Evaluation of the 2023 Approach to the Assessment of Graded National Courses:

Trends in entries and attainment of dual presentation candidates from 2019 to 2023

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Contents

1 Report summary

In the 2022–23 academic year, it was evident that there was a sizable increase in the number of dual presentations (that is, instances where candidates are presented at both National 4 and National 5 in a given subject in the same diet). This report explores the entry and attainment profiles of National 5 candidates and considers the impact of dual presentation over the five-year period from 2019 to 2023. It is important to note that these years covered the COVID-19 pandemic and were, therefore, atypical in a number of ways. It is unclear to what extent presentation patterns were influenced by the particular circumstances of the global pandemic; therefore, these factors should be carefully considered when reading the contents of this report.

Please note that throughout this report, all raw count data are rounded to the nearest five. Totals are also rounded, which may cause the sum of rounded figures to differ from the total reported. Entry numbers between one and four inclusive have been suppressed to protect against the risk of disclosing personal information. Suppressed figures are marked up with the shorthand '[c]'. All percentage values are calculated prior to rounding, and the percentage values are all rounded to one decimal place.

2023 saw the highest count of dual presentations across the period, with 30,295 dual presentation entries; increasing from 20,960 in 2022, and 13,560 in 2019.

There was a decrease in the proportion of dual presentation entries during the COVID-19 pandemic, which increased in the years following to levels higher than those observed pre-pandemic (decreasing from 4.7% in 2019 to 3.3% in 2020 and 2021, before increasing to 6.8% in 2022 and again to 9.4% in 2023 following the reintroduction of external assessments).

Single presentation candidates consistently achieve a higher proportion of A and A to C grades than dual presentation candidates. However, the attainment gap between these cohorts narrowed after 2019, indicating a shift in the cohort put forward for both National 4 and National 5 in the same academic session after that time.

English and Mathematics are generally the National 5 qualifications with the highest number of dual presentation entries, typically followed by Biology, History, Physics and Modern Studies.

In 2023, Mathematics had the highest proportion of dual presentation entries (14.2%), followed closely by History (14.1%), Environmental Science (13.6%), Religious, Moral and Philosophical Studies (13.5%), and Modern Studies (12.1%). For the years analysed in this report, centres with higher average attainment (as measured by the average National 5 grade for that centre) in a given year tend to submit a lower number of dual presentation entries the following year. Conversely, centres with a lower attainment in each given year tend to submit a greater number of dual presentations the subsequent year. Please note that this analysis has not been conducted on years prior to 2019, so longer-term patterns are not considered within the context of this report.

On the basis of the analysis set out in this report, the Cabinet Secretary for Education, Jenny Gilruth, wrote to directors of education to remind them of guidance issued in 2017 on dual presentations. The letter reiterated this guidance, noting that:

> *The learning and pathways within Curriculum for Excellence are designed to be centred around the individual young person. There should, therefore, be no occasions where large numbers of candidates in a centre are being presented for both National 4 and National 5 in S4.*

The letter also requested the following of the directors of education:

> *As your schools begin to confirm entries for the 2024 diet and look ahead to course choices for the next academic session, we ask you to communicate to your schools the importance of appropriate presentation decisions which focus on the interests of the individual young people. We also ask you to work with your schools, and with other local authorities, to review entry data at the end of each academic session to understand how learners are being presented across the country and consider any impacts on assessment workload and attainment.*

2 Background

During the global COVID-19 pandemic, SQA had to use different approaches to assessment and certification, same as other education systems around the world.

In 2023, awarding operated using the established procedure as far as possible in order to evaluate the performance of the course assessment, but with consideration given to the following, as stated in the 2023 Chief Examining Officer's Report:

> *SQA recognised that while the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic may have been less severe than in previous years, things have not yet returned to normal. We had an approach to assessment and awarding that helped to support recovery of teaching and learning while maintaining the standards and credibility of our qualifications. This included the continuation of modifications to assessment, freeing up time for learning and teaching and providing Understanding Standards materials, as well as other advice and support to help practitioners prepare learners effectively for SQA's assessments.*

Throughout both 2022 and 2023, SQA worked with partners across the education sector, including teachers, lecturers, learners, parents and carers, to agree the wide-ranging package of support that was put in place to enable learners to demonstrate what they know, understand and can do, despite the disruption to learning caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. SQA implemented various modifications and revision support to reduce the assessment requirements for courses and increase learning and teaching time. Further details about the approach to awarding in 2022 and 2023 can be found in the respective methodology reports (National Qualifications 2022 Awarding — Methodology Report and National Qualifications 2023 Awarding — Methodology Report).

3 Entries overview

3.1 Single and dual presentation counts

The number of total entries and dual presentation entries at National 5 have both tended to increase across the period 2019 to 2023.

There was a total of 321,360 entries at National 5 in 2023. This was the highest entry count for any year included within this analysis. In addition, 2023 saw the highest count of dual presentations across the period, with 30,295 dual presentation entries; increasing from 20,960 in 2022, and 13,560 in 2019.

Table 1: The count of single and dual presentation entries, and all entries combined, from 2019 to 2023.

Presentation type	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Single	274,990	290,740	288,060	289,210	291,060
Dual	13,560	9,900	9,915	20,960	30,295
All entries	288,550	300,640	297,975	310,170	321,360

3.2 Single and dual entry percentages

Generally, across the five-year period, the proportion of dual presentation candidates has been increasing; subsequently, the proportion of single presentation candidates has tended to decrease.

