



Attainment Statistics (August)

2016

Scottish Qualifications Authority

EMBARGO: Not for broadcast or publication under any circumstances before 09:30 Tuesday 9 August 2016

Notes

- All percentages are rounded separately and breakdowns may consequently not sum to 100 per cent.
 - 'Percentage Point Change' figures are calculated prior to percentage rounding.
 - National Qualifications include the following course types
 - National 2 - 5
 - Access 2 - 3
 - Intermediate 1 – 2
 - Skills for Work
 - Personal Development
 - Previous Higher
 - Higher
 - Previous Advanced Higher
 - Advanced Higher
 - Scottish Baccalaureate
 - Attainment statistics for National Qualifications presented in this paper relate to information as of August and are therefore subject to change later in the year.
 - Attainment statistics for Awards, National Progression Awards and National Certificate qualifications detail the number of certificated entries between 1st August 2015 and 30 June 2016 and are therefore subject to change when attainment across the complete academic year is published in the Attainment Statistics (December) report.
 - For each qualification type, a breakdown of candidates by stage group has been provided. The reported stage groups cover third, fourth, fifth and sixth year school candidates, Other School candidates (which includes first year, second year and adults attending school), Further Education Colleges, and Other (which covers candidates outwith school or college, for example workplace candidates).
 - Skills for Work and Personal Development courses are reported separately.
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The Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) today (Tuesday 9 August 2016) releases the Attainment Statistics (August) report. A detailed statistical breakdown of attainment is provided in Appendix 1.

In academic year 2015-16, there is a mix of the current National Courses (Access, National 2 to National 5, Highers, Advanced Highers) as well as Skills for Work and Personal Development, Awards, National Progression Awards, and National Certificates taken by candidates in schools and colleges.

The table below shows overall entries for each National Qualification type.

Table 1: Entries for each National Qualification type, 2011 - 2016

	Entries					
	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
SCQF level 2						
Access 2	20	104	416	1,586	1,915	1,964
National 2	2,449	1,865	1,217	-	-	-
Skills for Work and Personal Development	-	-	117	246	204	174
SCQF level 3						
Access 3	3	3,340	10,939	32,963	35,350	32,503
National 3	18,475	17,268	16,587	-	-	-
Skills for Work and Personal Development	32	39	467	439	327	323
SCQF level 4						
Intermediate 1	-	1,553	18,679	63,190	67,721	65,425
National 4	122,961	130,876	122,716	-	-	-
Skills for Work and Personal Development	4,218	5,361	5,667	6,428	6,706	6,749
SCQF level 5						
Intermediate 2	-	10,678	97,122	140,577	137,158	132,345
National 5	295,083	288,016	213,595	-	-	-
Skills for Work and Personal Development	5,372	5,207	4,586	3,791	2,888	2,171
SCQF level 3-5						
Standard Grade	-	-	-	308,243	319,986	330,671
SCQF level 6						
Previous Higher	-	92,555	191,850	182,601	180,912	178,203
Higher	197,774	107,295	-	-	-	-
Skills for Work and Personal Development	386	1,276	1,228	713	656	635
SCQF level 7						
Previous Advanced Higher	-	23,348	22,430	22,120	21,587	21,414
Advanced Higher	23,795	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	670,568	688,781	707,616	762,897	775,410	772,577
Scottish Baccalaureate (SCQF level 7)	140	122	176	191	182	174

The Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF) helps people to understand and compare different qualifications in Scotland.

Key Points

- The overall entries for National Qualifications numbered 670,568 in 2016. This is a decrease of 18,213 on 2015.
- Entries at Higher (SCQF level 6) have decreased by 2,076 and Advanced Higher (SCQF level 7) have increased by 447.
- There were 140 entries for the Scottish Baccalaureate this year; an increase of 18 from 2015.
- National 4 entries include those awarded through the Recognising Positive Achievement (RPA) process.

The table below lists Grade A-C attainment rate for each National Qualification type¹.

