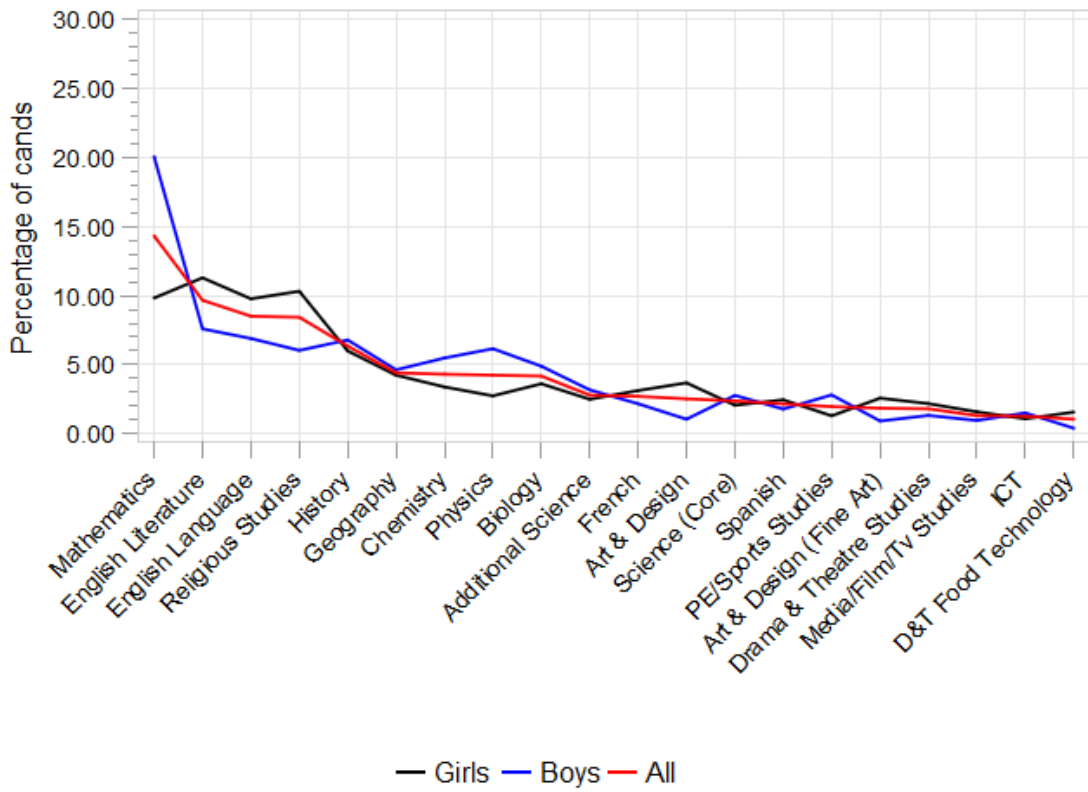| Subject	Candidates taking subject	Overall % (1)	Overall % (2)	Girls % (1)	Girls % (2)	Boys % (1)	Boys % (2)
Geography	109,276	4.39	9.58	4.22	10.15	4.60	9.00
Geology	532	0.03	13.02	0.00	5.51	0.06	15.18
German	40,571	0.89	5.27	0.95	5.86	0.82	4.58
Health & Social Care	706	0.04	12.44	0.06	12.72	0.00	6.24
History	133,669	6.32	11.30	5.98	10.89	6.76	11.79
Home Ec.: Child Dev.	3,113	0.26	19.82	0.46	19.88	0.00	7.41
Home Economics: Food	3,417	0.16	11.18	0.24	12.88	0.05	6.26
Humanities: Single	4,059	0.08	4.48	0.08	4.86	0.07	3.99
ICT	27,708	1.26	10.84	1.07	10.39	1.50	11.29
Italian	2,830	0.26	22.22	0.28	22.42	0.24	21.94
Japanese	606	0.05	19.40	0.05	18.73	0.05	20.45
Latin	7,999	0.22	6.57	0.21	6.84	0.23	6.27
Law	1,154	0.02	4.40	0.03	4.86	0.02	3.70
Mathematics	232,477	14.28	14.66	9.80	10.04	19.99	20.59
Media/Film/TV Studies	18,065	1.30	17.19	1.58	19.74	0.95	13.50
Methods in Mathematics	8,172	0.29	8.49	0.18	5.51	0.44	11.74
Music	24,819	1.00	9.62	0.82	8.29	1.23	11.16
Office Technology	4,666	0.17	8.84	0.20	10.43	0.14	6.90
Performing Arts	1,361	0.11	19.36	0.17	21.98	0.04	11.95
PE/Sports Studies	39,925	1.95	11.67	1.29	9.89	2.80	13.05
Physics	122,784	4.24	8.24	2.73	5.91	6.15	10.60
Polish	1,276	0.34	64.43	0.36	62.85	0.32	66.87
Portuguese	501	0.08	38.73	0.09	39.80	0.07	36.92
Psychology	6,422	0.20	7.55	0.28	8.43	0.10	5.46
Punjabi	571	0.05	20.70	0.05	20.06	0.04	21.80
Religious Studies	114,886	8.42	17.50	10.30	20.42	6.02	13.33
Russian	1,272	0.18	33.07	0.16	36.08	0.19	30.34
Science (Core)	109,635	2.37	5.16	2.06	4.08	2.77	6.87
Science: Double Award	4,577	0.15	8.01	0.13	7.07	0.18	9.09
Social Science: Citizenship	4,338	0.15	8.20	0.18	9.37	0.11	6.53
Sociology	8,685	0.39	10.82	0.57	11.37	0.17	8.94
Spanish	54,128	2.15	9.47	2.44	10.11	1.77	8.52
Statistics	26,021	0.46	4.21	0.40	3.93	0.54	4.52
Turkish	628	0.18	67.83	0.21	72.75	0.14	60.14
Urdu	1,698	0.18	24.62	0.24	26.58	0.09	19.66

Figure 11: Candidates achieving their best grade in a subject (% of all A level candidates, top 20)
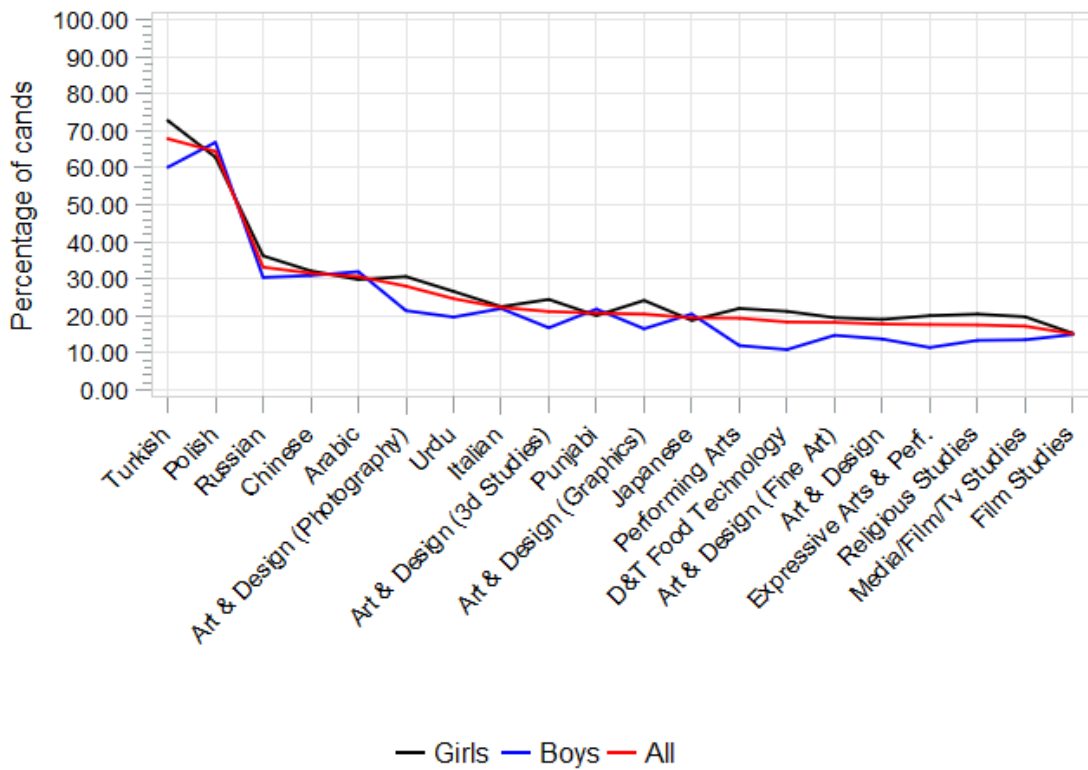