The proportion of dual presentation entries experienced a decline at the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic, but increased in the subsequent years, surpassing pre-pandemic levels. It decreased from 4.7% in 2019 to 3.3% in 2020 and 2021, before increasing to 6.8% in 2022 and further rising to 9.4% in 2023.

Table 2: The percentage of National 5 entries that are single or dual presentations from 2019 to 2023.

Presentation type	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Single entries	95.3%	96.7%	96.7%	93.2%	90.6%
Dual entries	4.7%	3.3%	3.3%	6.8%	9.4%

4 Attainment overview

4.1 A rates

Single presentation candidates consistently achieve a higher proportion of A grades at National 5 than dual presentation candidates (a difference of 33.9 percentage points in 2019, 39.1 percentage points in 2020, 39.8 percentage points in 2021, 35.0 percentage points in 2022, and 34.4 percentage points in 2023).

Table 3: The percentage of single and dual presentation candidates achieving A grades at National 5 from 2019 to 2023.

Presentation type	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Single entries	36.7%	43.6%	48%	42.7%	41.9%
Dual entries	2.8%	4.5%	8.2%	7.7%	7.5%

4.2 A to C rates

There was a notable increase in the proportion of dual presentation candidates achieving A to C grades at National 5 in 2020 (a 28.9 percentage point increase from 2019), indicating a potential shift in this cohort.

Single presentation candidates consistently achieve a higher proportion of A to C grades at National 5 than dual presentation candidates (a difference of 62.7 percentage points in 2019, 43.1 percentage points in 2020, 45.6 percentage points in 2021, 35.3 percentage points in 2022, and 36.0 percentage points in 2023).

Table 4: The percentage of single and dual presentation candidates achieving A to C grades at National 5 from 2019 to 2023.

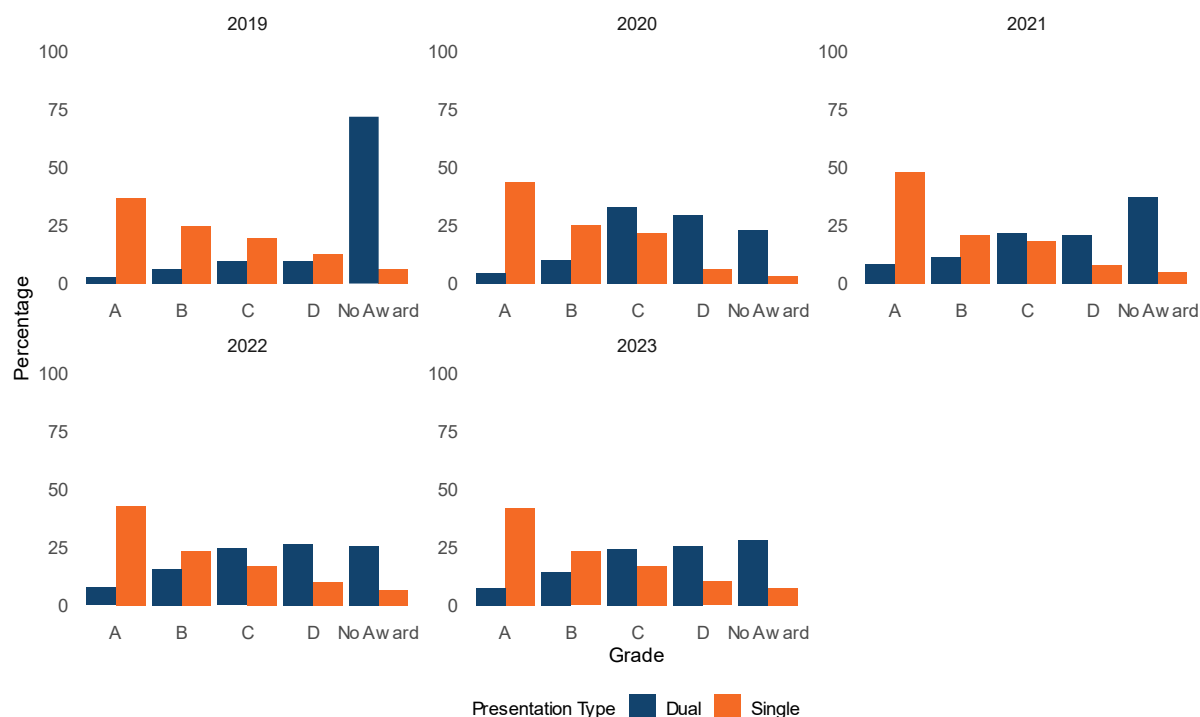| Presentation type	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Single entries	81.1%	90.4%	87.3%	83.2%	82.1%
Dual entries	18.4%	47.3%	41.7%	47.9%	46.1%

4.3 Attainment by grade

Figure 1 shows the proportion of single and dual presentation candidates achieving each grade at National 5.

The two cohorts tend to follow opposing patterns. In each of these years, the greatest proportion of single presentation candidates achieve A grades, with a gradually smaller proportion achieving grades B, C, D and No Award. In 2019, 2022, and 2023, the inverse is true for dual presentation candidates; the largest proportion receive No Award, with a smaller proportion achieving grades D, C, B and A. In 2020, the greatest proportion of dual presentation candidates achieved C grades, and there was a wider spread in the attainment of those candidates that year. In 2021, there was also a relatively wide spread in attainment

of dual presentation candidates, but the greatest proportion of those candidates received No Award.

