



Parental Information for SQA Qualifications 2023

An update about qualifications for 2023

All pupils in fourth year (S4) are being presented for Nationals. Pupils in fifth (S5) and sixth (S6) year will be studying a mixture of qualifications, mainly Highers, Advanced Highers and Nationals.

Nationals can be roughly equated to the former Standard Grade and Intermediate examinations according to the table below:

National	Equivalent previous qualification	SCQF levels
National 1	Access 1	1
National 2	Access 2	2
National 3	Access 3/Foundation	3
National 4	Intermediate 1/General	4
National 5	Intermediate 2/Credit	5

Nationals are assessed throughout the year in a variety of ways by using coursework, end of unit tests, folio work and assignments. These assessments are rigorously verified by SQA throughout the year. The only pupils who are required to sit an external examination in S4-6 are those working towards National 5 qualifications or above. Some National 5 subjects do not have a final exam.

How are the qualifications graded?

Nationals 1 to 4 are graded as a pass or fail. National 5 is graded A, B, C or D and 'No Award': grades A to C indicate a pass and grade D indicates an achievement at SCQF Level 5. Highers and Advanced Highers are graded A-D and No Award, with A-C indicating a pass and grade D indicates an achievement at SCQF Level 6.

Will my child get examination leave?

Examination leave will remain universal for S5 and S6 pupils, as they will be sitting external examinations for most of the qualifications they are studying.

S4 pupils who are studying **at least three** National 5 qualifications **will have full exam leave** regardless of when their examinations take place. They will return to school at the beginning of June for the start of their S5 timetable.

Schools will make individual arrangements to best support S4 pupils who are studying **one or two** and those who **are not studying any** National 5 qualifications. In Wallace High School, pupils who are studying one or two National 5 courses will be entitled to **five working days of study leave** before each individual exam.

Pupils who are eligible to leave school at the end of S4 will remain on the school register until **31 May 2023**.

SQA Estimates

An estimate is a judgement of a final band for a National 5, Higher or Advanced Higher qualification submitted to SQA. All estimates are based on individual pupil assessment evidence which is gathered by the school throughout the duration of the course being studied. The type of assessment evidence generated will be the evidence considered most appropriate for each course studied, and may differ from one subject to another. Please contact the school directly if you wish to discuss estimates in more detail.

It is important to note that an estimate, when used as part of the Examination Exceptional Circumstances Consideration Services (EECCS) is not a guarantee of a final grade.

Examination Exceptional Circumstances Consideration Service (EECCS)

The Examination Exceptional Circumstances Consideration Service (EECCS) supports learners who are either:

- unable to attend the exam or prevented from completing the exam due to a personal circumstance outwith their control (such as a medical issue) **or**
- affected during the exam by a disruption, or other exam circumstance, reported by the chief invigilator

It is available for all exams that appear in the SQA timetable. Only schools may submit requests. Learners who believe they are eligible for this service should contact their school.

Learners are eligible for EECCS consideration if:

- they have experienced a valid exam exceptional circumstance
- they have completed all the compulsory non-question paper components
- an estimate has been submitted for them
- alternative evidence is available

Where a school makes an exceptional circumstance submission they will collate evidence from that pupil for **the whole course**, pre and post prelim examination. The SQA will consider the quality of the pupil work and will compare it to the estimates from the school in that subject at that level. A decision will be made and the pupil result will appear on the pupil's SQA certificate in August.

If your child is too ill to attend an exam we would ask that you:

- Contact the school on the morning of the exam or prior to the exam if the illness is evident then. The school will then collate your child's work for the submission.
- Any doctor's letter should be submitted to the school at the latest **5 days** after the date of the exam.

In any other exceptional circumstance please inform the school with the supporting documentation as soon as you can, this will allow the school to make the submission swiftly.

All material for exceptional circumstance submissions **must** be with the SQA **10 days** after the date of the examination.

SQA Appeals Service 2023

SQA Results will be issued to candidates on **Tuesday 8 August 2023**.

Appeals 2023 is a free service that candidates can use if they have genuine concerns about a grade (or grades) on their results certificate. Candidates can appeal directly to SQA or ask the school to do this.

Appeals will be prioritised if a candidate has a conditional place at university or college, or in training or employment that depends on the grade.

This year's appeals service will have a different process to the one used last year as **alternative assessment evidence will not be looked at**.

This year, if you appeal against your grade, a senior marker will carry out a marking review of your SQA-marked assessments.

This is not a re-mark.

A marking review checks that:

- all parts of your SQA-assessments have been marked;
- the marking is in line with national standards;
- the marks given for each answer have been totalled correctly; and
- the correct result has been entered on our system.
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Please note that after being reviewed, results could stay the same, go up or go down. For more information, please read the SQA news article via the link below - published Wednesday 1 February:

[SQA confirms services for learners sitting National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher exams in 2023](#)

Further information regarding SQA procedures can be found in the 'Frequently Asked Questions' section of the SQA website:

<https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/72074.html>