

SQA EXAMINATION RESULTS 2012 Post-Appeal

This briefing note follows on from the initial SQA analysis in August 2012 and provides a concise analysis of the 11 measures of SQA attainment as at August 2012. Data is post-appeal and results for 2012 are rounded to 1 decimal point. The content of this briefing paper will be shared with Elected Members as a verbal update at the Education, Culture and Sport Committee on 30th May 2013.

SUMMARY

The SQA examination results for 2012 have now been updated after completion of the annual SQA appeals process.

Appeal Analysis:

- At *Standard Grade level* (SCQF¹ level 3, SCQF level 4 and SCQF level 5) out of 917 appeals 52% were successful,
- At *Intermediate 1 level* (SCQF level 4) out of 43 appeals 51% were successful,
- At *Intermediate 2 level* (SCQF level 5) out of 167 appeals 37% were successful,
- At *Higher level* (SCQF level 6) out of 435 appeals 37% were successful, and
- At *Advanced Higher level* (SCQF level 7) out of 92 appeals 60% were successful.

Aberdeen City: SQA Appeals Analysis (diet 2012)

Level	Entries	Appeals	Appeals as a % of Entries	Successful Appeals			Unsuccessful Appeals		
				Number	as a % of Appeals	as a % of Entries	Number	as a % of Appeals	as a % of Entries
Standard Grade	21,542	917	4%	475	52%	2%	442	48%	2%
Intermediate 1	1,665	43	3%	22	51%	1%	21	49%	1%
Intermediate 2	2,769	167	6%	61	37%	2%	106	63%	4%
Higher	4,537	435	10%	162	37%	4%	273	63%	6%
Advanced Higher	792	92	12%	55	60%	7%	37	40%	5%

¹ Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF)

Out of 11 National Priority measures, 6 have changed on post appeal results:

- 5+ awards at SCQF Level 4 or Better by the End of S4 from 75% to 76%
- 5+ awards at SCQF Level 5 or Better by the End of S4 from 33% to 34%
- 1+ Awards at SCQF Level 6 or Better by the End of S5 from 42% to 43%
- 1+ Awards at SCQF Level 6 or Better by the End of S5 from 46% to 47%

When compared to 2011 the 2012 results show:

- increase in one and decrease in two key S4 measures,
- increase in one and decrease in two key S5 measures,
- increase in all key S6 measures.

Examination results are an important indicator of performance, but don't give 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.

Attainment by the end of S4

Attainment by the end of S4 is calculated as a percentage of the S4 year group of that same year. The post-appeal results for 2012 show decreases in three out of four key S4 measures. Lower SQA examination performance does not mean that pupils' achievements are less than expected. All pupils in Aberdeen City take a baseline assessment² at the start of S1 and this is a predictor of future attainment at S4. Average baseline attainment varies between schools significantly. Many pupils achieve better attainment in S4 than predicted by baseline assessment.

- The percentage of pupils achieving **English and Mathematics at SCQF level 3 or better by the end of S4 (Foundation Level)** decreased for the second consecutive year and was well below the national pattern. The 2012 value is the

² 'MidYIS, the Middle Years Information System developed by Durham University, provides new and innovative tests widely used in the UK and elsewhere, forming a baseline for Value Added measures in secondary schools. The tests are designed to measure, as far as possible, ability and aptitude for learning rather than achievement.'
(<http://www.cemcentre.org/RenderPage.asp?LinkID=11410000>)

lowest since 2001. The English and Maths attainment by the end of S4 in most previous years was above the national pattern.

S4 Eng & Maths Level3	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Aberdeen City	92.7	93.7	91.8	92.7	94.5	94.9	92.3	90.6
Comparators	89.9	91.5	91.0	92.3	92.6	92.9	93.4	94.0
National	90.5	91.2	91.5	91.9	92.8	93.0	93.3	94.1

- The percentage of pupils achieving **5 or more awards at SCQF level 3 or better by the end of S4** (Foundation level) decreased by 1% for the second consecutive year and was well below the national and comparator authorities' average. The 2012 value is ranked 10th out of 12 years.

S4 5+ Level 3	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Aberdeen City	91.2	90.5	87.9	89.4	91.2	92.0	91.0	89.8
Comparators	88.7	89.7	90.0	90.1	90.6	91.8	92.7	94.3
National	90.2	90.7	90.6	90.7	91.5	92.4	92.7	93.9

- Percentage of pupils achieving **5 or more awards at SCQF Level 4 or better by the end of S4 (General level)** was well below the national pattern and in most previous years was below the national pattern. The 2012 value is ranked 5th out of 12 years.