Figure 1: The proportion of single and dual presentation candidates achieving each grade across all National 5 qualifications from 2019 to 2023.

4.4 Attainment and subsequent dual presentation entries by centre

Questions have been asked around the relationship between dual presentation entry and attainment at National 5. This was explored at centre level, by reviewing the relationship between attainment and subsequent proportion of dual presentations the following year across the sessions 2019 to 2023.

The jitter plots in Figure 2 show the relationship between average National 5 attainment for centres each year (2019 to 2022) and the subsequent proportion of dual presentation entries by those centres the following year (2020 to 2023).

A jitter plot is a type of scatter plot that helps you see individual data points more clearly when they overlap. When points on a regular scatter plot overlap (for example, when many centres have the same number of dual presented entries or the same average attainment), they might be stacked on top of each other, making it hard to see how many points are at a specific location. A jitter plot adds a small amount of random "jitter" or movement to the points along the x and/or y-axis. This random movement helps spread out the overlapping points, so you can better see their distribution and density.

For each given year (that is, 2019 to 2022), the centres with higher average attainment tend to submit a lower number of dual presentation entries the following year. Conversely, centres

with a lower attainment in each given year tend to submit a greater number of dual presentations the subsequent year.

Figure 2: A visualisation of the relationship between average attainment for a centre in a given year and the proportion of a centre's entries that are dual presentations in the following year.

5 Qualification overview

5.1 Single and dual presentation counts

In 2023, English (5,855) and Mathematics (5,320) remained the National 5 qualifications with the highest number of dual presentation entries, followed by Biology (2,440), History (2,290), and Modern Studies (1,660).

For each of these qualifications, the number of dual presentation entries was higher in 2023 than in 2022 (an increase of 2,105 for English, 1,005 for Mathematics, 660 for Biology, 705 for History, and 470 for Modern Studies), and generally higher than in 2019 (an increase of 4,235 for English, 1,150 for Biology, 1,705 for History, and 1,090 for Modern Studies). Only National 5 Mathematics had a higher number of dual presentation entries in 2019 than in 2023 (a decrease of 155 entries).

Similar patterns can be observed from 2019 to 2022. In each year, Mathematics typically had the highest number of dual presentation entries, followed by English, Biology, Physics, History and Modern Studies.

Table 5: The count of dual presentation entries for National 5 qualifications in each year across the period 2019 to 2023.

Qualification	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Administration and IT	240	195	80	325	475
Applications of Mathematics	190	165	370	620	1,185
Art and Design	125	235	195	485	730
Biology	1,290	815	870	1,780	2,440
Care	[c]	0	0	0	0
Chemistry	555	550	495	1,015	1,565
Chinese Languages	[c]	15	10	[c]	15
Classical Studies	[c]	[c]	0	20	10
Computing Science	265	270	260	610	810
Design and Manufacture	100	120	125	345	435
Drama	30	85	80	175	185
Engineering Science	40	30	50	75	160
English	1,620	1,475	1,880	3,750	5,855
English for Speakers of Other Languages	35	30	15	15	50
Environmental Science	15	25	10	40	55
Fashion and Textile Technology	5	10	15	35	35
French	215	200	190	450	770
Gaelic (Learners)	[c]	[c]	[c]	[c]	[c]
Gaidhlig	0	[c]	[c]	5	15

Qualification	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Geography	430	345	330	920	1,160
German	20	40	40	110	115
Graphic Communication	110	60	140	305	440
Health and Food Technology	20	55	35	100	105
History	585	575	675	1,585	2,290
Italian	[c]	35	[c]	20	5
Latin	0	0	[c]	[c]	0
Mathematics	5,475	2,545	2,250	4,315	5,320
Media	45	40	40	80	125
Modern Studies	570	570	475	1,190	1,660
Music	55	120	45	195	320
Music Technology	10	40	20	40	100
Physical Education	300	225	140	405	705
Physics	655	570	505	965	1,390
Practical Cookery	195	125	160	245	560
Practical Electronics	0	[c]	[c]	5	20
Practical Metalworking	[c]	10	15	10	65
Practical Woodworking	70	55	70	110	220
Religious, Moral and Philosophical Studies	140	125	85	225	325
Spanish	145	140	230	375	585
Urdu	0	0	0	[c]	0

5.2 Single and dual presentation percentages

In 2023, Mathematics had the highest proportion of dual presentation entries (14.2%), followed closely by History (14.1%), Environmental Science (13.6%), Religious, Moral and Philosophical Studies (13.5%), and Modern Studies (12.1%).

For each of these qualifications, the proportion of dual presentation entries was higher in 2023 than before the COVID-19 pandemic (an increase of 1 percentage point for Mathematics, 10.1 percentage points for History, 6.4 percentage points for Environmental Science, 7.6 percentage points for Religious, Moral and Philosophical Studies, and 7.3 percentage points for Modern Studies).

The proportion of dual presentation entries in 2023 was also higher for each of these qualifications than in 2022 (an increase of 2.9 percentage points for Mathematics, 4 percentage points for History, 2.7 percentage points for Environmental Science, 3.9 percentage points for Religious, Moral and Philosophical Studies, and 3.4 percentage points for Modern Studies).

