

GCSE modern languages results 2018

Today [JCQ](#) publishes [results](#) for the GCSE examinations for the 2018 cohort. Overall, nationally the population of under 16-years old who enrolled for GCSE in 2018 fell by -2.7% compared to 2017.

GCSEs are currently being **reformed** across England, Northern Ireland and Wales. Whilst the system is adjusting to the changes and anchoring standards of reformed and legacy qualifications are being established, JCQ advises that comparisons of results year on year should be made with caution (see p.3 for more information on GCSEs reform).

Within the climate of changes which has seen Other Modern Languages join the reformed curriculum this year (French, German, and Spanish spearheaded the reform in Languages in 2017), results for our subjects are very encouraging. Overall, and for the first time since 2013, all **Languages entries for GCSE have increased by 0.58%** when looking at year-on-year figures. This is a particular relevant result for our sector when taking the fall in population into account. Given results from previous years, the current situation looks particularly positive for German after having experienced the harshest fall in takers of all languages in 2017.

The languages with **increased entries** on figures from 2017 are as follows:

- German 2.03%
- Spanish 4.44%
- Welsh (as a first and second language combined) 3.94%

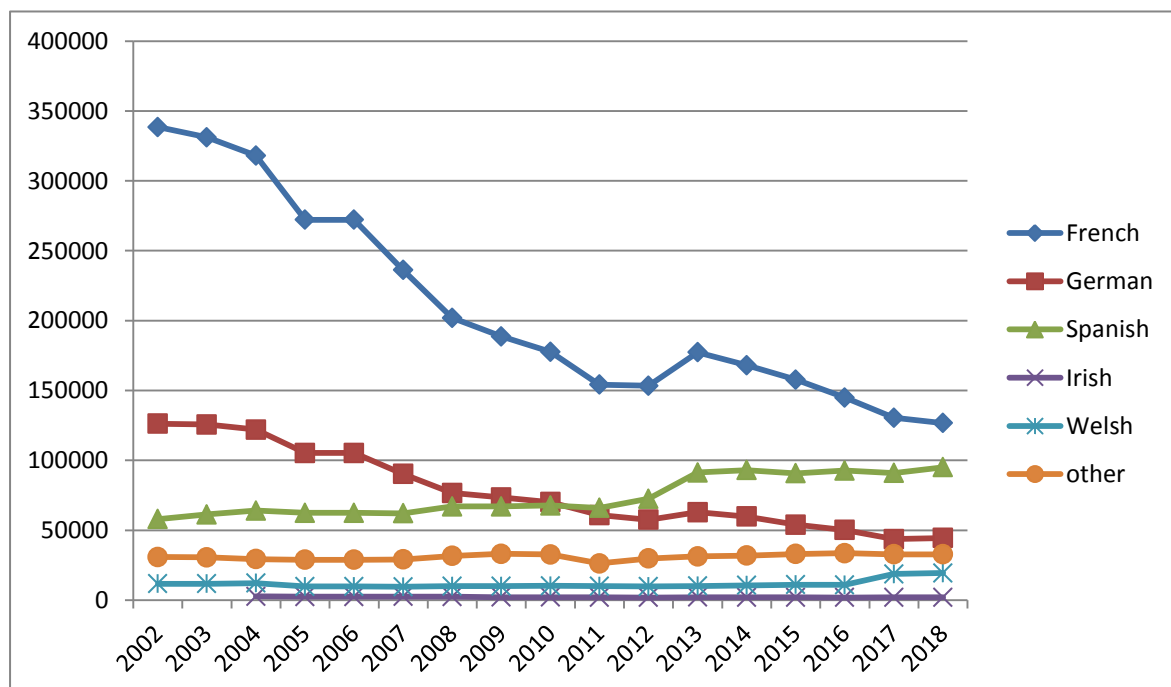
French, Irish and Other modern languages have recorded small decreases: French -2.88%, Irish - 0.2%, and Other modern languages -1.9%, which are compensated by the growth in the languages noted above overall.

For Other modern languages, it is interesting to note that, similarly to the situation for A-Levels, the highest entries can be found in Chinese, Dutch and Arabic whereas Italian, Polish, Portuguese and Russian have experienced small decreases. Results for all Other modern languages can be found [here](#).

	French	German	Spanish	Irish	Welsh	other	total
2002	338468	126216	57983		11719	30899	565285
2003	331089	125663	61323		11793	30668	560536
2004	318095	122023	64078	2708	12193	29349	548446
2005	272140	105288	62456	2507	9800	28879	481070
2006	272140	105288	62456	2507	9800	28879	481070
2007	236189	90311	62143	2560	9571	29188	429962
2008	201940	76695	67092	2421	10050	31682	389880
2009	188688	73469	67070	2165	9995	33111	374498
2010	177618	70169	67707	2165	10311	32697	360667
2011	154221	60887	66021	1966	10007	26257	319359
2012	153436	57547	72606	1879	9743	29843	325054
2013	177288	62932	91315	2080	10196	31368	375179
2014	168042	59891	93028	2024	10566	31865	365416

2015	157699	54037	90782	1980	11052	33043	348593
2016	144892	50271	92681	1905	10967	33639	334355
2017	130509	43649	91040	1995	18733	32868	318794
2018	126750	44535	95080	1991	19472	32807	320635
% change 12-13	15.55%	9.36%	25.77%	10.70%	4.65%	5.11%	15.42%
% change 13-14	-5.22%	-4.83%	1.88%	-2.69%	3.63%	1.58%	-2.60%
% change 14-15	-6.16%	-9.77%	-2.41%	-2.17%	4.60%	3.70%	-4.60%
% change 15-16	-8.12%	-6.97%	2.09%	-3.79%	-0.77%	1.80%	-4.08%
% change 16-17	-9.93%	-13.17%	-1.77%	4.72%	70.81%	-2.29%	-4.65%
% change 17-18	-2.88%	2.03%	4.44%	-0.20%	3.94%	-0.19%	0.58%
	French	German	Spanish	Irish	Welsh	Other	Total
% change 02-18	-62.55%	-64.72%	63.98%	-26.48%	66.16%	6.17%	-43.28%

GCSE entries at a glance



What are the reforms all about?

GCSEs are changing in content, grading, and assessment. In particular, the assessment is moving to a 9-1 scale and away from conventional A*-G grading.

Northern Ireland's reformed GCSEs are yet to be awarded, and both Northern Ireland and Wales are still using the unreformed grading system. Within this period of substantial changes, the Joint Council for Qualification are working towards anchoring the new system to the old one so that meaningful comparisons can be made. However, JCQ warns that caution should be exercised during this time. For additional information on how GCSEs are changing, see [here](#). For the JCQ report on the results in all subjects see [here](#).

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