



## News Release

16 July 2002

### **SCOTTISH SCHOOL LEAVERS AND THEIR QUALIFICATIONS: 2000-01**

The Scottish Executive Education Department has today published information about Scottish school leavers and their qualifications.

This News Release includes information on the qualifications of school leavers by school sector, subject and gender. The tables cover the attainment of National Qualifications at Standard Grade, Higher and Certificate of Sixth Year Studies (CSYS) and also the new National Qualifications at Access, Intermediate 1, Intermediate 2, Higher and Advanced Higher. These tables are presented using the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF) Levels.

The News Release and accompanying tables can be found on the Scottish Executive Web Site: [www.scotland.gov.uk](http://www.scotland.gov.uk)

The main findings are: -

- In 2000-01, 5.7 per cent of leavers from publicly funded schools obtained no award at SCQF Level 3 or better. Passes at SCQF Level 7 were obtained by 10.7 per cent of leavers from publicly funded schools. (Table 1)
- The percentage of leavers from publicly funded schools who attained 5 or more awards at Level 5 (or better) has increased from 39.5 per cent in 1998-99 to 43.6 per cent in 2000-01. (Table 2)
- A higher proportion of females than males leaving publicly funded schools achieved passes at all Levels, except three or more passes at Level 7. These were attained by 1 per cent of males, compared to 0.7 per cent of females. (Table 2)

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- Ninety one percent of school leavers in 2000-01 attained Mathematics at SCQF Level 3 to 5. The same percentage attained English at SCQF Level 3 to 5. (Table 3)
- A greater proportion of females attained passes in Biology, Office and Information Studies and language subjects. More males left with qualifications in Geography, Computing Studies and Physical Education. (Tables 3 and 4)

**The following tables are available:**

Table 1 Highest qualifications attained by school leavers, by gender and school sector: 1998-99 to 2000-01

Table 2 Total qualifications attained by school leavers, by gender and school sector: 1998-99 to 2000-01

Table 3 Qualifications at SCQF levels 3 to 5, by subject and gender: 2000-01

Table 4 Qualifications at SCQF levels 6 and 7, by subject and gender: 2000-01

**NOTES FOR NEWS EDITORS**

**1. National Statistics Statement**

This is a National Statistics publication. National Statistics are produced to high professional standards set out in the National Statistics Code of Practice. They undergo regular quality assurance reviews to ensure that they meet customer needs. They are produced free from any political interference.

**2. Data Sources**

**2.1** The tables in this News Release show the qualifications of school leavers in all schools in Scotland. It does not include information on examination attainment in further education colleges.

**2.2** Information on school leavers is collected from individual schools via either a paper return or electronic data exchange. Whilst these figures are the best that the schools are able to provide at the time, there will be cases where a pupil unexpectedly returns to school. Therefore, the figures for the latest year are likely to be slight over-estimates and may be revised downwards in the future.

**2.3** Details of the leavers' National Qualifications are added by computer matching to the records obtained from the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA). This process achieves a high rate of successful linkage, but in a small number of cases mis-matching or non-matching can occur.

**2.4** Many independent schools offer GCSE and A level examinations, which are not included in this analysis. It should be noted, therefore, that the percentage of leavers gaining qualifications in independent schools might not accurately reflect the achievements of pupils in these schools.

### **3. Definitions**

**3.1** The table below sets out the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF) levels and the read across to the National Qualification level and grades.

<b>Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF) levels:</b>	
Level 7	CSYS at A-C; Advanced higher at A-C
Level 6	Higher at A-C
Level 5	Intermediate 2 at A-C; Standard Grade at 1-2
Level 4	Intermediate 1 at A-C; Standard grade at 3-4
Level 3	Access 3 cluster; Standard Grade at 5-6

**3.2** Publicly Funded Schools include education authority, grant-aided, and self-governing schools.

**3.3** The arrangements for leaving school were laid down in the Education (Scotland) Act in 1976 and the Education (Scotland) Act 1980. Pupils are regarded as having left on achieving the school leaving age in 2000-2001 if they either

a) reach the age of 16 between 1 March and 30 September 2001 and left school at the end of the school year or;

b) reach the age of 16 between 1 October 2000 and the end of February 2001 and left school at the end of the Winter term.

