

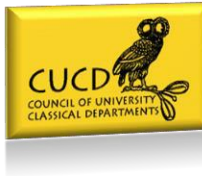
CLASSICS AT UK UNIVERSITIES, 2023-24

Statistics

After nearly four years since the last statistics were released, this year's statistics should be framed in a changed and no doubt more challenging scenario not only for Classics but for the Humanities as a whole. Contextualisation is, therefore, in order. The last ten years have seen a change in the types of institutions offering Classics, with more departments in CUCD than we had four years ago. However, we have also witnessed some regression, particularly with the loss of Roehampton and Belfast. Modern Languages and English, in particular, have been experiencing the kind of retraction experienced by Classics in the 1980s, whereas History and Classics are by and large holding up better. On the other hand, Archaeology has suffered from lack of a school qualification. It is, therefore, vital that numbers at sixth form are kept up. More generally, an increasing number of challenges have been posed to the Humanities, exacerbated by current attitudes towards these disciplines and by the misconception that Arts and Humanities graduates are less employable (on the topic, see the [Value of Humanities report](#)). Nevertheless, there have been attempts at countering such attitudes and the vital role of the Humanities has recently been advocated by the President of the British Academy, Prof. Julia Black, in a [speech](#) given at Birmingham University, as well as the BA's recent [Manifesto for the Social Sciences, Arts and Humanities](#), and work by the School of Advanced Study, University of London, and the [Arts and Humanities Alliance](#). No doubt, the increasing growth of regulatory burden in higher education, combined with the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the UK restrictions on visas, had a knock-on effect from which our higher education sector is struggling to recover.

In spite of these challenges, the current undergraduate student numbers are encouraging. Although the total number of Single and Joint Honours undergraduates is under 7000, there has been a substantial uptick in 'Modern Classics' degrees, which have risen by 17.8% for Single Honours and 11.2% for Joint Honours, with numbers up for Classical Studies, Ancient History, and Classical Art/Archaeology. In this regard, the contribution of the Advocating Classics Education and Classics for All projects cannot be overstated. Equally important has been the work of colleagues in relation to outreach and impact and in keeping Classics in the media, as well as the feminist retellings of Greek myth.

The trend is slightly negative for 'Traditional Classics', although the FTE number of students taking Latin as a subsidiary or supplementary subject has increased. This increase is mirrored in the beginners' languages table, where students taking *ab initio* Latin are up 37.1%. On the other hand, numbers differ substantially if we look at the postgraduate student community, which has suffered a sharp decrease, especially at PGR level (-30.5%).



The data regarding staff, which takes into account colleagues on research leave, highlights a stagnant situation despite the increased student intake. The decrease is not as dramatic as in 2019-20 but staff numbers have decreased by 7%. The gender breakdown of staff by grade remains fairly similar to earlier trends, with men outnumbering women at Reader (57.5% men; 42.5% women) and Professor levels (61.4% men; women 38.6%) and slightly at Lecturer level also (53.2% men; 47.7% women). The number of research only staff has decreased from 41 in 2017-18 (34 in 2019-20) to only 21 this year. Zero hours contracts are predominantly held by men (64.9%), continuing the 2019-20 trend, and have decreased slightly but this is also the case for fixed term contracts, while the number of permanent contracts remains stable. From this we can infer that creation of new posts is still a desideratum.

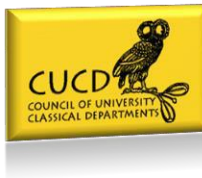
On entrants for qualifications in classical subjects in schools, we notice a sharp decline in Entry Level Latin since 2020. A similar negative trend can be seen in entrants for GCSE Latin and Greek. On the other hand, the number of entrants for GCSE Ancient History and Classical Civilisation is up 24.4% and 12.5%, respectively. At A Level, the numbers are positive for all classical subjects, especially Greek (16.1%) and Ancient History (19.7%). We witness, instead, a pronounced decline in AS Level across all classical subjects, triggered by the decoupling of AS and A Levels in 2018 and the fact that many schools no longer teach AS levels. As remarked in the [CUCD Statistics Report from 2019-2020](#), a qualification reform is urgently needed to reverse the situation. AS levels were valuable in allowing risk-averse students a relatively low-risk way of trying a new subject at A-level, and either continuing or dropping it after a year.

