

Statistics Publication Notice

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SQA EXAMINATION RESULTS IN SCOTTISH SCHOOLS: 2009/10

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A National Statistics Publication for Scotland

This publication presents further analysis of the Scottish Qualification Authority's 2010 pre-appeal results, published in August, for pupils taking exams at the end of the 2009/10 academic year. The analysis looks at cumulative attainment gained, over S4, S5 and S6, for publicly funded secondary schools only and is presented at a national and local authority level.

School level information will be published on www.scottishschoolsonline.gov.uk in December.

Requests for further or additional attainment analysis can be emailed to school.stats@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

Main findings:

1.1 Over the last three years there has been a gradual **increase** in attainment by the end of stages 4, 5 and 6 (Tables 2-4).

1.2 Over the last three years attainment in English and Maths at SCQF level 3 (e.g. Standard Grade Foundation) or better has remained fairly stable. In 2009/10 ninety-two per cent of pupils gained awards in English and Maths at SCQF level 3 or better. Thirty-five per cent attained five or more awards at SCQF level 5 (e.g. Standard Grade Credit) or better (Table 2).

1.3 The largest **increase** can be seen in S5 attainment, with the percentage of the S4 roll (from the previous year) achieving one or more Highers or better increasing from thirty-nine per cent in 2007/08 to forty-three per cent in 2009/10 (Table 3).

1.4 Over the last three years, the percentage of the S4 roll (from two years previous) attaining five or more Highers or better by the end of S6 **increased** to twenty-two per cent, a rise of two per cent (Table 4). In the same period the percentage attaining one or more Advanced Highers reached fourteen per cent, a **rise** of one per cent (Table 4).

1.5 Increases in attainment in S5 and S6 will be strongly related with the increasing staying on rates seen in the last three years (Tables 3-4). Staying on at school provides the pupils with the opportunity to resit exams, or enter for more advanced qualification that are usually only taken in S5 or S6, such as Highers and Advanced Highers.

2.1 When looking at cumulative attainment for a single year group we can see that as the pupils progress from S4 to S6 they increasingly attain more and higher qualifications (Table 5).

2.2 Thirty-four per cent of the S4 year group in 2007/08 gained five or more awards at SCQF level 5 (e.g. Standard Grade Credit) or better by the end of that year. This had increased by thirteen per cent when the same year group reached the end of S5 (2008/09). By the end of S6 (2009/10) it had increased by another three per cent to reach fifty per cent (Table 5).

2.3 By the end of S5, eleven per cent of the S4 year group in 2007/08 achieved five or more awards at SCQF level 6 (Higher) or better. A further eleven per cent of this year group gained awards at this level by the end of S6 (Table 5).

3.1 As has been seen in previous years a higher proportion of females than males achieved awards at all levels, by the end of all stages in 2009/10. In S5 and S6, this is partly due to higher staying on rates for females than males.

4.1 Science and Language Baccalaureates were introduced in 2009/10. There were 19 entries for Language and 119 for science giving a total of 138 Baccalaureate entries. The pass rates were eighty-nine per cent for Language and seventy-five per cent for Science. The pass rate for all Baccalaureates was seventy-seven per cent.¹

Local authority level:

5.1 Attainment levels **vary** across the local authorities with some achieving higher attainment levels than others (Tables 6-8). Performance over time also **varies** with some local authorities improving, others declining and some remaining stable.

5.2 When looking at attainment at the end of S6 the percentage of the S4 roll achieving one or more Advanced Highers or better is six per cent in Glasgow compared to twenty-seven per cent in East Renfrewshire. It is likely that these results are strongly linked to the S4 to S6 staying on rates which were forty-one per cent and seventy-four per cent respectively (Table 8). Pupils in Glasgow may decide to go to a Further Education college to continue studying or go into employment.

Contents:

Table 1: *S4 roll by year and gender*

Table 2: *S4 Attainment*

Table 3: *S5 Attainment*

Table 4: *S6 Attainment*

Table 5: *Attainment of the pupils who were in S4 in 2007/08, by the end of each stage*

¹ Please note the total figure (138) includes independent school pupils whereas the rest of the statistics notice refers to publicly-funded schools only.

