

## Patterns in GCSE and A Level entries 2010 to 2018

August 2018

Between 2010 to 2018 in England there was a decline of -35% in the number of arts GCSE entries<sup>i</sup> from 673,739 in 2010 to 435,784 in 2018<sup>ii</sup>.

2016 to 2017 there was a decline of -9% in arts GCSE entries. This year's figures continue the trend with a further drop of -10% 2017-2018.

This year's decline of -10% in arts entries is set against a decline in the number of students in year 11 (the year students take GCSEs) in England of -1%<sup>iii</sup>. Since 2010 the year 11 cohort has fallen by -9%.

England only results	2010	2017	2018		% change 2010 to 2018	% change 2017 to 2018
Art and Design subjects	172,504	162,348	166,325		-4%	+2%
Dance <sup>iv</sup>	15,884	9,401	8,724		-45%	-7%
Design and Technology	270,401	153,929	116,774		-57%	-24%
Drama	81,592	61,703	57,987		-29%	-6%
Media/Film/TV Studies	63,808	44,865	41,832		-34%	-7%
Music	46,045	38,376	35,531		-23%	-7%
Performing/expressive arts	23,505	14,704	8,611		-63%	-41%
<b>Total</b>	<b>673,739</b>	<b>532,525</b>	<b>435,784</b>		<b>-35%</b>	<b>-10%</b>

### GCSE entries in Arts subjects 2010 and 2013 to 2018

England only	2010		2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Art and Design subjects	172504		167894	177206	181117	170114	162348	166325
Dance	15884		11856	12200	11865	10762	9401	8724
Design and Technology	270401		206044	200133	192183	173532	153929	116774
Drama	81592		70402	71399	71435	68171	61703	57987
Media/Film/TV Studies	63808		55005	59536	58496	51209	44865	41832
Music	46045		41580	42668	43667	41865	38376	35531
Performing/ expressive arts	23505		19188	19607	19563	17676	14704	8611
<b>Total</b>	<b>673739</b>		<b>571969</b>	<b>582749</b>	<b>578326</b>	<b>533329</b>	<b>485326</b>	<b>435784</b>

### History and Geography

In comparison to arts subjects the [English Baccalaureate](#) subjects History and Geography continue to see rises in entries.

England only results	2010	2017	2018		% change 2010 to 2018	% change 2017 to 2018
Geography	175,347	231,297	242,268		+38%	+5%
History	200,992	239,027	244,401		+22%	+2%

### A Level entries England only

Following the pattern of fewer arts GCSE entries A Level entries are also falling. Particularly hard hit are Performing and Expressive Arts and Dance, with declines in the last year alone of -26% and -10%.

For many arts subjects it is the case that if students have not studied the subject at GCSE they cannot progress on to study it at A Level.

England only results	2010	2017	2018		% change 2010 to 2018	% change 2017 to 2018
Art and Design subjects	42,577	40,470	39,848		-6%	-2%
Dance	2,261	1,455	1,316		-42%	-10%
Design and Technology	16,519	10,657	9,703		-41%	-9%
Drama	15,144	10,751	10,159		-33%	-6%
Media/Film/TV studies	31,032	24,450	22,968		-26%	-6%
Music	8,790	5,610	5,440		-38%	-3%
Performing/expressive arts	3,666	1,744	1,282		-65%	-26%
<b>Total</b>	<b>119,989</b>	<b>95,137</b>	<b>90,716</b>		<b>-24%</b>	<b>-5%</b>

### A Level entries in Arts subjects

England only	2010		2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Art and Design subjects	42577		40878	41812	41712	39962	40470	39848
Dance	2261		1979	1892	1875	1582	1455	1316
Design and Technology	16519		13856	12016	11491	10662	10657	9,703
Drama	15144		12564	11878	11963	11210	10751	10,159
Media/Film/TV studies	31032		26848	26116	26036	25516	24450	22,968
Music	8790		7793	7353	6820	6194	5610	5,440
Performing/expressive arts	3666		2740	2526	2468	2017	1744	1282
<b>Total</b>	<b>119989</b>		<b>106658</b>	<b>103593</b>	<b>102365</b>	<b>97143</b>	<b>95137</b>	<b>90716</b>

<sup>i</sup> We define arts subjects as Art and Design, Dance, Design and Technology, Drama, Media/Film/TV Studies, Music and Performing/expressive arts

<sup>ii</sup> GCSE and A Level entry numbers are from the Joint Council for Qualifications annual results tables <http://www.jcq.org.uk/examination-results/gcse>.

<sup>iii</sup> All children in year 11 in state schools and all children turning 16 during the school year in independent schools in England. Cohort numbers are taken from the Department for Education Schools, Pupils and their characteristics statistics. <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/statistics-school-and-pupil-numbers>

<sup>iv</sup> Dance GCSE and A Level numbers are from AQA and are for all of the UK. JCQ only reports Dance GCSE numbers within the PE results.