Figure 12: Candidates achieving their best grade in a subject (% of A level candidates taking subject at GCSE, top 20)

Figure 11 shows that the subjects which students were most likely to achieve their best grade in were broadly the same amongst A level students only, compared with the cohort as a whole. However, amongst A level students, Core Science, Art and Design and English Language and Literature were ranked much lower, whilst Geography, the separate sciences and French were ranked much higher.

Table 7: Candidates for whom the grade achieved in the subject was in their best two grades (A level candidates only)

Subject	Candidates taking subject	Overall % (1)	Overall % (2)	Girls % (1)	Girls % (2)	Boys % (1)	Boys % (2)
Additional Science	98,422	6.66	16.15	6.07	13.36	7.41	20.66
Ancient History	544	0.05	22.63	0.04	21.15	0.07	23.76
Applications of Mathematics	7,888	0.52	15.67	0.31	9.95	0.79	21.95
Applied Engineering	668	0.02	8.20	0.01	12.67	0.04	7.36
Arabic	1,332	0.24	42.47	0.27	42.63	0.20	42.19
Art & Design	33,867	4.23	29.81	6.16	31.84	1.76	23.23
Art & Design (3D Studies)	643	0.09	34.45	0.10	37.70	0.08	30.08
Art & Design (Fine Art)	24,138	3.09	30.57	4.31	32.66	1.54	24.91
Art & Design (Graphics)	2,453	0.34	33.46	0.36	38.02	0.32	28.56
Art & Design (Photography)	4,820	0.86	42.51	1.20	46.35	0.42	32.63
Art & Design (Textiles)	3,236	0.44	32.54	0.78	32.57	0.01	30.88
Astronomy	1,824	0.03	3.61	0.01	2.46	0.05	4.41
Biology	124,091	9.22	17.75	7.94	16.87	10.86	18.64
Business Studies: Single	29,847	2.05	16.42	1.54	15.36	2.71	17.28
Business Studies & Economics	2,747	0.10	8.52	0.06	7.26	0.15	9.27
Chemistry	123,052	9.46	18.35	7.41	15.94	12.06	20.82
Chinese	2,652	0.53	47.46	0.49	48.79	0.58	46.10
Classical Civilisation	3,062	0.16	12.09	0.15	14.14	0.16	10.23
Classical Greek	988	0.07	15.83	0.05	16.00	0.09	15.72
Computer Studies/Computing	2,345	0.12	12.42	0.02	7.62	0.25	13.41
D&T Electronic Products	3,525	0.33	22.35	0.09	28.57	0.64	21.54
D&T Food Technology	13,628	1.84	32.16	2.70	36.75	0.73	20.25
D&T Graphic Products	14,693	1.35	21.95	1.42	27.11	1.26	17.25
D&T Product Design	11,864	1.11	22.33	0.97	27.00	1.29	19.17
D&T Resistant Materials	15,524	1.55	23.86	0.68	27.47	2.66	22.87
D&T Systems & Control	1,457	0.09	14.90	0.01	13.57	0.19	15.05
D&T Textiles Technology	12,199	1.81	35.42	3.20	35.50	0.04	28.74
Dance	5,305	0.52	23.22	0.86	22.69	0.08	34.19
Drama & Theatre Studies	33,824	3.25	22.98	3.98	23.63	2.33	21.66
Economics	3,169	0.09	7.09	0.05	6.64	0.15	7.29
English Language	215,757	18.51	20.48	21.18	23.00	15.09	17.12
English Lang & Lit	16,089	1.71	25.37	1.78	30.02	1.62	20.84
English Literature	216,508	20.36	22.45	23.70	25.56	16.11	18.28
English Studies	650	0.01	3.43	0.01	3.63	0.01	3.20
Environmental Science	579	0.01	4.10	0.01	3.20	0.01	5.15
Expressive Arts & Perf.	1,479	0.18	28.62	0.26	32.52	0.07	18.57
Film Studies	1,681	0.20	28.69	0.22	29.85	0.18	27.05
French	104,259	5.42	12.42	6.31	13.68	4.29	10.58
General Studies	1,957	0.08	10.14	0.10	12.23	0.06	7.59
Geography	109,276	9.09	19.85	8.68	20.88	9.60	18.78
Geology	532	0.05	24.29	0.01	13.32	0.11	27.45
German	40,571	1.79	10.53	1.90	11.68	1.65	9.20

