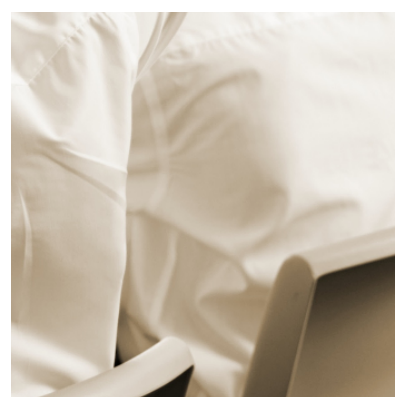
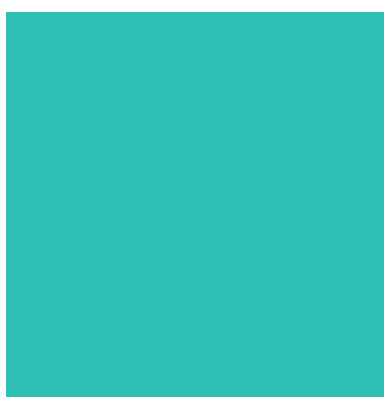
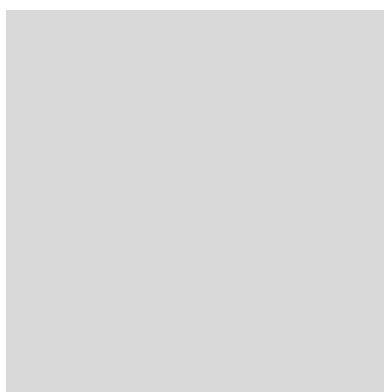


# Commission on School Reform:

## Broken STEM 2026



# Membership of the Commission on School Reform is as follows:

- **Keir Bloomer (Chair):** Education Consultant and former Director of Education
- **Cllr Sarah Atkin:** Independent Councillor at The Highland Council and member of the Education Committee. Former Parent Council Chairwoman and School Governor.
- **John Edward:** Scottish Council on Global Affairs, Former Director SCIS; School Governor and Board Member of AGBIS.
- **Carole Ford:** Former head teacher of Kilmarnock Academy and former president of School Leaders Scotland
- **Heather Fuller:** Primary head teacher at Jordanhill School, former Development Officer at Education Scotland
- **Jim Goodall:** Former Head of Education and Community Services at Clackmannanshire Council and former Lib Dem councillor at East Dunbartonshire Council
- **Johann Lamont:** Former teacher (1979-99) and retired Member of the Scottish Parliament (1999-2022)
- **Frank Lennon:** Former head teacher of Dunblane High School and St Modan's, Stirling
- **Cllr Alix Mathieson:** Conservative Councillor at East Dunbartonshire Council, member of education committee and Former Chairperson of a third sector nursery
- **Lindsay Paterson:** Professor emeritus of education policy in the School of Social and Political Science at Edinburgh University
- **Liz Smith CBE:** Education consultant specialising in outdoor education and member of the Court of St Andrews University, former Member of the Scottish Parliament (2007-2026) and former teacher

Please note that all members of the commission participate in an individual capacity and that the views of the commission do not represent the views of any other organisation to which the individual members belong.

**The Commission on School Reform is the education arm of the independent think tank Enlighten.** Enlighten is a non-partisan public policy institute which works to promote increased economic prosperity, more effective public services and expanded opportunities for all Scots. Enlighten is independent of political parties and any other organisations. It is funded by donations from private individuals, charitable trusts and corporate organisations. The Director and Research Director work closely with the Advisory Board, chaired by Lord McConnell, which meets regularly to review the research and policy programme.

# Summary

In December 2024, against a backdrop of declining maths and science scores in PISA, the Commission on School Reform carried out research to look at National 5 attainment levels by year cohort.

While data published by the then SQA, now Qualifications Scotland, provides attainment levels and pass rates for those who sit exams, it gives no indication of the qualifications that are being achieved by the broad cohort. For example, if 100 pupils sit Nat 5 Maths and 90 pass, this would generate a pass rate of 90% and implies a very positive result. However, if the total number of pupils was actually 200, and with 100 sitting the exam and 90 passing, the overall proportion of the cohort gaining the qualification is only 45%, which looks far less positive. Pupils can also sit Nat 5s at different stages in their school career, so that 90 could include a mix of pupils in S4, 5 and 6.

