



Background information for Grade Boundaries 2022

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Purpose

Grade Boundaries 2022 presents grade boundaries for National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher courses in 2022.

Status

The data is classified as information.

Geography and time period covered

This publication presents National Qualifications grade boundaries in Scotland in the 2021 to 2022 academic year and includes data for the previous four years (where available).

Description

Grade boundaries are the marks needed to get an A, a B, or a C grade. They tell us the minimum marks needed to achieve a particular grade for a course.

During the global pandemic, SQA, in common with education systems around the world, had to use different approaches to assessment and certification. Examinations did not take place in 2020 and 2021 and no grade boundaries were set.

In 2022, Scotland returned to formal national exams, supported by a package of measures (course modifications and revision support, as well as wider support from across the education system at a national, regional, local and centre level). These measures were designed to address the ongoing disruption to learning and teaching that young people experienced, while maintaining standards.

Further information about the approach to awarding in 2022 is available on the SQA website.

Figures for courses available in different languages are assigned the same grade boundaries and are grouped as a single course for reporting purposes. These courses are as follows:

- Mandarin (Traditional), Mandarin (Simplified) and Cantonese are reported as Chinese Languages for each level
- Mathematics and Matamataig are reported as Mathematics for each level
- Applications of Mathematics and Gniomhachas Matamataigs are reported as Applications of Mathematics for each level
- Geography and Cruinn-eolas are reported as Geography for each level
- History and Eachdraidh are reported as History for each level
- Modern Studies and Nuadh-Eolas are reported as Modern Studies for each level

Grade D, like grades A to C, is reported on the Scottish Qualifications Certificate as a Course award in its own right. Grade D indicates that the learner has achieved all the National Units for the course at that level (if applicable) and has demonstrated sufficient knowledge to achieve the grade.

Notional grade boundaries are set at 50% of total marks for the course assessment for C, 70% for A and 85% for Upper A. SQA's assessments are developed with these notional or near notional grade boundaries in mind. They are therefore the starting point for discussion of the final grade boundaries for most courses in any year, and any adjustments are made from this starting point.

With the phased introduction of the Revised National Qualifications, grade D was extended from a notional 45 to 49% to a notional 40 to 49%. No Award was reduced from a notional 0 to 44% to 0 to 39% as a result of this change to grade D. These changes were implemented for National 5 from the 2017 to 2018 academic year, for Higher from the 2018 to 2019 academic year, and for Advanced Higher from the 2019 to 2020 academic year.

Source of data

Grade boundary data are collected throughout awarding meetings where grade boundary decisions are made. The data are collected and held directly by SQA.

Revisions and corrections

Once published this information is not usually subject to revisions. [Further information about revisions and corrections is available in our policy document.](#)

Related publications

For any related publications for qualifications offered in Wales, Northern Ireland and England please contact the respective awarding bodies [AQA](#), [Pearson](#), [OCR](#), [WJEC](#) and [CCEA](#).

Useful links

- [data tables accompanying this release](#)
- [provisional attainment statistics – August 2022](#)
- [component marks 2022](#)
- [assessment arrangements 2022](#)
- [equalities monitoring report 2022](#)

Feedback

We welcome your feedback on our publications. Please [contact the team](#) with any comments about ways we can improve a publication to meet your needs.