

Appendix 3: Higher Grade passes held by School Leavers 1950-97

	3 or more Highers	5 or more Highers	Total Leavers (including special Schools)
1950	N/A	N/A	N/A
1951	3,000	981	N/A
1952	3,072 (4.0%)	956 (1.3%)	74,707
1953	3,178 (4.4%)	1,028 (1.4%)	72,068
1954	3,200 (4.3%)	1,000 (1.4%)	74,073
1955	3,435 (4.9%)	1,065 (1.5%)	70,819
1956	3,644 (5.3%)	1,115 (1.6%)	68,772
1957	3,852 (5.4%)	1,237 (1.7%)	71,180
1958	3,983 (5.7%)	1,315 (1.9%)	70,264
1959	4,107 (5.7%)	1,390 (1.9%)	71,696
1960	4,772 (6.4%)	1,656 (2.2%)	75,049
1961	5,120 (7.2%)	1,722 (2.4%)	70,628
1962	5,767 (6.9%)	1,598 (1.9%)	83,861
1963	6,627 (7.9%)	2,060 (2.5%)	83,412
1964	7,581 (9.1%)	2,646 (3.2%)	83,160
1965	9,460 (11.6%)	3,568 (4.4%)	81,322
1966	9,284 (11.8%)	3,776 (4.8%)	78,653
1967	10,060 (13.4%)	4,219 (5.6%)	75,013
1968	10,785 (14.1%)	4,609 (6.0%)	76,463
1969	11,867 (15.3%)	5,131 (6.6%)	77,338
1970	13,043 (17.0%)	6,025 (7.9%)	76,730
1971	14,446 (18.3%)	6,743 (8.6%)	78,859
1972	15,470 (18.7%)	7,234 (8.7%)	82,864
1973	15,896 (35.9%)	7,489 (16.9%)	44,236
1974	16,356 (19.3%)	7,784 (9.2%)	84,900
1975	15,596 (17.7%)	7,295 (8.3%)	88,345
1976	15,100 (16.6%)	7,300 (8.0%)	91,100
1977	16,100 (17.6%)	7,800 (8.5%)	91,564
1978	16,069 (17.2%)	7,600 (8.2%)	93,221
1979	15,760 (17.2%)	7,500 (8.2%)	91,737
1980	16,661 (18.2%)	8,100 (8.8%)	91,722
1981	17,208 (19.7%)	8,345 (9.5%)	87,475
1982	18,347 (20.7%)	9,108 (10.3%)	88,607
1983	18,954 (20.8%)	9,488 (10.4%)	90,988
1984	19,114 (21.3%)	9,617 (10.7%)	89,737
1985	17,924 (20.9%)	9,037 (10.5%)	85,819
1986	17,119 (20.6%)	8,785 (10.6%)	83,076
1987	17,253 (21.5%)	8,807 (11.0%)	80,356
1988	17,166 (22.6%)	8,859 (11.6%)	76,059
1989	17,704 (24.4%)	9,376 (12.9%)	72,695
1990	17,389 (25.6%)	9,253 (13.6%)	67,900
1991	16,451 (26.1%)	8,769 (14.1%)	62,072
1992	17,015 (28.1%)	9,306 (15.4%)	60,596
1993	16,477 (28.5%)	9,115 (15.8%)	57,796
1994	17,389 (29.9%)	10,516 (18.1%)	58,194
1995	18,161 (29.4%)	10,532 (17.0%)	61,836
1996	18,633 (29.6%)	10,890 (17.3%)	62,978
1997	20,000 (30.3%)	11,577 (17.5%)	65,988

Notes:

1. The sources are SED and SEB Annual Reports, and SED Statistical Bulletins on “*School Leavers*” and “*School Leavers’ Qualifications*”. The figures are presented in several different ways in these documents, but I have attempted, as far as possible, to reduce them all to one consistent pattern.
2. The percentages are of all school leavers for the year in question. The percentages for years 1972 and 1973 are distorted by the effect of the raising of the school leaving age. Up to 1972, most statutory leavers left school from S3; after 1974, most left from S4. The number of S3 leavers in 1972 was slightly higher than normal since a later than usual leaving date was fixed to permit more to escape the effects of ROSLA. In 1973, there were no statutory leavers at all, and the leavers’ group was limited to those who had voluntarily stayed on into S4, S5 and S6.

