

Qualifications Scotland Information Evening 15/09/2026



Best Outcomes for ALL:
Achievement, Leadership, Learning

DETERMINATION FAIRNESS RESPECT RESPONSIBILITY

Qualifications Scotland Information



Aims

To give you a better understanding of assessments and feedback to young people and parents and carers.

To make you aware of estimates, exceptional circumstances appeals and marking reviews.

To provide details of the different ways young people can receive results.

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Prelims

Stewarton Academy runs prelim diets in November & December. S4 exams run from Monday 16th November – Friday 27th November 2026. S5 and S6 prelims will run from Monday 30th November – Friday 11th December 2026.

In a small number of cases (practical cookery), there will be practical assessments outside of these dates.

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Tracking and Information

Parents and carers will receive three tracking reports and one parents' evening.

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Tracking and Information

S4	
Event	Date
Tracking Report 1	28/09/2026
S4 Parents & Carers' Evening	22/10/2026
Options Information Event	12/01/2027
Prelim Results	17/12/2026
Tracking Report 2	11/01/2027
Tracking Report 3	08/03/2027

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Tracking and Information



S5 & S6	
Event	Date
Tracking Report 1	02/10/2026
S5/6 Parents & Carers' Evening	22/10/2026
Options Information Event	12/01/2027
Tracking Report 2 (including prelim results)	26/01/2027
Tracking Report 3	08/01/2026

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Prelims - Why do we do them?

Prelims are not a recreation of the final exam, and they may not sample all parts of it. Prelims do not preclude additional assessments at other times of the academic year.

S5/6 prelims have been moved from January to December because of significant feedback from learners about the impact of studying over the holidays.

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Prelims - Why do we do them?

The principal rationale for prelims are:

- To give pupils (especially those in S4) experience of a 'big' exam;
- To gauge progress;
- To identify concerns, identify appropriate interventions and provide feedback to young people and parents & carers;
- To allow schools to submit estimates to Qualifications Scotland.

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QS Results

Results will be issued on the 4th August 2027. The traditional envelope through the post service is still used. However, candidates can sign up for a service known as My QS which allows results to be sent by SMS and e-mail.

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Results

The advantage of this is that results arrive in a window from 8am – 9am rather than having to wait for Royal Mail.

If a candidate is on holiday, they can still receive their results.

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Get results ready

My Qualifications Scotland lets you view your qualifications, check your personal details, and choose to get your exam results by email or text.

Step 1 - Sign Up

You will need your SCN (Scottish Candidate Number) to do this.

It's available from your centre if you don't already know it.

[Sign up](#)

[Learn more](#)

Step 2 - Activate

You will need:

- The activation code we sent you
- Your SCN

[Activate account](#)

[Forgot activation code?](#)

Step 3 - Login

Username

Password

[Forgot Username?](#)
[Forgot Password?](#)

[Login](#)

MyCertificate

We will send your certificate by post.
Please check that we hold the correct



MyNews

Replacement Certificates

To order a replacement certificate, please visit this link: [eshop](#)

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Results

Young people in S4 will be encouraged to sign up for this service.

Candidates but especially those in the current S6 are advised to use a different e-mail address from that provided by the school. Accessing Glow may be more challenging than e.g. Gmail or Live and Glow accounts are closed once a young person has left school.

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Estimates

All QS-approved centres are required to submit estimate grades for every young person sitting National Five, Higher or Advanced Higher (there are no estimates for National Four, units or courses that are awarded at either pass or fail).

Estimates are submitted to QS by the 16th April 2027 for all courses except Art, Fashion, Music, Music Technology and Practical Cookery (30th May 2027).

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Estimates

Estimates are arrived at using assessment evidence and by and large these will be the same as the working at grades that you will receive in a young person's final tracking report (8th March 2027 for S4 and 22nd March 2027 for S5 and S6).

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Estimates

Estimate grades and bands have always existed. They are useful in allowing schools and colleges to evaluate the robustness and reliability of their assessment evidence. If they are hugely out of kilter with final exam results then there can be discussions about how and when we assess during the school year, and how we moderate marking.

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Estimates

Estimates also allow each subject to make broad predictors about likely attainment.

They are not used to predetermine any judgements or outcomes.

They are used by Qualifications Scotland.

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Exceptional Circumstances Appeals

Qualifications Scotland operates a service called Exceptional Circumstances Consideration Service (EECCS) that looks at the outcomes for young people who cannot attend an exam or whose performance is adversely affected on the day.

There are two classes of situations QS will consider – personal circumstances and examination circumstances.

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Exceptional Circumstances Appeals

Personal circumstances would include e.g. bereavement or illness (including a young person having to leave an exam through ill health OR attending when clearly unwell) while examination circumstances typically refers to disruption during an assessment.

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Exceptional Circumstances Appeals

Exceptional circumstance appeals must be submitted within ten days of the examination. In the case of multiple subjects being affected, separate appeals must be submitted. This is because the subject marking team looks at these requests; they are not judged centrally by QS.

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Exceptional Circumstances Appeals

EECCS cannot be used in cases where a young person has experienced disruption to learning prior to the exam or difficult circumstances on an ongoing basis that have affected their learning and/or ability to study.

*A school does not need to specify e.g. the nature of an illness but would typically submit a covering note detailing how a young person was affected.

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Exceptional Circumstances Appeals

To be eligible for an EECES appeal, these conditions must be met:

- Candidates must have completed all non-exam components.
- Alternative evidence (usually a prelim, marking scheme and other tests) must be available.
- The school must have submitted an estimate.

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Exceptional Circumstances Appeals

- Only the school can request an EECES. Learners & their families cannot.
- EECESs cannot be submitted for used for other parts e.g. folios, science investigations, dissertations, music performances.

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Exceptional Circumstances Appeals

- If the circumstance causes non-attendance any grade will be awarded at lower band e.g. A band 2.
- If an EECES is submitted, a candidate cannot also submit an 'appeal'.

EECCS appeals are rare. In 2026, we submitted eleven on behalf of nine candidates.

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Marking Reviews

The traditional appeal model was abolished in 2014. It was replaced with a system called marking reviews/clerical checks. Essentially, a paper can be re-marked by a different person and the totalling of marks checked.

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Marking Reviews

Requests for marking reviews can either be submitted by a young person or on their behalf by the school. Ultimately, all are sent to QS by the school whether initiated by the learner or the centre.

There are two types of 'appeals': priority and non-priority. Priority appeals are those where a candidate needs a grade for university, college, training or employment.

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Marking Reviews

By means of illustration, here are the deadlines from this session:

Learner-submitted appeal

Tuesday 11 August at 11:59pm for priority appeals

Tuesday 25 August at 11:59pm for all other appeals

School-submitted

Thursday 20 August at 5 pm for priority appeals

Friday 28 August at 5 pm for all other appeals

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Marking Reviews

School policy is everyone within a tolerance of an upper grade will be submitted. For all appeals there is an expectation that some sort of dialogue has taken place with a young person (or been attempted) as grades can go up, stay the same or go down.

In 2026, Stewarton Academy submitted 322 requests for marking reviews.

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Marking Reviews

Priority 'appeals' are typically resolved by late August – 31st this year as university cut-off dates for offers of places is on/around the 7th September each year.

Non-priority appeals are usually decided on during October. When 'appeals' have been successful, a replacement certificate is issued in November.

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[Useful Links](#)

[My QS – text and e-mail results service](#)

[Exceptional Circumstances Appeals](#)

[Exam dates 2027](#)

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