Table 2: Grade A-C attainment rates for each National Qualification type, 2011 - 2016

	Grade A-C Attainment Rate ¹					
	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
SCQF level 2						
Access 2	95.0%	46.2%	63.0%	71.1%	63.9%	63.8%
National 2	75.5%	79.8%	73.6%	-	-	-
Skills for Work and Personal Development	-	-	49.6%	69.9%	49.5%	47.7%
SCQF level 3						
Access 3	100.0%	95.3%	95.0%	93.8%	93.3%	92.1%
National 3	90.2%	91.2%	89.8%	-	-	-
Skills for Work and Personal Development	75.0%	89.7%	96.4%	80.0%	78.3%	79.9%
SCQF level 4						
Intermediate 1	-	75.3%	73.2%	77.9%	76.5%	76.9%
National 4	93.2%	93.3%	93.0%	-	-	-
Skills for Work and Personal Development	83.2%	81.6%	75.3%	76.5%	72.7%	66.7%
SCQF level 5						
Intermediate 2	-	73.3%	77.9%	81.8%	80.3%	80.4%
National 5	79.4%	79.8%	81.1%	-	-	-
Skills for Work and Personal Development	87.0%	84.6%	78.6%	82.8%	75.5%	76.0%
SCQF level 3-5						
Standard Grade ²	-	-	-	98.9%	98.9%	98.5%
SCQF level 6						
Previous Higher	-	76.7%	77.1%	77.4%	76.9%	75.2%
Higher	77.2%	79.2%	-	-	-	-
Skills for Work and Personal Development	79.3%	91.3%	88.6%	86.4%	87.3%	78.4%
SCQF level 7						
Previous Advanced Higher	-	80.9%	81.0%	82.1%	80.1%	79.3%
Advanced Higher	81.7%	-	-	-	-	-
Scottish Baccalaureate (SCQF level 7)	73.6%	80.3%	81.8%	85.9%	79.1%	80.5%

¹ For National 2-4, Access 2-3, Skills for Work and Personal Development courses, which are all ungraded, the attainment rate is based on entries which have resulted in a pass.

² For historic Standard Grade courses the attainment rate refers to the percentage of learners attaining a grade 1 – 6.

The table below shows overall attainment for Awards, National Certificates, and National Progression Awards.

Table 3: Attainment for Awards, National Certificates and National Progression Awards, 2011 - 2016

	Attainment					
	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
SCQF level 1						
Awards	283	207	178	152	-	-
SCQF level 2						
Awards	750	493	301	130	22	-
National Progression Awards	77	64	101	121	87	67
SCQF level 3						
Awards	3,863	3,205	2,263	1,216	563	191
National Certificates	18	7	17	6	4	-
National Progression Awards	135	119	161	129	141	73
SCQF level 4						
Awards	11,391	9,673	7,887	4,542	2,177	1,012
National Certificates	371	273	89	130	167	73
National Progression Awards	4,958	4,336	4,111	4,153	3,788	4,010
SCQF level 5						
Awards	2,907	1,952	1,514	578	199	119
National Certificates	4,103	3,219	2,582	2,454	2,360	1,533
National Progression Awards	4,958	4,120	4,206	3,685	3,448	2,625
SCQF level 6						
Awards	2,710	1,305	801	588	419	157
National Certificates	4,920	3,989	2,729	2,664	3,025	1,698
National Progression Awards	1,611	969	701	554	463	378
TOTAL	43,055	33,931	27,641	21,102	16,863	11,936

Key Points

- The overall attainment for Awards, National Certificates, and National Progression Awards numbered 43,055 in 2016. This is an increase of 9,124 on 2015.
- Awards, NC and NPA are undertaken by learners from a large number of different stages, by many centre types, throughout the year.

The following sections highlight aspects of the entries and /or attainment for each qualification type

Access 2

Access 2 (SCQF level 2) courses require the attainment of a number of SQA quality assured internally-assessed units in a particular subject. This is the last year of the Access 2 courses.