Table 6: *S4 Attainment, by education authority*

Table 7: *S5 Attainment, by education authority*

Table 8 *S6 Attainment, by education authority*

Map 1: *S4 Attainment: Percentage of roll with 5+ awards at SCQF 4 or better, 2009/10
(Standard Grade General or equivalent)*

Attainment by stage and gender: 2007/08, 2008/09, 2009/10

Table 1: S4 roll by year and gender

Year	Total	Male	Female
2005/06	61,190	31,112	30,078
2006/07	61,697	31,392	30,305
2007/08	60,351	30,675	29,676
2008/09	58,452	29,622	28,830
2009/10	57,301	28,955	28,346

Table 2: S4 Attainment

Attainment by the end of S4 is calculated as a percentage of the S4 year group of that same year. See Table 1 for the roll figures which were used as a basis for calculation of the figures in this table.

Year	Percentage of the S4 year group achieving:			
	English and Maths at SCQF level 3 (e.g. Standard Grade Foundation) or better	5+ Awards at SCQF level 3 (e.g. Standard Grade Foundation) or better	5+ Awards at SCQF level 4 (e.g. Standard Grade General) or better	5+ Awards at SCQF level 5 (e.g. Standard Grade Credit) or better
2007/08				
Total	92	91	76	34
Male	91	90	74	31
Female	93	92	79	38
2008/09				
Total	93	91	78	35
Male	92	91	75	31
Female	93	92	80	39
2009/10				
Total	92	92	78	35
Male	92	92	75	31
Female	93	93	80	40

Note: 2009/10 figures are pre-appeal. In past years, the post-appeal figures are generally no more than one percentage point higher than the equivalent pre-appeal figures.

Table 3: S5 Attainment

Attainment by the end of S5 is calculated as a percentage of the S4 year group from the previous year. See Table 1 for the roll figures which were used as a basis for calculation of the figures in this table.

Year	Percentage of the S4 year group staying on to S5 (post Christmas)	Percentage of the S4 year group from the previous year achieving:		
		5+ Awards at SCQF level 5 (e.g. Standard Grade Credit) or better	1+ Awards at SCQF level 6 (e.g. Higher) or better	3+ Awards at SCQF level 6 (e.g. Higher) or better
2007/08				
Total	65	45	39	22
Male	62	41	35	20
Female	69	49	43	25
2008/09				
Total	67	47	41	23
Male	64	43	36	20
Female	71	51	45	26
2009/10				
Total	72	49	43	24
Male	69	45	38	21
Female	75	54	47	28

Table 4: S6 Attainment

Attainment by the end of S6 is calculated as a percentage of the S4 year group two years previously. See Table 1 for the roll figures which were used as a basis for calculation of the figures in this table.

Year	Percentage of the S4 year group staying on to S6	Percentage of the S4 year group two years previously achieving:		
		3+ Awards at SCQF level 6 (Higher) or better	5+ Awards at SCQF level 6 (Higher) or better	1+ Awards at SCQF level 7 (Advanced Higher) or better
2007/08				
Total	45	30	20	13
Male	41	26	17	11
Female	50	34	23	14
2008/09				
Total	45	31	21	14
Male	42	27	18	12
Female	49	35	23	15
2009/10				
Total	50	33	22	14
Male	46	29	19	13
Female	54	37	25	16

Note: 2009/10 figures are pre-appeal. In past years, the post-appeal figures are generally no more than one percentage point higher than the equivalent pre-appeal figures.

Cumulative attainment for a single year group

Table 5 allows the academic progression of an entire year group to be seen as they move through the various stages of high school education. Shown below are the achievements of the 60,351 pupils who started S4 in 2007/08 by the end of S4 (2007/08), S5 (2008/09) and S6 (2009/10). Note that not all 60,351 pupils did stay on to S5 and/or S6.