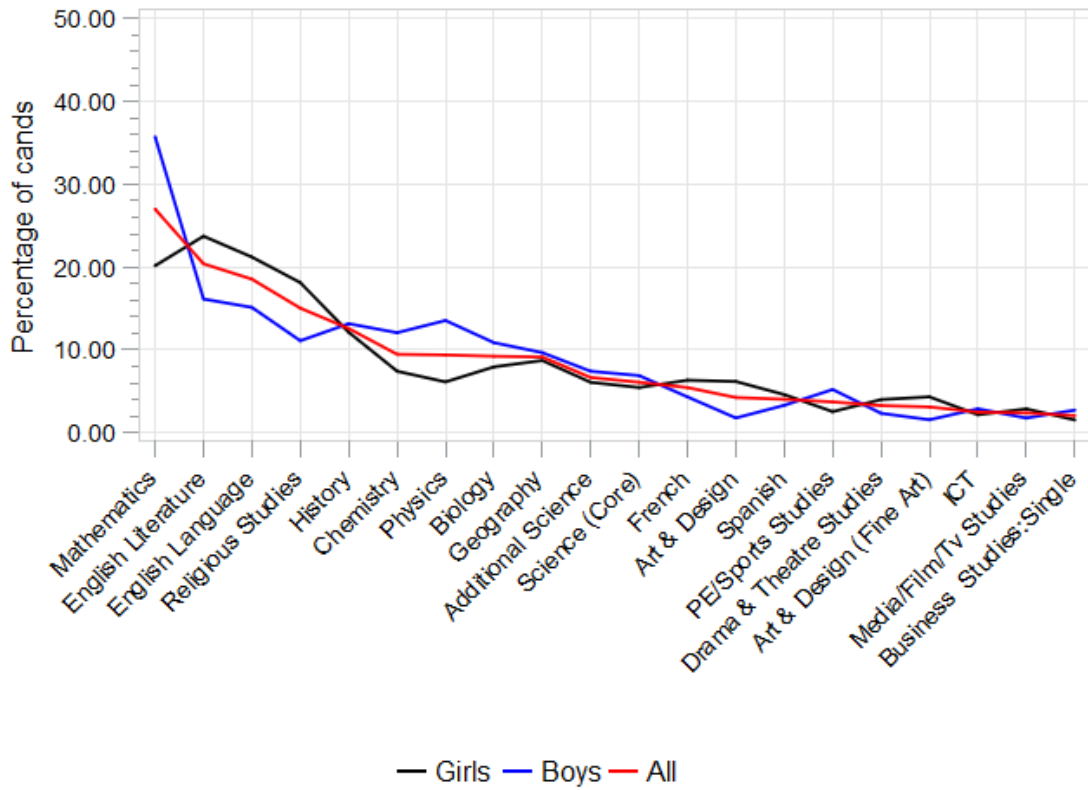| Subject	Candidates taking subject	Overall % (1)	Overall % (2)	Girls % (1)	Girls % (2)	Boys % (1)	Boys % (2)
Health & Social Care	706	0.07	24.08	0.12	24.77	0.00	9.25
History	133,669	12.53	22.38	12.09	22.02	13.10	22.83
Home Ec.: Child Dev.	3,113	0.45	34.57	0.80	34.68	0.00	11.70
Home Economics: Food	3,417	0.33	22.75	0.49	25.93	0.11	13.59
Humanities: Single	4,059	0.17	10.02	0.18	10.79	0.15	9.04
ICT	27,708	2.47	21.25	2.15	20.88	2.87	21.63
Italian	2,830	0.43	35.99	0.46	37.25	0.38	34.20
Japanese	606	0.08	30.42	0.08	30.10	0.07	30.93
Latin	7,999	0.45	13.47	0.44	14.03	0.47	12.84
Law	1,154	0.04	8.73	0.05	9.55	0.03	7.48
Mathematics	232,477	26.92	27.64	20.10	20.60	35.62	36.68
Media/Film/TV Studies	18,065	2.38	31.40	2.86	35.80	1.76	25.02
Methods in Mathematics	8,172	0.61	17.73	0.39	12.16	0.89	23.81
Music	24,819	1.92	18.51	1.65	16.63	2.27	20.68
Office Technology	4,666	0.36	18.28	0.40	20.76	0.31	15.28
Performing Arts	1,361	0.17	29.97	0.25	33.66	0.07	19.56
PE/Sports Studies	39,925	3.70	22.12	2.53	19.43	5.20	24.20
Physics	122,784	9.38	18.24	6.12	13.23	13.54	23.34
Polish	1,276	0.42	78.77	0.45	77.74	0.38	80.36
Portuguese	501	0.13	61.04	0.14	61.58	0.11	60.13
Psychology	6,422	0.43	15.87	0.59	17.60	0.21	11.78
Punjabi	571	0.07	31.16	0.08	30.83	0.06	31.71
Religious Studies	114,886	15.00	31.18	18.09	35.85	11.06	24.51
Russian	1,272	0.25	46.18	0.23	50.32	0.27	42.43
Science (Core)	109,635	6.08	13.24	5.45	10.82	6.89	17.10
Science: Double Award	4,577	0.36	18.97	0.29	16.06	0.45	22.31
Social Science: Citizenship	4,338	0.32	17.60	0.38	19.99	0.24	14.17
Sociology	8,685	0.81	22.27	1.17	23.38	0.35	18.49
Spanish	54,128	4.00	17.66	4.57	18.95	3.27	15.74
Statistics	26,021	1.14	10.44	0.93	9.25	1.40	11.73
Turkish	628	0.21	81.66	0.25	86.42	0.17	74.21
Urdu	1,698	0.27	37.74	0.37	40.63	0.14	30.41

Figure 13: Candidates achieving in their best two grades in a subject (% of all A level candidates, top 20)
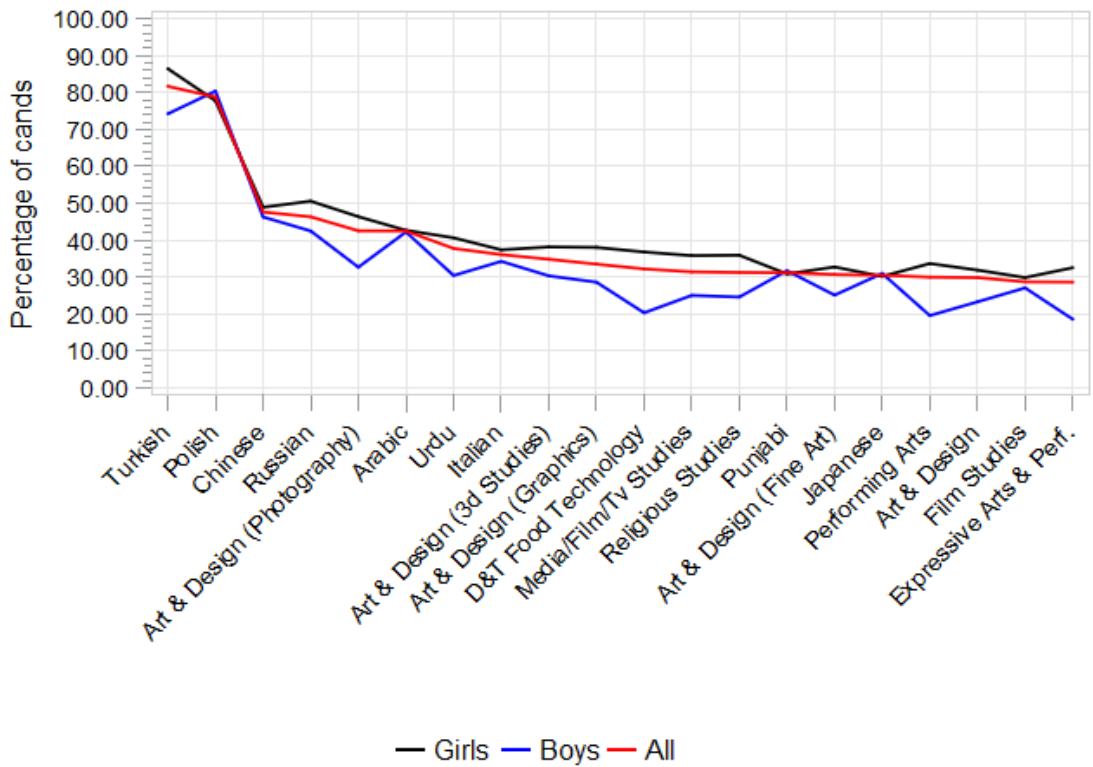

Figure 14: Candidates achieving in their best two grades in a subject (% of A level candidates taking subject at GCSE, top 20)

Table 8: Candidates for whom the grade achieved in the subject was in their best three grades (A level candidates only)