Table 6: The proportion of dual presentation entries for National 5 qualifications in each year across the period 2019 to 2023.
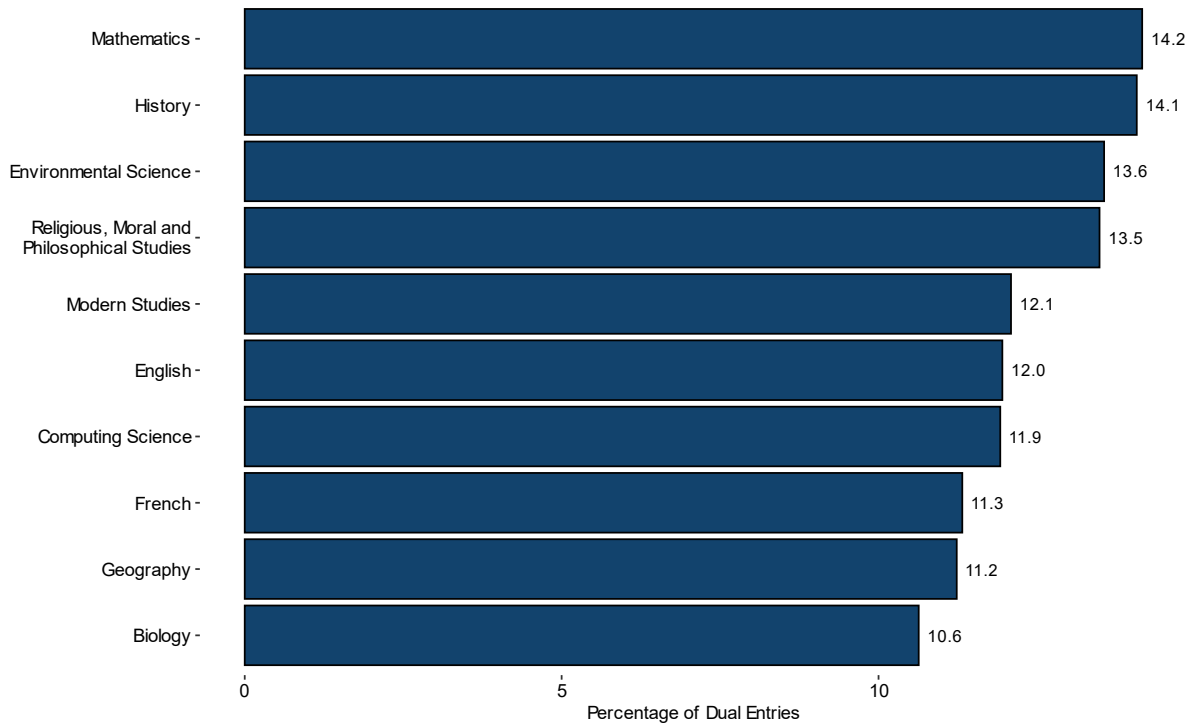
Qualification	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Accounting	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Administration and IT	4.9%	3.8%	1.5%	6.0%	8.7%
Applications of Mathematics	4.2%	1.6%	3.5%	4.3%	6.2%
Art and Design	1.3%	2.4%	1.9%	4.8%	7.1%
Biology	6.0%	3.7%	4.1%	7.9%	10.6%
Business Management	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Care	0.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Chemistry	3.4%	3.4%	3.3%	6.5%	10.1%
Chinese Languages	0.5%	5.0%	3.7%	1.2%	4.6%
Classical Studies	0.9%	0.8%	0.0%	11.6%	3.7%
Computing Science	4.2%	4.3%	4.1%	9.5%	11.9%
Dance	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Design and Manufacture	2.3%	2.6%	2.8%	7.8%	10.2%
Drama	0.6%	1.6%	1.7%	3.8%	4.0%
Economics	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Engineering Science	2.5%	1.7%	2.8%	4.2%	8.6%
English	3.6%	3.2%	4.0%	7.9%	12.0%
English for Speakers of Other Languages	3.1%	2.7%	1.4%	1.5%	3.6%
Environmental Science	7.2%	10.1%	2.7%	10.9%	13.6%
Fashion and Textile Technology	1.3%	2.7%	3.1%	6.1%	5.4%
French	2.7%	2.6%	2.7%	6.8%	11.3%

Qualification	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Gaelic (Learners)	0.7%	0.8%	1.9%	2.2%	0.9%
Gaidhlig	0.0%	1.6%	1.6%	3.4%	6.1%
Geography	4.4%	3.6%	3.3%	9.0%	11.2%
German	1.0%	2.3%	2.7%	7.2%	7.6%
Graphic Communication	2.1%	1.2%	2.8%	6.2%	8.5%
Health and Food Technology	1.5%	3.7%	1.9%	5.5%	6.4%
History	4.0%	3.8%	4.4%	10.1%	14.1%
Italian	0.9%	12.5%	1.8%	8.5%	3.8%
Latin	0.0%	0.0%	0.3%	1.0%	0.0%
Mathematics	13.2%	6.2%	6.2%	11.3%	14.2%
Media	4.4%	4.1%	4.1%	7.2%	9.5%
Modern Studies	4.8%	4.7%	3.7%	8.7%	12.1%
Music	0.8%	1.6%	0.5%	2.6%	4.2%
Music Technology	0.8%	3.3%	1.3%	3.1%	6.9%
Philosophy	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Physical Education	1.8%	1.3%	0.8%	2.1%	3.5%
Physics	4.7%	4.2%	3.9%	7.3%	10.5%
Practical Cake Craft	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Practical Cookery	4.0%	2.2%	2.6%	3.5%	7.5%
Practical Electronics	0.0%	0.2%	0.6%	1.2%	2.8%
Practical Metalworking	0.2%	0.9%	1.0%	0.7%	3.9%
Practical Woodworking	1.3%	0.9%	1.0%	1.5%	2.7%
Psychology	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Religious, Moral and Philosophical Studies	5.9%	5.5%	3.6%	9.6%	13.5%
Sociology	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Spanish	2.8%	2.4%	4.2%	6.5%	9.9%
Urdu	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2.8%	0.0%

5.3 Highest annual dual presentation qualifications

Figure 3 shows the ten National 5 qualifications with the highest proportion of dual presentations in 2023.