Table 5: Attainment of the pupils who were in S4 in 2007/08, by the end of each stage

Number of pupils in S4 in 2007/08	By end of Stage	Percentage of the S4 year group achieving:							
		English and Maths at SCQF level 3 or better	5+ Awards at SCQF level 3 or better	5+ Awards at SCQF level 4 or better	5+ Awards at SCQF level 5 or better	1+ Awards at SCQF level 6 or better	3+ Awards at SCQF level 6 or better	5+ Awards at SCQF level 6 or better	1+ Awards at SCQF level 7 or better
Total 60,351	S4	92	91	76	34	1	0	0	0
	S5	93	91	79	47	41	23	11	0
	S6	93	91	79	50	46	33	22	14
Male 30,675	S4	91	90	74	31	0	0	0	0
	S5	92	90	76	43	36	20	9	0
	S6	92	90	77	46	42	29	19	13
Female 29,676	S4	93	92	79	38	1	0	0	0
	S5	93	92	81	51	45	26	12	0
	S6	94	92	82	55	51	37	25	16

Note: 2009/10 figures are pre-appeal. In past years, the post-appeal figures are generally no more than one percentage point higher than the equivalent pre-appeal figures. Attainment by local authority from 1998/99 is available in an excel spreadsheet at: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/School-Education/Datasets>

Table 6: S4 Attainment, by education authority

Attainment by the end of S4 is calculated as a percentage of the S4 year group of that same year. See Map 1 for illustration

Education Authority	S4 Roll as at September			Percentage of the S4 group achieving:											
				English and Maths at SCQF level 3 (e.g. Standard Grade Foundation) or better			5+ Awards at SCQF level 3 (e.g. Standard Grade Foundation) or better			5+ Awards at SCQF level 4 (e.g. Standard Grade General) or better			5+ Awards at SCQF level 5 (e.g. Standard Grade Credit) or better		
	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10
Scotland	60,351	58,452	57,301	92	93	92	91	91	92	76	78	78	34	35	35
Aberdeen City	2,015	1,877	1,959	93	94	94	89	91	92	71	73	76	33	31	36
Aberdeenshire	3,069	3,035	2,886	96	96	94	94	95	94	84	85	83	41	39	41
Angus	1,394	1,319	1,387	92	92	91	91	91	92	80	78	75	37	34	34
Argyll & Bute	1,037	1,041	1,018	95	92	93	94	92	94	84	81	83	37	36	38
Clackmannanshire	633	560	546	89	93	94	91	93	95	75	77	74	27	28	28
Dumfries & Galloway	1,830	1,890	1,827	89	92	92	91	92	92	78	78	79	35	38	38
Dundee City	1,661	1,572	1,425	85	89	88	82	86	86	64	69	66	24	28	25
East Ayrshire	1,575	1,472	1,410	89	92	88	89	90	89	71	75	70	29	32	28
East Dunbartonshire	1,400	1,392	1,362	97	99	97	98	99	97	91	91	91	52	51	55
East Lothian	1,146	1,098	1,076	94	96	94	94	95	96	81	84	83	39	38	38
East Renfrewshire	1,379	1,417	1,429	87	86	85	95	95	95	89	90	89	63	62	65
Edinburgh City	3,746	3,557	3,629	92	92	92	89	90	90	76	77	76	36	38	37
Eilean Siar	376	309	335	95	98	93	93	97	93	78	90	83	39	43	39
Falkirk	1,790	1,629	1,775	91	95	95	89	92	93	72	77	79	33	35	34
Fife	4,261	4,193	4,090	92	92	93	90	90	92	75	75	76	31	32	31
Glasgow City	5,520	5,380	5,166	87	88	89	85	86	89	66	65	68	22	24	23
Highland	2,885	2,789	2,710	94	92	92	92	92	92	81	82	82	38	38	39
Inverclyde	1,007	893	938	95	96	95	94	95	96	81	80	81	34	37	34
Midlothian	1,074	1,004	1,056	96	93	93	92	90	90	78	81	76	35	33	31
Moray	1,178	1,098	1,122	92	94	94	90	92	93	81	83	83	37	40	37
North Ayrshire	1,746	1,710	1,625	90	95	96	88	92	95	68	73	74	26	29	29
North Lanarkshire	4,230	4,051	3,986	93	93	92	92	92	92	76	77	78	31	32	32
Orkney Islands	278	260	282	93	94	96	93	94	94	82	86	85	37	42	40
Perth & Kinross	1,556	1,524	1,421	92	94	95	91	91	94	78	79	78	39	36	40
Renfrewshire	2,212	2,107	1,998	95	94	93	94	93	94	79	80	81	35	39	37
Scottish Borders	1,356	1,312	1,329	90	92	92	88	90	92	77	80	80	39	40	41
Shetland Islands	332	299	305	94	96	95	95	97	97	90	90	91	49	46	47
South Ayrshire	1,340	1,367	1,257	93	93	93	92	91	94	76	77	82	38	38	41
South Lanarkshire	3,775	3,866	3,626	92	93	92	90	91	91	75	78	76	35	34	35
Stirling	1,171	1,067	1,066	91	93	92	89	91	91	77	79	77	42	41	42
West Dunbartonshire	1,173	1,125	1,109	93	93	94	93	93	93	76	73	73	30	30	31
West Lothian	2,107	2,144	2,053	95	95	93	95	95	95	78	79	81	34	37	33

