

Appendix B

SQA EXAMINATION RESULTS 2013

Briefing Synopsis:

This briefing note follows on from the initial SQA analysis in August 2013 and provides analysis of the 11 measures of SQA attainment as at September 2013. Data is pre-appeal¹ and covers the following courses: National Courses, Access Courses, and Standard Grades. Results prior to 2012 are post-appeal. Aberdeen City results for 2013 are rounded to 0dp. The main points of contact for this briefing note are: James Martin, Team Leader – Performance Improvement (☎522058

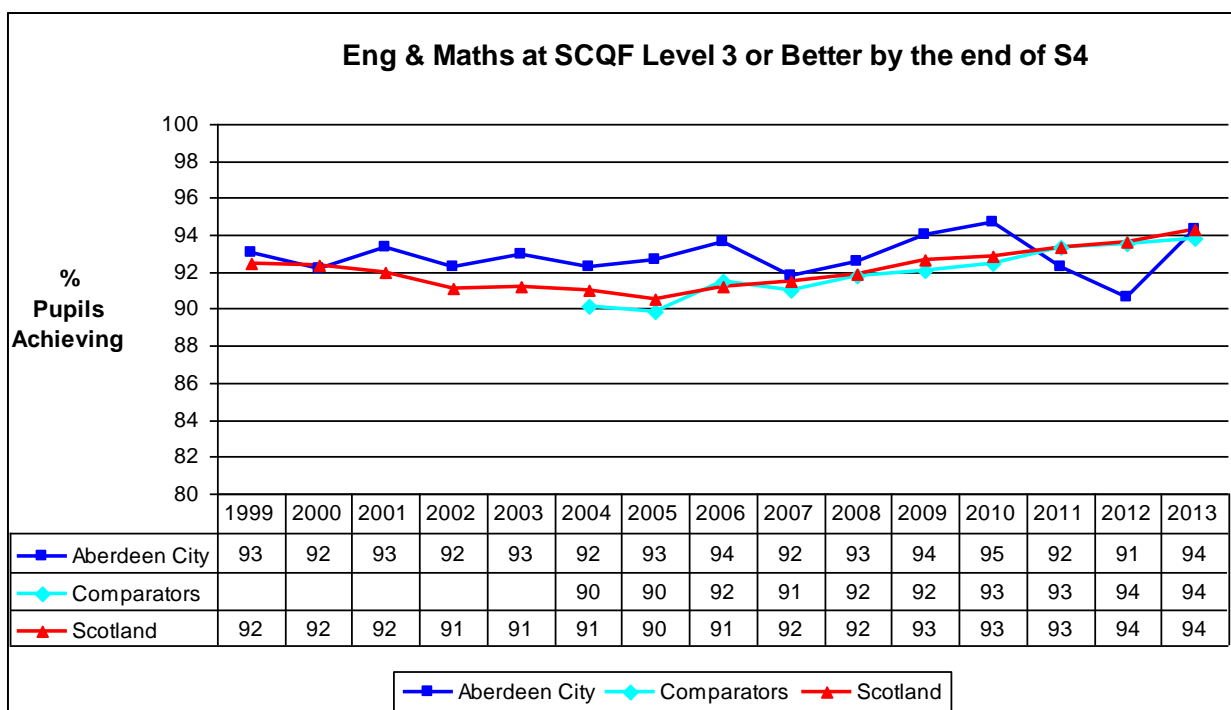
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1. Attainment by the end of S4

1.1 English and Mathematics at SCQF level 3 or better by the end of S4

The percentage of pupils achieving English and Mathematics at SCQF level 3 or better by the end of S4 (Foundation level) increased by 3%. The national pattern and the comparator authorities' stayed the same as 2012 respectively. Prior to 2010 the English and Maths attainment by the end of S4 in most years was above the national pattern.

Graph 1: English and Mathematics at SCQF level 3 or better by the end of S4

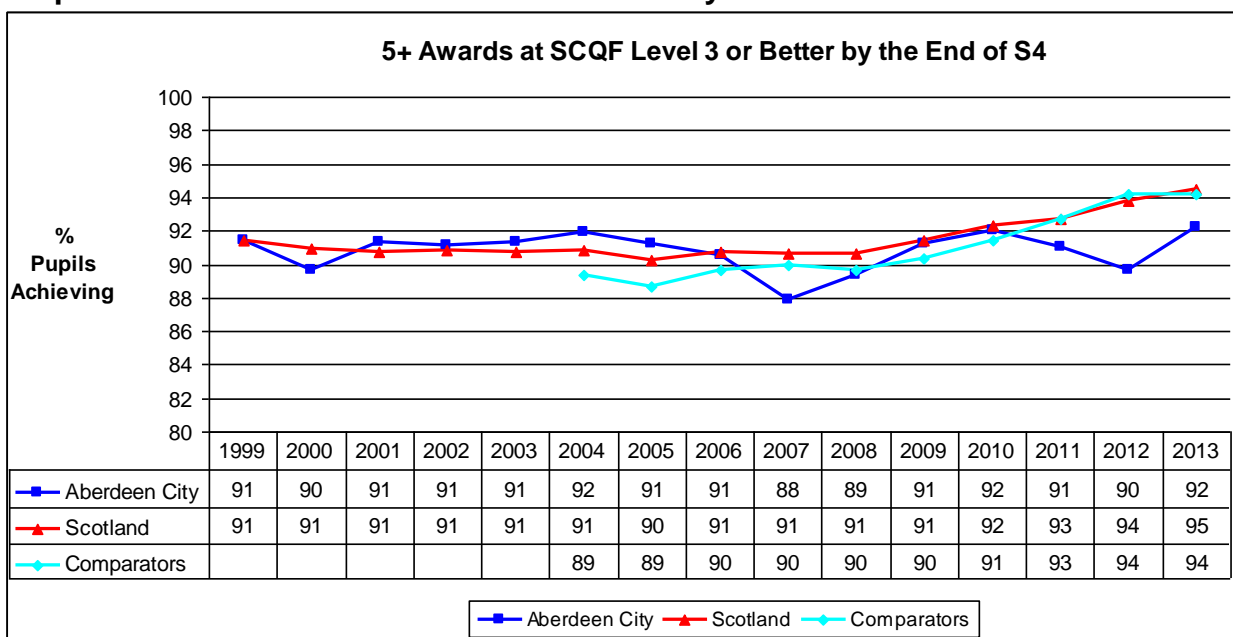


¹ All statistics presented in this paper relate to pre-appeal information and are therefore subject to change later in the year.

