

Classics at UK Universities, 2024–25

Statistics

This year the Arts and Humanities have faced an increasing number of challenges across the Higher Education sector in the UK. It has been disconcerting to see that devastating cuts – including the plans to suspend the Ancient History Degree at Cardiff – are rife across the sector, where the humanities and cognate disciplines are disproportionately affected (redundancy and restructuring announcements can be viewed here: <https://qmucu.org/qmul-transformation/uk-he-shrinking/#most-recent-updates>).

Despite the difficult context, the data from this year show the resilience of Classics as a discipline, with an overall increase in both undergraduate and taught postgraduate numbers. There has been a substantial improvement for ‘Traditional Classics’ single honours degrees and especially joint honours degrees, with an increase of 8.1% and 136.9% respectively from last year – from 1,186 to 1,283 for single-honours courses, and from 145 to 344 for joint honours degrees (all numbers are FTE). This is reflected in the increase in students taking Greek ab initio from 273 to 315. An increasing interest in learning ancient Greek can also be seen among PGR students, with an increase of 82.7% compared to last year – from 21 to 38. The trend is slightly less positive for ‘Modern Classics’, which has decreased for single honours degrees (-4.2%) but has seen an uptick of 7% for joint honours degrees. There is also positive news regarding the number of PGT students, which is up 11.9% from last year, while the numbers at PGR level have decreased by 2.8%.

The positive news about students is not matched by an increase in the number of staff, which has declined by 18%, after decreasing already by 7% last year. If the creation of new permanent posts was a desideratum last year, it is even more so the case now. The gender breakdown of staff by grade remains almost unchanged from last year. But it is worth noting a change at Senior Lecturer level, with women outnumbering men (41.8% men; 58.2% women).

Compared to last year, entrants for qualifications in classical subjects in schools have been mixed. Entry Level Latin numbers have decreased from 526 to 476, but GCSE Greek numbers have increased by 5%, and the number of entrants for GCSE Ancient History and Classical Civilisation is similar to last year. The entrants for GCSE Latin in 2024 and 2025 are also similar (and the numbers for 2024 have been updated from last year to include Eduqas figures). Takers of AS Level continue to decline, but A Level numbers are relatively steady.



Conducting this data-gathering exercise proved to be demanding for many departments due to the administrative pressure they are under. I am particularly grateful to colleagues, academic and administrative, at all UK institutions for their generous assistance in these challenging times. I would also like to thank Dr Kathryn Tempest, the Chair of the CUCD, and Dr James Corke-Webster, the Secretary of the CUCD, and Gráinne Cassidy, the CA Education Co-ordinator, for their support.

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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 yr honours (SH + JH)			
					excluding OU				including OU						excluding OU			
	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)
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
2024-25	8,677	6,261	4.1	182	9,593	6,700	22.8	136	12,322	7,993	14.9	128	414	16.2	3,461	2,534	11.2	212

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			
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
2024-25	1,388	1,283	8.1	106	780	344	136.9	224	4,372	3,400	-4.2	231		2,137	1,215	7.0	199

TABLE C1: ALL STUDENTS

	'Traditional Classics'					
	Classics		Greek		Latin	
	No.	FTE	No.	FTE	No.	FTE
SINGLE HONOURS						
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
2024-25	1,166	1,163	48	47	174	74
JOINT HONOURS						
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
2024-25	663	281	32	12	85	52
OTHER						
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
2023-24	332	18	42	10	305	127
2024-25	77	52	10	4	29	10
ALL						
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
2024-25	1,906	1,495	90	62	288	136

TABLE C2: ALL STUDENTS

	'Modern Classics'					
	Class. Civ./Studs		Anc. Hist.		Class. Art/Arch.	
	No.	FTE	No.	FTE	No.	FTE
SINGLE HONOURS						
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
2024-25	2,524	1,741	1,560	1,453	288	206
JOINT HONOURS						
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
2024-25	654	406	1,239	678	245	131
OTHER						
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
2023-24	1,542	703	270	52	170	32
2024-25	2,772	1,383	614	249	143	33
ALL						
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
2024-25	3,367	2,237	3,413	2,380	676	369

