



Statistics Publication Notice

Education Series

ISSN 1479-7569

SQA EXAMINATION RESULTS IN SCOTTISH SCHOOLS: 2002/03

4 November 2003

A Scottish Executive National Statistics Publication

This Statistics Publication Notice presents national and education authority level information on the cumulative attainment of National Qualifications by all pupils in publicly funded secondary schools. It updates bulletin Edn/03/2002/04 published in November 2002, which also presented school level data.

This year, school level data will be released in a new format on a website in December. A more detailed analysis of examination results, including trends in post-appeals attainment, will be published around March 2004.

The Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF) is used as the basis for reporting attainment. The SCQF levels are shown below for information.

Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework	
Level	Qualifications included
7	Advanced Higher @ A-C CSYS @ A-C
6	Higher @ A-C SCE Higher @ A-C
5	Standard Grade @ 1-2 Intermediate 2 @ A-C
4	Standard Grade @ 3-4 Intermediate 1 @ A-C
3	Standard Grade @ 5-6 Access 3 Cluster

The main findings are:

- Overall attainment in Scottish schools in 2003 was broadly similar to the levels attained in previous years. The figures are not directly comparable because the 2003 figures are before appeals whereas figures for previous years include successful appeals.
- In 2003, 91 per cent of pupils attained 5 or more awards at SCQF level 3 or better by the end of S4. Thirty three per cent attained 5 or more awards at SCQF level 5 or better by the end of S4.

- By the end of S5, 22 per cent of the previous year's S4 cohort attained 3 or more awards at SCQF level 6 or better. Nine per cent attained 5 or more awards at SCQF level 6 or better.
- By the end of S6, 19 per cent of the relevant S4 roll attained 5 or more awards at SCQF level 6 or better. Twelve per cent attained 1 or more award at SCQF level 7 or better.

The following tables are available:

Table 1 *SQA attainment in publicly funded secondary schools by the end of S4.*

Table 2 *SQA Attainment in publicly funded secondary schools by the end of S5.*

Table 3 *SQA Attainment in publicly funded secondary schools by the end of S6.*

BACKGROUND NOTES

1. National Statistics Statement

This is a National Statistics publication. National Statistics are produced to high professional standards set out in the National Statistics Code of Practice. They undergo regular quality assurance reviews to ensure that they meet customer needs. They are produced free from any political interference.

2. Sources and Definitions

2.1 Sources

Data on National Qualifications, Scottish Certificate of Education (SCE) and Certificate of Sixth Year Studies (CSYS) qualifications were obtained from the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA). They do not take into account confirmed corrections to certification post August 2003.

School roll figures were obtained from the Scottish Executive School Census as at September in the relevant year. Pupils entering or leaving the school after Census date may affect the percentages given for examination attainment. Roll figures include pupils in mainstream classes and in integrated SEN units, previous publications have counted only the mainstream roll.

Candidate Stage data (i.e. S4, S5, S6) was obtained, for the majority, from schools' management information systems. Stage was otherwise estimated to within approximately 0.5% chance of error.

2.2 Definitions

National and education authority averages do not include independent or special schools. Education authority averages include education authority secondary schools only whereas national averages include all publicly funded secondary schools.

The figures represent cumulative attainment by the end of each stage. For example, figures showing attainment by the end of S4 may include the results of Standard Grade or Intermediate courses completed by the same pupils when they were in S3.

The figures include compensatory awards. Pupils who narrowly failed to achieve an A-C in the external assessment of a national course, but successfully completed all of the internal units, were awarded a 'compensatory' A at the level of course below the one undertaken. For instance, where this was the case with a Higher course, an A at Intermediate 2 was awarded.

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Staying on rates are calculated as the estimated January roll in S5 divided by the September S4 roll in the previous year. The estimated January roll in S5 is calculated by subtracting the number of first term leavers in S5 from the September S5 roll. The S6 staying on rate is calculated by dividing the September S6 roll by the S4 roll two years before.

In order to record the attainment of an entire cohort, attainment in S5 and S6 is reported as a percentage of the relevant S4 roll. For example, attainment in S5 in 2003 is calculated as a percentage of the September S4 roll in 2001. S6 attainment is calculated from the September S4 roll in 2000.

