



SCOTTISH COUNCIL OF INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

PRESS RELEASE : 23/08/07

**EMBARGOED: NOT FOR PUBLICATION OR BROADCAST BEFORE
10.00am ON FRIDAY 24th AUGUST 2007**

ASPIRATION and ACHIEVEMENT - EVERYONE CAN DO WELL

Students at independent schools who have worked hard for their exams will be heartened by this year's results

The table of pre-appeal examination results across the independent sector, published by SCIS, demonstrates that the commitment of students, combined with high teaching standards and individual support, reaps success. The results confirm that academic attainment is strong at all levels and that a very high proportion of school leavers (over 86% in 2006) will be able to proceed to full-time higher and further education ¹.

"Success in examinations is important and provides young people with a passport or entry to the next stage of their careers. Alongside this tangible achievement, students will have acquired important life-long skills which will be welcomed by employers, higher education, voluntary and other organisations.

"These results show that the Scottish examination system serves the students well and that the independent sector is a credit to Scotland. The schools inspire pupils of all abilities, by creating an ethos of aspiration, not only in academic subjects but also in sport, the arts and community service" said Judith Sischy, Director of SCIS.

90% of Higher entries taken at S5 were graded A-C (with 47% attaining A grades). At A Level, 49% of entries from Scottish independent schools received an A grade ².

Notes.../

Notes:

- 1 Over 85% of leavers from independent schools enter full time higher education. Source: Scottish Executive Statistics Publication, Destinations of Leavers from Scottish Schools 2005/6. Further details available from www.scotland.gov.uk.

2

	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003
S6 Advanced Highers					
% A-C pass rate	87%	87%	88%	88%	87%
% A passes	37%	40%	41%	37%	38%
S5 Highers					
% A-C passes	90%	90%	91%	90%	90%
% A passes	47%	49%	49%	49%	48%
A Levels					
% A-E pass rate	99%	99%	98%	97%	99%
% A passes	49%	43%	46%	41%	43%

The above table demonstrates the high level of pass rates and of A passes that pupils in the independent sector achieve at all levels, year on year, which is a direct reflection of the consistently high standard of teaching throughout the independent sector.

- 3 More than two-thirds of pupils in S6 leave school with 5 or more awards at Higher, Advanced Higher or 3 awards at 'A' level. (SQA, August 2006)
- 4 A proportion of students in independent schools also study AS and A Levels under the English examination system. Three independent schools in Scotland are also offering the International Baccalaureate (IB).
- 5 The Scottish Council of Independent Schools (SCIS) represents around 75 schools, 3,500 teachers and over 31,000 pupils. There are over 50 secondary schools in the independent sector in Scotland.
- 6 The pupil: teacher ratio in independent secondary schools is 8.8 pupils per teacher. From Scottish Executive Education Department, Independent School Census September 2006. Further details available from www.scotland.gov.uk

For further information please contact

Judith Sischy or Fiona Valpy at

SCIS, 21 Melville Street, Edinburgh EH3 7PE

Tel: 0131 220 2106 Fax: 0131 225 8594

Email: information@scis.org.uk Website: www.scis.org.uk

*** Ends ***