

## A and AS level trends in Modern Languages 2002-2017

Following is data in both the 'main' and 'less-widely-taught' languages as listed by JCQ and published on 17 August 2017 – A levels and AS levels, followed by an analysis of conversion rates from AS to A level in French, German and Spanish.

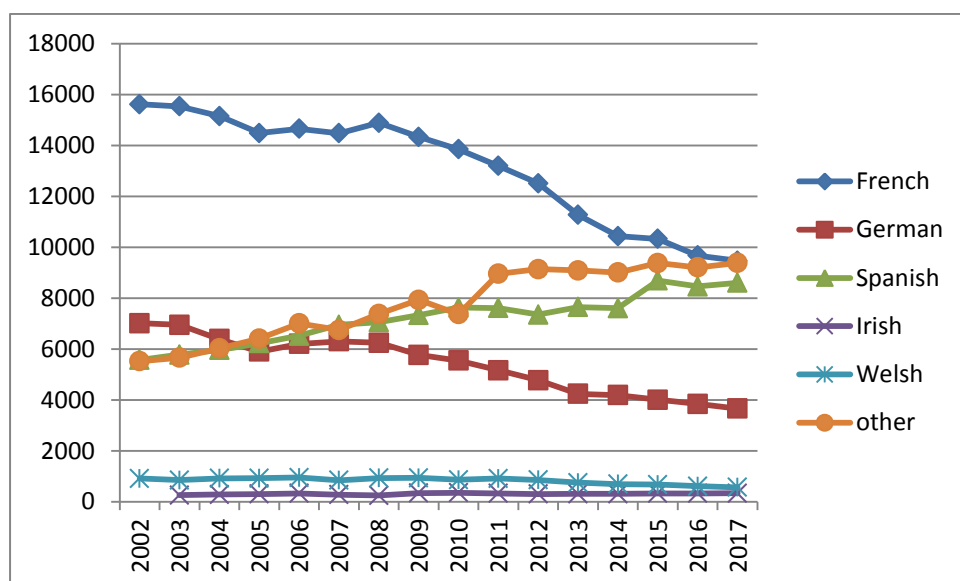
### 1. Fluctuations in number of pupils studying a language at A Level 2017

A levels								
Year	French	German	Spanish	Irish	Welsh	other	total	Fr Ge & Sp only
2002	15614	7013	5572		914	5523	34636	28199
2003	15531	6950	5781	258	852	5660	35032	28262
2004	15149	6390	5966	286	919	6023	34733	27505
2005	14484	5901	6230	306	927	6412	34260	26615
2006	14650	6204	6520	329	953	7009	35665	27374
2007	14477	6303	6951	281	847	6752	35611	27731
2008	14885	6245	7055	248	934	7377	36744	28185
2009	14333	5765	7334	339	941	7932	36644	27432
2010	13850	5548	7629	352	861	7370	35610	27027
2011	13196	5166	7610	328	917	8953	36170	25972
2012	12511	4773	7351	304	859	9136	34934	24635
2013	11272	4242	7651	310	752	9087	33314	23165
2014	10433	4187	7601	313	692	9007	32233	22221
2015	10328	4009	8694	330	678	9375	33414	23031
2016	9672	3842	8460	331	610	9209	32124	21974
2017	9468	3663	8601	333	566	9386	32017	21732
<b>% change 02-17</b>	-39.36%	-47.77%	54.36%	29.07%	-33.57%	69.94%	-7.56%	-22.93%
<b>% change 16-17</b>	-2.11%	-4.66%	1.67%	0.60%	-7.21%	1.92%	-0.33%	-1.10%

The latest figures in A-Level results released by [JCQ](http://www.icq.org.uk) reveal interesting data. As takers for French and German continue to decrease by small percentages year on year, the interest in Spanish and Other languages is steadily growing. Within the national downward trend in languages, takers in Spanish and Less-Widely Spoken Languages have been bucking the trend with an increase of 1.67% and 1.92% on last year's figures respectively. In particular, when looking at the whole set of data since 2002 Other languages have indeed been the category with the sharpest and most continuous increase in takers (70%). In the other interesting news, French does no longer feature in the list of most decreased subject A-Level entry (for further details, see <https://www.icq.org.uk/examination-results/a-levels/2017/main-results-tables/a-as-and-aea-results-summer-2017>).

