



Scottish Council of Independent Schools

Media Release 21 August 2008

**EMBARGOED: NOT FOR PUBLICATION OR BROADCAST BEFORE
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**It all adds up:
Hard Work + Good Teachers + Motivation
= Excellent Results**

Pupils at independent schools who have worked hard for their exams will be delighted with their results this year.

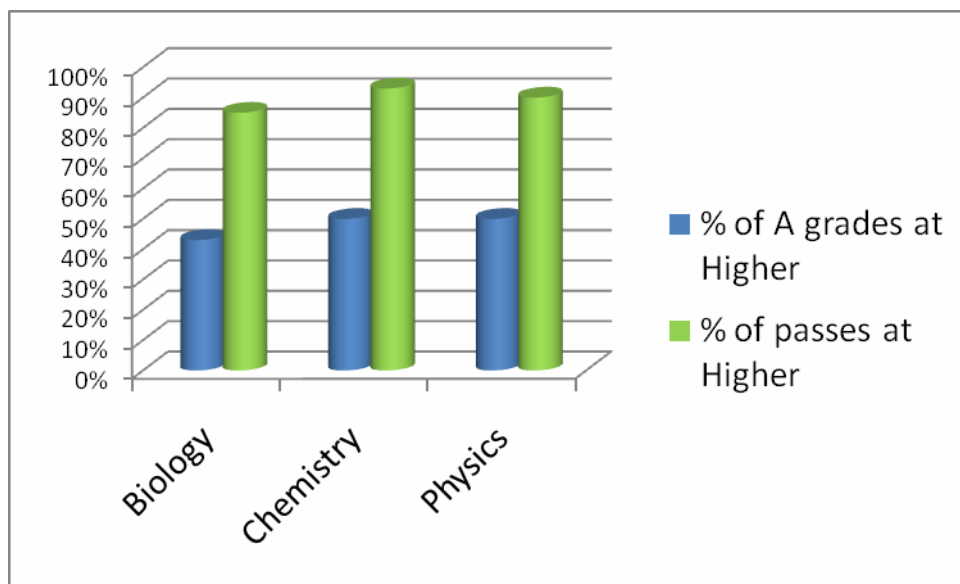
The table of pre-appeal examination results from schools across the independent sector, published by SCIS, demonstrates that the combination of motivated pupils and high teaching standards produces excellent results all round.

The table confirms that academic attainment is strong in the independent sector for pupils of all abilities – with almost half of pupils achieving grade A.

“These results reflect the purposeful learning environment that is part of the ethos in an independent school, encouraging pupils of all abilities to progress without disruption and to aspire to succeed”, said Judith Sischy, Director of SCIS. **“The reward for their hard work will be in achieving their ambition to go to university, college or employment and hopefully obtain a passport to a secure career for the rest of their lives.”**

Independent schools in Scotland benefit from the freedom and flexibility of being able to offer varied qualifications over a wide range of subjects, to meet the needs of diverse abilities. Notable this year are the successful results at all levels – Standard Grade (56% Grade 1), Intermediate 2 (66% Grade A), Higher (44% Grade A) and Advanced Higher (38% Grade A). The overall pass rate at Intermediate 2 was particularly high at 93.8%.

“The schools also encourage subjects that are important to the economy, such as mathematics and sciences”, adds Judith Sischy. “The results in these areas are hugely encouraging”. The sciences remain a strong feature in the independent sector, with excellent results.