There are many different educational paths individual pupils can take, both through school in fifth and sixth year and beyond, and at these senior-school stages pupils should pick the subjects and qualifications that are best suited for them individually. The multitude of options and combination in the senior stages of school in Scotland is one of the strengths of the system and enables a far more personalised journey to be developed. This is to be celebrated and this paper is not passing comment on those individual situations and choices. But the necessary basis for informed choice has to be laid in fourth year and earlier. The low rate of successfully studying key subjects at National 5 suggests that, in effect, many pupils have had their later choices shut down prematurely.

However, while different journeys are important, a successful education system should also ensure pupils are achieving key exam results, such as passes in English and Maths. It is also often repeated that Scotland needs STEM skills; we cannot produce the work-force and graduates we need if we don't ensure that enough pupils are coming out of our schools with these skills.

The data published by the Commission on School Reform in 2024 showed that a worryingly low level of the S4 year cohort was gaining an A-C in Nat 5 Maths, and that the proportion gaining A-C in STEM subjects was in decline. The Commission repeated the Freedom of Information request in 2025, which showed that while the proportion of the S4 cohort achieving an A-C pass in Nat 5 English was improving, the proportion achieving A-C in maths or other STEM subjects was in decline.

Following the recent 2026 exams the Commission on School Reform has repeated the exercise for the third year running.

The Key findings are:

- 78.3% of the S4 cohort got an A-C in English, up from 76.3% last year and 65.3% in 2015.
- 39.7% got A-C in Maths, up from 39.5% last year and 38.9% in 2015.
- 38.9% got A-C in both English and Maths. This is a slight increase from 38.7% in 2025 but it has remained more or less around 40% since 2017.
- 32% of Applications of Maths S4 entrants sat both maths papers, with about 60% of those pupils achieving an A in both papers. The development of the Applications of Maths qualification has seen an increase in the number of individuals achieving a maths qualification. However, creating easier, less academic versions of subjects because more than half of the year cohort can't pass the main subject after 11 years of school is not a great indication of a system working well. It is also important to note that the very low level of the S4 cohort gaining an A-C pass in Nat 5 Maths also pre-dates the creation of the Applications exam. In other words, the problems with maths learning have existed for some time, but have not yet been adequately addressed.
- In terms of the sciences, there has been a marginal improvement for biology and chemistry, with a slight decline for physics and computing over the past year.
- The proportion of the S4 cohort achieving A-C passes in languages continues to fall for French and German, though Spanish continues to increase.

# FOI exam data

We asked the SQA, under Freedom of Information, to provide the National 5 exam results broken down by year cohort. We also asked for the number of pupils in each cohort (S4, S5 & S6). Taken together with the data gathered in the last couple of years, we have been able to track the proportion of the S4 year cohort entering each subject, as well as the proportion of the overall S4 year group who are achieving an A-C pass in each subject.

For example, while the proportion of S4 *entries* in Nat 5 English achieving an A-C pass has fallen from 91.2% in 2015 to 89.8% in 2026, the actual *overall proportion of the S4 cohort* passing Nat 5 English has increased from 65.3% to 78.3%. Looking at the cohort figures highlights that there has been improvement in Nat 5 English.

In contrast, the percentage of the S4 cohort passing each of the main sciences has fallen over time. It is worth noting that pupils who do not pass a STEM subject at Nat 5 in S4 will be unable to sit the Higher in S5 and are therefore less likely to be able to bring any worthwhile STEM skills to their future education and employment. For example, becoming a scientist or medic will be out of the question.

## S4 entrants in English & STEM 2015-2026

(2020 & 2021 are denoted in red due as external exams did not take place due to the pandemic)