Table 4: Entries and attainment rate at Access 2 (SCQF level 2), 2011 - 2016

	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
Entries	20	104	416	1,586	1,915	1,964
Attainment	19	48	262	1,128	1,223	1,253
Attainment rate	95.0%	46.2%	63.0%	71.1%	63.9%	63.8%

Key Points

- Entries were made in 4 Access 2 Courses.
- Entries numbered 20 in 2016 with attainment of 19, giving an attainment rate of 95.0%.
- 35.0% of candidates entered for Access 2 courses in 2016 were FE college candidates. There was also a substantial proportion of candidates from 4th year (30.0%).

National 2

National 2 courses (SCQF level 2) were introduced in 2014. National 2 courses require the attainment of a number of SQA quality assured internally-assessed units in a particular subject.

Table 5: Entries and attainment rate at National 2 (SCQF level 2), 2014 - 2016

	2016	2015	2014
Entries	2,449	1,865	1,217
Attainment	1,849	1,488	896
Attainment rate	75.5%	79.8%	73.6%

Key Points

- Entries were made in 16 National 2 Courses.
- Entries numbered 2,449 in 2016 with attainment of 1,849, giving an attainment rate of 75.5%.
- 45.9% of candidates entered for National 2 courses in 2016 were 4th year candidates.

Access 3

Access 3 courses (SCQF level 3) require the attainment of a number of SQA quality assured internally-assessed units in a particular subject.

Table 6: Entries and attainment rate at Access 3 (SCQF level 3), 2011 - 2016

	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
Entries	3	3,340	10,939	32,963	35,350	32,503
Attainment	3	3,184	10,391	30,908	32,986	29,923
Attainment rate	100%	95.3%	95.0%	93.8%	93.3%	92.1%

Key Points

- Entries were made in 1 Access 3 Course.
- Entries numbered 3 in 2016 with an attainment rate of 100%.

National 3

National 3 courses (SCQF level 3) were introduced in 2014. National 3 courses require the attainment of a number of SQA quality assured internally-assessed units in a particular subject.

Table 7: Entries and attainment rate at National 3 (SCQF level 3), 2014 - 2016

	2016	2015	2014
Entries	18,475	17,268	16,587
Attainment	16,659	15,756	14,898
Attainment rate	90.2%	91.2%	89.8%

Key Points

- Entries were made in 37 National 3 Courses.
- Entries numbered 18,475 in 2016 with attainment of 16,659, giving an attainment rate of 90.2%.
- 85.6% of candidates entered for National 3 courses in 2016 were 4th year candidates.

Intermediate 1

Intermediate 1 courses (SCQF level 4) require the attainment of a number of SQA quality assured internally-assessed units and a course assessment which, in most cases, will be externally assessed through an examination and/or coursework. 2015 was the last year of the Intermediate 1 courses.

Table 8: Entries and Grade A-C attainment rate at Intermediate 1 (SCQF level 4), 2011 - 2016

	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
Entries	-	1,553	18,679	63,190	67,721	65,425
Grade A-C attainment	-	1,170	13,666	49,220	51,784	50,318
Grade A-C attainment rate	-	75.3%	73.2%	77.9%	76.5%	76.9%

National 4

National 4 courses (SCQF level 4) were introduced in 2014. National 4 courses require the attainment of a number of SQA quality assured internally-assessed units, including an Added Value unit, in a particular subject.

Table 9: Entries and attainment rate at National 4 (SCQF level 4), 2014 - 2016

	2016	2015	2014
Entries	122,961	130,876	122,716
Attainment	114,635	122,071	114,173
Attainment rate	93.2%	93.3%	93.0%

Key Points

- Entries were made in 43 National 4 Courses.
- Entries numbered 122,961 in 2016 with attainment of 114,635, giving an attainment rate of 93.2%.
- 66.4% of candidates entered for National 4 courses in 2016 were 4th year candidates.
- National 4 figures include those awarded through the Recognising Positive Achievement (RPA) process.

Intermediate 2

Intermediate 2 courses (SCQF level 5) require the attainment of a number of SQA quality assured internally-assessed units and a course assessment which, in most cases, will be externally assessed through an examination and/or coursework. 2015 was the last year of the Intermediate 2 courses.