The document available [here](#) provides instead figures for the Other languages category for both AS and A-level results. For the A-level qualification, Arabic, Chinese, Italian, and Polish feature as the languages with the most increased number of takers since last year. Overall, All other modern foreign languages takers have grown from 9209 to 9386: an increase of nearly 2% in one year.

### Fluctuations in A Level languages at a glance



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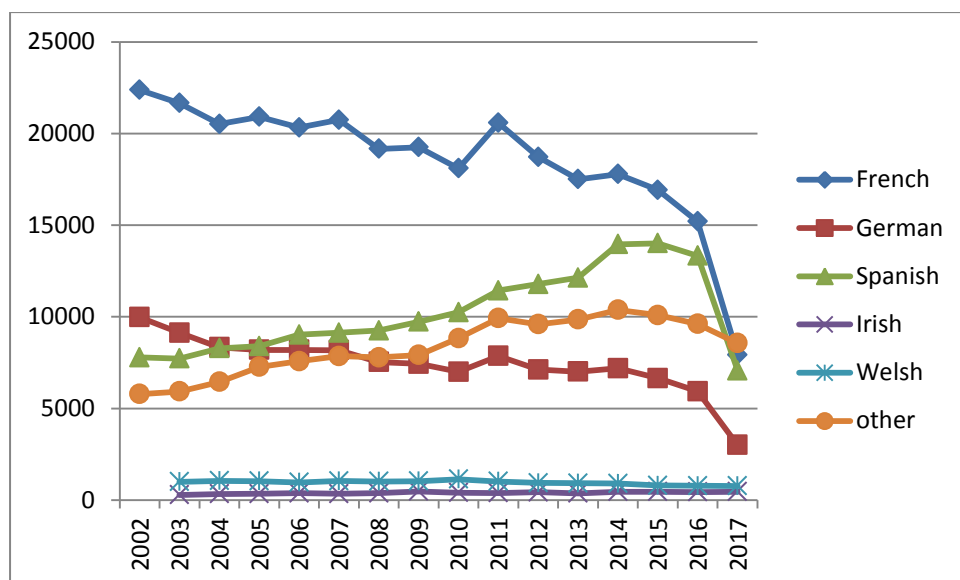
### Fluctuations in number of pupils studying a language at AS Level

| AS levels      |         |         |         |        |         |         |         |            |
|----------------|---------|---------|---------|--------|---------|---------|---------|------------|
| Year           | French  | German  | Spanish | Irish  | Welsh   | other   | total   | Fr Ge & Sp |
| 2002           | 22377   | 9973    | 7787    |        |         | 5785    | 45922   | 40137      |
| 2003           | 21663   | 9130    | 7727    | 284    | 998     | 5927    | 45729   | 38520      |
| 2004           | 20514   | 8333    | 8278    | 333    | 1049    | 6445    | 44952   | 37125      |
| 2005           | 20913   | 8195    | 8394    | 344    | 1037    | 7267    | 46150   | 37502      |
| 2006           | 20321   | 8192    | 9021    | 381    | 963     | 7577    | 46455   | 37534      |
| 2007           | 20747   | 8179    | 9131    | 341    | 1045    | 7858    | 47301   | 38057      |
| 2008           | 19167   | 7533    | 9247    | 378    | 1013    | 7782    | 45120   | 35947      |
| 2009           | 19247   | 7437    | 9730    | 479    | 1033    | 7919    | 45845   | 36414      |
| 2010           | 18096   | 7001    | 10250   | 406    | 1140    | 8836    | 45729   | 35347      |
| 2011           | 20579   | 7859    | 11433   | 385    | 1015    | 9923    | 51194   | 40256      |
| 2012           | 18721   | 7119    | 11781   | 430    | 936     | 9591    | 48578   | 38051      |
| 2013           | 17501   | 7006    | 12136   | 374    | 917     | 9857    | 47791   | 36643      |
| 2014           | 17781   | 7193    | 13958   | 461    | 901     | 10382   | 50676   | 38932      |
| 2015           | 16917   | 6645    | 14009   | 454    | 796     | 10086   | 48907   | 37571      |
| 2016           | 15200   | 5935    | 13331   | 437    | 778     | 9610    | 45291   | 34466      |
| 2017           | 7922    | 3005    | 7064    | 455    | 774     | 8562    | 27782   | 17991      |
|                |         |         |         |        |         |         |         |            |
| % change 02-17 | -64.60% | -69.87% | -9.28%  | 60.21% | -22.44% | 48.00%  | -39.50% | -55.18%    |
| % change 16-17 | -47.88% | -49.37% | -47.01% | 4.12%  | -0.51%  | -10.91% | -38.66% | -47.80%    |