1.2 5+ awards at SCQF level 3 or better by the end of S4

The percentage of pupils achieving 5 or more awards at Foundation level or better by the end of S4 increased by 2% and was 3% below the national pattern and 2% below the comparator authorities' average. The national pattern increased by 1% and the comparator authorities' average stayed the same as 2012. There has been no long term trend in Aberdeen since 1999.

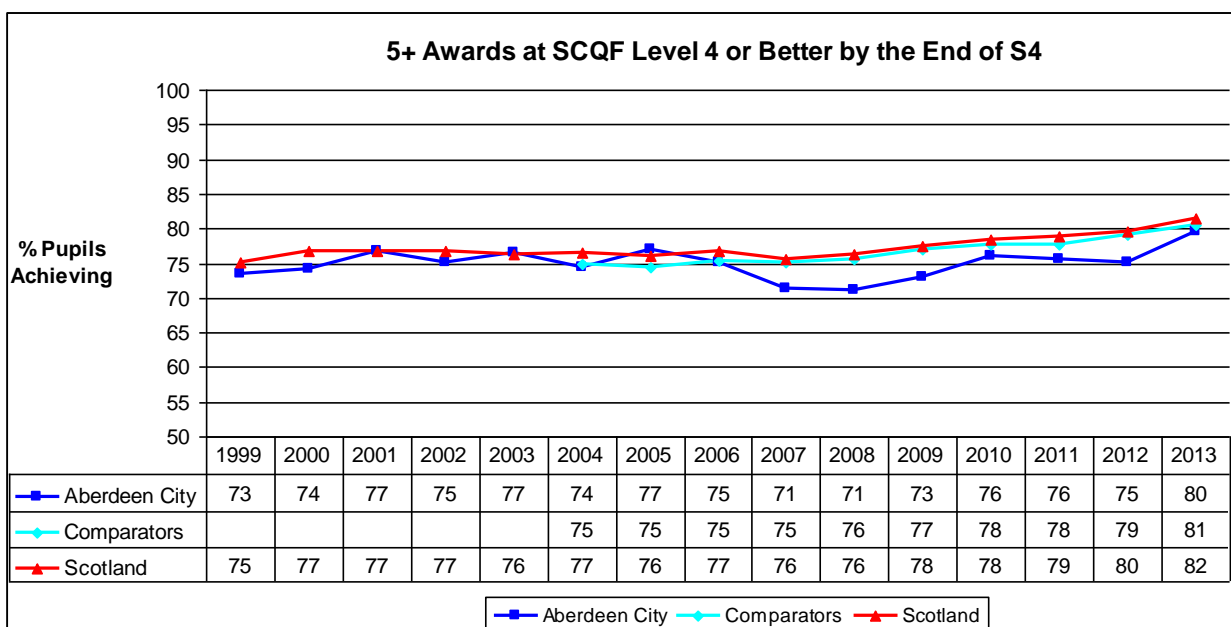
Graph 2: 5+ awards at SCQF level 3 or better by the end of S4



1.3 5+ awards at SCQF Level 4 or better by the end of S4

The percentage of pupils achieving 5 or more awards at General level or better by the end of S4 in Aberdeen increased by 5% and was below the national pattern by 2% and the comparator authorities' average by 1%. Our baseline assessments predicted a decrease to 67%.

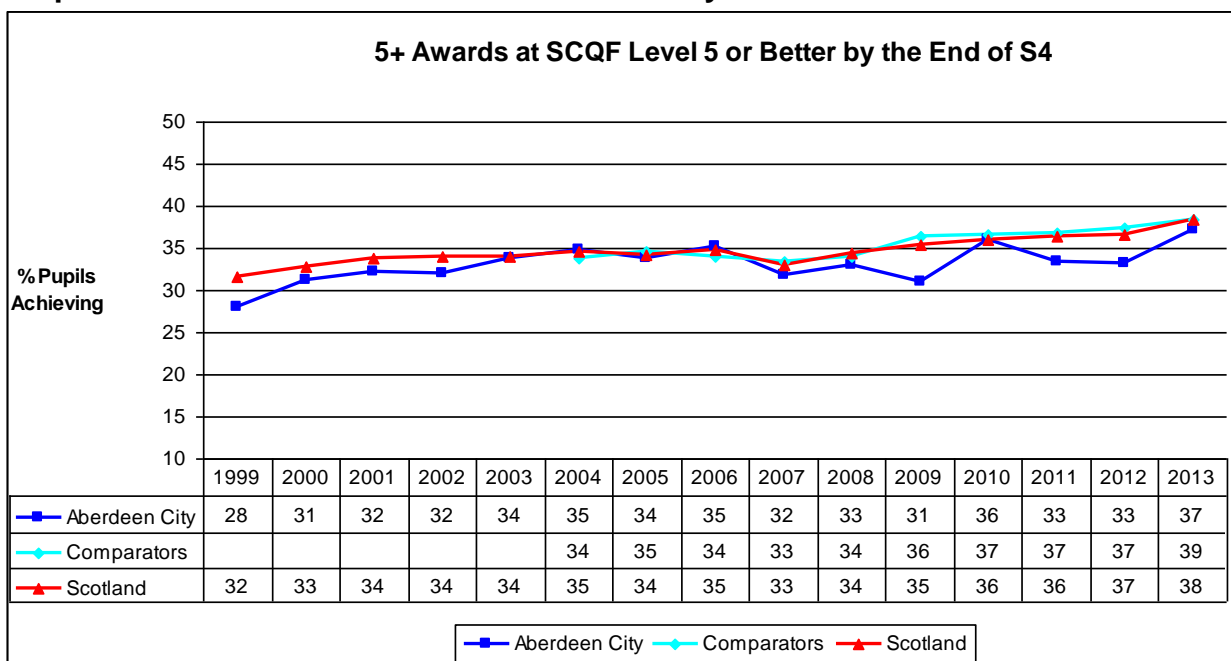
Graph 3: 5+ awards at SCQF Level 4 or better by the end of S4