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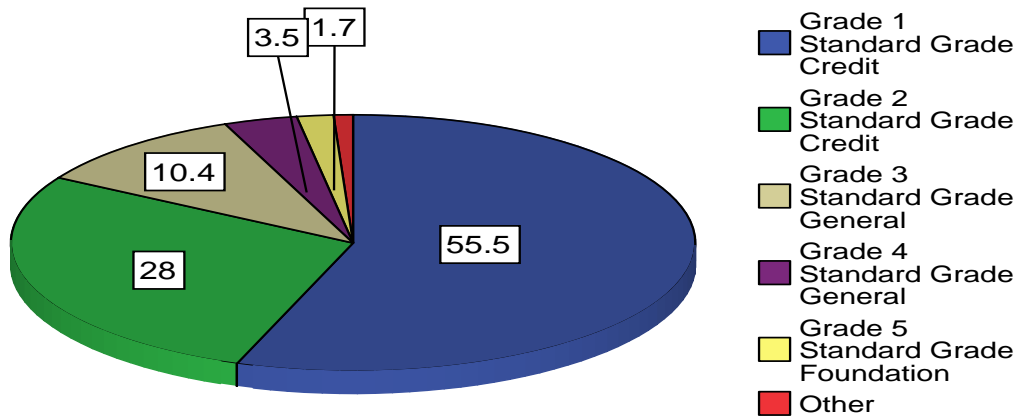
- 1 The table of exam results, attached, is organised alphabetically by school. It is not a league table and comparisons are difficult as schools have different policies and offer different combinations of examinations. Most schools admit pupils with a wide range of abilities.
- 2 The table, below, demonstrates the high level of A-C and A passes that pupils in the independent sector achieve year on year, which is a reflection of the consistently high standard of teaching throughout the independent sector.

	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003
S6 Advanced Highers						
% A-C pass rate	88%	87%	87%	88%	88%	87%
% A passes	38%	37%	40%	41%	37%	38%
S5 Highers						
% A-C passes	90%	90%	90%	91%	90%	90%
% A passes	49%	47%	49%	49%	49%	48%

3 Awards per candidate in SCIS mainstream schools (SQA exams):

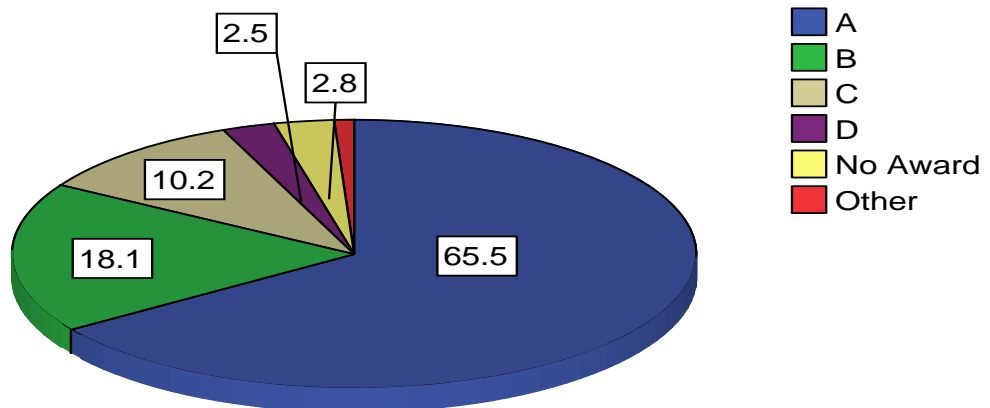
- **S6** pupils achieved an average of 3 awards in Advanced Highers and/or Highers.
- **S5** pupils achieved 4.2 Highers on average.
- **S4** pupils achieved an average of 7 awards at Standard Grade and/or Intermediate 2.