|                       | Year | number of S4 pupils | number of S4 entries | % of S4 | Number of As | % of entries awarded A | % of S4 pupils awarded A | Number of A-C | % of entries A-C | % of S4 pupils awarded A-C |
|-----------------------|------|---------------------|----------------------|---------|--------------|------------------------|--------------------------|---------------|------------------|----------------------------|
| English               | 2015 | 45,002              | 32,211               | 71.6%   | 15,557       | 48.3%                  | 34.6%                    | 29,366        | 91.2%            | 65.3%                      |
|                       | 2016 | 44,815              | 34,264               | 76.5%   | 15,160       | 44.2%                  | 33.8%                    | 31,162        | 90.9%            | 69.5%                      |
|                       | 2017 | 44,685              | 36,007               | 80.6%   | 15,740       | 43.7%                  | 35.2%                    | 32,686        | 90.8%            | 73.1%                      |
|                       | 2018 | 43,526              | 35,767               | 82.2%   | 15,047       | 42.1%                  | 34.6%                    | 31,850        | 89.0%            | 73.2%                      |
|                       | 2019 | 44,861              | 37,191               | 82.9%   | 15,183       | 40.8%                  | 33.8%                    | 33,462        | 90.0%            | 74.6%                      |
|                       | 2020 | 46,292              | 38,632               | 83.5%   | 17,262       | 44.7%                  | 37.3%                    | 36,240        | 93.8%            | 78.3%                      |
|                       | 2021 | 47,160              | 39,424               | 83.6%   | 20,868       | 52.9%                  | 44.2%                    | 36,844        | 93.5%            | 78.1%                      |
|                       | 2022 | 48,605              | 40,946               | 84.2%   | 19,236       | 47.0%                  | 39.6%                    | 37,329        | 91.2%            | 76.8%                      |
|                       | 2023 | 50,072              | 42,614               | 85.1%   | 18,793       | 44.1%                  | 37.5%                    | 38,017        | 89.2%            | 75.9%                      |
|                       | 2024 | 50,387              | 43,436               | 86.2%   | 17,685       | 40.7%                  | 35.1%                    | 37,898        | 87.3%            | 75.2%                      |
|                       | 2025 | 50,777              | 43,866               | 86.4%   | 19,468       | 44.4%                  | 38.3%                    | 38,726        | 88.3%            | 76.3%                      |
|                       | 2026 | 51,194              | 44,605               | 87.1%   | 19,787       | 44.4%                  | 38.7%                    | 40,061        | 89.8%            | 78.3%                      |
| Maths                 | 2015 | 45,002              | 24,604               | 54.7%   | 9,960        | 40.5%                  | 22.1%                    | 17,517        | 71.2%            | 38.9%                      |
|                       | 2016 | 44,815              | 25,472               | 56.8%   | 10,504       | 41.2%                  | 23.4%                    | 18,619        | 73.1%            | 41.5%                      |
|                       | 2017 | 44,685              | 25,858               | 57.9%   | 11,232       | 43.4%                  | 25.1%                    | 19,023        | 73.6%            | 42.6%                      |
|                       | 2018 | 43,526              | 25,456               | 58.5%   | 11,333       | 44.5%                  | 26.0%                    | 19,167        | 75.3%            | 44.0%                      |
