

Independent schools have a strong tradition of academic attainment, reflected in pupils' performance in public exams. Most independent schools in Scotland follow the Scottish curriculum (around 90%) and exams are awarded by the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA). SQA exams correspond to the General Certificate of Secondary Education (GCSE) in England and Wales and are recognised for entrance to all universities in the UK.

Scottish Standard Grades, Intermediate, Higher and Advanced Higher

Standard Grade or Intermediate level exams are usually taken in the fourth year of secondary school. In fifth and sixth year, students usually follow a two year programme at Higher and Advanced Higher level. Academic and vocational subjects are offered, providing breadth and depth of study. The independent sector in Scotland offers a particularly diverse range of subjects at Advanced Higher level.

English AS and A levels

Some schools – usually the boarding schools – follow the English curriculum with GCSEs, AS and A levels awarded by different exam boards in England. A number of schools offer a combination of English AS and A Levels and Scottish Highers and Advanced Highers, based on what they believe provides the best course of study for their pupils.

International Baccalaureate

A small number of independent schools now offer the International Baccalaureate (IB) and others are considering its merits. The IB is designed to develop a broad range of skills. Students take six subjects for two years and study English, Maths, Science, a language (ancient or modern) and a social subject. They follow a course in the Theory of Knowledge, undertake a programme of Creativity, Action and Service and write a 4000 word essay on a subject of their choice.

Scottish and English qualifications - equivalent stages

Age	Scotland		England	
	Year Group	Qualification	Year Group	Qualification
14/15	Secondary 3	Standard Grade	4 th year	GCSE
15/16	Secondary 4	Intermediate 1 & 2	5 th year	GCSE
16/17	Secondary 5	Highers	Lower 6 th	AS
17/18	Secondary 6	Advanced Highers	Upper 6 th	A2

Examination abbreviations – see table of schools, opposite

Scotland

Access	Access Courses
S	Standard Grade
I1	Intermediate 1
I2	Intermediate 2
H	Higher
AH	Advanced Higher

England

GCSE	General Certificate of Education
A	Advanced Level
AS	Advanced Subsidiary Level

International

IB	International Baccalaureate
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Qualifications offered by mainstream independent schools in Scotland

School	Scottish	English	IB
Aberdeen			
Aberdeen Waldorf School	S		
Albyn School	S, I1, I2, H, AH		
International School of Aberdeen			IB
Robert Gordon's College	S, I2, H, AH		
St Margaret's School for Girls	S, I1, I2, H, AH		
Angus			
Lathallan School	S, I1, I2, H, AH		
Argyll and Bute			
Lomond School	S, I1, I2, H, AH		
Clackmannanshire			
Dollar Academy	S, I2, H, AH, A, Scottish Baccalaureate		
Dundee			
High School of Dundee	S, I1, I2, H, AH		
East Lothian			
Loretto	GCSE, A, AS		
East Renfrewshire			
Belmont House School	S, I1, I2, H, AH, Scottish Baccalaureate		
Edinburgh			
Clifton Hall School	S, I1, I2, H, AH		
Edinburgh Academy	H	GCSE, A	
Edinburgh Rudolf Steiner	I1, I2 H	GCSE, AS	
Fettes College		GCSE, A, AS	IB
George Heriot's School	S, I1 (Maths), I2, H, AH	A (Art)	
George Watson's College	S, I1, I2, H, AH	GCSE, AS, A	
The Mary Erskine School	I2, H, AH	AS & A (Art & Music)	
Merchiston Castle School	S, H	GCSE, A, AS	
St George's School	S, I1, I2, H, AH	GCSE, A, AS	
St Mary's Music School	S, I1, I2, H, AH	A & AS (Music)	
Stewart's Melville College	I2, H, AH	A & AS (Art & Music)	
Fife			
St Leonards		GCSE	IB
Osborne House School	S, I1, I2, H		

Glasgow

Craigholme School	S, I1, I2, H, AH		IB
The Glasgow Academy	S, I2, H, AH	GCSE, A, AS (Art)	
The High School of Glasgow	S, I2, H, AH		
Hutchesons' Grammar School	S, I1, H, AH	A	
Kelvinside Academy	S, I1, I2, H, AH		
St Aloysius' College	S, I1, I2, H, AH	GCSE, A, AS	

Inverclyde

Cedars School of Excellence	S, I1, I2, H
St Columba's School	S, I2, H, AH

Moray

Gordonstoun	GCSE, A, AS
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Perth and Kinross

Glenalmond College	GCSE, A, AS	
Kilgraston School	S, I1, H, AH	
Morrison's Academy	S, I1, I2, H, AH	
Strathallan School	H	A2, AS, GCSE

South Ayrshire

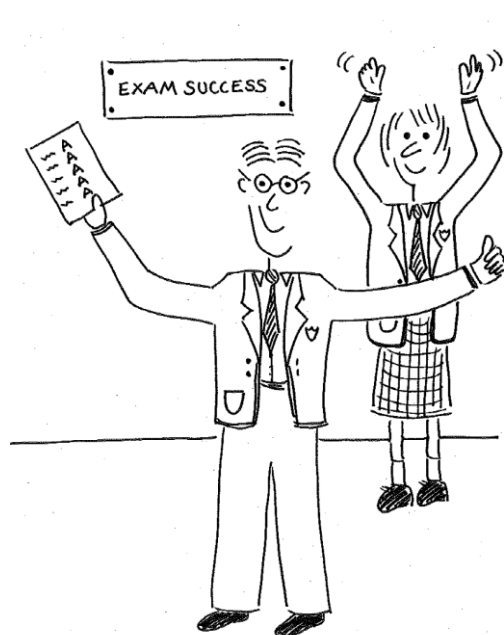
Wellington School, Ayr	S, I1, I2, H, AH
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South Lanarkshire

Fernhill School	S, I1, I2, H, AH
Hamilton College	S, I1, I2, H, AH

Stirling

Beaonhurst School	S, I1, I2, H, AH
Queen Victoria School	S, I2, H, AH



Profiles for each independent school are available at www.scis.org.uk where you can search for schools alphabetically, by geographic region or by type of school.

For further information, please call Sarah at SCIS on 0131 220 2106.