Subject	Candidates taking subject	Overall % (1)	Overall % (2)	Girls % (1)	Girls % (2)	Boys % (1)	Boys % (2)
Additional Science	98,422	11.15	27.05	10.48	23.07	12.01	33.50
Ancient History	544	0.08	33.28	0.06	31.55	0.10	34.60
Applications of Mathematics	7,888	0.80	24.12	0.50	16.35	1.17	32.64
Applied Engineering	668	0.04	13.25	0.02	19.85	0.06	12.02
Arabic	1,332	0.28	50.21	0.32	50.74	0.24	49.33
Art & Design	33,867	5.63	39.72	8.18	42.27	2.39	31.43
Art & Design (3D Studies)	643	0.12	44.92	0.13	48.61	0.10	39.95
Art & Design (Fine Art)	24,138	4.10	40.56	5.68	43.05	2.09	33.81
Art & Design (Graphics)	2,453	0.45	43.40	0.46	48.67	0.43	37.73
Art & Design (Photography)	4,820	1.07	53.02	1.49	57.35	0.54	41.91
Art & Design (Textiles)	3,236	0.58	42.89	1.02	42.89	0.02	42.59
Astronomy	1,824	0.05	6.44	0.03	4.54	0.08	7.78
Biology	124,091	14.91	28.69	12.77	27.14	17.64	30.28
Business Studies: Single	29,847	3.25	25.99	2.48	24.74	4.24	27.01
Business Studies & Economics	2,747	0.18	15.72	0.11	13.85	0.28	16.84
Chemistry	123,052	15.09	29.27	11.92	25.63	19.12	32.99
Chinese	2,652	0.64	57.43	0.60	59.63	0.69	55.19
Classical Civilisation	3,062	0.26	19.98	0.25	23.07	0.26	17.20
Classical Greek	988	0.10	23.95	0.07	24.09	0.14	23.86
Computer Studies/Computing	2,345	0.20	20.05	0.04	13.05	0.40	21.50
D&T Electronic Products	3,525	0.47	31.90	0.12	38.85	0.92	31.00
D&T Food Technology	13,628	2.49	43.57	3.61	49.14	1.05	29.12
D&T Graphic Products	14,693	1.91	31.01	1.98	37.75	1.82	24.88
D&T Product Design	11,864	1.58	31.74	1.35	37.90	1.86	27.57
D&T Resistant Materials	15,524	2.22	34.17	0.98	39.21	3.81	32.79
D&T Systems & Control	1,457	0.13	22.12	0.02	20.82	0.28	22.26
D&T Textiles Technology	12,199	2.44	47.74	4.31	47.82	0.05	40.39
Dance	5,305	0.68	30.82	1.14	30.22	0.10	43.13
Drama & Theatre Studies	33,824	4.62	32.59	5.69	33.77	3.25	30.22
Economics	3,169	0.16	12.15	0.09	11.56	0.26	12.42
English Language	215,757	28.89	31.97	32.81	35.62	23.88	27.09
English Lang & Lit	16,089	2.64	39.12	2.68	45.21	2.58	33.18
English Literature	216,508	30.89	34.06	35.62	38.42	24.85	28.20
English Studies	650	0.02	6.90	0.02	7.13	0.02	6.65
Environmental Science	579	0.02	7.95	0.02	6.96	0.02	9.13
Expressive Arts & Perf.	1,479	0.23	36.41	0.33	41.07	0.10	24.38
Film Studies	1,681	0.29	40.78	0.31	42.23	0.26	38.73
French	104,259	8.23	18.85	9.59	20.78	6.50	16.05
General Studies	1,957	0.13	15.88	0.15	18.85	0.10	12.28
Geography	109,276	13.94	30.45	13.22	31.82	14.85	29.03
Geology	532	0.08	35.15	0.02	21.02	0.15	39.22
German	40,571	2.74	16.14	2.92	17.91	2.52	14.08
Health & Social Care	706	0.10	34.71	0.18	35.73	0.00	12.46
History	133,669	18.59	33.21	18.13	33.03	19.18	33.43
Home Ec.: Child Dev.	3,113	0.61	46.88	1.09	47.02	0.00	16.95

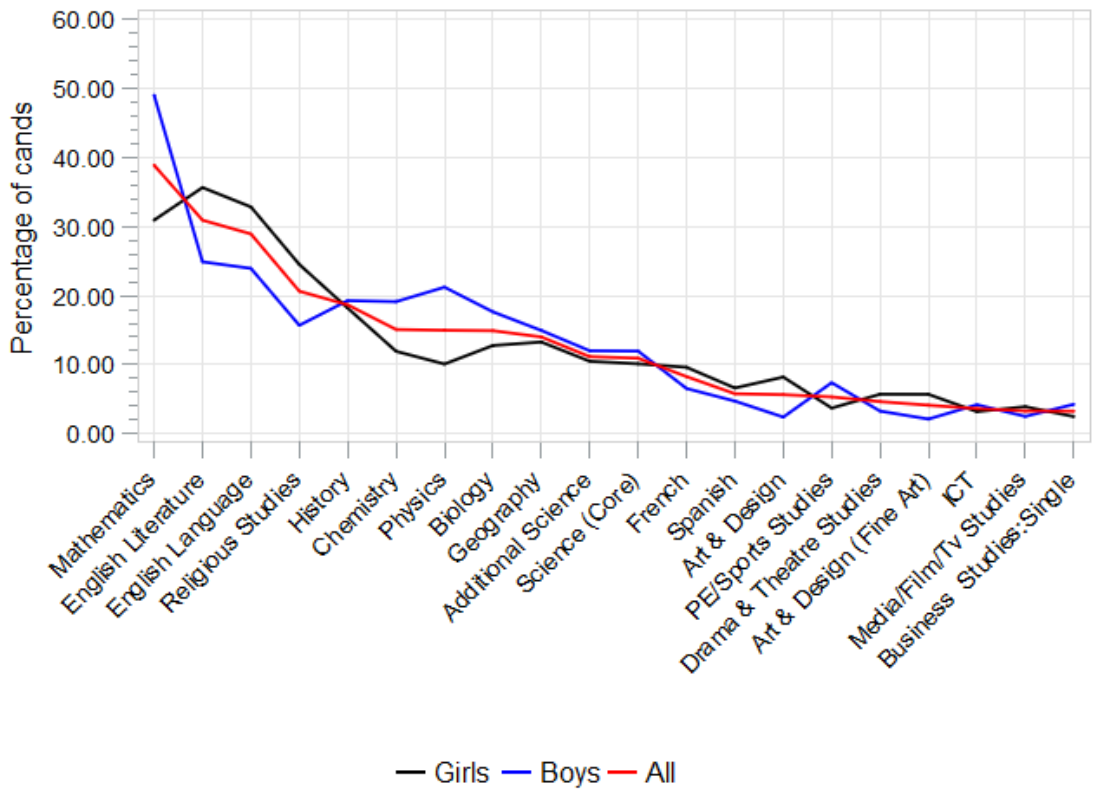| Subject	Candidates taking subject	Overall % (1)	Overall % (2)	Girls % (1)	Girls % (2)	Boys % (1)	Boys % (2)
Home Economics: Food	3,417	0.48	33.71	0.72	37.84	0.18	21.81
Humanities: Single	4,059	0.29	16.81	0.31	18.40	0.25	14.80
ICT	27,708	3.61	31.14	3.18	30.84	4.17	31.44
Italian	2,830	0.55	46.37	0.60	48.08	0.49	43.94
Japanese	606	0.10	39.11	0.11	39.50	0.09	38.50
Latin	7,999	0.69	20.73	0.67	21.48	0.72	19.92
Law	1,154	0.07	13.80	0.08	14.98	0.05	12.00
Mathematics	232,477	38.79	39.83	30.85	31.62	48.92	50.37
Media/Film/TV Studies	18,065	3.28	43.37	3.90	48.78	2.50	35.52
Methods in Mathematics	8,172	0.93	27.04	0.63	19.74	1.30	35.01
Music	24,819	2.79	26.88	2.47	24.88	3.21	29.19
Office Technology	4,666	0.54	27.47	0.58	30.56	0.48	23.72
Performing Arts	1,361	0.22	38.69	0.32	43.07	0.09	26.34
PE/Sports Studies	39,925	5.31	31.73	3.69	28.42	7.36	34.28
Physics	122,784	14.97	29.12	10.08	21.79	21.22	36.57
Polish	1,276	0.45	85.02	0.49	84.40	0.41	86.00
Portuguese	501	0.15	72.75	0.17	73.23	0.13	71.94
Psychology	6,422	0.67	25.09	0.93	27.61	0.35	19.12
Punjabi	571	0.09	37.93	0.10	38.28	0.08	37.33
Religious Studies	114,886	20.60	42.81	24.48	48.51	15.65	34.66
Russian	1,272	0.29	55.31	0.27	60.10	0.32	50.98
Science (Core)	109,635	10.92	23.79	10.11	20.09	11.96	29.69
Science: Double Award	4,577	0.62	32.42	0.50	27.37	0.78	38.21
Social Science: Citizenship	4,338	0.49	27.10	0.59	30.70	0.37	21.93
Sociology	8,685	1.23	33.78	1.77	35.37	0.53	28.37
Spanish	54,128	5.74	25.34	6.58	27.27	4.68	22.49
Statistics	26,021	1.93	17.69	1.57	15.58	2.38	19.97
Turkish	628	0.23	87.20	0.26	90.59	0.19	81.91
Urdu	1,698	0.33	46.00	0.45	49.20	0.17	37.88

