



2020 Attainment Statistics – notes

On 4th August 2020 Scottish Qualification Authority (SQA) published the Attainment Statistics (August) 2020. This publication provides Attainment Statistics for every National Qualification in 2020 (August Report). As a result of the impact of the Covid-19 public health emergency in 2020, assessment for many qualifications were either interrupted or adopted a different approach relative to previous years.

The different approaches taken for the different qualification types for which statistics are reported in the Attainment Statistics (August) 2020, are summarised below:

- **National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher:**

The Deputy First Minister announced the cancellation of national exams on 19 March, and asked SQA as Scotland's national awarding body, to develop an Alternative Certification Model (ACM) for 2020 for the graded National Qualifications, to ensure the hard work of Scotland's learners is fully recognised through our qualifications system.

The Alternative Certification Model is based on centre estimates of student grades for a course, which are then subject to statistical moderation by SQA. The details of the 2020 ACM methodology are provided in the *National Qualifications 2020 Awarding – Methodology Report* available on [SQA's statistics page](#).

- **National 2, National 3, and National 4 courses, Scottish Baccalaureate Interdisciplinary project unit and free-standing units at SCQF Levels 5, 6 and 7**

Schools and colleges provided unit results based on either existing evidence from assessments that had already been completed, and/or using their professional judgement of other learner evidence, including their knowledge of their learners, their progress and achievements to date. See [approach to quality assurance and certification for National 2, 3 and 4 courses](#) for further details.

- **National 2, National 3, and National 4 courses, Scottish Baccalaureate Interdisciplinary project unit and free-standing units at SCQF Levels 5, 6 and 7**

The approaches for these courses have been aligned, so all results were based on a holistic assessment decision-making process. See [SQA update on arrangements for quality assurance and the certification of National Courses and Awards](#) for further details.

Users of the Attainment Statistics (August) 2020 should highlight, where appropriate, the different approaches to the derivation of results, relative to previous years. These approaches are set out in various supporting documents published on SQA's website.