These arrangements therefore allow some pupils to leave school while they are still 15 years old.

### **4. Enquiries**

Copies of all tables are available on the Scottish Executive's website at [www.scotland.gov.uk](http://www.scotland.gov.uk). Public enquiries (non-media) about the information contained in this News Release should be addressed to Emma Waddington, Statistician, The Scottish Executive Education Department, Education Statistics, Area 1-A West, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh EH6 6QQ. Telephone 0131 244 0303 or e-mail to: [emma.waddington@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:emma.waddington@scotland.gsi.gov.uk)

Media enquiries about the information in this News Release should be addressed to Julie Grant, 0131 244 3070.

**News Release: Internet - [www.scotland.gov.uk](http://www.scotland.gov.uk)**

Highest qualification attained by school leavers:- 1998-99 to 2000-01

Table 1  
Percentages

	Total Leavers (=100%)	No NQ @ SCQF Level 3 or better (1)	1 - 2 @ SCQF Level 3	3 - 4 @ SCQF Level 3	5+ @ SCQF Level 3	1 - 2 @ SCQF Level 4	3 - 4 @ SCQF Level 4	5 + @ SCQF Level 4	1 - 2 @ SCQF Level 5	3 - 4 @ SCQF Level 5	5 + @ SCQF Level 5	1 - 2 @ SCQF Level 6	3 - 4 @ SCQF Level 6	5 + @ SCQF Level 6	1 - 2 @ SCQF Level 7	3 + @ SCQF Level 7
<b>All schools</b>																
<b>1998-1999</b>																
Total	61,104	5.8	1.1	0.7	0.8	7.4	8.0	11.6	12.6	3.9	2.1	13.5	11.5	9.8	10.2	1.0
Males	30,901	6.7	1.4	1.0	1.0	8.6	9.4	12.3	13.7	3.9	1.9	12.3	10.0	8.6	8.0	1.2
Females	30,203	4.9	0.8	0.5	0.5	6.2	6.6	10.8	11.6	3.9	2.3	14.7	12.9	11.0	12.4	0.9
<b>1999-2000</b>																
Total	60,384	5.8	1.0	0.7	0.7	6.9	7.4	10.7	13.5	4.6	2.8	12.9	10.9	11.1	10.1	1.1
Males	30,633	6.7	1.1	0.9	0.9	7.9	8.4	11.3	14.7	4.4	2.4	12.1	9.6	10.1	8.1	1.2
Females	29,751	4.8	0.8	0.4	0.5	5.9	6.3	10.0	12.2	4.8	3.1	13.8	12.2	12.0	12.1	1.0
<b>2000-2001</b>																