Figure 15: Candidates achieving in their best three grades in a subject (% of all A level candidates, top 20)
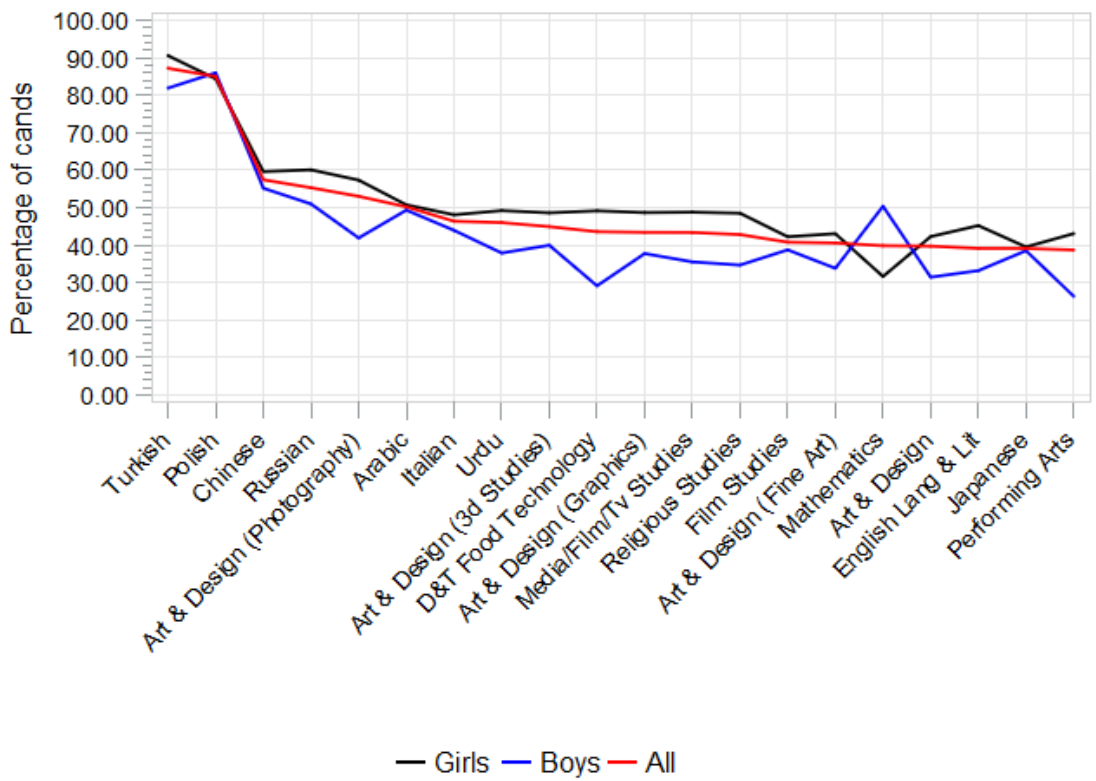

Figure 16: Candidates achieving in their best three grades in a subject (% of A level candidates taking subject at GCSE, top 20)

Table 9: Candidates for whom the grade achieved in the subject was in their best four grades (A level candidates only)

Subject	Candidates taking subject	Overall % (1)	Overall % (2)	Girls % (1)	Girls % (2)	Boys % (1)	Boys % (2)
Additional Science	98,422	16.05	38.92	15.58	34.28	16.65	46.44
Ancient History	544	0.10	43.38	0.08	42.64	0.13	43.95
Applications of Mathematics	7,888	1.08	32.84	0.73	23.63	1.54	42.94
Applied Engineering	668	0.05	19.08	0.02	26.79	0.09	17.64
Arabic	1,332	0.32	56.60	0.36	57.36	0.26	55.33
Art & Design	33,867	6.89	48.56	9.94	51.39	2.99	39.34
Art & Design (3D Studies)	643	0.15	54.24	0.16	58.51	0.13	48.50
Art & Design (Fine Art)	24,138	5.00	49.42	6.86	52.04	2.62	42.29
Art & Design (Graphics)	2,453	0.53	51.68	0.54	57.30	0.51	45.64
Art & Design (Photography)	4,820	1.25	61.69	1.71	66.09	0.65	50.38
Art & Design (Textiles)	3,236	0.70	51.73	1.23	51.71	0.02	52.62
Astronomy	1,824	0.08	9.99	0.04	6.97	0.12	12.10
Biology	124,091	21.06	40.53	18.00	38.27	24.97	42.86
Business Studies: Single	29,847	4.52	36.17	3.50	34.95	5.83	37.17
Business Studies & Economics	2,747	0.28	24.63	0.17	22.25	0.43	26.05
Chemistry	123,052	20.91	40.58	16.77	36.05	26.20	45.21
Chinese	2,652	0.73	65.35	0.68	67.92	0.78	62.72
Classical Civilisation	3,062	0.37	28.80	0.35	32.37	0.39	25.58
Classical Greek	988	0.13	32.43	0.10	32.62	0.18	32.30
Computer Studies/Computing	2,345	0.28	28.55	0.06	18.73	0.57	30.59
D&T Electronic Products	3,525	0.61	41.28	0.15	49.29	1.20	40.24
D&T Food Technology	13,628	3.07	53.82	4.40	59.82	1.38	38.23
D&T Graphic Products	14,693	2.45	39.76	2.48	47.37	2.41	32.82
D&T Product Design	11,864	2.03	40.92	1.71	47.84	2.45	36.25
D&T Resistant Materials	15,524	2.87	44.07	1.24	49.92	4.94	42.47
D&T Systems & Control	1,457	0.18	30.03	0.03	28.19	0.38	30.24
D&T Textiles Technology	12,199	2.96	58.00	5.24	58.08	0.06	50.74
Dance	5,305	0.84	37.76	1.40	37.08	0.12	51.53
Drama & Theatre Studies	33,824	5.91	41.71	7.29	43.29	4.14	38.56
Economics	3,169	0.25	18.47	0.13	17.72	0.39	18.81
English Language	215,757	39.08	43.25	43.86	47.61	32.99	37.42
English Lang & Lit	16,089	3.53	52.41	3.48	58.62	3.60	46.36
English Literature	216,508	40.92	45.13	46.54	50.21	33.76	38.31
English Studies	650	0.03	12.51	0.03	13.03	0.04	11.94
Environmental Science	579	0.03	13.53	0.03	12.26	0.04	15.02
Expressive Arts & Perf.	1,479	0.27	43.21	0.39	48.42	0.12	29.78
Film Studies	1,681	0.36	51.23	0.39	53.35	0.32	48.23
French	104,259	11.26	25.79	13.08	28.35	8.94	22.07
General Studies	1,957	0.18	22.08	0.21	25.91	0.15	17.43
Geography	109,276	18.96	41.43	17.85	42.95	20.38	39.85
Geology	532	0.10	45.33	0.03	29.59	0.20	49.87
German	40,571	3.82	22.50	4.06	24.91	3.53	19.71
Health & Social Care	706	0.13	44.59	0.23	45.82	0.01	17.71
History	133,669	24.55	43.85	24.08	43.86	25.15	43.84
Home Ec.: Child Dev.	3,113	0.75	57.54	1.34	57.71	0.00	22.20