Note: 2009/10 figures are pre-appeal. In past years, the post-appeal figures are generally no more than one percentage point higher than the equivalent pre-appeal figures. Attainment by local authority from 1998/99 is available in an excel spreadsheet at: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/School-Education/Datasets>

Table 7: S5 Attainment, by education authority

Attainment by the end of S5 is calculated as a percentage of the S4 year group from the previous year.

Education Authority	Relevant S4 Roll as at September			Percentage of the S4 year group staying on to S5 (post Christmas)			Percentage of the S4 year group from the previous year achieving:								
	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	5+ Awards at SCQF level 5 (e.g. Standard Grade Credit) or better			1+ Awards at SCQF level 6 (Higher) or better			3+ Awards at SCQF level 6 (Higher) or better		
	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10
Scotland	61,697	60,351	58,452	65	67	72	45	47	49	39	41	43	22	23	24
Aberdeen City	2,076	2,015	1,877	60	59	65	41	43	43	37	39	40	22	24	22
Aberdeenshire	3,154	3,069	3,035	64	64	69	53	52	52	44	44	45	27	27	26
Angus	1,438	1,394	1,319	60	63	66	43	50	49	38	44	41	22	24	22
Argyll & Bute	1,110	1,037	1,041	80	87	81	52	51	53	45	46	47	25	24	23
Clackmannanshire	604	633	560	62	62	71	39	40	43	33	33	39	16	16	18
Dumfries & Galloway	1,825	1,830	1,890	66	67	71	48	47	50	42	41	44	25	23	24
Dundee City	1,660	1,661	1,572	58	56	63	37	35	41	32	31	36	17	16	20
East Ayrshire	1,607	1,575	1,472	61	61	68	40	41	45	35	35	41	18	20	22
East Dunbartonshire	1,642	1,400	1,392	80	80	86	64	66	68	57	59	61	39	40	42
East Lothian	1,131	1,146	1,098	65	68	74	49	52	54	41	45	45	25	27	26
East Renfrewshire	1,363	1,379	1,417	87	90	89	72	74	75	67	68	70	47	49	53
Edinburgh City	3,875	3,746	3,557	67	68	74	47	49	52	41	42	46	26	27	28
Eilean Siar	346	376	309	70	74	80	52	53	62	44	46	51	27	27	24
Falkirk	1,766	1,790	1,629	69	69	78	43	45	51	37	39	44	19	21	25
Fife	4,353	4,261	4,193	62	65	68	42	45	45	36	37	39	19	21	22
Glasgow City	5,678	5,520	5,380	59	64	64	33	34	37	28	29	32	15	13	16
Highland	2,908	2,885	2,789	72	76	78	50	52	53	43	44	45	24	26	26
Inverclyde	1,034	1,007	893	65	77	72	46	46	48	36	39	42	21	22	23
Midlothian	1,089	1,074	1,004	65	62	72	46	46	48	36	38	39	18	23	19
Moray	1,181	1,178	1,098	67	65	72	48	49	54	42	41	45	21	22	24
North Ayrshire	1,823	1,746	1,710	56	57	68	39	38	43	31	32	36	19	18	19
North Lanarkshire	4,379	4,230	4,051	60	65	71	40	44	46	33	38	40	17	20	20
Orkney Islands	267	278	260	67	62	67	57	54	56	47	44	45	28	27	30
Perth & Kinross	1,513	1,556	1,524	69	70	71	46	52	51	40	46	47	24	28	27
Renfrewshire	2,168	2,212	2,107	69	68	74	47	47	52	41	40	45	23	22	26
Scottish Borders	1,396	1,356	1,312	65	63	70	50	50	53	42	44	44	26	26	26
Shetland Islands	312	332	299	68	71	69	53	64	58	44	52	47	29	32	30
South Ayrshire	1,416	1,340	1,367	67	69	74	46	50	51	40	44	46	24	28	29
South Lanarkshire	3,972	3,775	3,866	66	71	76	45	49	49	37	43	43	21	24	24
Stirling	1,151	1,171	1,067	73	75	81	49	53	54	45	49	52	29	33	34
West Dunbartonshire	1,202	1,173	1,125	63	66	72	38	42	44	35	36	38	17	19	17
West Lothian	2,159	2,107	2,144	64	67	70	45	47	49	37	41	42	22	21	23