Awards are credited to the presenting centre only. Exam results may be affected by pupils who are presented for examinations at Further Education colleges.

3. Notes

Examination results are an important indicator of performance, but not one that gives the full picture of education. These results should be considered alongside other indicators of pupils' progress, such as the quality of the learning experience and the ethos of the school.

Sometimes differences in the patterns of results from year to year may be due to fluctuations in pupils' abilities in different year groups rather than to any underlying trend in school performance. Furthermore, as already stated, examination results for 2003 are pre-appeals whereas results for 2001 and 2002 are post-appeals.

Some schools make provision for pupils with special educational needs either within their mainstream roll or in integrated SEN units. These pupils can have a significant effect on attainment patterns. However, the overall effect is heavily dependent on the number of pupils and the nature of their needs.

A low staying-on rate to S5 and S6 might be part of the explanation for a low percentage of awards.

4. Enquiries

Copies of the tables are available on the Scottish Executive's website at www.scotland.gov.uk. Public enquiries (non-media) about the information contained in this Statistics Publication Notice should be addressed to David Cruickshank, Assistant Statistician, The Scottish Executive Education Department, Education Statistics, Area 1-A West, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh EH6 6QQ. Tel. 0131 244 7976 or e-mail to: educ.outcomes.stats@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

Media enquiries about the information in this Statistics Publication Notice should be addressed to Marion MacKay (0131) 244 3070.

Table 1: SQA attainment in publicly funded secondary schools by the end of S4

	Relevant S4 Roll as at September			% S4 roll gaining 5+ awards at level 3 or better			% S4 roll gaining 5+ awards at level 4 or better			% S4 roll gaining 5+ awards at level 5 or better		
	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03
Scotland	60,138	59,998	61,035	91	91	91	77	77	76	34	34	33
Aberdeen City	2,178	2,029	2,115	91	91	91	77	75	76	32	32	34
Aberdeenshire	2,928	2,993	3,030	94	94	94	87	88	86	46	45	43
Angus	1,374	1,411	1,342	89	91	91	76	80	78	35	36	38
Argyll & Bute	1,020	965	1,078	95	96	95	84	85	82	35	39	39
Clackmannanshire	563	562	594	85	82	85	69	66	70	25	22	24
Dumfries & Galloway	1,838	1,817	1,941	92	93	93	81	80	79	39	37	37
Dundee City	1,791	1,693	1,733	83	83	82	65	64	63	23	24	21
East Ayrshire	1,549	1,564	1,526	91	91	92	74	77	79	29	35	30
East Dunbartonshire	1,577	1,620	1,633	98	97	96	88	88	85	48	51	47
East Lothian	979	1,012	1,054	89	92	93	74	79	78	33	35	36
East Renfrewshire	1,314	1,330	1,300	96	98	97	90	93	92	56	60	61
Edinburgh City	3,659	3,743	3,851	88	88	88	73	73	73	34	33	34
Eilean Siar	369	357	352	89	92	93	82	86	84	45	38	40
Falkirk	1,629	1,555	1,637	90	88	90	74	70	73	29	26	30
Fife	4,464	4,383	4,513	90	90	89	76	77	75	33	31	32
Glasgow City	5,724	5,642	5,727	85	84	85	65	64	65	21	21	20
Highland	2,724	2,832	2,763	93	93	92	84	82	81	38	38	38
Inverclyde	1,119	1,082	1,092	94	95	95	75	82	80	30	35	31
Midlothian	1,052	1,085	1,073	91	91	92	76	76	75	29	30	27
Moray	1,119	1,084	1,110	91	93	91	84	83	78	37	37	34
North Ayrshire	1,760	1,722	1,813	92	93	88	75	77	71	29	30	28
North Lanarkshire	4,374	4,252	4,336	92	92	92	75	73	74	28	28	28
Orkney Islands	255	240	289	96	97	96	90	88	86	40	42	38
Perth & Kinross	1,368	1,429	1,451	91	91	91	80	78	79	40	37	38
Renfrewshire	2,181	2,348	2,270	91	93	93	79	79	79	37	37	36
Scottish Borders	1,274	1,209	1,301	95	90	91	87	82	80	47	44	40
Shetland Islands	297	317	340	98	97	94	92	91	85	47	49	44
South Ayrshire	1,418	1,448	1,433	92	92	93	78	78	77	39	37	38
South Lanarkshire	3,805	3,772	3,790	91	91	91	77	76	76	35	33	34
Stirling	1,047	1,050	1,121	92	94	92	80	80	79	39	42	42
West Dunbartonshire	1,342	1,203	1,308	89	90	88	72	73	72	28	27	27
West Lothian	1,948	2,150	2,021	90	88	92	74	73	76	31	33	32

Note: 2003 figures are Pre-appeals.

