



2010 EXAM RESULTS RELEASED

The Scottish Qualifications Authority today (Thursday, 5 August, 2010) announces details of the 2010 National Course results.

Examination certificates are being sent to 160,745 learners, up from 158,696 in 2009. Collectively over the five-week period from April 28 – June 11 those involved in taking traditional examinations, as opposed to those involved in continuous assessment, sat some 736,000 exams. They did so at nearly 550 examination centres with the examinations being set, monitored, marked and quality assured by nearly 15,000 SQA 'appointees'.

KEY POINTS:

- Entries for National Courses have increased this year at all levels apart from Standard Grade where the decline in entries is partly for demographic reasons and also because of continued strong growth at Intermediate 1 and Intermediate 2 levels. Pass rates across Access to Advanced Higher levels have been relatively stable this year (difference from 2009 indicated in brackets) –
 - Advanced Higher - 77.5% (-0.3%);
 - Higher - 74.6% (+0.4%);
 - Intermediate 2 - 79.1% (+1.0%);
 - Intermediate 1 - 72.7% (-0.7%);
 - Standard Grade overall 98.5% (no change) – of which 46.6% (+0.7%) achieved Credit level, 40.3% (-0.5%) achieved General level and 11.6% (-0.1%) achieved Foundation level
 - Access 3 – 90.9% (+3.6%)
 - Access 2 – 62.8% (-0.7%)

- This year for the first time learners were able to enter for the new Scottish Baccalaureate qualifications. The initial offering of Scottish Baccalaureate qualifications in Science and Languages attracted 138 entries and 106 successful candidates are certificated this week.

The Scottish Baccalaureate award consists of a coherent group of Higher and Advanced Higher qualifications and, uniquely, an Interdisciplinary Project of the candidates' own choosing which is marked at Advanced Higher level. Learners must achieve passes in at least two Advanced Highers and one Higher in the eligible courses as well as a pass in the Interdisciplinary Project.

The Baccalaureate is designed to encourage more young people to study science and languages in the later stages of secondary school, to raise the status of the Sixth Year and to assist young people in making the transition from school to higher and further education and employment. The value of the Interdisciplinary Project was recognised by the university admissions body UCAS when it was awarded half the admission tariff points of a full Advanced Higher.

The 2010 Scottish Baccalaureate cohort achieved a pass rate of 76.8 per cent with 51 Passes and 55 Passes with Distinction. A Distinction requires a grade A in one of the Advanced Highers, one other grade A in one of the other components and at least a grade B in the other components. A Pass is awarded to those who achieve at least a grade C in all mandatory components.

- Also new this year is first certification for Chinese language courses at Higher and Advanced Higher levels. This reflects a steady growth in Chinese language study at lower levels in recent years. Across all levels (Access – Advanced Higher) there have been 244 entries in Mandarin and Cantonese with 39 receiving awards at Higher or Advanced Higher levels. This represents good progress in delivery of the Scottish Government's drive to engage more strongly with China and to enhance the learning opportunities available to Scotland's young people.
- All candidates will receive their certificates in the traditional manner by postal delivery but 35,305 candidates also opted to receive results via the SQA's 'MySQA' service whereby, on activation of their accounts, results are sent by text message to their mobile phone and/or by email to their computer. Candidates who opted for electronic delivery were due to receive their results during the afternoon of Wednesday, August 4.
- As part of SQA's wide provision, learners are offered both Skills for Work and Personal Development Courses.

This year has seen continuing strong uptake in Skills for Work Courses. These Courses complement the principles of Curriculum for Excellence and are intended to help learners develop skills and knowledge in broad vocational areas and an understanding of the workplace. A key feature is their emphasis on learning through practical experience.

Commenting upon this year's results, Dr Janet Brown, SQA's chief executive and Scotland's chief examining officer, said:

"Today over 160,000 candidates will receive the results of their hard work in the form of their SQA certificates.

"The outcome will provide tangible proof that their efforts have been worthwhile. I want to congratulate everyone who has been involved and, whether they will be returning to school or college, moving on to Higher Education or entering the workplace I wish them continued success.

"I want to offer my thanks also to all of the teachers and all SQA staff and our 15,000 Appointees who ensure that the candidates are presented each year in good order and that the massive task of delivering the results within a robust and stable examination environment continues year after year.

"And finally, to one group of candidates I wish to offer our very special congratulations. They are making history today. I refer, of course, to the 106 young people who have been awarded Scottish Baccalaureates in Science or Languages. This has been the first year that these awards have been offered. The numbers of those choosing the Scottish Baccalaureate route was in line with what we anticipated and as the new qualification goes on to prove its worth we anticipate that many more of our young people will follow in the footsteps of today's pathfinders."

ENDS

NOTES TO EDITORS

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SQA Candidate Advice Line

The SQA Candidate Advice Line will open on Thursday, 5 August and close on Saturday, 7 August. The Advice Line will operate during the following times:

Thursday 5 August, from 8am-6pm
Friday 6 August, from 8am-5pm
Saturday 7 August, from 10am-4pm

The Advice Line number is 0845 278 8080 and the e-mail enquiry address is results@sqa.org.uk

The SQA Candidate Advice Line provides advice for candidates on the content and layout of their certificate.

Skills Development Scotland Exam Results Helpline:

The Skills Development Scotland Exam Results Helpline will operate between Wednesday, 4 August and Saturday 28 August.

The Helpline will operate during the following times:

Wednesday 4 August from 2pm-10pm
Thursday 5 August - Friday 6 August from 8am-8pm
Saturday 7 August - Sunday 8 August from 9am-5pm
Monday 9 August - Saturday 28 August from 9am-6pm

The Helpline number is 0808 100 8000

The Skills Development Scotland Exam Results Helpline offers candidates impartial careers advice, including advice on clearing vacancies and alternative options.

Please note: All summary information detailed in this release is at pre appeal stage. Percentages are rounded to 1 decimal place. Percentages may not add to the total due to rounding.