TABLE D.1: STAFF

	Full-time				Part-time				Other	
	permanent		temporary		permanent		temporary		no.	FTE
	no.	FTE	no.	FTE	no.	FTE	no.	FTE		
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
2024-25	389	379	49	47	43	46	56	17	27	4

Summary (all staff)

	no.	FTE	% change	on leave (FTE)	effective FTE	% change	
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>
2024-25	564	379	-18.3	58	414.0	2.4	<i>excludes OU</i>

D.2: STAFF BY GRADE

	no.			%		
	Male	Female	Other preferred self-description	Male	Female	Other preferred self-description
Assoc. Lecturer						
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
2024-25	51	61	0	45.5	54.5	0
Lecturer						
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	52.3	47.7	0
2024-25	55	50	0	52.3	47.7	0
Senior Lecturer						
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
2024-25	56	78	0	41.8	58.2	0
Reader						
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
2024-25	21	15	0	58.3	41.7	0
Professor						
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	59.2	40.8	0
2024-25	81	55	1	59.1	40.1	0.7

D.3: STAFF BY CONTRACT TYPE

	no.			%		
	Male	Female	Other preferred self-description	Male	Female	Other preferred self-description
FIXED TERM/TEMPORARY						
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
2024-25	60	46	0	56.6	43.4	0
PERMANENT						
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
2024-25	185	187	1	49.6	50.1	0.3
ZERO HOURS						
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
2024-25	15	11	0	57.7	42.3	0

D.4: STAFF BY ROLE

	no.			%		
	Male	Female	Other preferred self-description	Male	Female	Other preferred self-description
RESEARCH AND TEACHING						
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
2024-25	181	170	0	51.6	48.4	0
TEACHING ONLY						
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
2024-25	58	61	0	48.7	51.3	0
RESEARCH ONLY						
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
2024-25	8	5	1	57.1	35.7	7.1

TABLE E: BEGINNERS' LANGUAGES

		Greek			Latin		
		no.	FTE	% change	no.	FTE	% change
Undergraduates	<i>2015-16+OU</i>	762	279	-6.4	740	222	-0.9
	<i>2016-17+OU</i>	660	308	10.4	935	404	82.0
	<i>2017-18+OU</i>	585	255	-17.2	821	335	-17.1
	<i>2018-19+OU</i>	607	267	4.7	829	319	-4.8
	<i>2019-20+OU</i>	678	301	12.7	795	335	5.0
	<i>2023-24+OU</i>	508	273	-9.3	971	459	37.1
	<i>2024-25+OU</i>	532	315	4.7	962	539	-1.0
Postgraduates	<i>2015-16</i>	99	36	-2.7	118	37	-5.1
	<i>2016-17</i>	97	43	19.4	156	65	75.7
	<i>2017-18</i>	97	39	-9.3	142	61	-6.2
	<i>2018-19</i>	99	40	2.6	150	61	0.0
	<i>2019-20</i>	109	42	5.0	130	57	-6.6
	<i>2023-24</i>	43	21	-49.9	89	30	-48.0
	<i>2024-25</i>	65	38	82.7	74	32	8.0