Total	61,659	6.0	1.0	0.6	0.6	6.5	6.9	9.7	14.1	5.9	4.1	12.1	10.3	10.4	10.6	1.1
Males	31,161	6.7	1.3	0.8	0.8	7.3	7.8	10.7	15.1	6.0	3.7	11.6	9.1	9.1	8.6	1.3
Females	30,498	5.3	0.7	0.4	0.4	5.8	5.9	8.7	13.2	5.8	4.5	12.6	11.6	11.7	12.5	1.0
<b>Publicly funded Schools</b>																
<b>1998-1999</b>																
Total	57,631	5.5	1.1	0.7	0.8	7.7	8.4	12.2	13.2	4.0	2.1	13.6	11.3	8.8	9.5	0.9
Males	29,075	6.3	1.4	1.0	1.1	8.9	9.9	13.0	14.3	4.1	1.9	12.4	9.7	7.6	7.4	1.0
Females	28,556	4.7	0.8	0.5	0.6	6.5	7.0	11.4	12.1	4.0	2.3	14.9	12.9	10.0	11.7	0.7
<b>1999-2000</b>																
Total	56,572	5.4	1.0	0.7	0.7	7.3	7.8	11.3	14.1	4.8	2.8	13.1	10.8	10.0	9.4	0.8
Males	28,575	6.3	1.1	0.9	0.9	8.3	8.9	12.0	15.4	4.6	2.5	12.1	9.5	9.0	7.5	0.9
Females	27,997	4.6	0.8	0.4	0.5	6.2	6.7	10.6	12.9	5.0	3.1	14.1	12.2	11.0	11.2	0.7
<b>2000-2001</b>																
Total	58,379	5.7	1.0	0.6	0.6	6.8	7.2	10.2	14.8	6.2	4.2	12.2	10.2	9.6	9.8	0.9
Males	29,393	6.3	1.3	0.8	0.8	7.5	8.2	11.3	15.8	6.3	3.8	11.7	8.9	8.2	7.9	1.0
Females	28,986	5.0	0.7	0.4	0.4	6.0	6.2	9.2	13.8	6.0	4.6	12.7	11.6	10.9	11.8	0.7
<b>Independent Schools</b>																
<b>1998-1999</b>																
Total	3,473	10.5	0.7	0.6	0.0	3.0	1.0	0.7	3.1	1.6	1.8	11.2	14.1	26.4	21.1	4.1
Males	1,826	12.2	1.3	1.0	0.1	4.5	1.4	0.8	3.7	1.6	1.4	11.2	14.4	24.8	17.0	4.7
Females	1,647	8.7	0.1	0.2	0.0	1.3	0.6	0.5	2.6	1.5	2.2	11.3	13.7	28.2	25.7	3.5
<b>1999-2000</b>																
Total	3,812	11.4	0.9	1.0	0.1	1.9	0.9	0.9	3.9	2.0	2.3	10.9	11.5	26.9	20.8	4.6
Males	2,058	12.9	1.5	1.5	0.1	2.5	1.3	1.2	5.3	2.2	1.7	11.9	11.4	25.7	16.7	4.2
Females	1,754	9.6	0.3	0.5	0.0	1.3	0.5	0.7	2.2	1.7	3.0	9.6	11.7	28.4	25.6	5.0
<b>2000-2001</b>																
Total	3,280	12.0	0.7	0.7	0.2	2.1	0.9	0.4	3.2	1.2	2.2	10.1	11.9	24.9	23.8	5.8
Males	1,768	13.2	0.9	1.1	0.3	2.8	1.0	0.5	4.4	1.2	1.5	10.2	12.1	23.8	21.1	5.9
Females	1,512	10.6	0.4	0.2	0.1	1.3	0.7	0.3	1.8	1.2	3.0	9.9	11.6	26.2	26.9	5.8