Table 2: SQA attainment in publicly funded secondary schools by the end of S5

	Relevant S4 Roll as at September			% Staying on Rates to S5 (post Christmas)			% S4 roll gaining 1+ awards at level 6 or better			% S4 roll gaining 3+ awards at level 6 or better			% S4 roll gaining 5+ awards at level 6 or better		
	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03
Scotland	59,250	60,138	59,998	64	64	64	40	39	39	23	23	22	9	9	9
Aberdeen City	2,080	2,178	2,029	65	61	58	41	40	38	24	23	22	9	9	8
Aberdeenshire	2,864	2,928	2,993	65	63	66	46	48	48	29	31	30	12	12	12
Angus	1,419	1,374	1,411	65	63	62	44	41	41	26	26	24	10	10	9
Argyll & Bute	991	1,020	965	75	74	74	46	42	44	26	23	24	11	8	10
Clackmannanshire	556	563	562	64	64	62	32	34	29	18	18	15	6	5	5
Dumfries & Galloway	1,913	1,838	1,817	62	63	61	43	43	42	27	27	24	11	12	10
Dundee City	1,740	1,791	1,693	52	57	57	32	31	29	16	16	15	5	5	6
East Ayrshire	1,481	1,549	1,564	67	70	68	38	35	37	21	20	21	7	8	10
East Dunbartonshire	1,599	1,577	1,620	76	78	79	50	54	53	35	34	35	18	17	18
East Lothian	956	979	1,012	64	59	63	40	40	40	24	23	25	10	8	11
East Renfrewshire	1,260	1,314	1,330	81	81	83	58	63	63	40	43	43	20	23	25
Edinburgh City	3,610	3,659	3,743	62	61	63	40	40	40	25	25	23	12	12	10
Eilean Siar	349	369	357	75	79	78	48	53	52	26	28	25	8	9	7
Falkirk	1,649	1,629	1,555	65	67	65	34	36	31	18	17	15	7	7	6
Fife	4,286	4,464	4,383	63	64	63	40	39	38	23	22	20	8	9	8
Glasgow City	5,471	5,724	5,642	55	56	57	25	25	26	13	13	13	5	4	5
Highland	2,752	2,724	2,832	72	70	71	45	44	43	26	25	24	10	9	10
Inverclyde	1,106	1,119	1,082	65	69	71	39	36	40	21	20	22	8	7	8
Midlothian	1,002	1,052	1,085	60	60	61	36	35	34	20	18	16	9	7	7
Moray	1,036	1,119	1,084	68	62	64	42	42	41	24	24	21	8	7	7
North Ayrshire	1,764	1,760	1,722	63	61	64	37	34	33	20	20	16	8	9	7
North Lanarkshire	4,283	4,374	4,252	65	65	63	35	35	33	18	18	17	6	6	6
Orkney Islands	263	255	240	63	69	71	43	47	51	27	27	29	10	11	10
Perth & Kinross	1,419	1,368	1,429	71	70	66	46	44	42	29	27	26	11	13	9
Renfrewshire	2,258	2,181	2,348	63	62	64	39	40	40	22	23	22	10	9	9
Scottish Borders	1,217	1,274	1,209	68	76	67	48	50	49	29	30	27	10	11	10
Shetland Islands	283	297	317	69	63	68	48	49	52	27	27	31	6	10	11
South Ayrshire	1,509	1,418	1,448	67	70	66	44	43	40	28	27	26	14	14	12
South Lanarkshire	3,895	3,805	3,772	67	66	63	40	42	39	22	24	22	9	10	10
Stirling	990	1,047	1,050	75	73	73	48	48	48	30	30	30	15	14	13
West Dunbartonshire	1,260	1,342	1,203	66	67	67	33	33	34	18	18	15	5	6	5
West Lothian	1,890	1,948	2,150	54	58	57	35	35	35	21	20	20	8	7	8

Note: 2003 figures are Pre-appeals.