1.4 5+ awards at SCQF level 5 or better by the end of S4

The percentage of pupils achieving 5 or more awards at Credit level or better by the end of S4 increased by 4%. Our baseline assessments predicted a decrease to 28%. At this measure attainment was below the national pattern by 1% and the comparator authorities' average by 2%. In 2013 the national pattern increased by 1% and the comparator authorities' average increased by 2%.

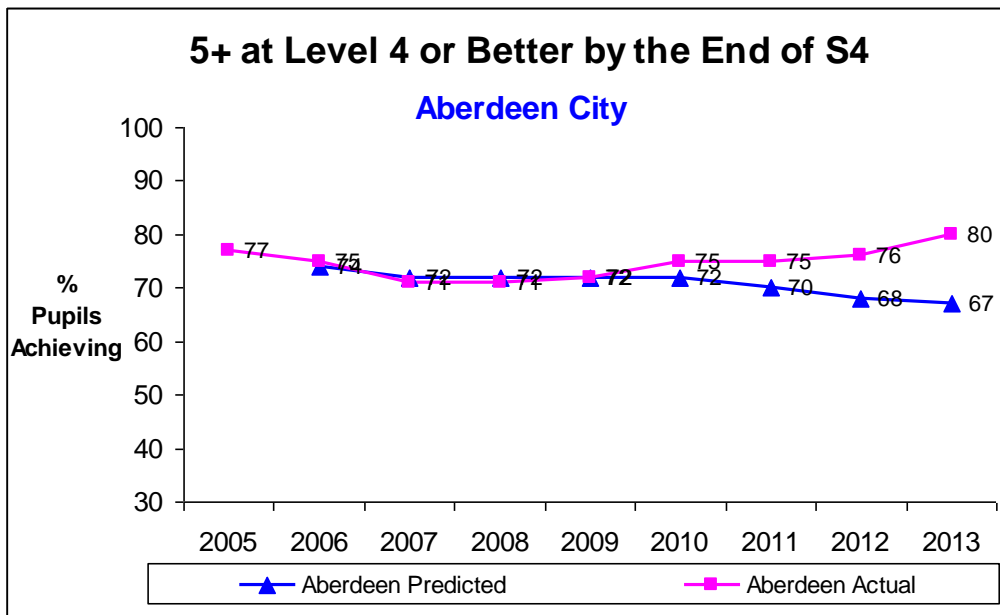
Graph 4: 5+ awards at SCQF level 5 or better by the end of S4



1.5 Baseline Assessment

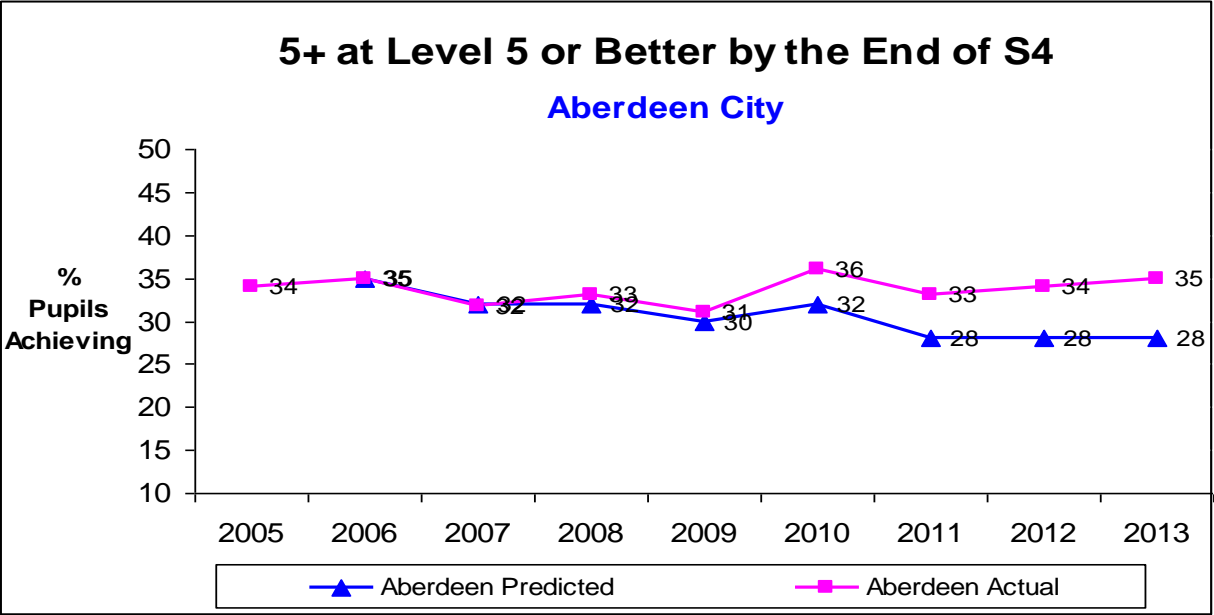
Lower SQA examination performance does not mean that pupils' achievements are less than expected. All pupils in Aberdeen City take a baseline assessment ('MidYIS test, developed by Durham University)² at the start of S1 and this is a predictor of future attainment at S4. Average baseline attainment varies between schools significantly. Many pupils achieve better attainment in S4 than predicted by baseline assessment.

Graph 5: Predicted / Actual- 5+ awards at SCQF Level 4 or better by the end of S4



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>)

Graph 6: Predicted / Actual - 5+ awards at SCQF level 5 or better by the end of S4



2 Attainment by the end of S5

As attainment by the end of S5 is calculated from the relevant S4 roll, the S4 to S5 staying on rate has 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 68%.