Note: 2009/10 figures are pre-appeal. In past years, the post-appeal figures are generally no more than one percentage point higher than the equivalent pre-appeal figures. Attainment by local authority from 1998/99 is available in an excel spreadsheet at: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/School-Education/Datasets>

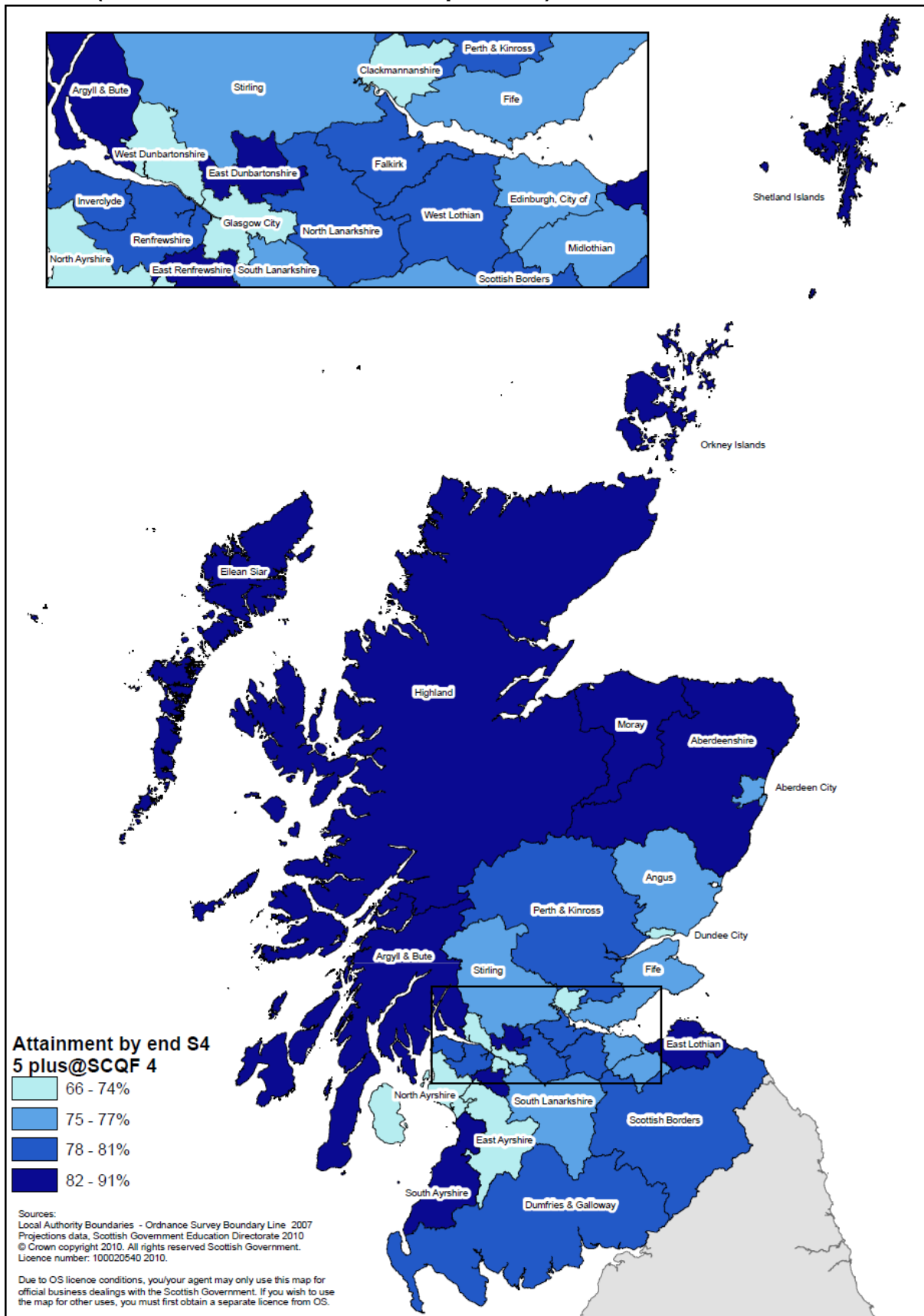
Table 8: S6 Attainment, by education authority