Figure 3: A visualisation of the ten National 5 qualifications with the highest proportion of dual presentation candidates in 2023.

5.4 Breakdown of 2023 National 5 qualifications

In the following section, we provide an overview of Mathematics, English and the remaining top five National 5 qualifications with the highest proportion of dual presentation candidates in 2023. Qualifications with less than 500 entries and/or less than 100 dual presentation entries will not be included in this subject level breakdown.

5.4.1 Mathematics

A more thorough evaluation of single and dual presentation for National 5 Mathematics (and for double presentation in National 5 Applications of Mathematics) can be found in the **Performance in National 5 Mathematics** report.

Please note that the following analysis only includes comparisons of candidates who are dual presented for National 4 and National 5 Mathematics.

The highest count of dual presentation entries for National 5 Mathematics was observed in 2019 (5,475). This was 1,160 more dual presentation entries than in 2022, and 155 more than in 2023. There was a dip in dual presentation entries during the height of the pandemic (2,545 dual presentation entries in 2020, and 2,250 in 2021).

The highest proportion of dual presentation entries for National 5 Mathematics was observed in 2023 (14.2%). This was higher than in 2022 (2.9 percentage point difference), and 2019 (1 percentage point difference). The smallest proportion of dual presentation entries for Mathematics was observed during the peak of the pandemic (6.2% in 2020 and 2021).

Table 7: The count of single and dual presentation entries, and overall entry counts, in the National 5 Mathematics qualification from 2019 to 2023.

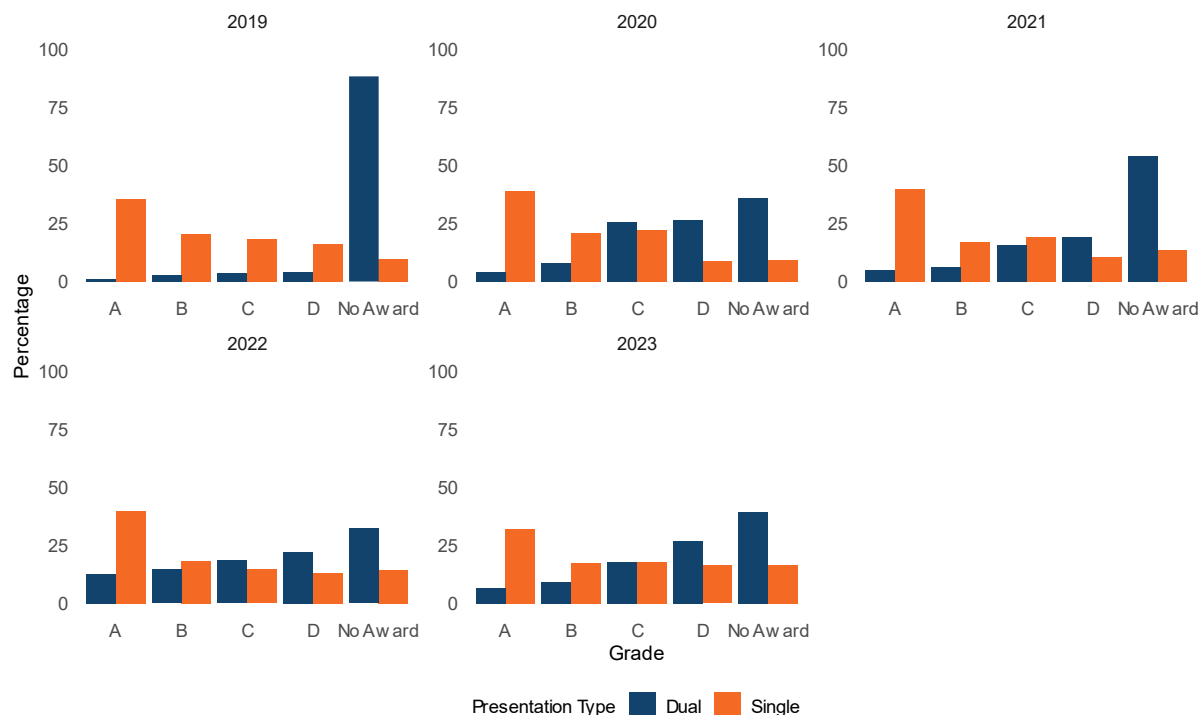| Presentation type	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Single	36,110	38,740	34,230	33,985	32,240
Dual	5,475	2,545	2,250	4,315	5,320
All entries	41,585	41,285	36,480	38,295	37,560

Table 8: The proportion of single and dual presentation entries in the National 5 Mathematics qualification from 2019 to 2023.

