Jordanhill School

Course Choice for S5

There is a very strong link between how pupils do in their exams in S4 and how they do in S5. In fact, it is one of the strongest statistical correlations in Scottish schools.

We look at how pupils did in **all** of their S4 subjects not just those they enjoy, find easiest or the subjects they are going to study in S5. This is because looking at the average of **all subjects** gives us the clearest idea of how hard a pupil has worked to develop their skills in S4 and for the years before that. We call the average of your S4 results the **PSA score**.

To get an initial feel for this process, you should calculate some PSA scores and then link them to the **Likelihood of Passing** table below.

Calculating your PSA score

Look at the **points table** and work out what you would get for one of your subjects based on your internal exam result. Enter the subject name, the grade and the points in the column. Do this for all of your subjects then total them up and divide the total by the number of subjects you are studying.

Subject	Grade	Points
Total		
Total ÷ by number of subjects = PSA		

Points Scale

National 5	
Band 1	89
Band 2	84
Band 3	79
Band 4	74
Band 5	69
Band 6	64
Band 7	52
National 4	33
National 3	18

The PSA score for a pupil who gets a 'C' Band 6 pass at National 5 in <u>every</u> subject would be **64**.

The table below indicates the likelihood of passing Highers based on your PSA.
How many Highers would it be wise for a pupil with this PSA to take?

	Likelihood of Passing		
PSA	**5 Highers**	**3 Highers**	**1 Higher**
>75	**High**		
66 - 72	**Reasonable**	**High**	
60 - 66	**None**	**50:50**	**High**
50 - 60		**None**	**Reasonable**
<50			**None**

Work out what your PSA will be if everything goes to plan in the SQA exams (i.e. a best case scenario)

Subject	Grade	Points
Total		
Total ÷ by number of subjects = PSA		

Work out what your PSA will be if everything goes badly in the SQA exams (i.e. a worst case scenario)

Subject	Grade	Points
Total		
Total ÷ by number of subjects = PSA		

Work out what your PSA will be if everything goes the way your teachers would predict in the SQA exams

Subject	Grade	Points
Total		
Total ÷ by number of subjects = PSA		