|                       | 2019 | 44,861              | 26,383               | 58.8%   | 11,314       | 42.9%                  | 25.2%                    | 19,961        | 75.7%            | 44.5%                      |
|                       | 2020 | 46,292              | 26,783               | 57.9%   | 12,467       | 46.5%                  | 26.9%                    | 22,817        | 85.2%            | 49.3%                      |
|                       | 2021 | 47,160              | 25,083               | 53.2%   | 12,088       | 48.2%                  | 25.6%                    | 20,463        | 81.6%            | 43.4%                      |
|                       | 2022 | 48,605              | 26,644               | 54.8%   | 12,586       | 47.2%                  | 25.9%                    | 21,041        | 79.0%            | 43.3%                      |
|                       | 2023 | 50,072              | 27,247               | 54.4%   | 9,903        | 36.3%                  | 19.8%                    | 19,568        | 71.8%            | 39.1%                      |
|                       | 2024 | 50,387              | 26,627               | 52.8%   | 13,120       | 49.3%                  | 26.0%                    | 20,227        | 76.0%            | 40.1%                      |
|                       | 2025 | 50,777              | 26,193               | 51.6%   | 12,583       | 48.0%                  | 24.8%                    | 20,071        | 76.6%            | 39.5%                      |
|                       | 2026 | 51,194              | 26,200               | 51.2%   | 12,548       | 47.9%                  | 24.5%                    | 20,309        | 77.5%            | 39.7%                      |
| Applications of Maths | 2018 | 43,526              | 532                  | 1.2%    | 166          | 31.2%                  | 0.4%                     | 387           | 72.7%            | 0.9%                       |
|                       | 2019 | 44,861              | 2,152                | 4.8%    | 739          | 34.3%                  | 1.6%                     | 1,461         | 67.9%            | 3.3%                       |
|                       | 2020 | 46,292              | 6,417                | 13.9%   | 2,388        | 37.2%                  | 5.2%                     | 5,213         | 81.2%            | 11.3%                      |
|                       | 2021 | 47,160              | 6,172                | 13.1%   | 1,800        | 29.2%                  | 3.8%                     | 4,382         | 71.0%            | 9.3%                       |
|                       | 2022 | 48,605              | 8,879                | 18.3%   | 2,850        | 32.1%                  | 5.9%                     | 6,380         | 71.9%            | 13.1%                      |
|                       | 2023 | 50,072              | 12,998               | 26.0%   | 4,007        | 30.8%                  | 8.0%                     | 8,860         | 68.2%            | 17.7%                      |
|                       | 2024 | 50,387              | 16,566               | 32.9%   | 5,256        | 31.7%                  | 10.4%                    | 10,872        | 65.6%            | 21.6%                      |
|                       | 2025 | 50,777              | 18,678               | 36.8%   | 6,700        | 35.9%                  | 13.2%                    | 12,812        | 68.6%            | 25.2%                      |
|                       | 2026 | 51,194              | 20524                | 40.1%   | 7950         | 38.7%                  | 15.5%                    | 14,169        | 69.0%            | 27.7%                      |