Results for the number of pupils studying languages at AS levels are less rosy. Overall, results show a downward trend in all languages (including the Other languages category). However, when looking at figures since records began in 2002, Other languages have grown overall by a staggering 48% (but -11% on last year's figures).

These results, however, must be read with caution. During **'times of significant reform'** (as claimed by JCQ: see complete document [here](#)), nationally AS entries have suffered across all disciplines. This has been the result of reforms carried out mainly in England where the AS qualification has been decoupled from the A-Level. For this reason, JCQ advises that **'the decline in AS entries makes year on year UK outcome comparisons unreliable and they should be made with caution'**.

### Fluctuations in AS languages at a glance



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## 2. Conversion AS to A level

% AS students who took A level in following year								
Year	French	German	Spanish	Irish	Welsh	other	total	Fr Ge & Sp
2003	69.41%	69.69%	74.24%			97.84%	76.29%	70.41%
2004	69.93%	69.99%	77.21%	100.70%	92.08%	101.62%	75.95%	71.40%
2005	70.61%	70.81%	75.26%	91.89%	88.37%	99.49%	76.21%	71.69%
2006	70.05%	75.70%	77.67%	95.64%	91.90%	96.45%	77.28%	72.99%
2007	71.24%	76.94%	77.05%	73.75%	87.95%	89.11%	76.66%	73.88%
2008	71.75%	76.35%	77.26%	72.73%	89.38%	93.88%	77.68%	74.06%
2009	74.78%	76.53%	79.31%	89.68%	92.89%	101.93%	81.21%	76.31%
2010	71.96%	74.60%	78.41%	73.49%	83.35%	93.07%	77.67%	74.22%
2011	72.92%	73.79%	74.24%	80.79%	80.44%	101.32%	79.10%	73.48%
2012	60.79%	60.73%	64.30%	78.96%	84.63%	92.07%	68.24%	61.20%
2013	60.21%	59.59%	64.94%	72.09%	80.34%	94.75%	68.58%	60.88%
2014	59.61%	59.76%	62.63%	83.69%	75.46%	91.38%	67.45%	60.64%
2015	58.08%	55.73%	62.29%	71.58%	75.25%	90.30%	65.94%	59.16%
2016	57.17%	57.82%	60.39%	72.91%	76.63%	91.30%	65.68%	58.49%
2017	62.29%	61.72%	64.52%	76.20%	72.75%	97.67%	70.69%	63.05%

Excellent news can be gathered from data highlighting the number of students who, having studied towards an AS qualification last year, have progressed and acquired an A-Level in 2017. All languages across the board (except for Irish with a small decrease) have recorded an increase of between 4-7 percentage points on last year's figures. In particular, very good news comes from Other languages: 98% of students with an AS in 2016 has obtained an A-level in 2017. Reasons for this may be found in the number of heritage speakers who decide to pursue the study of their home/heritage language formally through the school curriculum.

### Conversion AS to A level at a glance