Presentation type	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Single entries	86.8%	93.8%	93.8%	88.7%	85.8%
Dual entries	13.2%	6.2%	6.2%	11.3%	14.2%

The two cohorts follow opposing patterns. In each of these years, the greatest proportion of single presentation candidates achieve A grades, with a gradually smaller proportion achieving grades B, C, D and No Award. The inverse is true for dual presentation candidates; the largest proportion receive No Award, with a smaller proportion achieving grades D, C, B and A. In 2019, the vast majority of dual presentation candidates received No

Award (with a very small proportion of candidates achieving any other grade); but from 2020 onwards, there is a wider spread in attainment by dual presentation candidates.

Figure 4: The proportion of single and dual presentation candidates achieving each grade in National 5 Mathematics.

5.4.2 English

The highest count of dual presentation entries for National 5 English was observed in 2023 (5,855). This was 2,105 more dual presentation entries than in 2022, and 4,235 more than in 2019. The count of dual presentation entries increased substantially after the height of the COVID-19 pandemic (an increase of 1,870 entries from 2021 to 2022).

The highest proportion of dual presentation entries for National 5 English was observed in 2023 (12.0%). This was higher than in 2022 (4.1 percentage point difference), and 2019 (8.4 percentage point difference). The smallest proportion of dual presentation entries for English was observed in 2020 (3.2%).

Table 9: The count of single and dual presentation entries, and overall entry counts, in the National 5 English qualification from 2019 to 2023.

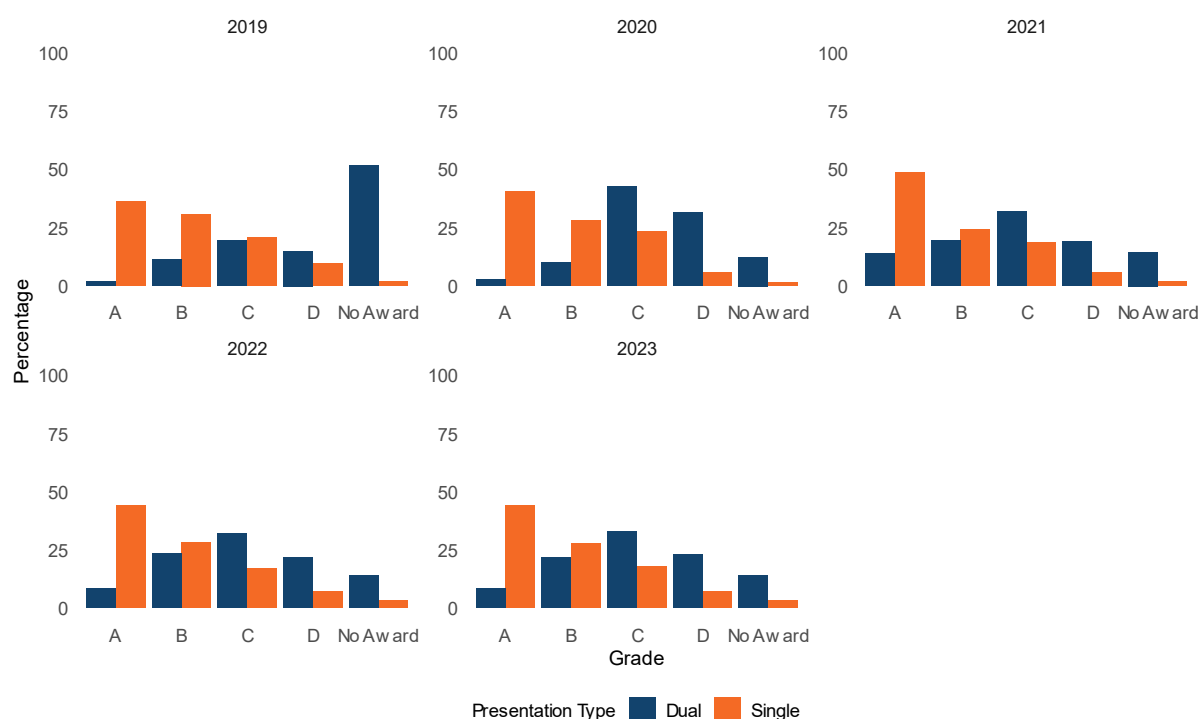| Presentation type	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Single	43,975	45,180	44,975	43,970	43,140
Dual	1,620	1,475	1,880	3,750	5,855
All entries	45,595	46,655	46,850	47,720	49,000

Table 10: The proportion of single and dual presentation entries in the National 5 English qualification from 2019 to 2023.

Presentation type	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Single entries	96.4%	96.8%	96.0%	92.1%	88.0%
Dual entries	3.6%	3.2%	4.0%	7.9%	12.0%

In each of these years, the greatest proportion of single presentation candidates achieve A grades, with a gradually smaller proportion achieving grades B, C, D and No Award. In 2019, the majority of dual presentation candidates received No Award. From 2020 onward, there was a much wider spread in the attainment of dual presentation candidates, with the greatest proportion of dual presentation candidates achieving C grades.

Figure 5: The proportion of single and dual presentation candidates achieving each grade in National 5 English.

5.4.3 History

The highest count of dual presentation entries for National 5 History was observed in 2023 (2,290). This was 705 more dual presentation entries than in 2022, and 1,705 more than in 2019. The count of dual presentation entries increased substantially after the height of the COVID-19 pandemic (an increase of 910 entries from 2021 to 2022).