Reprising this data-gathering exercise after such a long break was no easy task and would have been impossible without the generous support of many colleagues, academic and administrative, at all UK institutions, who shared their stats with me. I would like to express my gratitude to them all, and to Prof. Emma Cayley, the co-chair of the Arts and Humanities Alliance, for her insight on the health of these subjects in the UK. Sincere thanks also to Prof. Sharon Marshall, the former CUCD statistics officer, and Prof. Helen Lovatt, the chair of the CUCD, for assisting me over the past few months.

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Contributing Institutions

Birkbeck	Liverpool
Birmingham	Manchester
Bristol	Newcastle
Cambridge	Nottingham
Cardiff	The Open University
Durham	Oxford
Edinburgh	Reading
Exeter	Royal Holloway
Glasgow	Southampton
KCL	St. Andrews
Kent	Swansea
Lancaster	Trinity Saint David
Leeds	UCL
Leicester	Warwick
Lincoln	Winchester

Please, note that all tables below include data from the Open University, unless otherwise stated.

TABLE A: OVERVIEW

	Honours students (SH + JH)				All students (incl. Other)								Staff FTE	Student-Staff Ratio	1st year honours (SH + JH)			
					<i>excluding OU</i>				<i>including OU</i>						<i>excluding OU</i>			
	no.	FTE	% change FTE	index (1992-3 = 100)	no.	FTE	% change FTE	index (1992-3 = 100)	no.	FTE	% change FTE	index (1997-8 = 100)			no.	FTE	% change FTE	index (1992-3 = 100)
2009-10	6,500	5,149	-0.3	149	9,456	5,791	-0.3	118	12,070	7,716	12.4	123	412	14.1	2,253	1,764	4.3	148
2010-11	6,465	5,164	0.3	150	10,530	5,817	0.5	118	14,028	7,566	-1.9	121	434	13.4	1,925	1,590	-9.8	133
2011-12	7,247	5,385	4.3	156	9,916	5,825	0.1	118	12,628	7,855	3.8	126	434	13.4	2,432	1,798	13.1	150
2012-13	6,785	5,450	1.2	158	8,545	5,675	-2.6	115	10,921	7,527	-4.2	120	442	12.8	2,237	1,684	-6.3	141
2013-14	7,450	5,418	-0.6	157	9,009	5,777	1.8	117	11,203	7,521	-0.1	120	468	12.3	2,647	1,794	6.5	150
2014-15	7,373	5,542	2.3	161	8,799	5,875	1.7	119	10,795	6,956	-7.5	111	476	12.3	2,717	1,830	2.0	153
2015-16	7,349	5,538	-0.1	161	9,253	6,022	2.5	122	11,248	7,023	1.0	112	470	12.8	2,627	1,835	0.2	154
2016-17	6,964	5,606	1.2	163	9,123	6,169	2.4	125	11,309	7,263	3.4	116	504	12.2	2,444	1,890	3.0	158
2017-18	6,880	5,532	-1.3	161	8,900	6,031	-2.2	122	10,617	7,185	-1.1	115	518	11.6	2,149	1,674	-11.4	140
2018-19	6,814	5,447	-1.5	158	8,799	5,939	-1.5	121	10,253	6,666	-7.2	107	522	11.4	2,113	1,646	-1.7	138
2019-20	7,063	5,563	2.1	161	8,512	5,898	-0.7	120	11,114	7,199	8.0	115	435	13.6	2,213	1,691	2.7	142
2023-24	9,309	6,016	8.1	175	8,958	5,458	-7.5	111	11,960	6,958	-3.3	111	404	13.5	3,386	2,278	34.7	191