Attainment by the end of S6 is calculated as a percentage of the S4 year group two years previously.

Education Authority	Relevant S4 Roll as at September			Percentage of the S4 year group staying on to S6			Percentage of the S4 year group from two years previously achieving:								
	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	3+ Awards at SCQF level 6			5+ Awards at SCQF level 6			1+ Awards at SCQF level 7		
							2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10
Scotland	61,190	61,697	60,351	45	45	50	30	31	33	20	21	22	13	14	14
Aberdeen City	2,017	2,076	2,015	42	38	43	32	30	33	22	21	23	14	14	16
Aberdeenshire	3,133	3,154	3,069	43	42	44	35	35	35	23	25	24	16	17	16
Angus	1,416	1,438	1,394	41	39	48	28	30	35	18	20	23	12	14	16
Argyll & Bute	1,057	1,110	1,037	52	57	60	31	36	34	19	23	22	13	17	15
Clackmannanshire	576	604	633	43	40	48	24	26	27	14	17	18	11	14	16
Dumfries & Galloway	1,923	1,825	1,830	49	47	51	33	33	34	21	23	22	15	15	13
Dundee City	1,686	1,660	1,661	37	40	40	22	25	25	14	17	15	11	13	12
East Ayrshire	1,621	1,607	1,575	38	38	44	26	26	28	16	16	18	10	10	12
East Dunbartonshire	1,593	1,642	1,400	54	61	66	46	49	52	32	37	38	23	26	26
East Lothian	1,149	1,131	1,146	47	47	56	33	34	37	23	24	25	16	16	19
East Renfrewshire	1,379	1,363	1,379	67	72	74	52	59	61	38	42	46	24	28	27
Edinburgh City	3,831	3,875	3,746	47	51	55	32	35	36	21	24	25	14	18	18
Eilean Siar	371	346	376	55	51	51	40	37	37	28	23	25	20	16	17
Falkirk	1,789	1,766	1,790	44	47	49	26	30	31	15	17	19	11	11	13
Fife	4,327	4,353	4,261	42	42	46	27	28	29	18	18	19	12	14	15
Glasgow City	5,465	5,678	5,520	37	38	41	20	22	22	12	13	13	7	7	6
Highland	2,843	2,908	2,885	50	52	57	34	34	37	22	22	25	12	13	16
Inverclyde	1,059	1,034	1,007	48	48	57	27	29	32	19	19	22	12	11	12
Midlothian	1,107	1,089	1,074	44	46	48	28	29	31	17	17	20	13	15	16
Moray	1,132	1,181	1,178	45	40	44	31	30	32	19	18	20	13	13	14
North Ayrshire	1,811	1,823	1,746	40	40	43	25	26	26	16	17	16	8	10	10
North Lanarkshire	4,243	4,379	4,230	42	40	48	25	25	30	16	16	18	8	8	9
Orkney Islands	311	267	278	51	44	48	38	37	37	26	26	23	19	18	19
Perth & Kinross	1,576	1,513	1,556	46	49	52	33	32	38	24	21	26	17	14	20
Renfrewshire	2,270	2,168	2,212	47	48	49	30	32	31	19	21	19	13	14	12
Scottish Borders	1,407	1,396	1,356	49	47	52	33	35	37	21	25	25	16	17	17
Shetland Islands	349	312	332	46	46	46	38	35	43	26	26	29	15	17	12
South Ayrshire	1,403	1,416	1,340	46	47	54	30	31	36	21	22	26	14	17	17
South Lanarkshire	3,848	3,972	3,775	45	44	52	32	30	33	20	19	22	12	11	12
Stirling	1,086	1,151	1,171	56	56	63	37	38	43	27	27	31	18	17	22
West Dunbartonshire	1,225	1,202	1,173	40	41	50	25	25	29	15	16	19	8	10	12
West Lothian	2,089	2,159	2,107	46	44	50	30	29	31	18	19	20	11	12	13