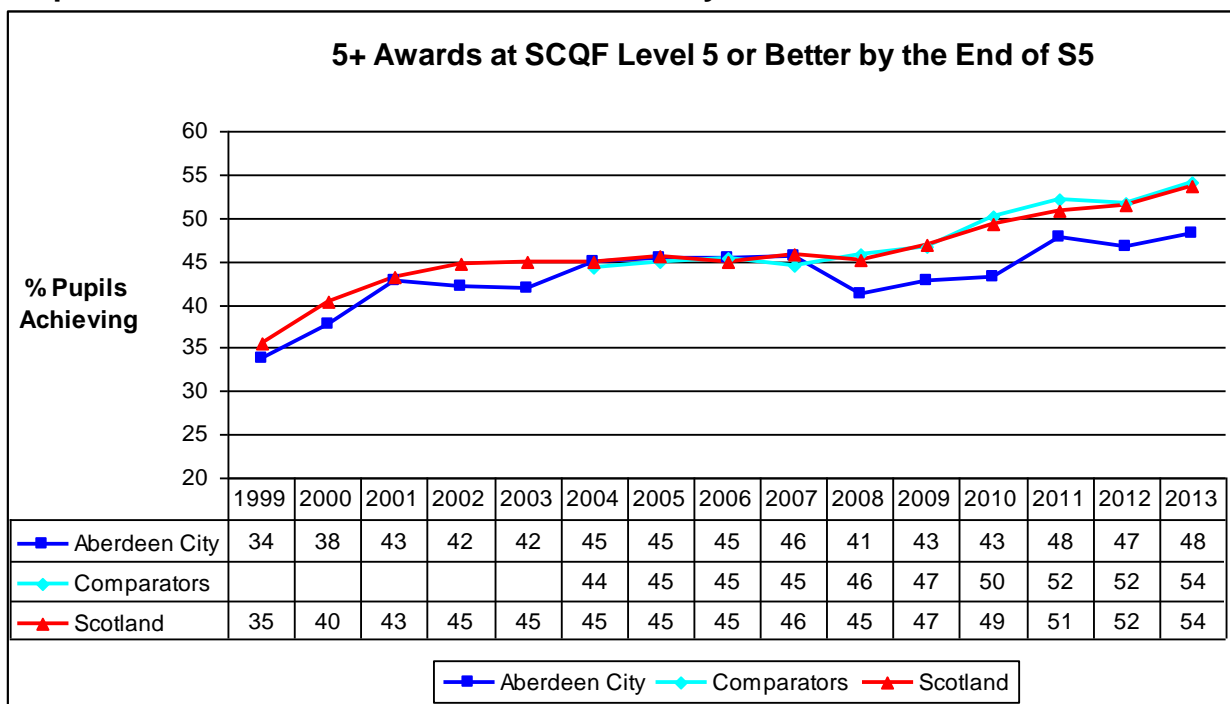
2.1 5+ awards at SCQF level 5 or better by the end of S5

The percentage of pupils achieving 5 or more awards at Credit level or better by the end of S5 in Aberdeen increased by 1%. The 2013 value is the highest since 2011. NCD values indicate that the 2013 value for this measure is in line with expectations based on the value for 5+ Level 5 by the end of S4 in 2012.

After significant improvement between 1999 and 2004 in Aberdeen and nationally, there has been no significant trend since 2004.

Attainment by the end of S5 in 2013 was well below the national and comparator pattern and in all previous years was below the national and comparator pattern