(1) Includes leavers with only GCSE and/or A level qualifications

**All Qualifications attained by School Leavers:- 1998-99 to 2000-01**

**Table 2  
Percentages**

	Total Leavers (=100%)	5+ @ SCQF Level 3 or better	5+ @ SCQF Level 4 or better	5+ @ SCQF Level 5 or better	1+ @ SCQF Level 6 or better	3+ @ SCQF Level 6 or better	5+ @ SCQF Level 6 or better	1+ @ SCQF Level 7 or better	3+ @ SCQF Level 7 or better
<b>All schools</b>									
<b>1998-1999</b>									
Total	61,104	88.9	74.2	41.3	46.0	32.4	20.1	11.2	1.0
Males	30,901	87.3	69.8	35.7	40.1	27.8	17.0	9.2	1.2
Females	30,203	90.6	78.7	47.0	51.9	37.1	23.2	13.3	0.9
<b>1999-2000</b>									
Total	60,384	89.0	75.4	43.2	46.0	33.0	21.3	11.2	1.1
Males	30,633	87.4	71.5	38.1	41.1	28.9	18.7	9.3	1.2
Females	29,751	90.7	79.4	48.4	51.1	37.2	24.1	13.1	1.0
<b>2000-2001</b>									
Total	61,659	88.8	76.3	45.0	44.5	32.2	21.0	11.7	1.1
Males	31,161	87.4	73.0	39.7	39.8	28.0	18.0	9.9	1.3
Females	30,498	90.3	79.7	50.5	49.3	36.5	24.1	13.5	1.0
<b>Publicly funded Schools</b>									
<b>1998-1999</b>									
Total	57,631	89.5	74.0	39.5	44.1	30.4	18.2	10.4	0.9
Males	29,075	88.0	69.6	33.8	38.1	25.7	15.2	8.5	1.0
Females	28,556	90.9	78.4	45.2	50.2	35.1	21.2	12.4	0.7
<b>1999-2000</b>									
Total	56,572	89.8	75.4	41.4	44.1	30.9	19.3	10.2	0.8
Males	28,575	88.5	71.6	36.3	39.0	26.9	16.7	8.4	0.9
Females	27,997	91.2	79.2	46.6	49.3	35.1	22.0	12.0	0.7
<b>2000-2001</b>									
Total	58,379	89.5	76.4	43.6	42.7	30.3	19.2	10.7	0.9
Males	29,393	88.3	73.2	38.1	37.8	25.9	16.1	8.9	1.0
Females	28,986	90.7	79.6	49.1	47.7	34.8	22.3	12.5	0.7
<b>Independent Schools</b>									
<b>1998-1999</b>									
Total	3,473	79.6	77.7	71.6	76.9	65.6	50.9	25.2	4.1
Males	1,826	74.7	72.5	65.6	72.0	60.6	45.6	21.6	4.7
Females	1,647	85.1	83.6	78.1	82.4	71.1	56.8	29.2	3.5
<b>1999-2000</b>									
Total	3,812	77.3	75.9	69.7	74.7	63.7	51.4	25.3	4.6
Males	2,058	72.0	70.2	62.6	69.9	57.8	45.8	20.9	4.2
Females	1,754	83.5	82.6	78.0	80.3	70.6	58.0	30.6	5.0
<b>2000-2001</b>									
Total	3,280	77.1	75.2	71.0	76.4	66.3	53.5	29.6	5.8
Males	1,768	72.7	70.4	65.9	73.1	62.8	49.7	27.0	5.9
Females	1,512	82.2	80.8	77.0	80.3	70.4	58.1	32.6	5.8

Qualifications at SCQF levels 3 to 5, by Subject and Gender:- 2000-01

Table 3

Subject	% of all Leavers	Total	Males	Females
Total Leavers	100.0%	61,659	31,161	30,498
Mathematics	91.0%	56,116	28,119	27,997
English	91.0%	56,102	27,965	28,137
French	57.1%	35,215	16,671	18,544
Chemistry	36.1%	22,264	10,766	11,498
Biology	35.7%	22,023	6,573	15,450
Geography	34.7%	21,377	12,272	9,105
History	33.2%	20,448	9,478	10,970
Art and Design	31.2%	19,254	7,768	11,486
Computing Studies	30.4%	18,761	11,945	6,816
Physics	30.1%	18,570	12,745	5,825
Physical Education	26.1%	16,112	11,325	4,787
German	23.5%	14,486	6,983	7,503
Modern Studies	21.4%	13,207	5,516	7,691
Office and Information Studies	21.1%	13,039	2,431	10,608
Science	21.1%	13,003	7,223	5,780
Craft and Design	20.7%	12,736	9,937	2,799
Home Economics	16.8%	10,382	2,342	8,040
Music	15.1%	9,332	3,406	5,926
Graphic Communication	12.5%	7,704	5,438	2,266
Accounting and Finance	7.6%	4,693	2,105	2,588
Drama	6.9%	4,276	1,410	2,866
Administration	5.5%	3,371	845	2,526
Technological Studies	5.0%	3,104	2,874	230
Social and Vocational Skills	4.9%	3,032	1,366	1,666
Spanish	4.9%	3,002	1,146	1,856
Business Management	4.2%	2,562	1,123	1,439
Information Systems	2.8%	1,714	1,087	627
Woodwork Skills	2.4%	1,463	1,220	243
Religious Studies	1.9%	1,177	315	862
Economics	1.7%	1,064	618	446
Latin	1.5%	907	397	510
Italian	1.3%	820	309	511
Travel and Tourism	0.9%	561	170	391
Classical Studies	0.5%	325	146	179
Gaelic (Learners)	0.5%	309	121	188
Contemporary Social Studies	0.4%	258	142	116
Media Studies	0.4%	218	100	118
Human Biology	0.3%	200	57	143
Engineering Craft Skills	0.3%	178	169	9
Urdu	0.2%	118	42	76
Secretarial Studies	0.1%	92	*	*
Gaidhlig	0.1%	81	40	41
Geology	0.1%	81	51	30
Psychology	0.1%	70	11	59
Other*	0.4%	224	92	132