The highest proportion of dual presentation entries for National 5 History was observed in 2023 (14.1%). This was higher than in 2022 (4.0 percentage point difference), and 2019 (10.1 percentage point difference). The smallest proportion of dual presentation entries for History was observed in 2020 (3.8%).

Table 11: The count of single and dual presentation entries, and overall entry counts, in the National 5 History qualification from 2019 to 2023.
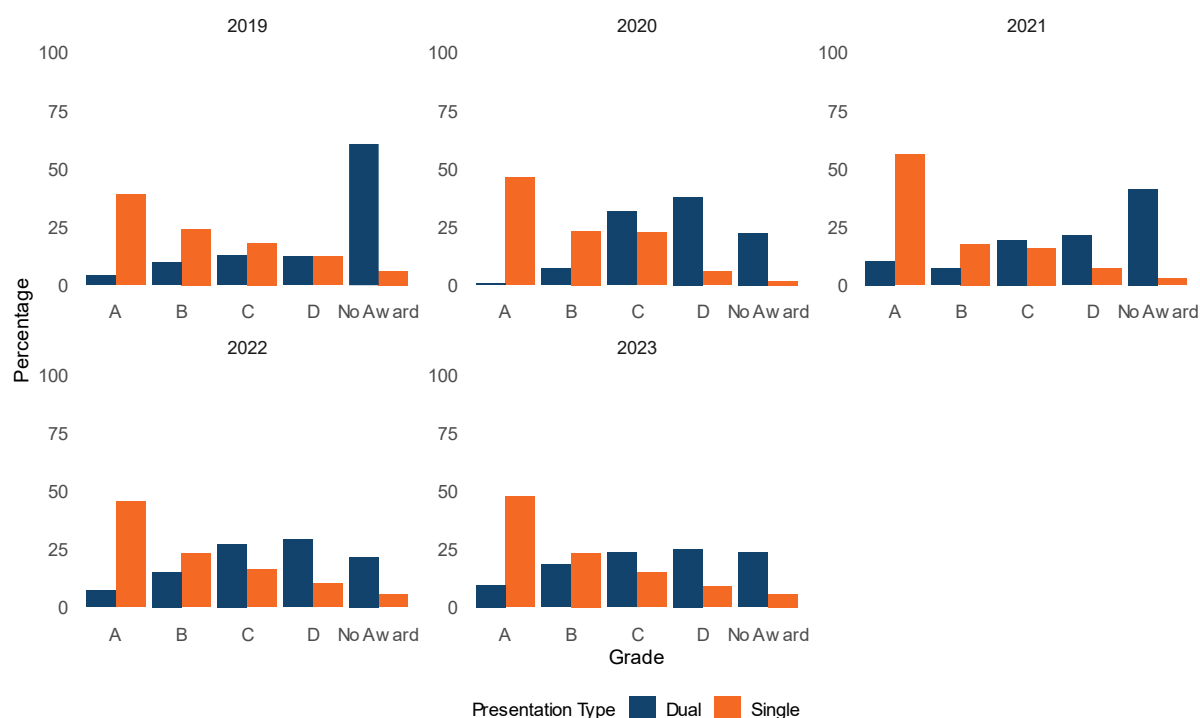
Presentation type	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Single	14,150	14,485	14,610	14,120	13,975
Dual	585	575	675	1,585	2,290
All entries	14,735	15,060	15,280	15,710	16,265

Table 12: The proportion of single and dual presentation entries in the National 5 History qualification from 2019 to 2023.

Presentation type	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Single entries	96.0%	96.2%	95.6%	89.9%	85.9%
Dual entries	4.0%	3.8%	4.4%	10.1%	14.1%

In each of these years, the greatest proportion of single presentation candidates achieve A grades, with a gradually smaller proportion achieving grades B, C, D and No Award. In 2019, the vast majority of dual presentation candidates received No Award (with a very small proportion of candidates achieving any other grade), and a similar pattern was observed in 2021. In the years 2020, 2022 and 2023, there was a much wider spread in the attainment of dual presentation candidates.

Figure 6: The proportion of single and dual presentation candidates achieving each grade in National 5 History.

5.4.4 Environmental Science

In 2023, there were fewer than 500 entries, and less than 100 dual presentation entries for National 5 Environmental Science — therefore, this report does not include subject level breakdown for this qualification.

5.4.5 Religious, Moral and Philosophical Studies

The highest count of dual presentation entries for National 5 Religious, Moral and Philosophical Studies was observed in 2023 (325). This was 100 more dual presentation entries than in 2022, and 185 more than in 2019. There was a dip in dual presentation entries during the height of the pandemic (125 dual presentation entries in 2020, and 85 in 2021).

The highest proportion of dual presentation entries for National 5 Religious, Moral and Philosophical Studies was observed in 2023 (13.5%). This was higher than in 2022 (3.9 percentage point difference), and 2019 (7.6 percentage point difference). The smallest proportion of dual presentation entries for Religious, Moral and Philosophical Studies was observed in 2021 (3.6%).