Graph 7: 5+ awards at SCQF level 5 or better by the end of S5

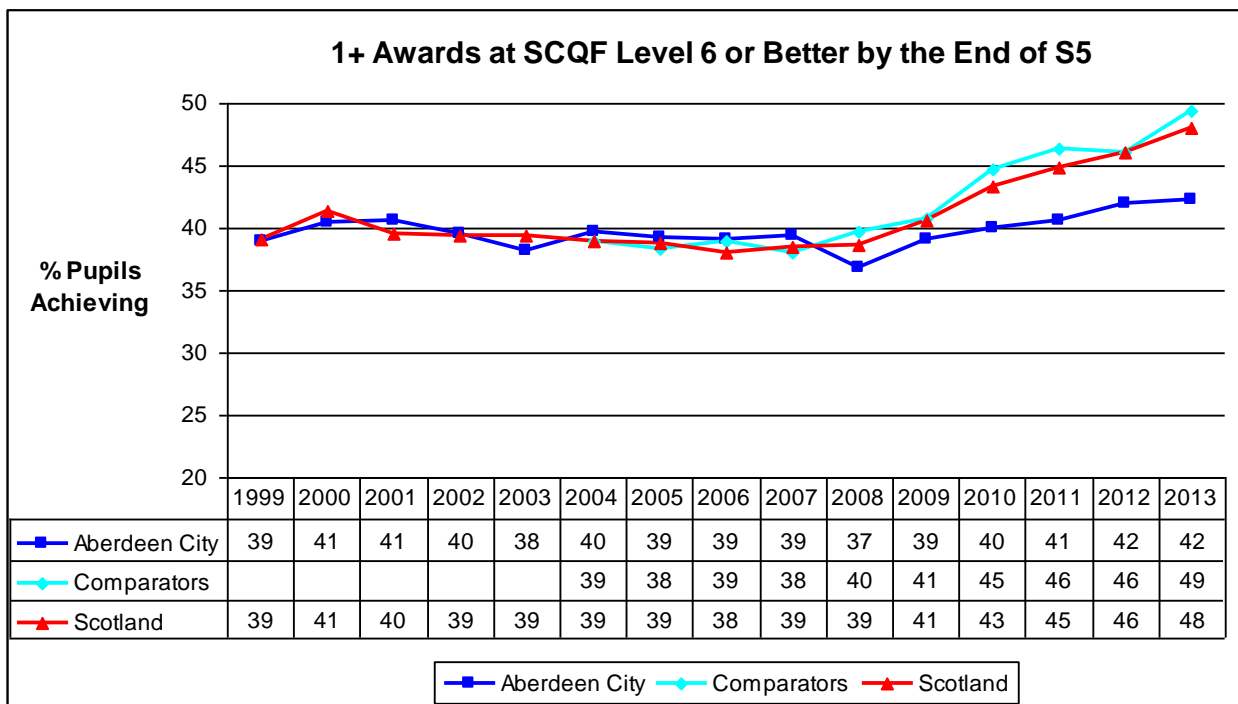


2.2 1+ awards at SCQF level 6 or better by the end of S5

The percentage of pupils achieving 1 or more awards at Higher Grade A-C or better by the end of S5 stayed the same as 2012. Attainment by the end of S5 in 2013 was well below the national pattern and in most previous years was below the national pattern. The 2013 value is the second highest since 2001. NCD values indicate that the 2013 value for this measure is in line with expectations based on the value for 5+ Level 5 by the end of S4 in 2012.

The value for this measure has increased each year since 2008. The national pattern improved by 2% and the comparator authorities' average increased by 3%.

Graph 8: 1+ awards at SCQF level 6 or better by the end of S5



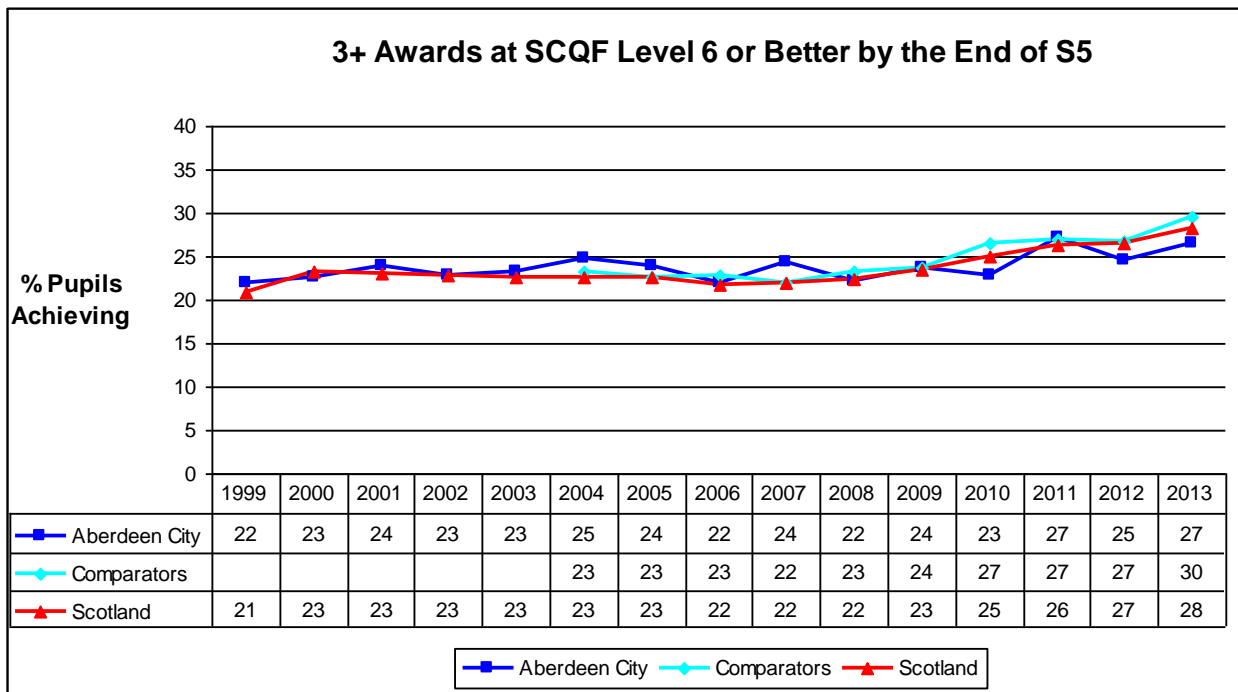
2.3 3+ awards at SCQF level 6 or better by the end of S5

The percentage of pupils achieving 3 or more awards at Higher Grade A-C or better by the end of S5 in 2012 increased by 2%.

Attainment by the end of S5 in 2013 and in most previous years was in line with the national pattern. The 2013 value is the second highest since 2001. NCD values indicate that the 2013 value for this measure is in line with expectations based on the value for 5+ Level 5 by the end of S4 in 2012.

The national pattern improved by 1% and the comparator authorities' average increased by 3% from 2012.