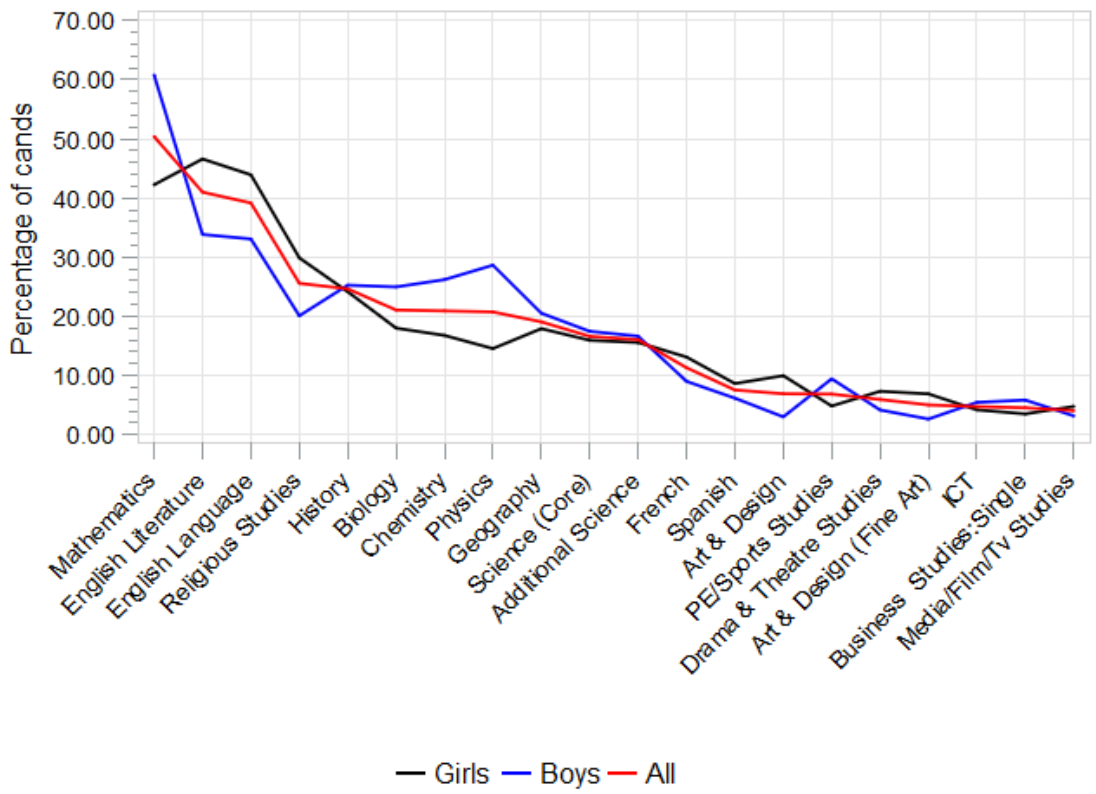| Subject	Candidates taking subject	Overall % (1)	Overall % (2)	Girls % (1)	Girls % (2)	Boys % (1)	Boys % (2)
Home Economics: Food	3,417	0.63	44.06	0.92	48.75	0.26	30.56
Humanities: Single	4,059	0.42	24.65	0.46	27.10	0.37	21.55
ICT	27,708	4.73	40.75	4.17	40.49	5.44	41.00
Italian	2,830	0.65	55.08	0.71	57.08	0.58	52.24
Japanese	606	0.12	47.49	0.13	48.73	0.10	45.56
Latin	7,999	0.96	28.52	0.92	29.34	1.00	27.62
Law	1,154	0.10	19.75	0.11	21.17	0.08	17.56
Mathematics	232,477	50.26	51.62	42.12	43.17	60.65	62.45
Media/Film/TV Studies	18,065	4.06	53.63	4.75	59.50	3.17	45.10
Methods in Mathematics	8,172	1.25	36.56	0.90	28.17	1.70	45.72
Music	24,819	3.65	35.12	3.30	33.26	4.09	37.26
Office Technology	4,666	0.72	36.73	0.77	40.25	0.65	32.47
Performing Arts	1,361	0.26	45.96	0.38	50.57	0.11	32.95
PE/Sports Studies	39,925	6.84	40.89	4.82	37.11	9.41	43.80
Physics	122,784	20.74	40.33	14.54	31.44	28.65	49.37
Polish	1,276	0.48	88.92	0.51	88.48	0.43	89.61
Portuguese	501	0.17	79.63	0.19	80.15	0.14	78.76
Psychology	6,422	0.94	35.10	1.29	38.10	0.51	27.98
Punjabi	571	0.11	44.16	0.12	44.90	0.09	42.90
Religious Studies	114,886	25.52	53.04	29.84	59.13	20.02	44.36
Russian	1,272	0.33	62.83	0.30	67.50	0.37	58.62
Science (Core)	109,635	16.61	36.17	15.95	31.67	17.46	43.36
Science: Double Award	4,577	0.88	45.77	0.73	39.79	1.07	52.62
Social Science: Citizenship	4,338	0.67	36.79	0.79	41.25	0.52	30.39
Sociology	8,685	1.65	45.27	2.37	47.18	0.73	38.76
Spanish	54,128	7.50	33.09	8.59	35.59	6.11	29.38
Statistics	26,021	2.82	25.85	2.32	22.99	3.45	28.93
Turkish	628	0.24	89.85	0.27	92.66	0.20	85.45
Urdu	1,698	0.38	53.31	0.51	56.39	0.21	45.50