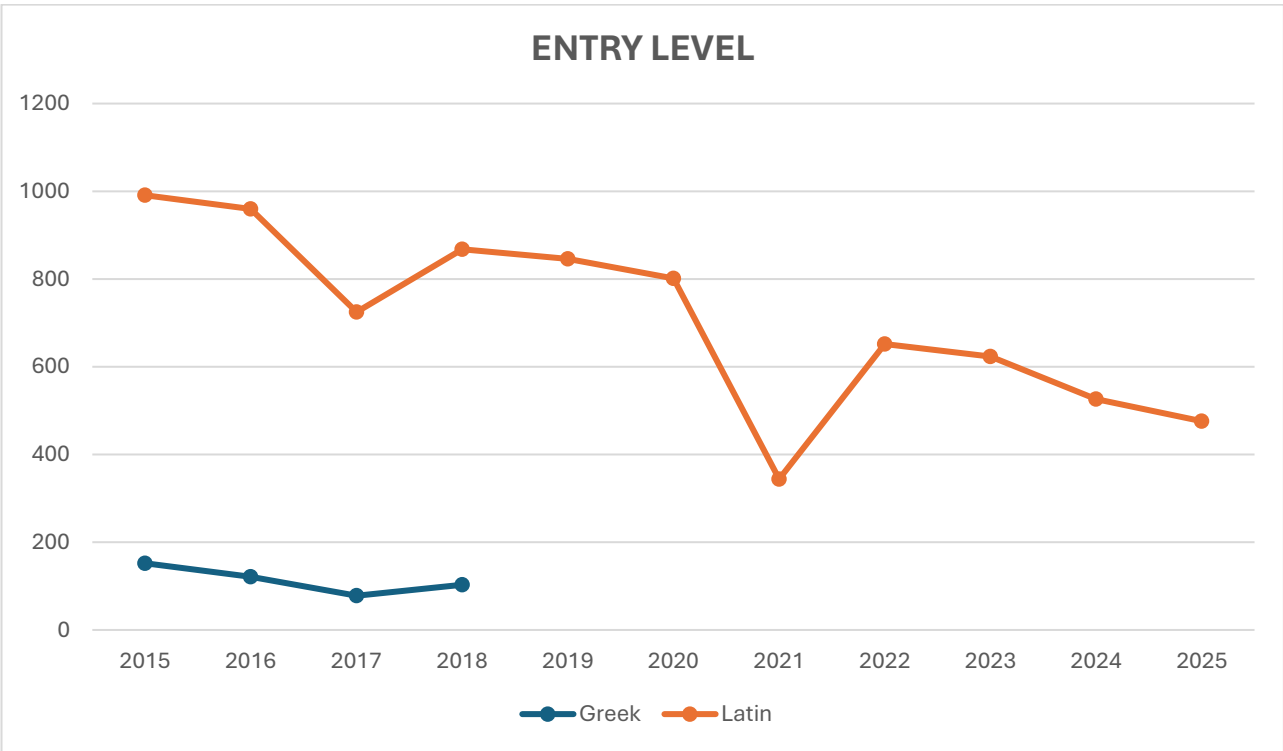
TABLE F: POSTGRADUATES

		Full-time	Part-time	Other (FTE = 0)	Total no.	FTE	% <i>change</i>
TAUGHT	2014-15	399	430	10	829	577	4.3
	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
	2024-25	344	316	0	650	481	11.9
RESEARCH		Full-time	Part-time	Other	Total no.	FTE	% <i>change</i>
	2014-15	561	173	25	759	635	4.7
	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
	2024-25	342	145	10	486	396.56	-2.8

TABLE G.1:

ENTRY LEVEL

YEAR OF ENTRY	Greek		Latin	
	No.	% change	No.	% change
2015	152	61.7	991	-25
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
2025	--	--	476	-9.51



**TABLE G.2:
GCSE**

YEAR OF ENTRY	Full Course							
	Ancient History		Class. Civ.		Greek		Latin	
	No.	% change	No.	% change	No.	% change	No.	% change
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	3,697	-9.4	1,289	6	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	1,537	24.4	5,109	12.5	888	-10	8,364	-2.3
2025	1,553	1	5,187	1.5	933	5	8,403	0.5
	Short Course							
	Ancient History		Class. Civ.		Greek		Latin	
	No.	% change	No.	% change	No.	% change	No.	% change
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	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
2025	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