Graph 9: 3+ awards at SCQF level 6 or better by the end of S5



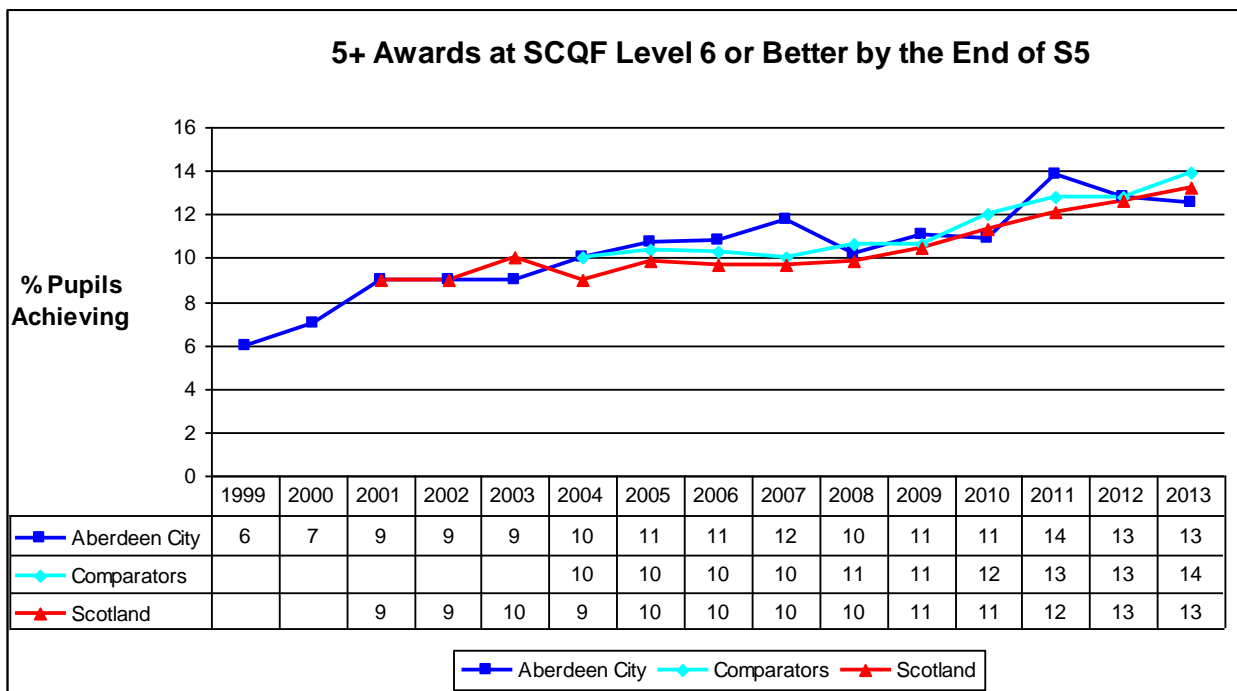
2.4 5+ awards at SCQF level 6 or better by the end of S5

In 2013 the percentage of pupils achieving 5 or more awards at Higher Grade A-C or better by the end of S5 stayed the same as in 2012.

Attainment by the end of S5 in 2013 was in line with the national pattern. The 2013 value is ranked 3rd out of 13 years. NCD values indicate that the 2013 value for this measure is in line with expectations based on the value for 5+ Level 5 by the end of S4 in 2012. The value for this measure has decreased each year since 2011.

The national pattern stayed the same as in 2012 and the comparator authorities' average increased by 1%.

Graph 10: 5+ awards at SCQF level 6 or better by the end of S5



3 Attainment by the end of S6

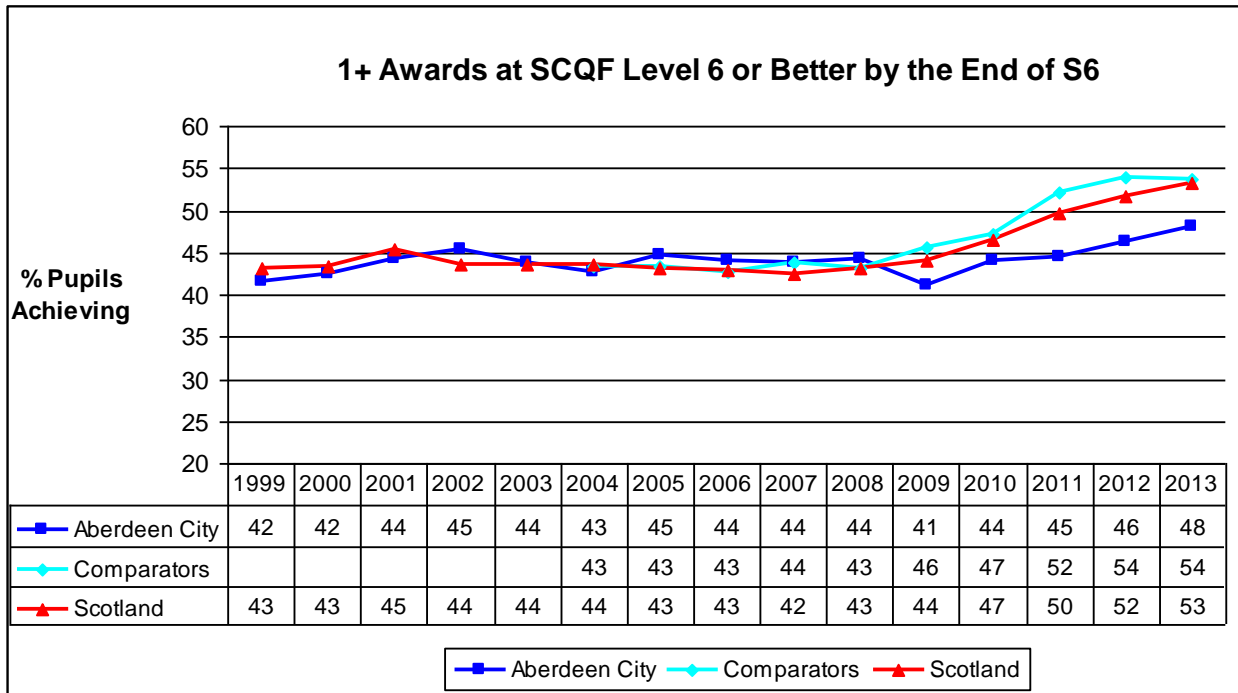
As attainment by the end of S6 is calculated from the relevant S4 roll, the S4 to S6 staying on rate has an effect on the measures of attainment by the end of S6.

3.1 1+ awards at SCQF level 6 or better by the end of S6

The percentage of pupils achieving 1 or more awards at Higher Grade A-C or better by the end of S6 increased by 2% in 2013. Attainment by the end of S6 in 2013 was well below the national pattern. The 2013 value is the highest since 2001. NCD values indicate that the 2013 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 value for this measure has increased each year since 2009.

The national pattern increased by 1% and the comparator authorities' average stayed the same as in 2012.