# S4 entrants in English & STEM 2015-2026 CONTINUED

(2020 & 2021 are denoted in red due as external exams did not take place due to the pandemic)

|                           | Year | number<br>of S4<br>pupils | number<br>of S4<br>entries | % of<br>S4 | Number<br>of As | % of<br>entries<br>awarded A | % of S4<br>pupils<br>awarded A | Number<br>of A-C | % of<br>entries<br>A-C | % of S4<br>pupils<br>awarded A-C |
|---------------------------|------|---------------------------|----------------------------|------------|-----------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------|------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Biology                   | 2015 | 45,002                    | 16,485                     | 36.6%      | 4,900           | 29.7%                        | 10.9%                          | 12,573           | 76.3%                  | 27.9%                            |
|                           | 2016 | 44,815                    | 16,341                     | 36.5%      | 5,774           | 35.3%                        | 12.9%                          | 12,853           | 78.7%                  | 28.7%                            |
|                           | 2017 | 44,685                    | 16,736                     | 37.5%      | 5,522           | 33.0%                        | 12.4%                          | 12,780           | 76.4%                  | 28.6%                            |
|                           | 2018 | 43,526                    | 16,477                     | 37.9%      | 6,082           | 36.9%                        | 14.0%                          | 12,896           | 78.3%                  | 29.6%                            |
|                           | 2019 | 44,861                    | 17,270                     | 38.5%      | 5,990           | 34.7%                        | 13.4%                          | 13,195           | 76.4%                  | 29.4%                            |
|                           | 2020 | 46,292                    | 17,460                     | 37.7%      | 6,999           | 40.1%                        | 15.1%                          | 15,088           | 86.4%                  | 32.6%                            |
|                           | 2021 | 47,160                    | 17,499                     | 37.1%      | 7,195           | 41.1%                        | 15.3%                          | 13,951           | 79.7%                  | 29.6%                            |
|                           | 2022 | 48,605                    | 18,818                     | 38.7%      | 6,926           | 36.8%                        | 14.2%                          | 14,433           | 76.7%                  | 29.7%                            |
|                           | 2023 | 50,072                    | 19,236                     | 38.4%      | 7,410           | 38.5%                        | 14.8%                          | 14,879           | 77.3%                  | 29.7%                            |
|                           | 2024 | 50,387                    | 18,801                     | 37.3%      | 5,923           | 31.5%                        | 11.8%                          | 13,049           | 69.4%                  | 25.9%                            |
|                           | 2025 | 50,777                    | 18,487                     | 36.4%      | 6,019           | 32.6%                        | 11.9%                          | 12,954           | 70.1%                  | 25.5%                            |
|                           | 2026 | 51,194                    | 18,891                     | 36.9%      | 6,958           | 36.8%                        | 13.6%                          | 13,438           | 71.1%                  | 26.2%                            |
| Chemistry                 | 2015 | 45,002                    | 14,512                     | 32.2%      | 5,178           | 35.7%                        | 11.5%                          | 10,971           | 75.6%                  | 24.4%                            |
|                           | 2016 | 44,815                    | 14,860                     | 33.2%      | 5,573           | 37.5%                        | 12.4%                          | 11,690           | 78.7%                  | 26.1%                            |
|                           | 2017 | 44,685                    | 14,414                     | 32.3%      | 5,518           | 38.3%                        | 12.3%                          | 11,345           | 78.7%                  | 25.4%                            |
|                           | 2018 | 43,526                    | 13,990                     | 32.1%      | 5,528           | 39.5%                        | 12.7%                          | 11,147           | 79.7%                  | 25.6%                            |
|                           | 2019 | 44,861                    | 14,199                     | 31.7%      | 5,294           | 37.3%                        | 11.8%                          | 11,278           | 79.4%                  | 25.1%                            |
|                           | 2020 | 46,292                    | 14,364                     | 31.0%      | 6,517           | 45.4%                        | 14.1%                          | 12,804           | 89.1%                  | 27.7%                            |
|                           | 2021 | 47,160                    | 13,652                     | 28.9%      | 6,485           | 47.5%                        | 13.8%                          | 11,453           | 83.9%                  | 24.3%                            |
|                           | 2022 | 48,605                    | 14,052                     | 28.9%      | 6,349           | 45.2%                        | 13.1%                          | 11,505           | 81.9%                  | 23.7%                            |
|                           | 2023 | 50,072                    | 14,107                     | 28.2%      | 6,294           | 44.6%                        | 12.6%                          | 11,268           | 79.9%                  | 22.5%                            |
|                           | 2024 | 50,387                    | 14,392                     | 28.6%      | 6,287           | 43.7%                        | 12.5%                          | 11,325           | 78.7%                  | 22.5%                            |
|                           | 2025 | 50,777                    | 13,865                     | 27.3%      | 6,570           | 47.4%                        | 12.9%                          | 11,286           | 81.4%                  | 22.2%                            |