SH = Single honours

JH = Joint honours

TABLE B: SINGLE AND JOINT HONOURS

**'Traditional classics'
(Classics, Greek, Latin)**

**'Modern classics'
(Class. Studs, Anc. Hist., Art/Arch.)**

	Single honours				Joint honours				Single honours				Joint honours			
	no.	FTE	% change FTE	index (1992-3 = 100)	no.	FTE	% change FTE	index (1992-3 = 100)	no.	FTE	% change FTE	index (1992-3 = 100)	no.	FTE	% change FTE	index (1992-3 = 100)
	trad SH				trad JH				mod SH				mod JH			
2009-10	1,399	1,271	-20.6	105	252	124	-24.4	81	2,989	2,824	13.5	192	1,860	929	2.0	152
2010-11	1,437	1,276	0.4	105	254	136	9.7	88	2,961	2,832	0.3	192	1,813	920	-1.0	151
2011-12	1,754	1,376	7.8	114	314	112	-17.6	73	3,388	3,008	6.2	204	1,791	889	-3.4	146
2012-13	1,600	1,433	4.1	118	261	132	17.9	86	3,195	2,915	-3.1	198	1,729	970	9.1	159
2013-14	2,081	1,572	9.7	130	271	145	9.8	94	3,397	2,810	-3.6	191	1,701	891	-8.1	146
2014-15	2,063	1,571	-0.1	130	206	103	-29.0	67	3,406	3,050	8.5	207	1,698	818	-8.2	134
2015-16	2,048	1,566	-0.3	129	204	106	2.9	69	3,463	3,060	0.3	208	1,635	805	-1.6	132
2016-17	1,682	1,521	-2.9	126	291	181	70.8	118	3,352	3,064	0.1	208	1,639	840	4.3	138
2017-18	1,575	1,451	-4.6	120	281	143	-21.0	93	3,167	2,983	-2.6	203	1,857	956	13.8	157
2018-19	1,580	1,448	-0.2	120	280	141	-1.4	92	3,068	2,892	-3.1	196	1,886	966	1.0	159
2019-20	1,489	1,363	-5.9	113	321	167	18.4	109	3,176	3,012	4.1	205	2,077	1,021	5.7	168
2023-24	1,344	1,186	-13.0	98	299	145	-13.0	95	5,477	3,549	17.8	241	2,189	1,136	11.2	186

TABLE C.1: ALL STUDENTS

'Traditional Classics'

	Classics		Greek		Latin	
	No.	FTE	No.	FTE	No.	FTE
SINGLE HONOURS						
2015-16	1,780	1,446	102	48	166	73
2016-17	1,567	1,431	58	40	57	50
2017-18	1,517	1,415	29	12	29	24
2018-19	1,520	1,414	32	11	28	23
2019-20	1,436	1,330	30	13	23	20
2023-24	1,210	1,151	36	9	98	26
JOINT HONOURS						
2015-16	110	62	21	10	73	34
2016-17	185	118	31	19	75	43
2017-18	191	99	21	11	69	33
2018-19	190	99	20	10	70	32
2019-20	241	129	11	6	69	32
2023-24	239	123	12	5	48	17
OTHER						
2015-16	104	29	149	67	124	33
2016-17	142	44	146	64	376	148
2017-18	30	8	118	51	288	110
2018-19	32	9	148	64	290	112
2019-20	27	7	185	85	229	90
2024-24	332	18	42	10	305	127
ALL						
2015-16	1,994	1,536	272	125	239	140
2016-17	1,894	1,593	235	123	508	241
2017-18	1,738	1,522	168	74	386	167
2018-19	1,742	1,522	200	85	388	167
2019-20	1,704	1,466	226	104	321	142
2023-24	1,781	1,292	90	24	451	170

TABLE C.2: ALL STUDENTS

'Modern classics'

	Class. Civ./Studs		Anc. Hist.		Class. Art/Arch.	
	No.	FTE	No.	FTE	No.	FTE
SINGLE HONOURS						
2015-16	1,395	1,319	1,814	1,675	254	66
2016-17	1,365	1,287	1,907	1,722	80	55
2017-18	1,455	1,367	1,647	1,580	65	36
2018-19	1,451	1,359	1,543	1,494	74	39
2019-20	1,484	1,416	1,595	1,542	97	54
2023-24	2,989	1,932	2,021	1,376	466	240
JOINT HONOURS						
2015-16	563	264	996	497	77	45
2016-17	557	268	977	510	105	62
2017-18	581	281	1,108	573	169	101
2018-19	594	288	1,120	575	172	103
2019-20	609	303	1,201	591	267	127
2023-24	456	235	1,417	761	316	139
OTHER						
2015-16	1,750	703	1,099	399	269	52
2016-17	1,693	690	1,334	462	250	47
2017-18	1,107	394	855	196	755	309
2018-19	1,106	395	795	180	774	313
2019-20	1,405	600	651	150	253	53
2024-24	1,542	703	270	52	170	32
ALL						
2015-16	4,112	2,489	3,908	2,571	600	163
2016-17	3,615	2,245	4,218	2,694	435	164
2017-18	3,143	2,042	3,610	2,349	989	446
2018-19	3,151	2,042	3,458	2,249	1,020	455
2019-20	3,498	2,319	3,447	2,283	617	234
2023-24	4,987	2,870	3,708	2,189	952	411