S4 5+Level 4	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Aberdeen City	77.1	75.0	71.5	71.1	73.0	76.1	75.6	75.7
Comparators	74.5	75.3	75.2	75.8	77.2	78.1	77.7	79.7
National	76.1	76.8	75.6	76.3	77.6	78.3	78.8	80.2

- The percentage of pupils achieving **5 or more awards at SCQF level 5 or better by the end of S4 (Credit level)** increased by 1% but in 2012 and in most previous years was below the national and comparator authorities' pattern. Our baseline assessments predicted a decrease to 28%. 2012 value is ranked 4th out of 12 years.

S4 5+ Level 5	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Aberdeen City	33.7	35.2	31.8	32.9	31.0	36.0	33.4	34.1
Comparators	34.6	34.0	33.4	34.1	36.6	36.9	36.9	38.3
National	34.2	34.8	33.1	34.5	35.4	36.1	36.4	37.4

Attainment by the end of S5

Attainment by the end of S5 is calculated as a percentage of the S4 year group. From the previous year the S4 to S5 staying on rate has had an effect on the measures of attainment by the end of S5. Staying on rates in Aberdeen have generally been lower than the national rate. S4 to S5 (post Christmas) staying on rate in Aberdeen in 2012 was 69%.

The post-appeal results for 2012 show an increase in one and decrease in three out of four key S5 measures.

- The percentage of pupils achieving **5 or more awards at SCQF level 5 or better by the end of S4 (Credit level)** decreased in 2012 and was well below the national pattern and in all previous years was below the national pattern. The 2012 value is the second highest since 2001 NCD values indicate that the 2012 value for this measure is in line with expectations based on the value for 5+ Level 5 by the end of S4 in 2011.

S5 5+ Level 5	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Aberdeen City	45.3	45.3	45.5	41.3	42.8	43.1	47.7	47.0
Comparators	44.9	45.4	44.5	45.7	46.8	50.4	52.4	52.2
National	45.5	44.8	45.8	45.1	47.0	49.3	50.8	52.1

- The percentage of pupils achieving **1 or more awards at SCQF level 6 (Higher Grade A-C) or better by the end of S5** increased by 2 % This is an increase for four consecutive years but still well below national and comparator authorities' average. The value for this measure is in line with expectations based on the value for 5+ Level 5 by the end of S4 in 2011. The 2012 value is the highest since 2001.

S5 1+ Level 6	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Aberdeen City	39.3	39.0	39.4	36.8	39.2	40.0	40.6	42.8
Comparators	38.4	39.0	38.1	39.7	40.9	44.9	46.5	47.0
National	38.8	38.0	38.5	38.7	40.7	43.3	44.9	46.8

- The percentage of pupils achieving **3 or more awards at Higher Grade A-C or better by the end of S5** decreased by more than 2% in 2012. Attainment at this measure in 2012 was well below the national and comparator authorities' average and in most previous years was in line with the national pattern. NCD values indicate that the 2012 value for this measure is in line with expectations based on the value for 5+ Level 5 by the end of S4 in 2011.

S5 3+ Level 6	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Aberdeen City	24.0	22.0	24.4	22.1	23.7	22.8	27.2	24.6
Comparators	22.7	22.8	21.9	23.3	23.9	26.6	27.1	27.3
National	22.7	21.7	22.1	22.4	23.4	25.0	26.3	27.2

Attainment by the end of S6

As attainment by the end of S6 is calculated from the relevant S4 roll, the S4 to S6 staying on rate has an effect on the measures of attainment by the end of S6.

Staying on rates in Aberdeen have generally been lower than the national rate, however 2010 saw a substantial jump in the number of pupils staying on both in Aberdeen and across Scotland. Staying on rate in Aberdeen in 2012 was up 2 points to 48%.

- The percentage of pupils achieving **1 or more awards at SCQF level 6 (Higher Grade A-C) or better by the end of S6** increased significantly but still was well below the national pattern. The 2012 value is the highest since 2001 and in most previous years was in line with the national pattern. NCD values indicate that the 2012 value for this measure is in line with expectations based on the value for 5+ Level 5 by the end of S4 in 2010. The value for this measure has increased each year since 2009.