Table 13: The count of single and dual presentation entries, and overall entry counts, in the National 5 Religious, Moral and Philosophical Studies qualification from 2019 to 2023.
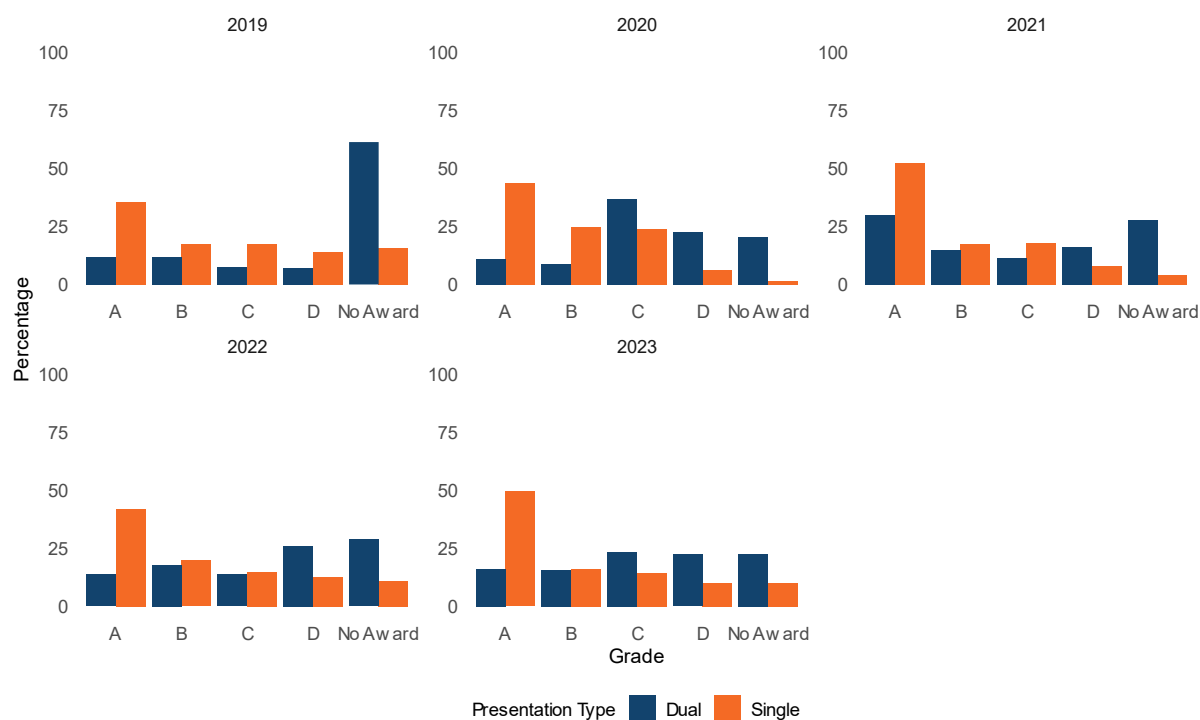
Presentation type	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Single	2,275	2,200	2,330	2,120	2,070
Dual	140	125	85	225	325
All entries	2,420	2,325	2,415	2,350	2,395

Table 14: The proportion of single and dual presentation entries in the National 5 Religious, Moral and Philosophical Studies qualification from 2019 to 2023.

Presentation type	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Single entries	94.1%	94.5%	96.4%	90.4%	86.5%
Dual entries	5.9%	5.5%	3.6%	9.6%	13.5%

In each of these years, the greatest proportion of single presentation candidates tend to achieve A grades, with a gradually smaller proportion achieving grades B, C, D and No Award. In 2019, the vast majority of dual presentation candidates received No Award (with a small proportion of candidates achieving any other grade). In 2020, the majority of dual presentation candidates achieved C grades; but from 2020 onward, there was a much wider spread in the attainment of dual presentation candidates.

Figure 7: The proportion of single and dual presentation candidates achieving each grade in National 5 Religious, Moral and Philosophical Studies.

5.4.6 Modern Studies

The highest count of dual presentation entries for National 5 Modern Studies was observed in 2023 (1,660). This was 470 more dual presentation entries than in 2022, and 1090 more than in 2019. There was a dip in dual presentation entries during the height of the pandemic (570 dual presentation entries in 2020, and 475 in 2021).

The highest proportion of dual presentation entries for National 5 Modern Studies was observed in 2023 (12.1%). This was higher than in 2022 (3.4 percentage point difference), and 2019 (7.3 percentage point difference). The smallest proportion of dual presentation entries for Modern Studies was observed in 2021 (3.7%).

Table 15: The count of single and dual presentation entries, and overall entry counts, in the National 5 Modern Studies qualification from 2019 to 2023.

Presentation type	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Single	11,400	11,625	12,470	12,470	12,085
Dual	570	570	475	1,190	1,660
All entries	11,965	12,190	12,950	13,655	13,745

Table 16: The proportion of single and dual presentation entries in the National 5 Modern Studies qualification from 2019 to 2023.

Presentation type	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Single entries	95.2%	95.3%	96.3%	91.3%	87.9%
Dual entries	4.8%	4.7%	3.7%	8.7%	12.1%

The two cohorts tend to follow opposing patterns. In each of these years, the greatest proportion of single presentation candidates achieve A grades, with a gradually smaller proportion achieving grades B, C, D and No Award. The inverse tends to be true for dual presentation candidates; the largest proportion receive No Award, with a smaller proportion achieving grades D, C, B and A. In 2019, the vast majority of dual presentation candidates received No Award (with a small proportion achieving any other grade); and in 2020, the majority of dual presentation candidates achieved C grades. In general, from 2020 onward there was a much wider spread in the attainment of dual presentation candidates for National 5 Modern Studies.

Figure 8: The proportion of single and dual presentation candidates achieving each grade in National 5 Modern Studies.