**TABLE D.1:
STAFF**

	Full-time				Part-time				Other	
	permanent		temporary		permanent		temporary		no.	FTE
	no.	FTE	no.	FTE	no.	FTE	no.	FTE		
2011-12	399	389	40	38	28	13	71	24	135	55
2012-13	392	389	41	39	22	11	80	20	114	50
2013-14	395	388	41	40	22	10	56	17	140	60
2014-15	398	386	49	47	30	14	64	23	172	82
2015-16	382	374	50	48	28	16	52	19	183	90
2016-17	399	395	59	57	31	19	40	14	170	87
2017-18	417	414	55	51	29	16	69	20	186	91
2018-19	424	415	61	54	33	19	55	17	182	79
2019-20	382	375	58	52	28	14	58	12	98	37
2023-24	401	374	51	41	41	22	52	13	98	13

**Summary
(all staff)**

	no.	FTE	% change	on leave (FTE)	effective FTE	% change	
2011-12	665	519	3.7	85	434.0	0.0	
2012-13	650	509	-1.9	67	442.0	1.8	
2013-14	656	515	1.2	47	468.0	5.9	
2014-15	795	552	7.2	76	476.0	1.7	
2015-16	695	547	-0.9	78	469.0	-1.5	
2016-17	699	572	4.6	68	504.0	7.5	
2017-18	756	592	3.5	74	518.0	2.8	<i>excludes OU</i>
2018-19	755	584	-1.4	62	522.0	0.8	<i>excludes OU</i>
2019-20	624	490	-16.1	55	435.0	-16.7	<i>excludes OU</i>
2023-24	643	464	-5.4	59	404.4	-7.0	<i>excludes OU</i>

D.2: STAFF BY GRADE

	no.			%		
	Male	Female	Other preferred self-description	Male	Female	Other preferred self-description
Associate Lecturer						
2016-17	20	27	0	42.6	57.4	0
2017-18	27	41	0	39.7	60.3	0
2018-19	59	70	0	45.7	54.3	0
2019-20	57	73	0	43.8	56.2	0
2023-24	45	53	0	46	54	0
Lecturer						
2016-17	71	53	0	57.3	42.7	0
2017-18	73	60	0	54.9	45.1	0
2018-19	61	73	0	45.5	54.5	0
2019-20	69	78	0	46.9	53.1	0
2023-24	55	50	0	53.2	47.7	0
Senior Lecturer						
2016-17	32	29	0	52.5	47.5	0
2017-18	37	40	0	48.1	51.9	0
2018-19	45	47	0	48.9	51.1	0
2019-20	36	47	0	43.4	56.6	0
2023-24	56	71	0	44	66	0
Reader						
2016-17	18	17	0	51.4	48.6	0
2017-18	20	10	0	66.7	33.3	0
2018-19	32	24	0	57.1	42.9	0
2019-20	32	25	0	56.1	43.9	0
2023-24	23	17	0	57.5	42.5	0
Professor						
2016-17	44	23	0	65.7	34.3	0
2017-18	56	29	0	65.9	34.1	0
2018-19	64	40	0	61.5	38.5	0
2019-20	68	43	0	61.3	38.7	0
2023-24	78	49	0	61.4	38.6	0

D.3: STAFF BY CONTRACT TYPE

	no.			%		
	Male	Female	Other preferred self-description	Male	Female	Other preferred self-description
FIXED TERM/TEMPORARY						
2016-17	39	32	0	54.9	45.1	0
2017-18	59	60	0	49.6	50.4	0
2018-19	80	95	0	45.7	54.3	0
2019-20	84	96	0	46.7	53.3	0
2023-24	72	56	0	56.3	43.7	0
PERMANENT						
2016-17	134	106	0	55.8	44.2	0
2017-18	135	132	0	50.6	49.4	0
2018-19	183	174	0	51.3	48.7	0
2019-20	189	176	0	51.8	48.2	0
2023-24	194	174	0	52.7	47.3	0
ZERO HOURS						
2016-17	9	14	0	39.1	60.9	0
2017-18	29	30	0	49.2	50.8	0
2018-19	24	17	0	58.5	41.5	0
2019-20	16	13	0	55.2	44.8	0
2023-24	15	11	0	64.9	35.1	0