Graph 11: 1+ award at SCQF level 6 or better by the end of S6

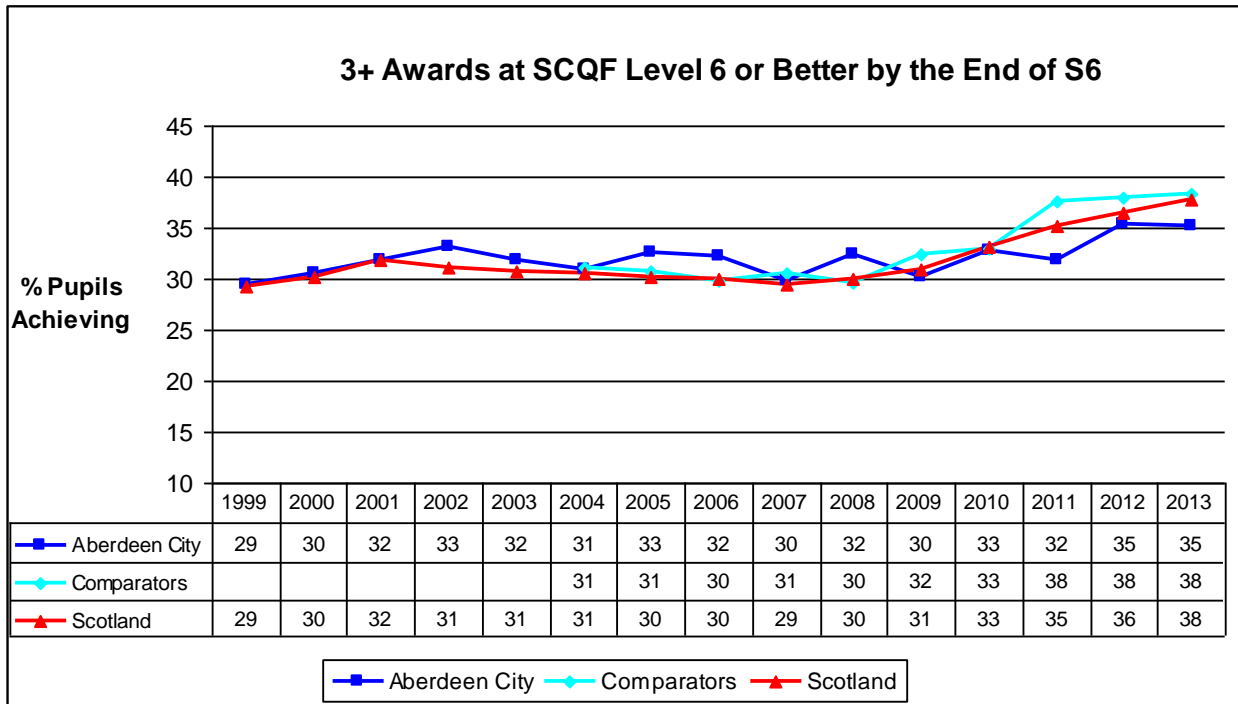


3.2 3+ awards at SCQF level 6 or better by the end of S6

The percentage of pupils achieving 3 or more awards at Higher Grade A-C or better by the end of S6 stayed the same as in 2012. The national pattern increased by 2% while the comparator authorities' average remained at the same level as in 2012.

Attainment by the end of S6 in 2013 was below the national pattern and in most previous years was in line with the national pattern. The 2013 value is the second highest since 2001. NCD values indicate that the 2013 value for this measure is in line with expectations based on the value for 5+ Level 5 by the end of S4 in 2011.

Graph 12: 3+ awards at SCQF level 6 or better by the end of S6

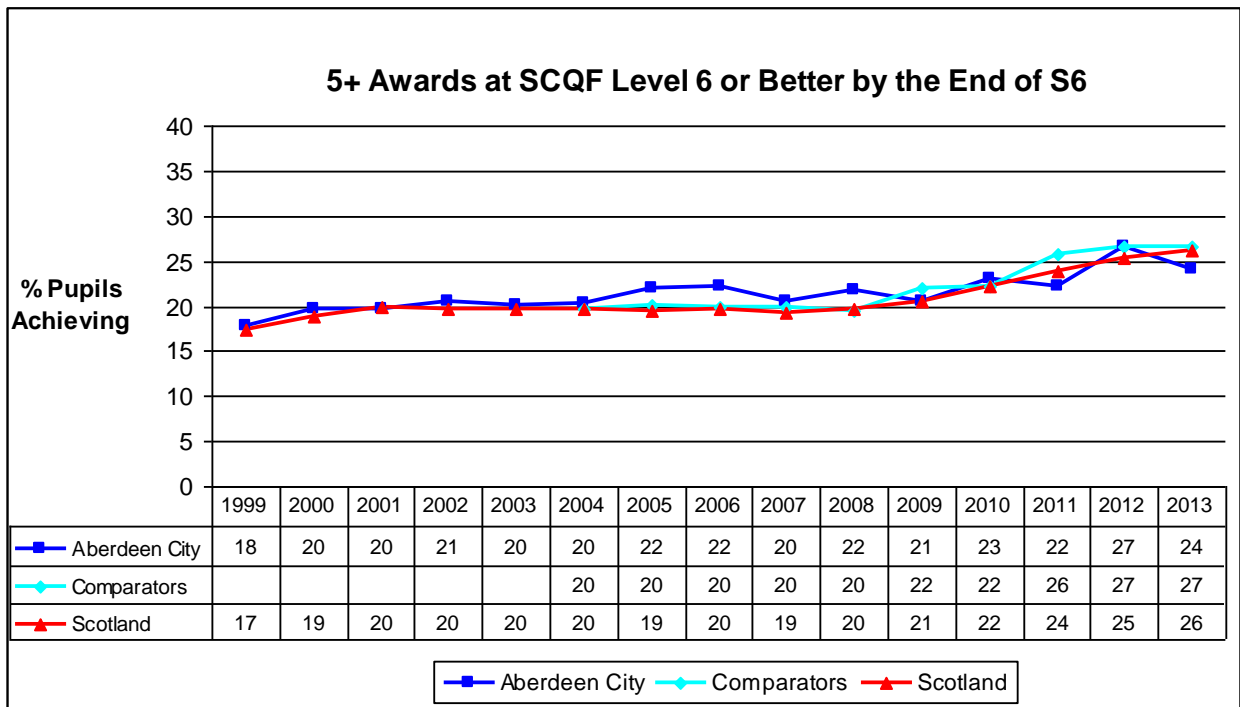


3.2 5+ awards at SCQF level 6 or better by the end of S6

Percentage of S4 roll achieving 5 or more awards at level 6 or better (Higher at A-C) by the end of S6 decreased by 3% in 2013. Attainment by the end of S6 in 2013 and in most previous years was in line with the national pattern. The 2013 value is the second highest since 2001. NCD values indicate that the 2013 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 national pattern increased by 1% and the comparator authorities' average in 2012 stayed the same as in 2013.