Table 3: SQA attainment in publicly funded secondary schools by the end of S6

	Relevant S4 Roll as at September			% Staying on Rates to S6 (% of S4 roll 2 years ago)			% S4 roll gaining 3+ awards at level 6 or better			% S4 roll gaining 5+ awards at level 6 or better			% S4 roll gaining 1+ awards at level 7 or better		
	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03
Scotland	58,652	59,250	60,138	46	45	46	32	31	30	20	20	19	11	12	12
Aberdeen City	2,090	2,080	2,178	42	45	44	32	33	32	20	21	20	10	14	14
Aberdeenshire	2,917	2,864	2,928	44	41	44	40	36	38	26	24	26	15	15	16
Angus	1,394	1,419	1,374	45	46	44	31	34	32	18	21	21	12	12	14
Argyll & Bute	1,035	991	1,020	56	52	52	37	36	32	23	22	20	12	14	12
Clackmannanshire	545	556	563	50	45	42	29	27	26	17	17	14	10	9	11
Dumfries & Galloway	1,755	1,913	1,838	47	45	46	36	34	34	24	23	23	15	15	15
Dundee City	1,694	1,740	1,791	38	39	41	23	23	22	13	14	13	8	8	8
East Ayrshire	1,483	1,481	1,549	44	43	43	28	28	26	17	18	17	11	11	11
East Dunbartonshire	1,601	1,599	1,577	56	55	56	46	43	43	32	31	30	19	17	18
East Lothian	874	956	979	46	47	42	32	32	32	22	22	20	14	18	18
East Renfrewshire	1,250	1,260	1,314	64	62	67	53	50	51	37	34	37	20	20	21
Edinburgh City	3,391	3,610	3,659	48	47	46	33	32	32	22	22	22	13	14	15
Eilean Siar	340	349	369	50	53	62	39	38	41	24	23	28	19	17	19
Falkirk	1,598	1,649	1,629	44	42	44	30	26	25	18	16	15	10	10	9
Fife	4,207	4,286	4,464	47	45	47	31	32	31	20	21	20	14	12	14
Glasgow City	5,528	5,471	5,724	34	33	35	19	19	18	11	11	10	5	5	5
Highland	2,697	2,752	2,724	50	53	52	36	36	34	23	22	21	11	13	12
Inverclyde	1,091	1,106	1,119	47	44	45	30	28	26	18	18	17	9	10	9
Midlothian	968	1,002	1,052	45	43	46	31	29	26	19	19	15	13	12	12
Moray	1,047	1,036	1,119	44	43	44	31	32	33	19	19	21	9	11	12
North Ayrshire	1,684	1,764	1,760	39	40	38	26	26	26	16	16	17	7	8	8
North Lanarkshire	4,349	4,283	4,374	43	42	44	28	26	25	16	15	15	8	7	7
Orkney Islands	268	263	255	50	40	52	43	36	37	25	21	24	18	16	16
Perth & Kinross	1,500	1,419	1,368	53	53	53	37	38	35	24	25	23	13	13	12
Renfrewshire	2,187	2,258	2,181	44	42	43	32	30	31	20	19	18	11	11	10
Scottish Borders	1,217	1,217	1,274	54	55	55	40	40	39	25	26	26	16	16	16
Shetland Islands	304	283	297	48	49	45	41	39	37	26	22	23	10	11	11
South Ayrshire	1,450	1,509	1,418	54	50	53	36	36	35	25	25	24	15	16	14
South Lanarkshire	3,922	3,895	3,805	46	44	45	32	30	32	20	19	20	8	9	10
Stirling	1,035	990	1,047	56	54	55	42	40	39	28	28	26	16	18	16
West Dunbartonshire	1,294	1,260	1,342	44	40	43	25	26	25	14	14	15	7	7	7
West Lothian	1,838	1,890	1,948	39	39	39	27	28	27	18	17	16	10	10	10

Note: 2003 figures are Pre-appeals.