|                           | 2026 | 51,194                    | 13,745                     | 26.8%      | 6,303           | 45.9%                        | 12.3%                          | 10,918           | 79.4%                  | 21.3%                            |
| Comp-<br>uting<br>Science | 2015 | 45,002                    | 6,391                      | 14.2%      | 2,416           | 37.8%                        | 5.4%                           | 5,506            | 86.2%                  | 12.2%                            |
|                           | 2016 | 44,815                    | 6,554                      | 14.6%      | 2,465           | 37.6%                        | 5.5%                           | 5,603            | 85.5%                  | 12.5%                            |
|                           | 2017 | 44,685                    | 6,319                      | 14.1%      | 2,072           | 32.8%                        | 4.6%                           | 5,319            | 84.2%                  | 11.9%                            |
|                           | 2018 | 43,526                    | 5,565                      | 12.8%      | 1,789           | 32.1%                        | 4.1%                           | 4,349            | 78.1%                  | 10.0%                            |
|                           | 2019 | 44,861                    | 5,377                      | 12.0%      | 1,880           | 35.0%                        | 4.2%                           | 4,183            | 77.8%                  | 9.3%                             |
|                           | 2020 | 46,292                    | 5,315                      | 11.5%      | 2,320           | 43.7%                        | 5.0%                           | 4,858            | 91.4%                  | 10.5%                            |
|                           | 2021 | 47,160                    | 5,461                      | 11.6%      | 2,642           | 48.4%                        | 5.6%                           | 4,825            | 88.4%                  | 10.2%                            |
|                           | 2022 | 48,605                    | 5,674                      | 11.7%      | 2,514           | 44.3%                        | 5.2%                           | 4,619            | 81.4%                  | 9.5%                             |
|                           | 2023 | 50,072                    | 6,089                      | 12.2%      | 2,740           | 45.0%                        | 5.5%                           | 4,920            | 80.8%                  | 9.8%                             |
|                           | 2024 | 50,387                    | 6,083                      | 12.1%      | 2,891           | 47.5%                        | 5.7%                           | 4,921            | 80.9%                  | 9.8%                             |
|                           | 2025 | 50,777                    | 5957                       | 11.7%      | 3111            | 52.2%                        | 6.1%                           | 4990             | 83.8%                  | 9.8%                             |
|                           | 2026 | 51,194                    | 5,914                      | 11.6%      | 2,544           | 43.0%                        | 5.0%                           | 4,580            | 77.4%                  | 8.9%                             |
| Physics                   | 2015 | 45,002                    | 12,083                     | 26.8%      | 4,120           | 34.1%                        | 9.2%                           | 9,491            | 78.5%                  | 21.1%                            |
|                           | 2016 | 44,815                    | 12,237                     | 27.3%      | 4,443           | 36.3%                        | 9.9%                           | 9,615            | 78.6%                  | 21.5%                            |
|                           | 2017 | 44,685                    | 11,837                     | 26.5%      | 4,257           | 36.0%                        | 9.5%                           | 9,042            | 76.4%                  | 20.2%                            |
|                           | 2018 | 43,526                    | 11,424                     | 26.2%      | 4,018           | 35.2%                        | 9.2%                           | 9,024            | 79.0%                  | 20.7%                            |
|                           | 2019 | 44,861                    | 11,536                     | 25.7%      | 4,138           | 35.9%                        | 9.2%                           | 9,010            | 78.1%                  | 20.1%                            |
|                           | 2020 | 46,292                    | 11,669                     | 25.2%      | 5,102           | 43.7%                        | 11.0%                          | 10,235           | 87.7%                  | 22.1%                            |
|                           | 2021 | 47,160                    | 11,245                     | 23.8%      | 5,257           | 46.7%                        | 11.1%                          | 9,421            | 83.8%                  | 20.0%                            |
|                           | 2022 | 48,605                    | 11,592                     | 23.8%      | 4,381           | 37.8%                        | 9.0%                           | 8,967            | 77.4%                  | 18.4%                            |
|                           | 2023 | 50,072                    | 11,539                     | 23.0%      | 4,334           | 37.6%                        | 8.7%                           | 8,558            | 74.2%                  | 17.1%                            |
|                           | 2024 | 50,387                    | 11,771                     | 23.4%      | 4,360           | 37.0%                        | 8.7%                           | 9,028            | 76.7%                  | 17.9%                            |
|                           | 2025 | 50,777                    | 12,023                     | 23.7%      | 4,232           | 35.2%                        | 8.3%                           | 9,044            | 75.2%                  | 17.8%                            |
|                           | 2026 | 51,194                    | 12,196                     | 23.8%      | 4,155           | 34.1%                        | 8.1%                           | 9,173            | 75.2%                  | 17.9%                            |