\*Other contains: Care, Philosophy, Personal and Social Education, Managing Environmental Resources, Sociology, Russian, Classical Greek, Enterprise Through Craft, Scottish Group Award, Social Subjects, Management and Information Studies, Design, Electronic and Electrical Fundamentals,

Qualifications at SCQF levels 6 and 7, by Subject and Gender:- 2000-01

Table 4

Subject	SCQF Level 6			SCQF Level 7		
	Percentage	Males	Females	Percentage	Males	Females
<b>Total Leavers</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>31,161</b>	<b>30,498</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>31,161</b>	<b>30,498</b>
English	31.6%	7,855	11,641	2.0%	361	863
Mathematics	21.3%	6,501	6,632	3.3%	1,201	804
Chemistry	11.1%	3,302	3,544	2.1%	570	696
Physics	10.8%	4,551	2,106	1.3%	640	188
Biology	9.3%	1,737	4,006	1.7%	262	783
Geography	9.3%	2,926	2,791	0.9%	283	278
Art and Design	8.8%	1,616	3,802	1.2%	181	554
History	9.0%	2,244	3,295	1.0%	254	335
Modern Studies	8.9%	2,077	3,413	0.7%	160	287
Business Management	6.5%	1,575	2,415	0.0%	7	11
French	5.2%	758	2,462	0.6%	74	304
Computing Studies	4.8%	2,189	775	0.4%	195	31
Music	4.2%	931	1,679	0.8%	178	346
Physical Education	4.1%	1,842	680	0.0%	10	9
Graphic Communication	2.9%	1,316	496	0.2%	110	28
German	2.5%	376	1,173	0.3%	47	140
Craft and Design	2.6%	1,009	610	0.0%	*	*
Accounting and Finance	3.0%	860	972	0.1%	22	16
Administration	2.4%	205	1,244	0.0%	*	*
Human Biology	2.3%	385	1,021	0.0%	*	*
Information Systems	2.1%	876	392	0.1%	38	6
Drama	1.6%	218	768	0.1%	10	25
Religious Studies	1.5%	197	757	0.1%	8	25
Economics	1.4%	515	345	0.1%	40	10
Secretarial Studies	1.5%	64	844	0.0%	*	*
Technological Studies	1.1%	619	45	0.1%	63	*
Spanish	0.9%	110	469	0.1%	18	68
Home Economics	1.0%	30	577	0.0%	*	11
Classical Studies	0.6%	131	259	0.0%	7	8
Latin	0.5%	113	173	0.1%	12	26
Media Studies	0.4%	106	138	0.0%	*	*
Philosophy	0.4%	87	147	0.0%	*	*
Psychology	0.3%	44	158	0.0%	*	*
Italian	0.2%	29	97	0.0%	*	8
Gaelic (Learners)	0.1%	16	70	0.0%	*	8
Gaidhlig	0.1%	21	27	0.0%	*	17
Other*	0.3%	75	131	0.0%	*	*

\* Other contains: Personal and Social Education, Sociology, Management and Information Studies, Geology, Russian, Tourism, Classical Greek, Mechanical Engineering, Fitness and Exercise, Construction