# ALL website on A star Aug 2015

<http://www.all-languages.org.uk/news/news_list/a_as_level_results_2015>

**Further detail**

From David Blow, Headteacher of The Ashcombe School in Surrey, member of ASCL Data Group and technical adviser to ALL London:

*"It is highly significant that one of the three headlines in the* [*Ofqual website statement on the A-level results*](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/summer-2015-as-and-a-level-results-a-brief-explanation) *relates to the A\* in A Level Modern Languages issue.*

*The analysis of the A\* issue is extremely complex, but what is clear is that the number of A\* students in French has risen from 689 in 2014 to 837 in 2015 (a rise of 148, i.e. over 20%) whilst the number taking A Level French has dropped by 1% and the number of students gaining A + A\* has dropped by 2%. Thus, thanks to the efforts of those who have been raising the A\* issue, 1 in 5 students more have gained an A\* in French, i.e. for every 4 A\* last year, there are 5 this year. There is a similar increase in Spanish in the context of rising numbers taking Spanish. In both French and Spanish, the proportion of A\* grades has risen from 6.5% (Fr) /6.7% (Sp) to 8.1% in both. The situation in German is more complex as the subject continues to see a decline in numbers taking, and we need to see evidence about the ability profile changes in order to make a judgement.*

*We welcome the commitment by Ofqual to complete a detailed analysis of the exam papers and marks in the next few weeks, and we will press for further action in the light of the findings, as for example, the raw marks in the AQA Paper 3 in all 3 ML are still too high and well above the 2013 level criticised by Ofqual, which will continue to lead to problems in correctly ranking the most able students. Separately, there still remain the problems with the oral exam which can only be resolved with the new specifications.*

*We also need to press for action on "severe grading" at GCSE."*