Note: 2009/10 figures are pre-appeal. In past years, the post-appeal figures are generally no more than one percentage point higher than the equivalent pre-appeal figures. Attainment by local authority from 1998/99 is available in an excel spreadsheet at: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/School-Education/Datasets>

Map 1: S4 Attainment: Percentage of roll with 5+ awards at SCQF 4 or better, 2009/10 (Standard Grade General or equivalent)



BACKGROUND NOTES

1. Sources and Definitions

1.1 Sources

Data on National Qualifications were obtained from the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA). They do not take into account confirmed corrections to certification post-August 2010.

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
6	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

Any attainment below SCQF level 3 is not reported on in this publication.

School roll figures were obtained from the Scottish Government 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 "special" units.

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.

1.2 Changes to National Qualifications

Skills for work courses - Since 2006/07 "Skills for Work" courses have been widely available in secondary schools.

"Skills for Work" courses are practical courses, which have been developed by the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) to enable and encourage young people in S3 and above to develop important knowledge and skills, useful for both employment and for life. These courses are intended to provide pathways to employment, training or further education. Learning is mainly practical and takes place in schools, colleges and other work-related settings. Courses available during the period covered by this publication are at Access, Intermediate and Higher levels.

The number of "Skills for Work" courses completed continues to grow.

1.3 Definitions

The national and education authority averages referred to in this publication 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.

For Standard Grade, only awards at 1-6 are included. Candidates are awarded a grade dependent on their performance against set criteria and there are 3 levels of award – credit (grades 1&2), general (grades 3&4) and foundation (grades 5&6). A '7' is awarded where a candidate completes/passes the course but not at a level of performance required to gain one of the other 6 grades.

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.

In order to record the attainment of an entire year group, attainment in S5 and S6 is reported as a percentage of the relevant S4 roll. For example, attainment in S5 in 2009/10 is calculated as a percentage of the S4 roll in September 2008. S6 attainment is calculated from the S4 roll in September 2007. The roll figures are available in table 1.

The S5 staying on rates are calculated as the estimated January roll in S5 divided by the previous year's S4 roll as at September. 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.

2. 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, examination results for 2009/10 are pre-appeals whereas results for 2007/08 and 2008/09 are post-appeals. In past years, the post-appeal figures are generally no more than one percentage point higher than the equivalent pre-appeal figure.

Special schools providing for pupils with additional support needs are excluded from the data provided below. Those authorities without special schools will, therefore, have proportionately more pupils with additional support needs in mainstream schools and this 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 additional support needs.

Staying on rates affect the potential of a year group to gain awards in S5 and S6; therefore, a low staying on rate may be part of the explanation for a low percentage of awards at these stages.

3. Enquiries

Copies of the tables are available at <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/stats/bulletins/00853>

Data on attainment by local authority for previous years is available in an excel spreadsheet at <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/School-Education/Datasets>

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