D.4: STAFF BY ROLE

	no.			%		
	Male	Female	Other preferred self-description	Male	Female	Other preferred self-description
RESEARCH AND TEACHING						
2016-17	135	103	0	56.7	43.3	0
2017-18	174	135	0	56.3	43.7	0
2018-19	194	176	0	52.4	47.6	0
2019-20	195	173	0	53	47	0
2023-24	200	197	0	50.85	49.15	0
TEACHING ONLY						
2016-17	29	30	0	49.2	50.8	0
2017-18	28	43	0	39.4	60.6	0
2018-19	30	47	0	39	61	0
2019-20	57	82	0	41	59	0
2023-24	54	53	0	50.5	49.5	0
RESEARCH ONLY						
2016-17	18	19	0	48.6	51.4	0
2017-18	20	21	0	48.8	51.2	0
2018-19	21	17	0	55.3	44.7	0
2019-20	21	13	0	61.8	38.2	0
2023-24	14	7	0	66.6	33.4	0

TABLE E: BEGINNERS' LANGUAGES

		Greek			Latin		
		no.	FTE	% change	no.	FTE	% change
Undergraduates	2015-16	762	279	-6.4	740	222	-0.9
	2016-17	660	308	10.4	935	404	82.0
	2017-18	585	255	-17.2	821	335	-17.1
	2018-19	607	267	4.7	829	319	-4.8
	2019-20	678	301	12.7	795	335	5.0
	2023-24	508	273	-9.3	971	459	37.1
Postgraduates	2015-16	99	36	-2.7	118	37	-5.1
	2016-17	97	43	19.4	156	65	75.7
	2017-18	97	39	-9.3	142	61	-6.2
	2018-19	99	40	2.6	150	61	0.0
	2019-20	109	42	5.0	130	57	-6.6
	2023-24	43	21	-49.9	89	30	-48.0

TABLE F: POSTGRADUATES

		Full-time	Part-time	Other (FTE = 0)	Total no.	FTE	% change
TAUGHT	2015-16	347	384	8	739	537	-6.9
	2016-17	389	384	2	775	574	6.9
	2017-18	351	410	0	761	551	-4.0
	2018-19	352	403	1	756	549	-0.4
	2019-20	368	305	5	673	494	-10.0
	2023-24	299	295	6	595	430	-13.0
RESEARCH		Full-time	Part-time	Other	Total no.	FTE	% change
	2015-16	538	141	24	703	586	-7.7
	2016-17	559	126	15	700	588	0.3
	2017-18	540	140	4	684	580	-1.4
	2018-19	532	129	3	664	561	-3.3
	2019-20	551	129	24	704	587	4.6
2023-24	349	119	8	469	407.95	-30.5	

**TABLE G.1:
ENTRY LEVEL**

YEAR OF ENTRY	Greek		Latin	
	No.	% change	No.	% change
2015	152	61.7	991	-25.0
2016	121	-20.4	960	-3.1
2017	78	-35.5	725	-24.5
2018	103	32.1	868	19.7
2019	--	--	846	-2.5
2020	--	--	801	-5.3
2021	--	--	344	-57.1
2022	--	--	652	89.5
2023	--	--	623	-4.4
2024	--	--	526	-15.6