% Distrubution of grades at Standard Grade in SCIS schools 2008



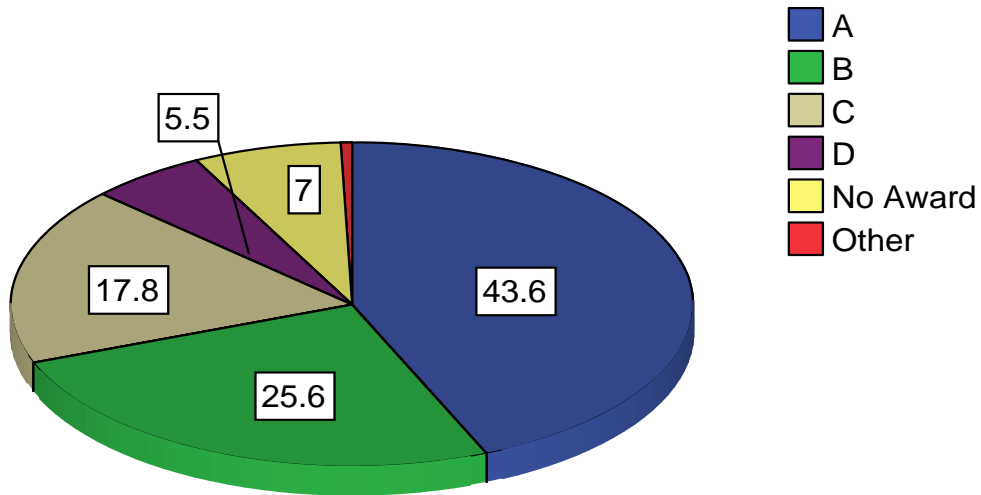
- In independent schools the overall pass rate was 99.7%.
- 56% of passes were awarded at grade 1.
- A total of 84% of passes were awarded at grades 1 and 2 (Credit level).

% Distribution of grades at Intermediate 2 in SCIS schools 2008



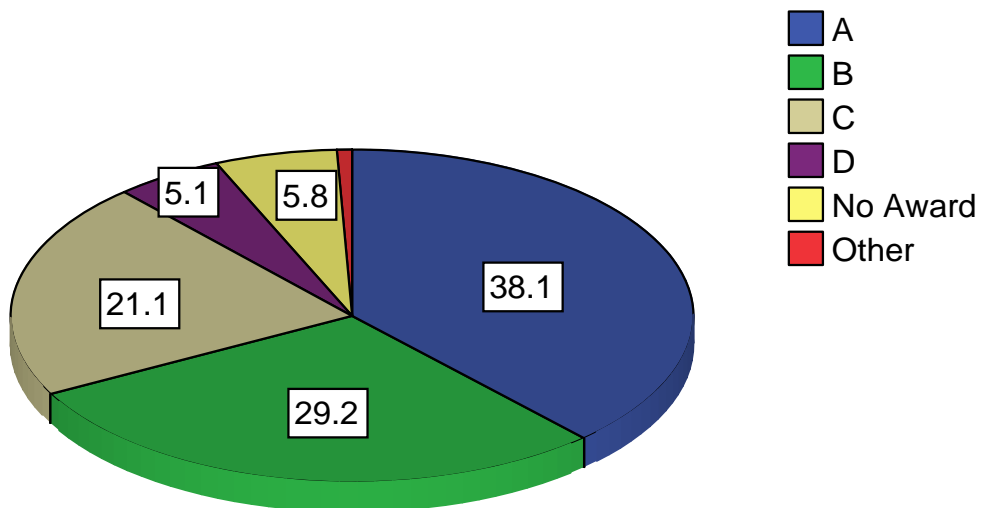
- The pass rate at Intermediate 2 was 93.8%.
- 66% of passes were awarded at grade A.

% Distribution of grades at Higher in SCIS schools 2008



- At Higher, the overall pass rate for SCIS schools was 87%.
- 44% of passes were at grade A.

% Distribution of grades at Advanced Higher in SCIS schools 2008



- In SCIS schools, the overall pass rate at Advanced Higher was 88.4%.
- 38% of all passes at Advanced Higher were awarded at grade A.
- 41% of all Advanced Higher Maths passes were awarded at grade A.
- 50% of all Advanced Higher Physics passes were awarded at grade A.

- 4 A proportion of pupils in independent schools also study AS and A Levels under the English examination system. Three independent schools in Scotland offer the International Baccalaureate (IB).
- 5 The Scottish Council of Independent Schools (SCIS) represents around 75 schools, 3,500 teachers and over 32,000 pupils. There are over 50 secondary schools in the independent sector in Scotland.
- 6 The pupil: teacher ratio in independent secondary schools is 9:1, ranging from 8 to 11 pupils per teacher, depending on the age and stage. Source: Scottish Government, Independent School Census September 2007.

Ends

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