Figure 17: Candidates achieving in their best four grades in a subject (% of all A level candidates, top 20)
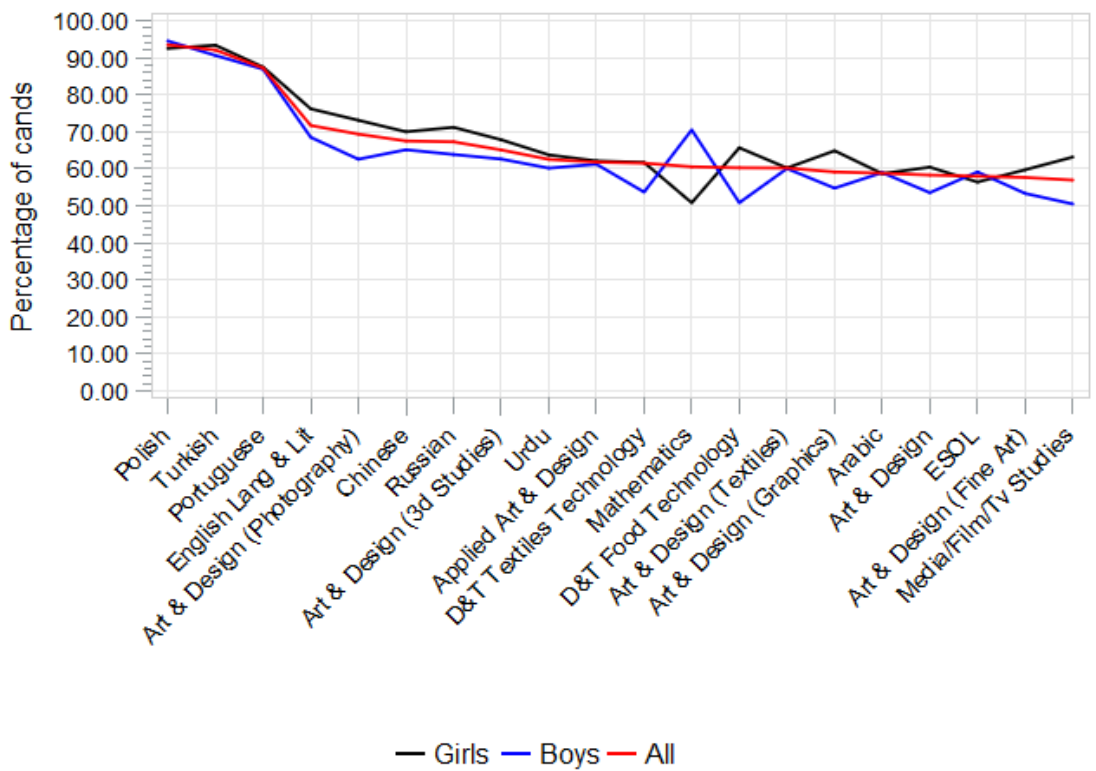

Figure 18: Candidates achieving in their best four grades in a subject (% of A level candidates taking subject at GCSE, top 20)

Table 10: Candidates for whom the grade achieved in the subject was in their best five grades (A level candidates only)

Subject	Candidates taking subject	Overall % (1)	Overall % (2)	Girls % (1)	Girls % (2)	Boys % (1)	Boys % (2)
Additional Science	98,422	21.24	51.52	21.28	46.82	21.19	59.12
Ancient History	544	0.12	53.06	0.09	52.94	0.16	53.14
Applications of Mathematics	7,888	1.39	41.96	0.99	31.99	1.90	52.90
Applied Engineering	668	0.07	26.24	0.03	34.73	0.13	24.66
Arabic	1,332	0.35	62.29	0.39	63.43	0.29	60.39
Art & Design	33,867	8.05	56.78	11.55	59.67	3.60	47.36
Art & Design (3D Studies)	643	0.17	62.84	0.18	66.19	0.15	58.33
Art & Design (Fine Art)	24,138	5.83	57.65	7.95	60.28	3.12	50.47
Art & Design (Graphics)	2,453	0.61	59.66	0.62	65.25	0.60	53.65
Art & Design (Photography)	4,820	1.39	69.02	1.90	73.29	0.75	58.05
Art & Design (Textiles)	3,236	0.81	59.79	1.42	59.76	0.03	61.70
Astronomy	1,824	0.11	14.71	0.06	10.50	0.18	17.66
Biology	124,091	27.35	52.62	23.50	49.95	32.26	55.38
Business Studies: Single	29,847	5.88	47.02	4.59	45.83	7.53	48.00
Business Studies & Economics	2,747	0.41	35.40	0.25	32.24	0.61	37.29
Chemistry	123,052	26.75	51.90	21.87	47.01	32.98	56.91
Chinese	2,652	0.80	72.17	0.75	74.89	0.87	69.38
Classical Civilisation	3,062	0.50	38.88	0.46	42.74	0.54	35.41
Classical Greek	988	0.17	41.14	0.12	41.59	0.23	40.84
Computer Studies/Computing	2,345	0.37	37.76	0.08	25.09	0.75	40.39
D&T Electronic Products	3,525	0.75	50.56	0.18	58.24	1.47	49.56
D&T Food Technology	13,628	3.60	63.10	5.07	69.02	1.73	47.75
D&T Graphic Products	14,693	2.99	48.61	2.95	56.43	3.04	41.49
D&T Product Design	11,864	2.50	50.27	2.06	57.53	3.06	45.37
D&T Resistant Materials	15,524	3.51	54.01	1.49	59.96	6.09	52.39
D&T Systems & Control	1,457	0.24	38.66	0.04	35.62	0.49	39.00
D&T Textiles Technology	12,199	3.42	67.02	6.05	67.13	0.07	57.90
Dance	5,305	0.99	44.58	1.66	43.91	0.14	58.34
Drama & Theatre Studies	33,824	7.14	50.41	8.79	52.16	5.04	46.89
Economics	3,169	0.35	26.22	0.19	24.98	0.56	26.79
English Language	215,757	48.98	54.20	54.07	58.71	42.49	48.20
English Lang & Lit	16,089	4.42	65.57	4.20	70.86	4.69	60.42
English Literature	216,508	50.54	55.74	56.43	60.88	43.03	48.83
English Studies	650	0.05	19.07	0.05	20.30	0.05	17.71
Environmental Science	579	0.05	20.51	0.04	18.14	0.06	23.30
Expressive Arts & Perf.	1,479	0.31	49.61	0.44	55.19	0.14	35.21
Film Studies	1,681	0.43	60.55	0.46	63.03	0.38	57.04
French	104,259	14.64	33.52	16.90	36.62	11.75	29.03
General Studies	1,957	0.24	29.15	0.27	33.70	0.20	23.62
Geography	109,276	24.17	52.81	22.50	54.14	26.30	51.43
Geology	532	0.12	55.00	0.03	37.58	0.24	60.01
German	40,571	5.07	29.83	5.35	32.87	4.71	26.31
Health & Social Care	706	0.16	54.35	0.28	55.59	0.01	27.37
History	133,669	30.43	54.36	29.88	54.43	31.14	54.28
Home Ec.: Child Dev.	3,113	0.88	67.33	1.56	67.53	0.00	26.56