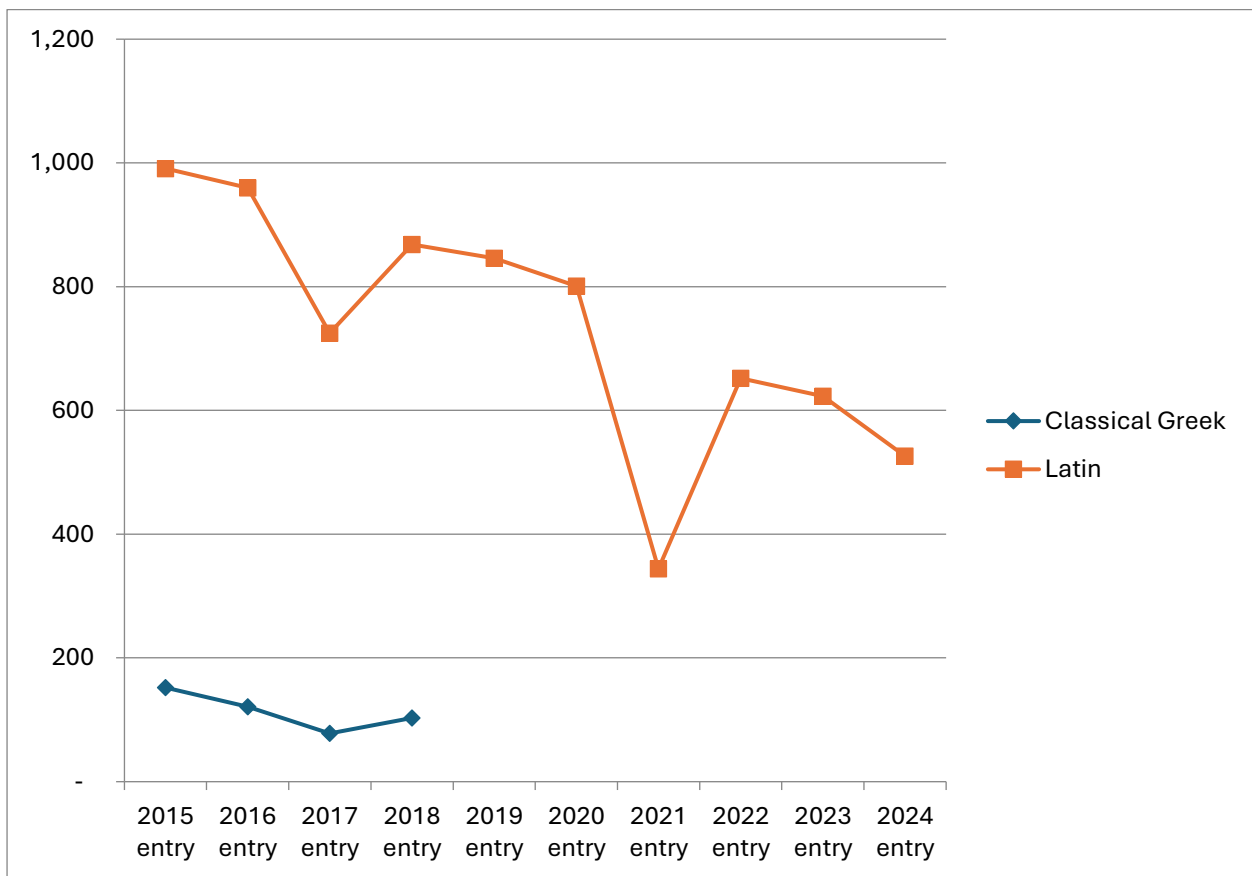


TABLE G.2:**GCSE****Full Course**

YEAR OF ENTRY	Ancient History		Class. Civ.		Greek		Latin	
	No.	% change	No.	% change	No.	% change	No.	% change
2015	1,072	-14.7	4,240	-2.1	1,329	1.0	8,727	-4.5
2016	1,084	1.1	4,186	-1.3	1,231	-7.4	8,192	-6.1
2017	919	-15.2	4,082	-2.5	1,216	-1.2	7,800	-4.8
2018	901	-2.0	3,697	-9.4	1,289	6.0	9,297	19.2
2019	904	0.3	3,618	-2.1	1,164	-9.7	9,614	3.4
2020	907	0.3	3,824	5.7	1,154	-0.9	9,715	1.1
2021	1,144	26.1	3,653	-4.5	1,084	-6.1	9,217	-5.1
2022	1,131	-1.1	3,683	0.8	1,071	-1.2	8,957	-2.8
2023	1,257	11.1	4,560	23.8	1,000	-6.6	8,566	-4.4
2024	1,564	24.4	5,128	12.5	900	-10.0	8,388	-3

Short Course

	Ancient History		Class. Civ.		Greek		Latin	
	No.	% change	No.	% change	No.	% change	No.	% change
2015	79	-9.2	226	-39.9	137	-29.7	203	-13.2
2016	55	-30.4	203	-10.2	153	11.7	167	-17.7
2017	47	-14.5	137	-32.5	125	-18.3	121	-27.5
2018	5	-89.4	140	2.2	--	--	--	--
2019	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
2020	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
2021	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
2022	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
2023	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
2024	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

GCSE (FULL AND SHORT COURSE)