Table 10: Entries and Grade A-C attainment rate at Intermediate 2 (SCQF Level 5), 2011 - 2016

	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
Entries	-	10,678	97,122	140,577	137,158	132,345
Grade A-C attainment	-	7,828	75,689	114,934	110,175	106,395
Grade A-C attainment rate	-	73.3%	77.9%	81.8%	80.3%	80.4%

National 5

National 5 courses (SCQF level 5) were introduced in 2014. National 5 courses require the attainment of a number of SQA quality assured internally-assessed units and a course assessment which, in most cases, will be externally assessed through an examination and/or coursework.

Table 11: Entries and Grade A-C attainment rate at National 5 (SCQF level 5), 2014 - 2016

	2016	2015	2014
Entries	295,083	288,016	213,595
Grade A-C attainment	234,160	229,870	173,131
Grade A-C attainment rate	79.4%	79.8%	81.1%

Key Points

- Entries were made in 48 National 5 Courses.
- Entries numbered 295,083 in 2016 with Grade A-C attainment of 234,160, giving a Grade A-C attainment rate of 79.4%.
- 53.4% of candidates entered for National 5 courses in 2016 were 4th year candidates. There was also a substantial proportion of candidates from 5th year (29.5%).

Previous Higher

Previous Higher courses (SCQF level 6) required the attainment of a number of SQA quality assured internally-assessed units and a course assessment which, in most cases, will be externally assessed through an examination and/or coursework. 2015 was the last year of the previous Higher courses.

Table 12: Entries and Grade A-C attainment rate at existing Higher (SCQF level 6), 2011 - 2016

	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
Entries	-	92,555	191,850	182,601	180,912	178,203
Grade A-C attainment	-	70,981	147,899	141,257	139,125	133,960
Grade A-C attainment rate	-	76.7%	77.1%	77.4%	76.9%	75.2%

Higher

The Higher courses (SCQF level 6) have been designed to reflect the purposes and principles of Curriculum for Excellence. Compared to the previous Higher they involve the assessment of different skills and knowledge, for example, deeper learning and higher order thinking skills. The courses require the attainment of a number of SQA quality assured internally-assessed units and a course assessment which, in most cases, will be externally assessed through an examination and/or coursework.

Table 13: Entries and Grade A-C attainment rate at Higher (SCQF level 6), 2015 - 2016

	2016	2015
Entries	197,774	107,295
Grade A-C attainment	152,701	85,019
Grade A-C attainment rate	77.2%	79.2%

Key Points

- Entries were made in 46 new Higher Courses.
- Entries numbered 197,774 in 2016 with Grade A-C attainment of 152,701 giving a Grade A-C attainment rate of 77.2%.
- 51.1% of candidates entered for Higher courses in 2016 were 5th year candidates. There was also a substantial proportion of candidates from 6th year (40.4%). The proportion of candidates from FE College was 6.7%
- The difference in the number of entries between 2015 and 2016 is due to the 2015 cohort being split between the two versions of the Higher qualification which were dual running (53.7% of entries in 2015 were for the newly introduced Higher qualification).

Previous Advanced Higher

Previous Advanced Higher courses (SCQF level 7) required the attainment of a number of SQA quality assured internally-assessed units and a course assessment which, in most cases, will be externally assessed through an examination and/or coursework. 2015 was the last year of the previous Advanced Higher courses.

Table 14: Entries and Grade A-C attainment rate at Advanced Higher (SCQF level 7), 2011-2015

	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
Entries	-	23,348	22,430	22,120	21,587	21,414
Grade A-C attainment	-	18,899	18,171	18,162	17,299	16,976
Grade A-C attainment rate	-	80.9%	81.0%	82.1%	80.1%	79.3%

Advanced Higher

Advanced Higher courses (SCQF level 7) require the attainment of a number of SQA quality assured internally-assessed units and a course assessment which, in most cases, will be externally assessed through an examination and/or coursework.

Table 15: Entries and Grade A-C attainment rate at Advanced Higher (SCQF level 7), 2016

	2016
Entries	23,795
Grade A-C attainment	19,443
Grade A-C attainment rate	81.7%

Key Points

- Entries were made in 34 Advanced Higher Courses.
- Entries numbered 23,795 in 2016 with Grade A-C attainment of 19,443, giving a Grade A-C attainment rate of 81.7%.
- 95.7% of candidates entered for Advanced Higher courses in 2016 were 6th year candidates.