The table below outlines the changes in the proportion of the S4 cohort gaining an A-C pass in a wider range of subjects between 2015 and 2026.

**Proportion of S4 cohort gaining A-C in Nat 5 exam in top 20 subjects 2015-2026**  
(2020 & 2021 are denoted in red due as external exams did not take place due to the pandemic)

|                             | 2015  | 2016  | 2017  | 2018  | 2019  | 2020  | 2021  | 2022  | 2023  | 2024  | 2025  | 2026  |
|-----------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| English                     | 65.3% | 69.5% | 73.1% | 73.2% | 74.6% | 78.3% | 78.1% | 76.8% | 75.9% | 75.2% | 76.3% | 78.3% |
| Mathematics                 | 38.9% | 41.5% | 42.6% | 44.0% | 44.5% | 49.3% | 43.4% | 43.3% | 39.1% | 40.1% | 39.5% | 39.7% |
| PE                          | 26.7% | 27.1% | 28.5% | 29.9% | 32.1% | 33.5% | 35.0% | 35.6% | 35.9% | 36.4% | 38.3% | 39.6% |
| Biology                     | 27.9% | 28.7% | 28.6% | 29.6% | 29.4% | 32.6% | 29.6% | 29.7% | 29.7% | 25.9% | 25.5% | 26.2% |
| Applications of Mathematics |       |       |       | 0.9%  | 3.3%  | 11.3% | 9.3%  | 13.1% | 17.7% | 21.6% | 25.2% | 27.7% |
| History                     | 24.2% | 24.5% | 22.8% | 23.0% | 23.4% | 26.1% | 25.6% | 24.2% | 24.3% | 21.4% | 21.7% | 23.3% |
| Chemistry                   | 24.4% | 26.1% | 25.4% | 25.6% | 25.1% | 27.7% | 24.3% | 23.7% | 22.5% | 22.5% | 22.2% | 21.3% |
| Art and Design              | 16.5% | 16.6% | 16.6% | 16.3% | 16.1% | 18.2% | 17.8% | 17.2% | 17.3% | 17.3% | 18.9% | 19.4% |
| Modern Studies              | 17.4% | 16.8% | 18.5% | 17.2% | 17.6% | 20.6% | 21.9% | 20.0% | 19.0% | 17.8% | 16.7% | 18.3% |
| Physics                     | 21.1% | 21.5% | 20.2% | 20.7% | 20.1% | 22.1% | 20.0% | 18.4% | 17.1% | 17.9% | 17.8% | 17.9% |
| Business Management         | 11.5% | 11.6% | 11.0% | 10.8% | 10.7% | 12.0% | 12.0% | 13.2% | 13.9% | 14.2% | 14.7% | 15.7% |
| Practical Woodworking       | 5.0%  | 5.5%  | 5.9%  | 5.8%  | 6.8%  | 8.3%  | 9.0%  | 10.1% | 11.0% | 11.0% | 12.7% | 14.5% |
| Music                       | 14.8% | 14.7% | 14.1% | 14.1% | 13.8% | 14.6% | 15.5% | 13.6% | 12.7% | 12.9% | 13.3% | 12.7% |
| Geography                   | 18.4% | 17.5% | 16.1% | 14.4% | 14.0% | 16.6% | 16.8% | 15.9% | 14.4% | 13.9% | 13.4% | 12.0% |
| Practical Cookery           |       |       |       |       |       | 7.6%  | 7.9%  | 8.4%  | 8.9%  | 10.0% | 10.9% | 11.3% |
| Spanish                     | 6.9%  | 8.0%  | 8.2%  | 9.2%  | 8.9%  | 10.5% | 9.3%  | 9.6%  | 9.4%  | 10.1% | 10.3% | 11.0% |
| French                      | 20.1% | 17.0% | 17.1% | 15.2% | 13.9% | 14.6% | 12.9% | 11.2% | 10.9% | 10.5% | 10.2% | 9.4%  |
| Computing Science           | 12.2% | 12.5% | 11.9% | 10.0% | 9.3%  | 10.5% | 10.2% | 9.5%  | 9.8%  | 9.8%  | 9.8%  | 8.9%  |
| Drama                       | 8.9%  | 8.6%  | 8.5%  | 8.9%  | 9.3%  | 9.9%  | 9.1%  | 8.3%  | 7.9%  | 8.2%  | 8.7%  | 8.9%  |
| Graphic Communication       | 11.3% | 9.8%  | 10.3% | 8.1%  | 7.6%  | 8.8%  | 8.2%  | 7.1%  | 6.9%  | 6.2%  | 7.2%  | 6.9%  |

This table highlights the number and proportion of the S4 cohort achieving A-C passes in both English and Maths Nat 5s over time.

**Proportion of S4 cohort gaining A-C in both English and Maths Nat 5 2017-2026**  
(2020 & 2021 are denoted in red due as external exams did not take place due to the pandemic)

| Year | A      | A - C  | S4 cohort | % A-C | % A   |
|------|--------|--------|-----------|-------|-------|
| 2017 | 8,664  | 18,297 | 44,685    | 40.9% | 19.4% |
| 2018 | 8,554  | 18,358 | 43,526    | 42.2% | 19.7% |
| 2019 | 8,608  | 19,243 | 44,861    | 42.9% | 19.2% |
| 2020 | 9,771  | 21,947 | 46,292    | 47.4% | 21.1% |
| 2021 | 10,587 | 19,997 | 47,160    | 42.4% | 22.4% |
| 2022 | 10,435 | 20,556 | 48,605    | 42.3% | 21.5% |
| 2023 | 8,444  | 19,135 | 50,072    | 38.2% | 16.9% |
| 2024 | 10,273 | 19,749 | 50,387    | 39.2% | 20.4% |
| 2025 | 10,246 | 19,676 | 50,777    | 38.7% | 20.2% |
| 2026 | 10,214 | 19,909 | 51,194    | 38.9% | 20.0% |

September 2026

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To find out more about the work of Enlighten and the Commission on School Reform, visit our website at [enlighten.scot](http://enlighten.scot).