Graph 13: 5+ awards at SCQF level 6 or better by the end of S6

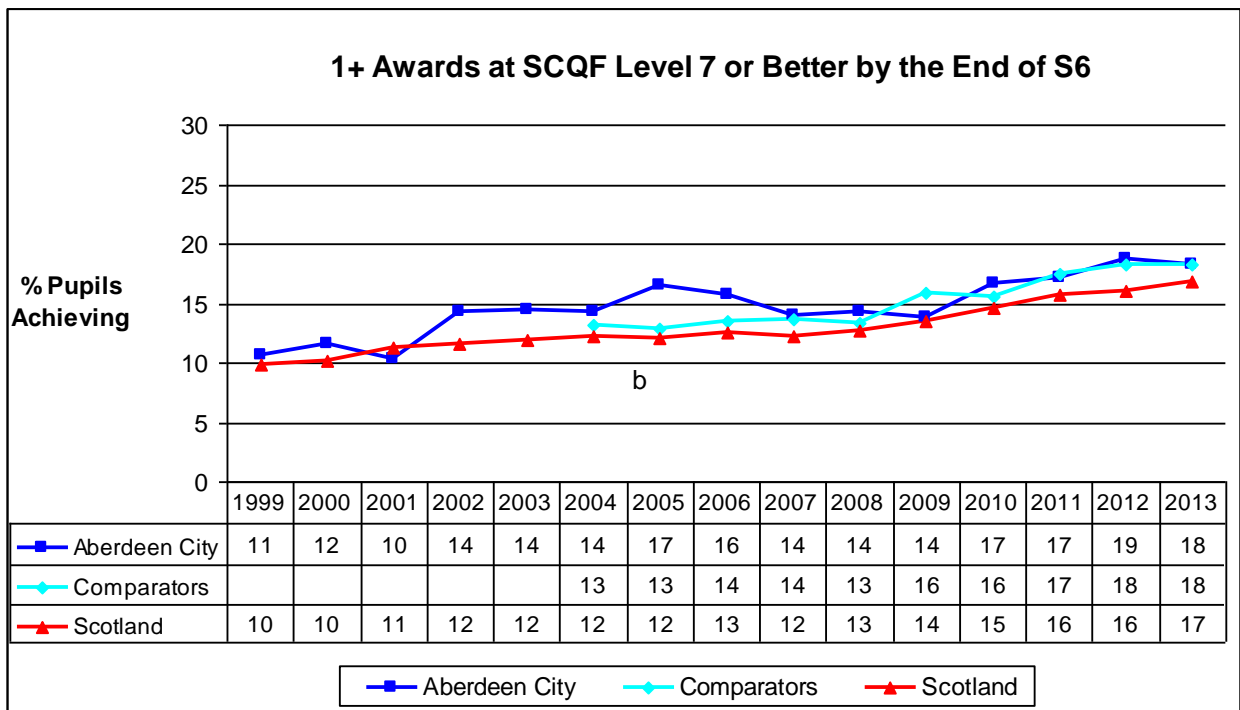


3.3 1+ awards at SCQF level 7 or better by the end of S6

The percentage of pupils achieving 1 or more awards at level 7 or better (Advanced Higher at A-C) by the end of S6 decreased by 1% in 2013. Attainment by the end of S6 in 2013 was above the national pattern. The 2013 value is the second highest since 2001. NCD values indicate that the 2013 value for this measure is notably better than expectations based on the value for 5+ Level 5 by the end of S4 in 2011

The national pattern increased by 1% and the comparator authorities' average remained the same as in 2012.

Graph 14: 1+ awards at SCQF level 7 or better by the end of S6



4 Subjects/Courses

4.1 At Standard Grade in 2013 in Aberdeen, 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 Subjects 2013

Pattern	Positive	Negative
Trend	French, Chemistry , Physics	<i>Art and Design, Drama</i>
Current Year	Spanish, Music , Business Management,	Mathematics, Biology, RMP Studies

S4 Courses 2013

Pattern	Positive	Negative
Trend	Int1 French, SG German , SG Soc & Voc Skills, SG Religious Studies	Int1 Mathematics, Int2 Mathematics, <i>SG Technological Studies</i>
Current Year	Int2 French, Int1 Spanish, Int2 Spanish, Int1 Biology, SG Accounts & Finance, Int2 Administration, Int1 Business Management, Int2 Physical Education	Int2 Biology, <i>Int1 Chemistry</i> , Int2 History

4.2 At Higher Grade in 2013 in Aberdeen, 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 2013

Pattern	Positive	Negative
Trend	H French, Int2 Chemistry, H Chemistry , H Physics	H Technological Studies
Current Year	Int2 French, H German, H Mathematics, H Biology, Int2 Administration , Int2 Business Management, H Business Management, H Graphic Communication , H Physical Education	H Modern Studies

S5/6 Courses 2013

Pattern	Positive	Negative
Trend	H French, H Chemistry, H Physical Education	
Current Year	Int2 French, H German, H Spanish, H Mathematics, H Biology, Int2 Chemistry, H Physics, Int2 Administration, H Business Management, H Graphic Communication	Int2 Spanish, H Modern Studies, H Technological Studies

S6 Cumulative Higher Courses 2013

Pattern	Positive	Negative
Trend	H French, H German, H Mathematics, H Chemistry	H English
Current Year		H Geography, H Computing