Scottish Baccalaureate

The Scottish Baccalaureate is available in four subject areas (Science, Languages, Social Sciences and Expressive Arts) and consists of a coherent group of Higher and Advanced Higher qualifications, and an Interdisciplinary Project. Candidates must attain a grade A-C result in at least two Advanced Highers and one Higher in the eligible Courses, as well as a grade A-C result in the Interdisciplinary Project.

Table 16: Entries and attainment rate for The Scottish Baccalaureate SCQF level 7), 2011 - 2016

	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
Entries	140	122	176	191	182	174
Attainment	103	98	144	164	144	140
Attainment rate	73.6%	80.3%	81.8%	85.9%	79.1%	80.5%

Key Points

- Entries were made in 4 Scottish Baccalaureate courses.
- Entries numbered 140 in 2016 with attainment of 103, giving an attainment rate of 73.6%.

Skills for Work and Personal Development

Skills for Work and Personal Development courses are available across SCQF level 2-6. Skills for Work courses involve a strong element of learning through involvement in practical activities which are directly related to a particular vocational area, and they develop knowledge and skills that are important to employment. Skills for Work and Personal Development courses require the attainment of a number of SQA quality assured internally-assessed units in a particular subject.

Table 17: Entries and attainment rate for Skills for Work and Personal Development courses, 2011 - 2016

	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
Entries	10,008	11,883	12,065	11,617	10,781	10,052
Attainment	8,513	9,980	9,465	9,198	7,986	6,990
Attainment rate	85.1%	84.0%	78.5%	79.2%	74.1%	69.5%

Key Points

- Entries were made in 21 Skills for Work and Personal Development courses across SCQF levels 2 – 6.
- Entries numbered 10,008 in 2016 with attainment of 8,513, giving an attainment rate of 85.1%.
- 15.1% of entries for Skills for Work and Personal Development courses in 2016 were from 4th year candidates, 16.9% were 5th year candidates and 57.0% were from FE colleges.

Awards

SQA Awards recognise the life and work skills that learners gain from activities they might already be taking part in at school, at college or elsewhere - such as sport, mentoring, voluntary work or fund-raising activities. In common with some other qualifications in SQA's portfolio they have been designed to recognise wider achievement. Awards require the attainment of a number of SQA quality assured internally-assessed units in a particular subject.

Table 18: Attainment for Awards, 2011 – 2016

	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
Attainment	21,904	16,835	12,944	7,206	3,380	1,479

Key Points

- Entries were made in 20 Awards courses across SCQF levels 1 – 6.
- Attainment numbered 21,904 in 2016
- 26.4% were 4th year candidates.

National Certificates

National Certificates are primarily aimed at 16-18 year olds and adults in education, normally at a college. They offer learners a full time programme of vocational study. National Certificates require the attainment of a number of SQA quality assured internally-assessed units in a particular subject.

Table 19: Attainment for National Certificates, 2011 – 2016

	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
Attainment	9,412	7,488	5,417	5,254	5,556	3,304

Key Points

- Entries were made in 78 National Certificates courses across SCQF levels 3 – 6.
- Attainment numbered 9,412 in 2016.
- 98.3% of candidates entered for National Certificates in 2016 were from FE colleges.

National Progression Awards

National Progression Awards are designed to develop and assess a defined set of skills and knowledge in specialist vocational areas. They are linked to National Occupational Standards - the basis of Scottish Vocational Qualifications. National Progression Awards require the attainment of a number of SQA quality assured internally-assessed units in a particular subject.

Table 20: Attainment for National Progression Awards, 2011 – 2016

	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
Attainment	11,739	9,608	9,280	8,642	7,927	7,153

Key Points

- Entries were made in 169 National Progression Awards courses.
- Attainment numbered 11,739 in 2016.
- 39.2% of candidates entered for National Progression Awards courses in 2016 were from outwith schools or FE colleges, for example workplace candidates. 38.4% were from FE colleges.