

## Notes on Progression Data Sources

In the past, we created progression information in response to specific requests. Some of this information was later made available to a wider range of external stakeholders. In 2017, we made the first formal scheduled release of annual progression information to be published on the SQA website.

Producing progression information requires decisions to be made about the source of the data to be used (for example, August or December attainment data), the data flags to be considered before any data are included, as well as the progression routes to be considered.

Attainment Statistics (December) data is used for all tables. This was called ‘Post-Appeal’ data before we introduced Post-results Services. Attainment Statistics (December) data includes all recorded course results after completion of Post-results Services.

These tables detail progression from the lower level of the qualification to each available graded result at the higher level of the qualification. Progression from an ungraded to graded National Qualification is only considered for National 4 to National 5 – the qualifications were designed to be in a hierarchy, and are related further by the Recognising Positive Achievement arrangements.

In most instances, only subjects with a direct (intended by design) progression route are included in the tables. Typically, these progression routes will now involve a qualification at consecutive levels with the same qualification code. A small number of alternative subject progression routes are considered where the number of learners involved is moderate or high, and/or no direct progression is available between SCQF levels (for instance, Applications of Mathematics is not available at Higher level, so the progression route Applications of Mathematics National 5 to Mathematics Higher is presented). Cases where progression is between qualifications with different titles are explicitly detailed as ‘Qualification Name X to Qualification Name Y’. Where qualifications in the progression route share the same title, only the title is shown.

Qualifications are grouped in line with standard SQA statistical reporting titles (e.g. ‘Chinese Languages’ includes ‘Cantonese’, ‘Mandarin (Traditional)’ and ‘Mandarin (Simplified)’).

Where fewer than 20 candidates are progressing from a given result at the lower level, no progression percentages are displayed (such candidates will be counted in the ‘Total Candidates Progressing Figure’, however). The ‘Total Students Progressing’ figure is split across all results at the lower level.

Tables are ordered alphabetically by the name of the qualification at the higher SCQF level of the progression route. For example, National 5 ‘Biology’ to Higher ‘Human Biology’ is ordered by Higher ‘Human Biology’, as this is the higher SCQF level in that particular progression route.