

Patterns in GCSE entries 2010 to 2016

August 2016

Between 2010 to 2016 in England there was a decline of 21%¹ in the number of arts GCSE entries (Art and Design, Dance, Design and Technology, Drama, Media/Film/TV Studies, Music and Performing/expressive arts) from 673,739 in 2010 to 533,329 in 2016.

Between 2015 and 2016 there was a decline of 8% in arts GCSE entries from 578,326 to 533,329. The largest year on year decline for over a decade.

England only results	2010	2015	2016		% change 2010 to 2016	% change 2015 to 2016
Art and Design subjects	172504	181117	170114		-1%	-6%
Dance	15884	11865	10762		-32%	-9%
Design and Technology	270401	192183	173532		-36%	-10%
Drama	81592	71435	68171		-16%	-5%
Media/Film/TV Studies	63808	58496	51209		-20%	-12%
Music	46045	43667	41865		-9%	-4%
Performing/expressive arts	23505	19563	17676		-25%	-10%
Total	673739	578326	533329		-21%	-8%

The number of pupils in year 11 (the year most students take GCSEs) fluctuates each year. In 2010 it was 565,660 in 2015 544,013 and in 2016 it was 530,448². A fall of 6% in pupil numbers since 2010 and 2% between 2015 and 2016.

GCSE entries in Arts subjects 2010 to 2016

England only	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Art and Design subjects	172504	167980	163818	167894	177206	181117	170114
Dance	15884	13443	12592	11856	12200	11865	10762
Design and Technology	270401	238483	226656	206044	200133	192183	173532
Drama	81592	75336	71460	70402	71399	71435	68171
Media/Film/TV Studies	63808	62915	57451	55005	59536	58496	51209
Music	46045	43127	41511	41580	42668	43667	41865
Performing/expressive arts	23505	21211	19901	19188	19607	19563	17676
Total	673739	622495	593389	571969	582749	578326	533329

¹ GCSE entry numbers are from the Joint Council for qualifications annual results tables <http://www.jcq.org.uk/examination-results/gcse>.

Dance GCSE numbers are from AQA Results Statistics http://filestore.aqa.org.uk/over/stat_pdf/AQA-GCSE-FC-STATISTICS-JUNE-2016.PDF

² Student cohort numbers are from the Department for Education *Schools, pupils and their characteristics* statistical releases <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/statistics-school-and-pupil-numbers>.