

## **SQA SCHOOL EXAMINATION RESULTS 2024**

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### **1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 1.1** The purpose of this report is to provide an update to elected members on the initial outcome of the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) 2024 examination diet for young people in Argyll and Bute.
- 1.2** Following the release of the initial examination results by the SQA in August, awards for pupils in academic year 2023/24 will be updated by the SQA in December 2024 following the processing of appeal requests submitted by candidates or schools. As a consequence of the decisions associated with these requests, minor changes to the statistical data contained within this report may occur.
- 1.3** It is recommended that the Community Services Committee:
- I. Notes the guidance from the SQA, detailed below at 4.3, about qualitative comparisons of data over recent years.
  - II. Notes the outcome of the initial SQA examination results for pupils in academic year 2023/24, and that the performance of Argyll and Bute Schools in 2024 is above the current national performance in SQA examinations in two of the four measures (National 4 and Higher) at A-C, and above all three measures (National 4, Higher and Advanced Higher) at A-D.
  - III. Requests that the Executive Director provide further reports to the Community Services Committee to allow the consideration of updated statistical school and national information, scheduled to be released by Insight (school data analysis tool) in September 2024 and February 2025.

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**ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL**

**COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE**

**EDUCATION**

**22 August 2024**

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**2.0 INTRODUCTION**

- 2.1 On 1<sup>st</sup> August 2024 the Council received SQA examination results for all pupils entered for National Qualifications in session 2023/24. This provided initial information on the outcome of examination performance for all pupils in each of the ten Argyll and Bute secondary schools.
- 2.2 The purpose of this report is to inform Elected Members of the initial outcome of the Scottish Qua

### **3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

3.1 It is recommended that the Community Services Committee:

I. Notes the guidance from the SQA, detailed below at 4.3, about qualitative comparisons of data over the last three years, with

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II.

adjustments were made to grade boundaries compared to in a normal year. Setting standards and grading in 2023 continued to be sensitive to the extent of the ongoing impact of the pandemic.

In 2024 full course assessment, including learners completing of coursework across a range of courses, often for the first time, returned to SQA assessments. Marking and grade boundaries also returned to pre pandemic standards and were less sensitive than 2022 and 2023.

As a result, there have been significant different approaches to course content, coursework and awarding in each year since 2019. This means that comparisons of attainment between years should be treated with significant caution and do not allow for conclusions to be drawn on changes in education performance during this time.



4.5 For A-D grades, the performance of Argyll and Bute schools in 2024 is above the current National performance in SQA examinations in three of the national measures: National 4, National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher.

Table 2 below present the overall performance of candidates in Argyll and Bute across all course levels at Grades A-D, and, for context, compares attainment in the academic years 2019, 2022, 2023 and 2024. It also compares 2024 Argyll and Bute A-D attainment with 2024 national attainment.

As with A-C awards, it is not valid to include comparisons with 2020 and 2021 for the reasons detailed above.

**Table 2 A-D Awards 2019, 2022, 2023 and 2024 A&B/National National 4, National 5, Higher, Advanced Higher**

Course (A-D)	2018/19 A&B Attainment %	2021/22 A&B Attainment %	2022/23 A&B Attainment %	2023/24 A&B Attainment %	Difference 2023 to 2024	2023/24 National Attainment %	Difference A&B 23/24 to National A-D %
Nat 4	100%	100%	100%	100.00%	0%	84.50%	15.50%
Nat 5	92.00%	91.78%	90.67%	89.15%	-1.52%	89.10%	0.05%
Higher	4 409.15 6						

**Summary:**

As noted previously, our National 4 course pass rate is 100%.

Our National 5 A-D pass rate has reduced by 1.52% on 2023 figure and is 2.85% below the 2019 pre-pandemic figure. The Argyll & Bute National 5 pass rate at A-D is 89.15% and **above**





2019	Adv H	80.0 %	87.0 %	86.9 %
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recognised award. It is also the policy in Argyll and Bute, as with other local authorities, that full discussion and consideration of both pupil and parent views are reflected in the final decision to continue with a course and to sit the external examination.

- 4.8 This policy may result in circumstances where pupils are given the opportunity to attempt a level that they may find challenging, as it may

the marking is in line with national standards;  
the marks given for each answer have been added up correctly; and  
the correct result has been entered on the SQA system.

Priority Appeals continue to be available to those with university, college or employment offers pending. SQA have sent directly to every candidate a copy of their Appeals Process Guidance.

The appeals service will open on Results Day, Tuesday 6 August 2024 at 9 am, and the learner direct submission deadlines are:

Tuesday 13 August at 11.59 pm for priority appeals

Tuesday 27 August at 11.59pm for all other appeals

An appeal can only be prioritised if there is a conditional place at university or college, or in training or employment that is dependent on the grade.

## **6.0 CONCLUSION**

6.1 This report presents a summary of the initial analysis of the 2024 SQA external examination outcomes for Argyll and Bute pupils at authority level and in each of the ten secondary schools.

6.2 In 2024 the performance of Argyll and Bute schools compared relatively positively with national measures. For res4rQq01er7595.32 841060 595.32 8res. For res4rQq01er7595.

