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Strong performance and improved pass rates

SQA exam results for pupils at Scotland’s independent schools show a strong performance and improved pass rates at Advanced Higher, Higher and Intermediate 2. There was a 13% rise in the proportion of A grades at Advanced Higher since 2009 with over two fifths of entries being awarded the top grade.

2010 Pre-appeal SQA Results – all SCIS schools

2010	SCIS entries as a % of all entries	Entries – SCIS schools	Entries – all schools	A-C Pass rate SCIS schools %	A-C Pass rate all schools %
Standard Grade	2.5	8,643	339,398	99.7	98.5
Intermediate 1	1.1	785	69,510	80.7	72.7
Intermediate 2	7.8	10,173	130,380	94.8	79.1
Highers	8.0	13,985	175,492	88.4	74.6
Advanced Highers	16.0	3,303	20,580	88.8	77.5
Scottish Baccalaureate	15.5	22	138	90.91	76.8

2010 Pre-appeal SQA Results- SCIS mainstream schools only

	SCIS Mainstream Schools	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004
S6 Advanced Highers	% A-C pass rate	89%	87%	88%	87%	87%	88%	88%
	% A passes	44%	39%	38%	37%	40%	41%	37%
S5 Highers	% A-C pass rate	91%	91%	90%	90%	90%	91%	90%
	% A passes	51%	50%	49%	47%	49%	49%	49%

Source: SCIS analysis of SQA data²

John Edward, Director of SCIS, said, “**Congratulations to the young people at Scotland’s independent schools whose efforts have been rewarded with strong exam results and improved pass rates, giving them a passport to the next stage of their careers. The ethos of independent schools inspires pupils of all abilities to achieve their academic potential and to develop life skills that will enable them to make an effective contribution to society. Although small (4% of the total pupil population), the independent sector in Scotland makes a significant contribution in terms of exam presentations, particularly at Advanced Higher where the number of presentations was 16%. Independent schools also make an important contribution to science and languages which are vital to the strength and diversity of Scotland’s economy.**”

¹ Two awards were awaiting evaluation so the actual pass rate may be higher.

² This is a SCIS analysis of data supplied by the SQA. Data reported in this analysis refer to all SQA examination entries from Scottish schools, both mainstream and special.

Key Points

- SQA exam results in independent schools were strong again this year, with increased pass rates at Advanced Higher, Higher and Intermediate 2. Particularly impressive was the 13% increase in the proportion of A grades at Advanced Higher since 2009: this year, over two fifths of entries were awarded the top grade.
- Of particular note was the first tranche of Scottish Baccalaureate results. The independent sector accounted for 15.5% of entries and three fifths of entries were awarded distinctions. There was a relatively small number of entries for the languages baccalaureate compared with sciences. All of the languages interdisciplinary projects from candidates in independent schools were awarded a grade A.
- Entries for Standard Grade exams fell by around 8%, while entries for Intermediate 1 rose by the same proportion. Performance at both levels was high, with nearly three fifths of Standard Grade entries and two fifths of Intermediate 1 entries being awarded the top grade.

The table of pre-appeal examination results, produced by SCIS, reflects the wide choice of subjects and the diversity of qualifications on offer at Scotland's independent schools. A number of schools offer vocational, GCSE, A level or International Baccalaureate exams.

Ends

For further information please contact John Edward or Sarah Randell on 0131 220 2106.