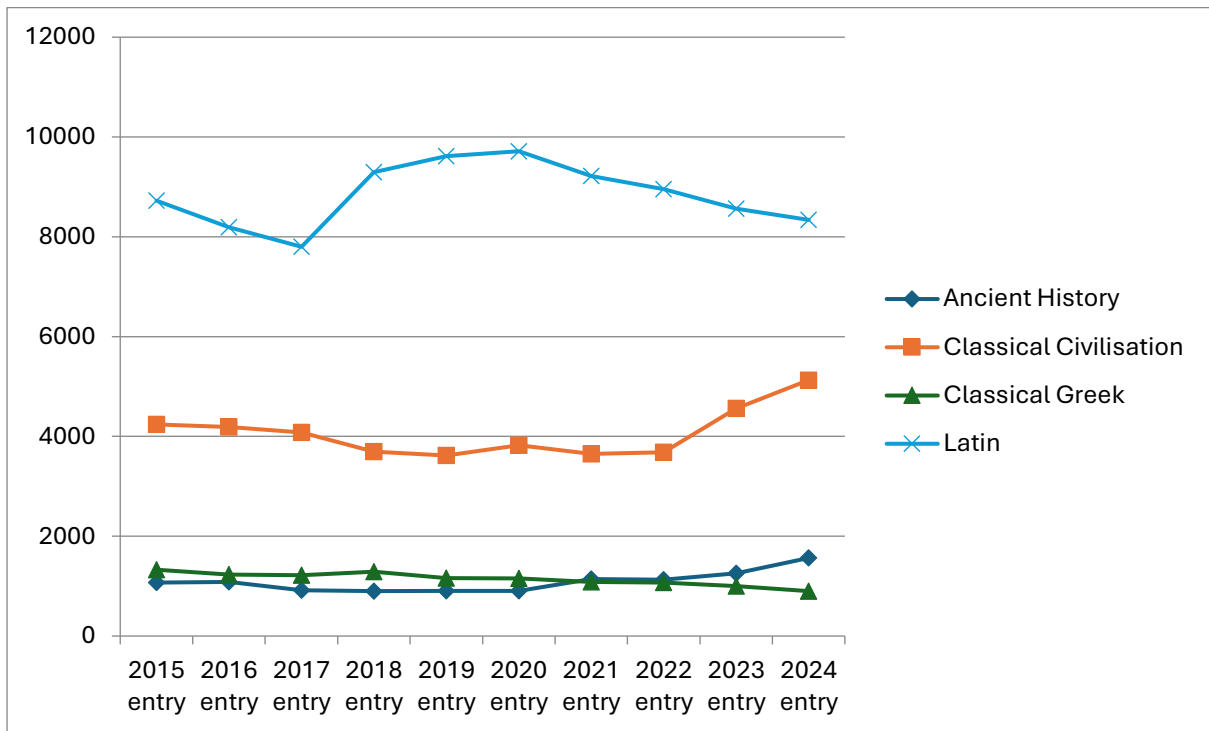


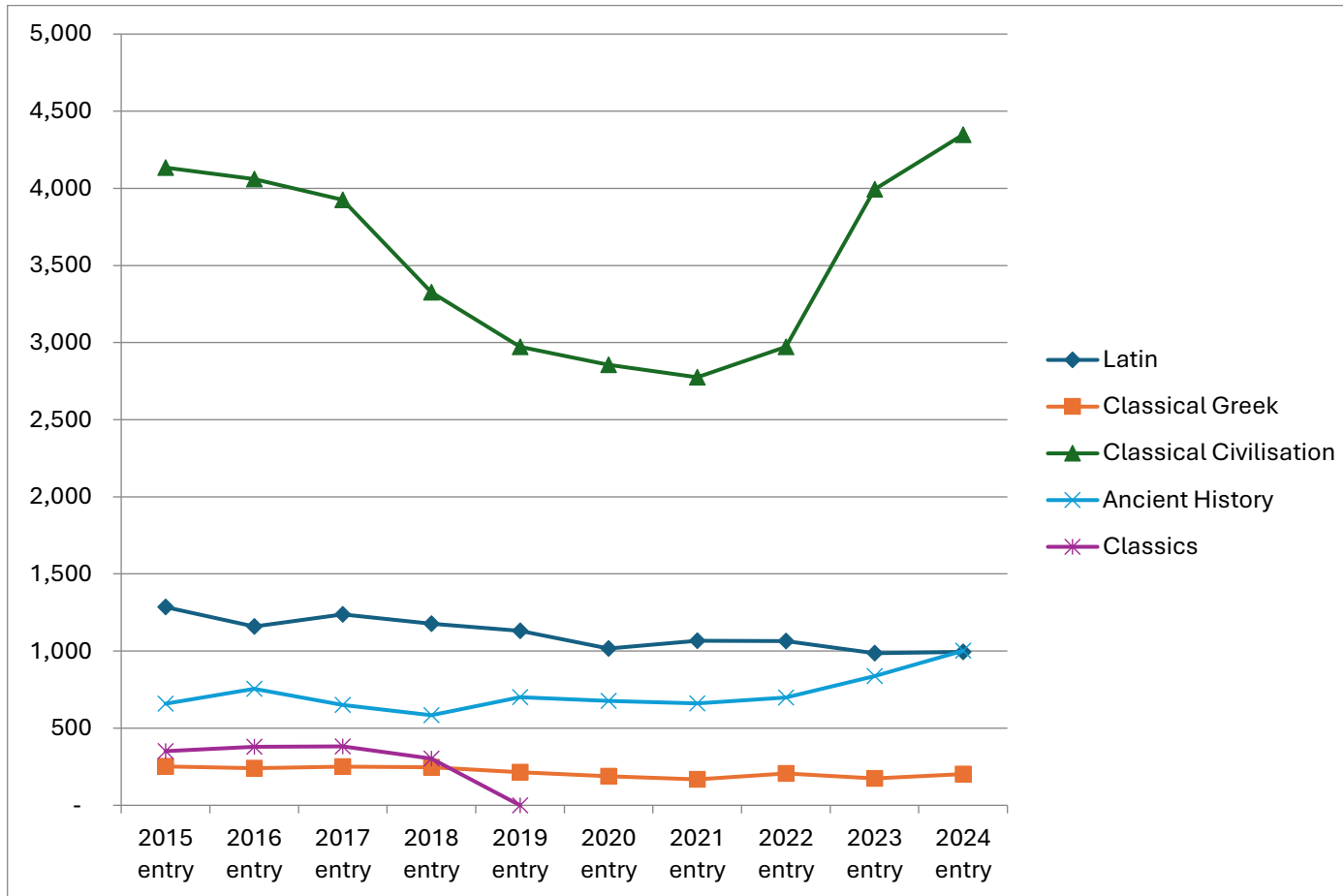
TABLE G.3:
A LEVEL + AS LEVEL

YEAR OF ENTRY	A LEVEL									
	Latin		Greek		Class. Civ.		Ancient History		Classics	
	No.	% change	No.	% change	No.	% change	No.	% change	No.	% change
2015	1,285	-3.0	252	-8.7	4,135	2.9	659	-8.1	352	22.2
2016	1,160	-9.7	240	-4.8	4,060	-1.8	755	14.6	380	8.0
2017	1,237	6.6	250	4.2	3,925	-3.3	650	-13.9	382	0.5
2018	1,178	-4.8	246	-1.6	3,327	-15.2	584	-10.2	303	-20.7
2019	1,132	-3.9	215	-12.6	2,972	-10.7	701	20.0	--	--
2020	1,017	-10.2	188	-12.6	2,855	-3.9	676	-3.6	--	--
2021	1,066	4.6	168	-10.6	2,775	-2.8	660	-2.4	--	--
2022	1,064	-0.2	206	22.6	2,973	7.1	699	5.9	--	--
2023	986	-7.3	174	-15.5	3,993	34.3	837	19.7	--	--
2024	995	0.9	202	16.1	4,348	8.9	1,002	19.7	--	--

AS LEVEL

YEAR OF ENTRY	Latin		Greek		Class. Civ.		Ancient History		Classics	
	No.	% change	No.	% change	No.	% change	No.	% change	No.	% change
2015	1,597	-7.5	282	6.8	5,606	-2.4	1,227	8.1	356	-2.5
2016	1,329	-16.8	215	-23.8	5,249	-6.4	1,095	-10.8	355	-0.3
2017	403	-69.7	70	-67.4	4,323	-17.6	881	-19.5	298	-16.1
2018	204	-49.4	37	-47.1	741	-82.9	337	-61.7	59	-80.2
2019	124	-39.2	24	-35.1	452	-39.0	171	-49.3	--	--
2020	82	-33.9	39	62.5	277	-38.7	152	-11.1	--	--
2021	80	-2.5	20	-48.7	239	-13.7	163	7.2	--	--
2022	70	-12.5	36	80	393	64.4	186	14.1	--	--
2023	65	-7.1	26	-27.8	324	-17.6	195	4.8	--	--
2024	45	-30.8	20	-23.1	294	-9.3	162	-16.9	--	--

A LEVEL



AS LEVEL