S6 1+ level 6	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Aberdeen City	44.8	44.1	43.8	44.3	41.1	44.0	44.5	46.8
Comparators	43.3	42.7	43.9	43.2	45.6	47.4	52.4	54.2
National	43.1	43.0	42.5	43.2	44.2	46.6	49.7	51.8

- The percentage of pupils achieving **3 or more awards at SCQF level 6 (Higher Grade A-C) or better by the end of S6 significantly** increased in 2012. The 2012 value is the highest since 2001 and in most previous years was in line with the national pattern. NCD values indicate that the 2012 value for this measure is in line with expectations based on the value for 5+ Level 5 by the end of S4 in 2010.

S6 3+ level 6	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Aberdeen City	32.6	32.2	29.7	32.5	30.3	32.9	31.9	35.4
Comparators	30.7	29.9	30.6	29.6	32.4	33.4	37.8	38.4
National	30.1	30.0	29.4	30.0	31.0	33.2	35.3	36.8

- Percentage of pupils achieving **5 or more awards at SCQF level 6 (Higher at A-C) 6 or better by the end of S6** significantly increased in 2012, and was above the national pattern and in all previous years was in line with the national pattern. The 2012 value is the highest since 2001. NCD values indicate that the 2012 value for this measure is notably better than expectations based on the value for 5+ Level 5 by the end of S4 in 2010.

S6 5+ level 6	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Aberdeen City	21.9	22.1	20.5	21.7	20.6	23.0	22.2	26.8
Comparators	20.1	19.9	19.9	19.5	21.9	22.4	25.8	27.0
National	19.4	19.7	19.2	19.7	20.5	22.3	23.9	25.7

- The percentage of pupils achieving **1 or more awards at SCQF level 7 (Advanced Higher at A-C) or better by the end of S6** increased by 2% in 2012 and was above the national pattern. The 2012 value is the highest since 2001. NCD values indicate that the 2012 value for this measure is notably better than expectations based on the value for 5+ Level 5 by the end of S4 in 2010. The value for this measure has increased each year since 2009.

S6 1+ level 7	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Aberdeen City	16.5	15.7	14.0	14.3	13.8	16.6	17.2	19.2
Comparators	12.8	13.5	13.6	13.3	15.9	15.7	17.5	18.6
National	12.1	12.5	12.2	12.7	13.5	14.6	15.8	16.4

Subjects/Courses

At **Standard Grade** in 2012 the following subjects or courses had positive or negative relative values (pupils did better or worse on average in this subject than the other subjects they sat). Subjects or courses for which patterns are strong are highlighted in green or red.

S4 Courses 2012

Pattern	Positive	Negative
Trend	Int1 French, SG Spanish, SG Chemistry, SG Physics, SG Soc & Voc Skills, SG Religious Studies	Int2 English, Int1 Mathematics, SG Technological Studies
Current Year	SG German, SG Science , Int2 Physical Education	Int1 English, Int2 Mathematics, Int1 Physics , Int2 Geography, Int2 Modern Studies, Int1 Administration

S4 Subjects 2012

Pattern	Positive	Negative
Trend	French, German, Chemistry	Graphic Comm, <i>Art and Design, Drama</i>
Current Year	Modern Studies	<i>Spanish, Mathematics</i>

At **Higher Grade** in 2012 the following courses had positive or negative progression values (pupils did better or worse on average in this subject than the other subjects they sat). Subjects or courses for which patterns are strong are highlighted in green or red.

S5 Courses 2012

Pattern	Positive	Negative
Trend	H French, Int2 Chemistry, H Chemistry	H Graphic Communication, <i>H Art & Design, H Drama</i>
Current Year	Int2 Media Studies, H Mathematics, H Biology, H Product Design	<i>Int2 English, H Accounting, Int2 Administration, H Administration, Int2 Computing, H Computing, H RMP Studies</i>

S5/S6 Courses

Pattern	Positive	Negative
Trend	H French, H Chemistry	H Administration, <i>H Art & Design, H Drama</i>
Current Year	Int2 Media Studies, H Mathematics, H Biology, Int2 Chemistry, Int1 Travel and Tourism	Int2 English, Int2 Spanish, Int2 Administration, <i>Int2 Computing, H Computing, H RMP Studies</i>

S6 Cumulative Higher Courses

Pattern	Positive	Negative
Trend	H Chemistry, H Philosophy	H Technological Studies
Current Year	H Media Studies, H Mathematics, H Biology , H Modern Studies, H Computing, H Physical Education	

The main point of contact for this briefing note is:
 Ljiljana Pavlenic, DO Performance Improvement (Schools)
 (☎523241 ✉lpavlenic@aberdeencity.gov.uk)