



GENERAL POINTS FOR ENTRY TO HIGHER EDUCATION

- Higher passes are graded A, B and C. An award at grade D is a narrow fail. A bad fail is recorded as No Award.
- In general, it is the quality of passes which counts, not the quantity (i.e. BBB is better than CCCCC).
- Do not assume that A and C average to BB – they may not! For example, AACC cannot be assumed to be equivalent to BBBB.
- Basic threshold for entry to Higher Education is 3 Higher passes.
- Most courses at traditional institutions of HE need 4 Highers and some need 5.
- No course in Higher Education needs 6 Highers at one sitting.
- Some high-tariff subjects (medicine, vet, dentistry, law and physiotherapy) require 5 Highers at particular grades at the first sitting.
- For many courses, there are specific subject requirements. Please check with Careers Department.
- Published entry requirements are always for the first sitting of examinations.
- For the vast majority of courses, qualifications can be obtained over two sittings (but see above regarding requirements at the first sitting). However, a greater total will then be needed. For example, a course which requires BBBB over one sitting may require BBBBB or AABB over two and a course which requires AAABB over one sitting may require AAABBB or AAAABB over two.
- Scottish Universities occasionally take Advanced Highers into consideration when building up qualifications over 2 sittings, but are much more likely to require further Highers. An Advanced Higher will not be taken into consideration for 'upgrading' purposes if an A pass has already been obtained in that subject.
- English universities may require up to 3 Advanced Highers regardless of performance at Higher in S5. If applying to English Universities, students must consult the Careers department as well as making contact with appropriate Admissions Officers at an early stage in the application process.

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