

**EXAMINATION RESULTS 2010**

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**1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1** Argyll and Bute schools have continued to perform well in the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) examinations. Despite slight decreases in S5, the authority remains above or equal to the national and 'family' averages in most measures. 38% of S4 pupils gained 5+ level 5 passes, the highest result for five years and well above the national average. Also of note is the maintenance of improved performance at Advanced Higher achieved by pupils at S6. It should be noted that the 2010 results are 'pre-appeal' and may increase up to one percentage point following the appeals process.
- 1.2** The comparison of Argyll and Bute with its family of five similar authorities is shown in table 3.4. These families of similar authorities have been developed by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education (HMIE), using statistical methodology, to compare those with similar characteristics. The authorities compared with Argyll and Bute are: Angus, Dumfries and Galloway, Highland, Scottish Borders and South Ayrshire.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1** The Executive Committee is asked to note the results for 2010 and to continue to support the work of schools in securing continuous improvement.

**3. DETAIL**

- 3.1** Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF) levels:

Level 7	Advanced Higher @ A-C
Level 6	Higher @ A-C
Level 5	Standard Grade @ 1-2 plus Intermediate 2 @ A-C
Level 4	Standard Grade @ 3-4 plus Intermediate 1 @ A-C
Level 3	Standard Grade @ 5-6 plus Access 3

**3.2** The results for the five years 2006-2010 are shown in the following table. All results are above or well above the national average with the exception of 5+ Level 6 (Highers). This is partly explained by a significant number of pupils studying up to four Highers in S5 and adding additional Highers in S6. Universities normally require four good Higher passes so there is less reason to take five Highers in S5.

	<b>2006</b>		<b>2007</b>		<b>2008</b>		<b>2009</b>		<b>2010</b>	
	<b>A&amp;B</b>	Scot	<b>A&amp;B</b>	Scot	<b>A&amp;B</b>	Scot	<b>A&amp;B</b>	Scot	<b>A&amp;B</b>	Scot
By the end of S4										
5+ @ level 5	<b>37.1</b>	34.3	<b>35.2</b>	32.3	<b>35.6</b>	33.8	<b>36.0</b>	33.0	<b>38.0</b>	33.0
5+ @ level 4	<b>79.7</b>	76.5	<b>82.0</b>	75.0	<b>83.3</b>	75.7	<b>82.1</b>	74.0	<b>82.0</b>	73.0
5+ @ level 3	<b>93.6</b>	90.6	<b>95.4</b>	90.5	<b>94.0</b>	90.5	<b>93.7</b>	88.0	<b>94.0</b>	88.0
By the end of S5										
1+ @ level 6	<b>44.9</b>	37.6	<b>40.5</b>	38.1	<b>44.1</b>	38.2	<b>43.9</b>	40.0	<b>47.0</b>	43.0
3+ @ level 6	<b>24.9</b>	21.1	<b>20.9</b>	21.6	<b>24.2</b>	21.9	<b>23.0</b>	23.0	<b>23.0</b>	24.0
5+ @ level 6	<b>11.4</b>	09.3	<b>11.7</b>	09.7	<b>09.6</b>	09.5	<b>09.5</b>	10.0	<b>08.0</b>	11.0
By the end of S6										
1+ @ level 7	<b>12.6</b>	12.2	<b>15.8</b>	11.9	<b>12.1</b>	12.3	<b>16.0</b>	13.0	<b>15.0</b>	12.0

**3.3** Performance in SQA examinations is also shown as a percentage of the S4 roll achieving certain levels by the end of S6. This allows schools to report on the total achievement of pupils up to and including their S6 year. If pupils leave before S6 their achievement is reported for the year that they would have been in S6.

By the end of S6, the percentage of pupils gaining 5+ Highers has risen to 22% and over half of all pupils achieve at least one Higher. These cumulative S6 results are some of the best results over the five years 2006 – 2010.

The following table shows the authority compared with the national figures (%):

	<b>2006</b>		<b>2007</b>		<b>2008</b>		<b>2009</b>		<b>2010</b>	
	<b>A&amp;B</b>	Scot	<b>A&amp;B</b>	Scot	<b>A&amp;B</b>	Scot	<b>A&amp;B</b>	Scot	<b>A&amp;B</b>	Scot
By the end of S6										
5+ @ level 5	<b>49.6</b>	47.5	<b>57.2</b>	47.2	<b>52.0</b>	47.9	<b>54.5</b>	48.0	<b>56.0</b>	50.0
English and Maths	<b>94.4</b>	91.7	<b>95.6</b>	91.4	<b>95.4</b>	92.3	<b>95.5</b>	92.0	<b>95.0</b>	93.0
1+ @ level 6	<b>45.7</b>	42.9	<b>50.1</b>	42.4	<b>47.8</b>	43.0	<b>49.9</b>	43.0	<b>54.0</b>	46.0
3+ @ level 6	<b>28.4</b>	29.8	<b>34.6</b>	29.2	<b>30.2</b>	29.8	<b>34.1</b>	30.0	<b>32.0</b>	33.0
5+ @ level 6	<b>17.9</b>	19.4	<b>21.9</b>	18.9	<b>19.3</b>	19.4	<b>22.2</b>	20.0	<b>22.0</b>	22.0
1+ @ level 7	<b>12.6</b>	12.2	<b>15.8</b>	11.9	<b>12.1</b>	12.3	<b>16.0</b>	13.0	<b>15.0</b>	14.0

**3.4** Argyll and Bute performs comparatively very well at Standard Grade/Intermediate 1 and 2, and at 1+ Higher but less well in the other Higher categories and at Advanced Higher. Improving Higher performance will be a target for the 2011 examination diet.

Family comparisons (%):

	Angus	D&G	Highland	S. Borders	S Ayrshire	<b>Argyll&amp;Bute</b>
By the end of S4						
5+ @ level 5	34	28	38	41	41	<b>38</b>
5+ @ level 4	74	62	80	79	82	<b>82</b>
5+ @ level 3	91	75	90	91	94	<b>94</b>
By the end of S5						
1+ @ level 6	41	43	45	44	46	<b>47</b>
3+ @ level 6	22	24	26	26	29	<b>23</b>
5+ @ level 6	08	10	11	11	13	<b>08</b>
By the end of S6						
1+ @ level 7	16	13	15	17	17	<b>15</b>

**3.5** The process for authority monitoring of examination results is as follows:

- i. Head teachers send their initial analysis of their school's results to the Quality Standards Manager following the initial release of results by the SQA in August
- ii. These reports and the authority performance are discussed at the September head teacher meeting.
- iii. Internal school discussions take place with departments focusing on individual subject performance.

- iv. Following this Executive Committee report, reports on achievement, including examination results, for individual secondary schools/joint campuses are presented by head teachers/principals at their appropriate area committee meeting.
- v. Officers visit schools to discuss detailed analysis and predictions for the next examination period. Actions at subject level are agreed.

#### **4. CONCLUSION**

- 4.1 Argyll and Bute schools continue to demonstrate strong performance across most of the national qualification measures. These results will now be incorporated into improvement objectives and targets for 2011.

#### **5. IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 **Policy:** None
- 5.2 **Financial:** None
- 5.3 **Personnel:** None
- 5.4 **Equal Opportunities:** None
- 5.5 **Legal:** None

Cleland Sneddon  
Executive Director of Community Services  
Argyll and Bute Council  
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For further information contact: Chris Shirley, Quality Standards Manager,  
Argyll House, Alexandra Parade, Dunoon, PA23 8AJ.