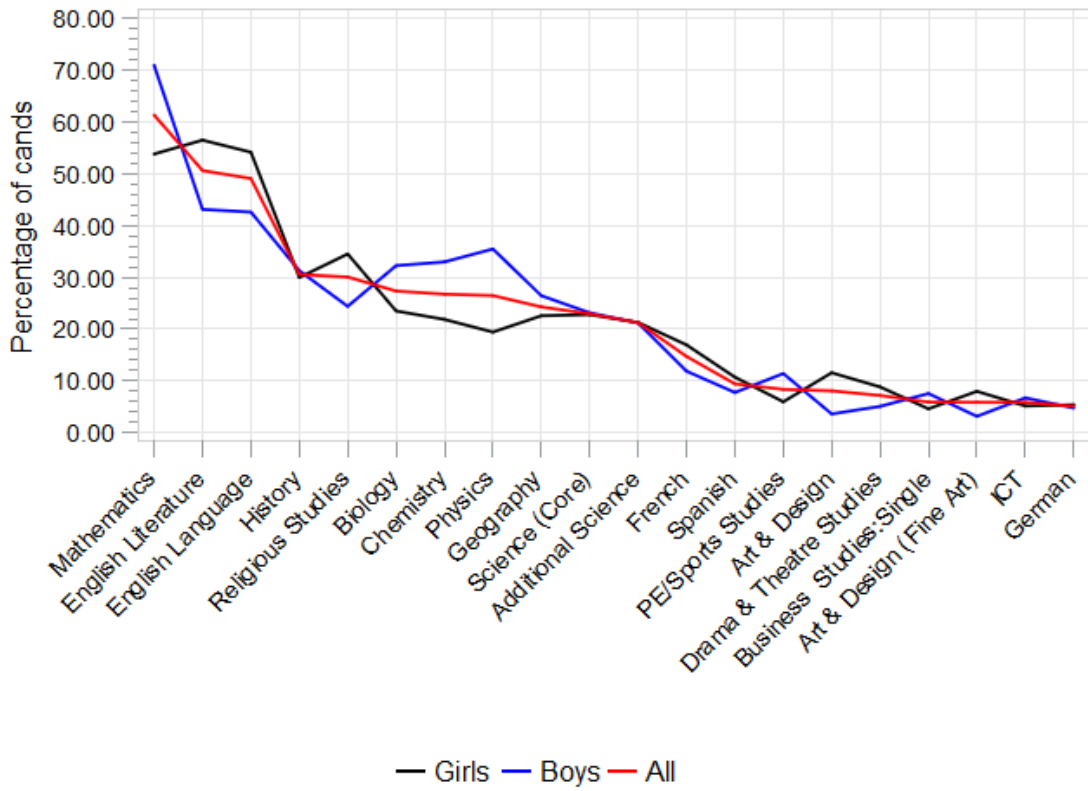| Subject	Candidates taking subject	Overall % (1)	Overall % (2)	Girls % (1)	Girls % (2)	Boys % (1)	Boys % (2)
Home Economics: Food	3,417	0.78	54.39	1.12	59.23	0.34	40.45
Humanities: Single	4,059	0.58	33.85	0.63	36.95	0.51	29.93
ICT	27,708	5.82	50.16	5.14	49.85	6.69	50.47
Italian	2,830	0.75	63.18	0.81	65.20	0.67	60.32
Japanese	606	0.14	55.73	0.16	57.49	0.12	52.98
Latin	7,999	1.25	37.26	1.19	38.00	1.32	36.44
Law	1,154	0.13	26.89	0.15	28.13	0.11	24.99
Mathematics	232,477	61.23	62.88	53.70	55.03	70.84	72.95
Media/Film/TV Studies	18,065	4.76	62.86	5.48	68.54	3.84	54.61
Methods in Mathematics	8,172	1.59	46.32	1.20	37.52	2.08	55.92
Music	24,819	4.53	43.55	4.16	41.83	5.00	45.54
Office Technology	4,666	0.90	46.24	0.95	49.63	0.85	42.13
Performing Arts	1,361	0.30	52.90	0.43	57.66	0.13	39.48
PE/Sports Studies	39,925	8.33	49.84	5.94	45.72	11.38	53.01
Physics	122,784	26.48	51.49	19.42	41.99	35.48	61.15
Polish	1,276	0.49	91.86	0.53	91.39	0.44	92.59
Portuguese	501	0.18	84.21	0.20	84.69	0.15	83.40
Psychology	6,422	1.22	45.49	1.65	48.79	0.68	37.67
Punjabi	571	0.12	49.99	0.14	50.95	0.10	48.36
Religious Studies	114,886	30.02	62.38	34.47	68.33	24.33	53.90
Russian	1,272	0.37	69.96	0.33	73.85	0.42	66.44
Science (Core)	109,635	22.95	49.98	22.80	45.28	23.15	57.48
Science: Double Award	4,577	1.16	60.42	0.98	53.81	1.38	68.00
Social Science: Citizenship	4,338	0.85	46.83	0.99	51.74	0.68	39.78
Sociology	8,685	2.05	56.48	2.93	58.48	0.93	49.66
Spanish	54,128	9.36	41.27	10.66	44.16	7.69	36.98
Statistics	26,021	3.83	35.17	3.20	31.68	4.64	38.94
Turkish	628	0.24	91.69	0.27	94.17	0.21	87.80
Urdu	1,698	0.43	60.09	0.57	62.93	0.24	52.90

Figure 19: Candidates achieving in their best five grades in a subject (% of all A level candidates, top 20)
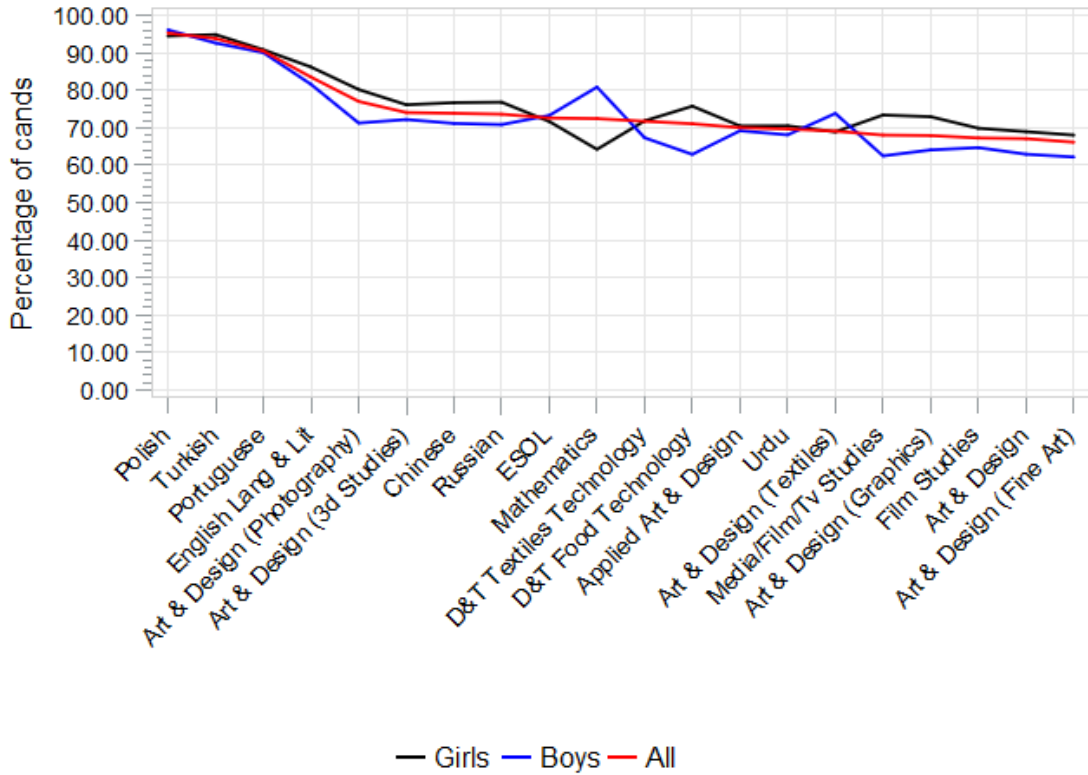

Figure 20: Candidates achieving in their best five grades in a subject (% of A level candidates taking subject at GCSE, top 20)

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