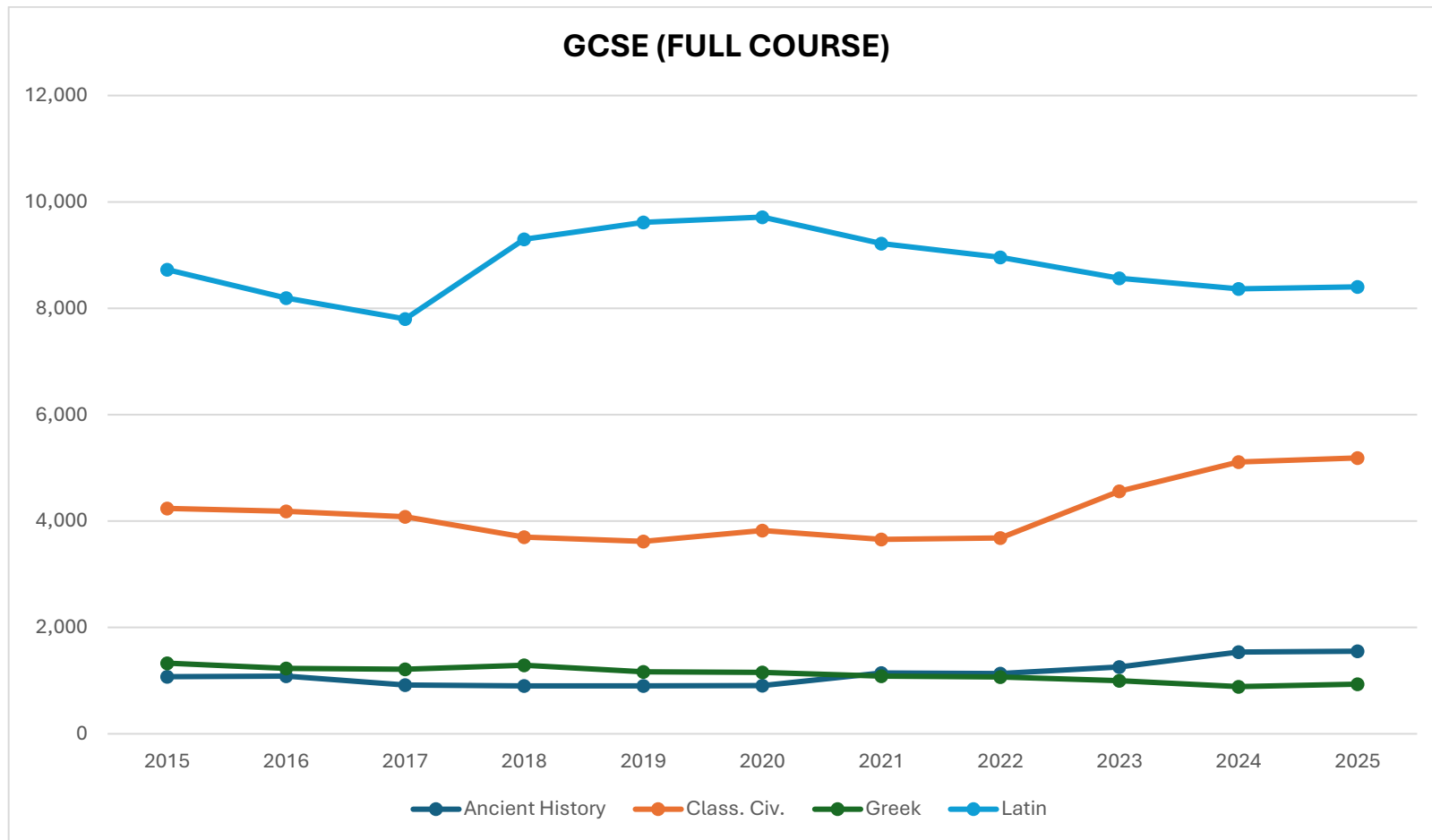


TABLE G.3:

A LEVEL + AS LEVEL

YEAR OF ENTRY	Latin		Greek		A LEVEL		Ancient History		Classics	
	No.	% change	No.	% change	Class. Civ.	% change	No.	% change	No.	% change
2015	1,285	-3	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
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	--	--
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	988	0.9	200	16.1	4,325	8.9	986	19.7	--	--
2025	989	0.1	206	3	4,123	-4.6	1,024	3.85	--	--

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	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	--	--
2025	65	44.4	29	45	224	-23.81	75	-53.70	--	--

