



Research Summary: Evaluation of the 2024 Access to Marked Exam Papers Trial

Date: March 2025

Why did we do this research?

When learners take National Qualifications exams, their papers are marked by SQA markers. In 2023, we set up a trial (a test project) to see if giving learners and teachers access to these marked papers would be useful. Because that trial was small, we didn't get much information. In 2024, we ran a bigger trial with more subjects and more schools to see how well this service works and if it should continue.

What were we trying to find out?

- Do learners and teachers find it helpful to see marked exam papers?
- What are the benefits of seeing marked exam papers?
- Does having access to these papers affect how many people appeal their marks?
- Can schools and teachers manage the work needed to run this service?

How did we do the research?

We asked different people for their thoughts, including:

- 146 learners who answered a survey
- 390 teachers who answered a survey, with nine also taking part in interviews
- 11 senior examiners and qualification managers who were interviewed

We held a discussion group with SQA's Liaison Team, who had gathered feedback from schools and local authorities. We also looked at data from the trial to see patterns in how the service was used.

What did we learn?

- Most learners and teachers were happy with the service.
- Learners said it helped them understand their strengths and weaknesses and learn from mistakes.
- Teachers said it helped them improve their understanding of exam standards.
- More learners who accessed their marked exam papers appealed their marks compared to those who didn't, and these appeals were more likely to succeed.
- Some teachers were worried that getting learners' written permission to access their marked exam papers would give teachers extra work.
- While most teachers thought they could manage the extra work this year, some were concerned it could become too much if the service is expanded.
- Almost all learners and over two-thirds of the teachers thought the service should include more subjects, but only half of the teachers thought they would be able to manage the extra work.

What will change because of the research?

The findings suggest this service is useful and we should make it available for more subjects. However, we need to find out how to make it easier for schools and teachers to manage. The results will help us decide how to improve and expand the service in the future.

Where can I find the full report?

You can read the [Evaluation of the 2024 Access to Marked Exam Papers Trial report](#) on our website.