

## SEAG Outcomes – what they mean

Every pupil who sat the SEAG Entrance Assessment receives 5 outcomes. Two of these, the TSAS and the Band are used by academically selective schools when they are applying their Year 8 Admissions Criteria and the other three outcomes, the English / Irish SAS, the Maths SAS and the Cohort Percentile, provide additional information.

- **TSAS (Total Standardised Age Score)**

This is worked out by adding a pupil's English / Irish SAS to their Maths SAS.

The highest TSAS is 282 and the lowest is 138. An "average" TSAS is 200.

This means that 50 out of every 100 pupils who sat the Assessment have a TSAS of 200 or more. An average TSAS of 200 does not mean that a pupil only got 50% of the questions right or that they got  $200/282 = 71\%$  of the questions right. It only tells how a pupil did compared to other pupils.

- **Band**

Pupils whose TSAS is in the top 40% are in Band 1, the next 10% in Band 2, the next 10% in Band 3 and so on. Band 6 covers around 20% pupils who are not in one of the top 5 Bands.

- **Cohort Percentile**

The whole group of pupils who sat the Assessment across N.Ireland is called the cohort. The higher the percentile the better a pupil has achieved compared to all the pupils. e.g. if a pupil's score is in the 80<sup>th</sup> percentile they would be higher than 79% of all the pupils and lower than 20% of all the pupils.

- **English / Irish SAS and Maths SAS**

The highest English / Irish or Maths SAS is 141 and the lowest is 69.

An "average" SAS is 100.

This means that 50 out of every 100 pupils who sat the Assessment have an English / Irish SAS of 100 or more and 50 out of every 100 have a Maths SAS of 100 or more.

The TSAS is worked out by adding the English / Irish SAS to the Maths SAS.

The Table below shows the link between TSAS, Cohort Percentile and Band for pupils who sat the Assessment in November 2023.

<b>TSAS</b>	236-282	224-235	215-224	207-214	200-206	193-199	185-192	175-184	Less than 175
<b>Cohort Percentile</b>	90-100	80-89	70-79	60-69	50-59	40-49	30-39	20-29	Less than 20
<b>Band</b>	1	1	1	1	2	3	4	5	6

### What TSAS or Band will a pupil need to gain a Year 8 place in a particular school for September 2024?

- This question is impossible to answer. It will depend on the school and on the TSAS or Bands of the pupils who apply this year.
- Parents choose which schools they want to apply to for their children.  
Imagine that two schools have 120 places and 160 applicants. In school A the pupil who is in 120<sup>th</sup> place in the rank order may have a TSAS of say 209 or be in Band 1 (if the school is using Bands); in school B the pupil in 120<sup>th</sup> place may have a TSAS of say 185 or be in Band 4 (if the school is using Bands). Schools do not know how many pupils will apply in any year nor do they know, in advance, what SEAG outcomes those pupils will have.
- Historically, some schools have only been able to take pupils with higher AQE or PPTC scores or Grades and some have been able to take a broader range of Outcomes.
- Based on the number of academically selective places in SEAG schools there are, overall, enough academically selective places for about 65% of all the pupils who sat the SEAG Entrance Assessment.
- It is possible, using historical data, to make some comparisons between SEAG, AQE and PPTC outcomes.
- In the Tables which follow these comparisons are given to provide a guide with approximate "estimates".

## SEAG Outcomes – a comparison with historical AQE and PPTC outcomes

The average SEAG Total Standardised Age Score (TSAS) is 200.

PPTC used the same range as SEAG (138-282) BUT the PPTC average SAS was 231.

This means that a SEAG TSAS of 200 is “equivalent” to a PPTC SAS of about 231.

AQE used a different range. Its highest SAS was about 130 with an average SAS of about 103.

This means that a SEAG TSAS of 200 is “equivalent” to an AQE SAS of about 103.

SEAG provides 6 Bands with 1 being the highest.

Pupils with the top 40% TSAS scores are placed in Band 1, the next 10% in Band 2 and so on.

Being placed in Band 1 means that the pupil has a SEAG Cohort Percentile of 60 or higher. Pupils with the highest cohort percentiles have achieved the highest TSAS in the Entrance Assessment.

AQE never used Bands although some AQE schools created their own Bands.

PPTC used Grades, which are very similar to SEAG Bands. About 40% of SEAG pupils are in Band 1; slightly over 40% of PPTC pupils had Grade A; with both SEAG and PPTC around 20% are in Band 6.

Many parents and teachers are familiar with AQE and / or PPTC outcomes. The tables below are designed to provide a helpful comparison guide.

### SEAG comparison with historical AQE and PPTC outcomes:

Approx PPTC /GL “Equivalent” SAS	SEAG TSAS	Approx AQE “Equivalent” SAS	SEAG Band	SEAG Cohort Percentile
282	282	130	1	100
258	236		1	90
249	224	113	1	80
242	215	109	1	70
236	207	106	1	60*
231	200	103	2	50*
226	193	99	3	40*
220	185	94	4	30*
214	175	88	5	20*
200	<175		6	<20

\*This is the minimum cohort percentile needed for that Band

Two examples:

A SEAG TSAS of 215 would be “equivalent” to a PPTC SAS of about 242 or an AQE SAS of about 109.

A SEAG TSAS of 185 would be “equivalent” to a PPTC SAS of about 220 or an AQE SAS of about 94.

Minimum PPTC /GL SAS needed for Grade	PPTC/ GL Grade	Approx “Equivalent” SEAG TSAS
234	A	206
229	B1	197
224	B2	190
219	C1	183
213	C2	174
<213	D	<174

The approximate historical AQE and PPTC/GL SAS figures are based on published data from schools which used a Cohort Percentile banding model and on PPTC outcomes data provided to all parents.