

## Chapter 6: Public Examinations

This chapter focuses on student performance on the June 2015 public examinations. Provincial trends over the past five years will also be explored. Unless otherwise noted, each course's final mark is reported and not the examination mark. A course's final mark is a composite measure using 50 per cent school mark, and 50 per cent examination mark.

For the purpose of reporting, these courses are presented in the following four groups:

**Table 6.1: Course groupings**

Subject area	Course name
Languages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>English 3201</li><li>Français 3202 (Immersion)</li></ul>
Mathematics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Mathematics 3200 (Advanced)</li><li>Mathematics 3201 (Academic)</li><li>Mathématiques 3231</li></ul>
Social Studies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>World History 3201</li><li>World Geography 3202</li><li>Histoire mondiale 3231</li></ul>
Sciences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Biology 3201</li><li>Biologie 3231</li><li>Chemistry 3202</li><li>Physics 3204</li><li>Earth Systems 3209</li></ul>

For the district and regional overviews, there are four courses in the province's Francophone school district not included because of the small number of students registered. These are:

- two courses only offered in the CSFP - Mathématiques 3231(5 students) and Biologie 3231 (5 students), and
- two courses offered across the province with a small number of students enrolled in the CSFP - Histoire mondiale 3231 (11 students) and English 3201 (5 students).

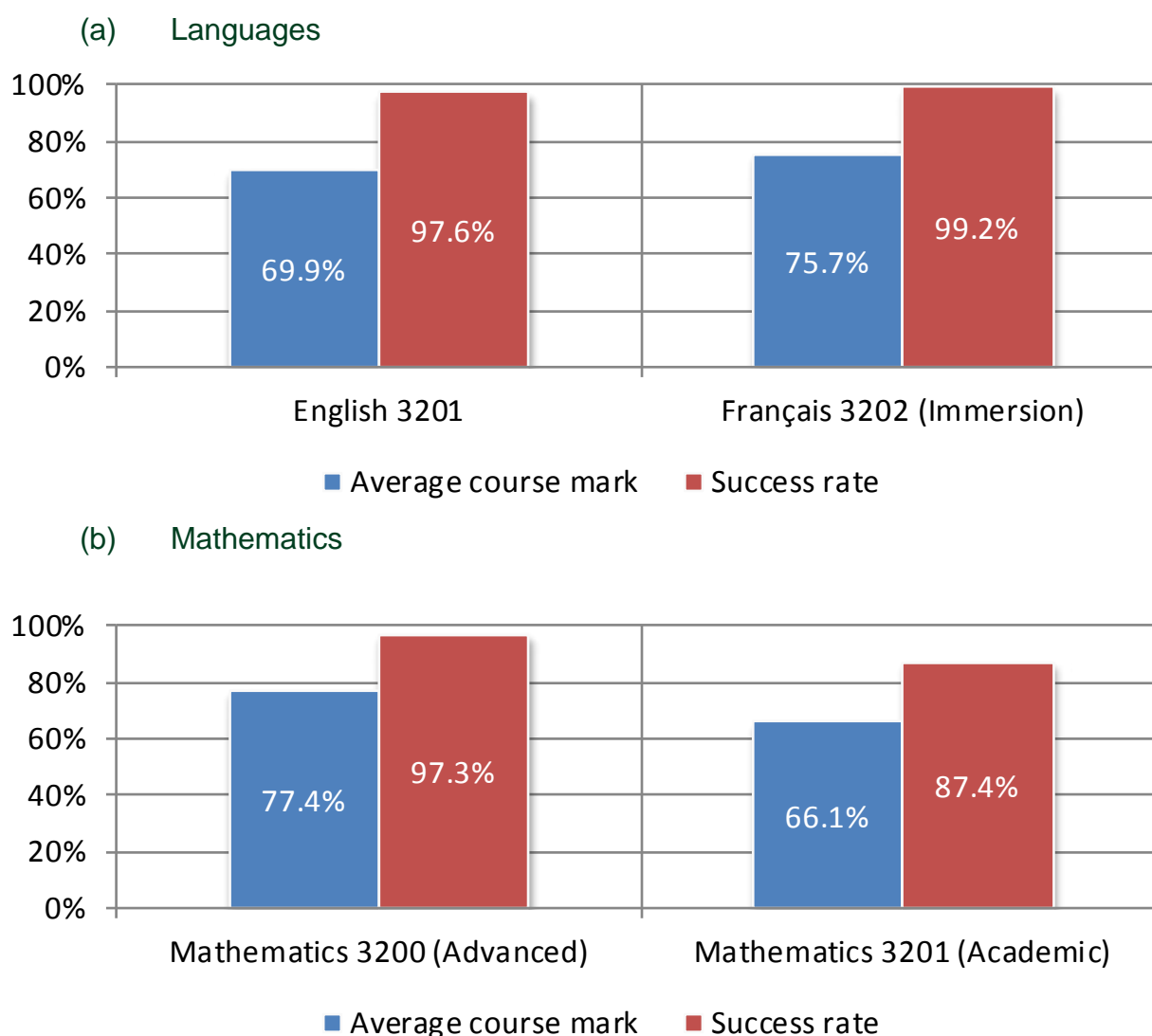
Student performance in these courses can be found in Appendix A.

## Provincial performance - June 2015

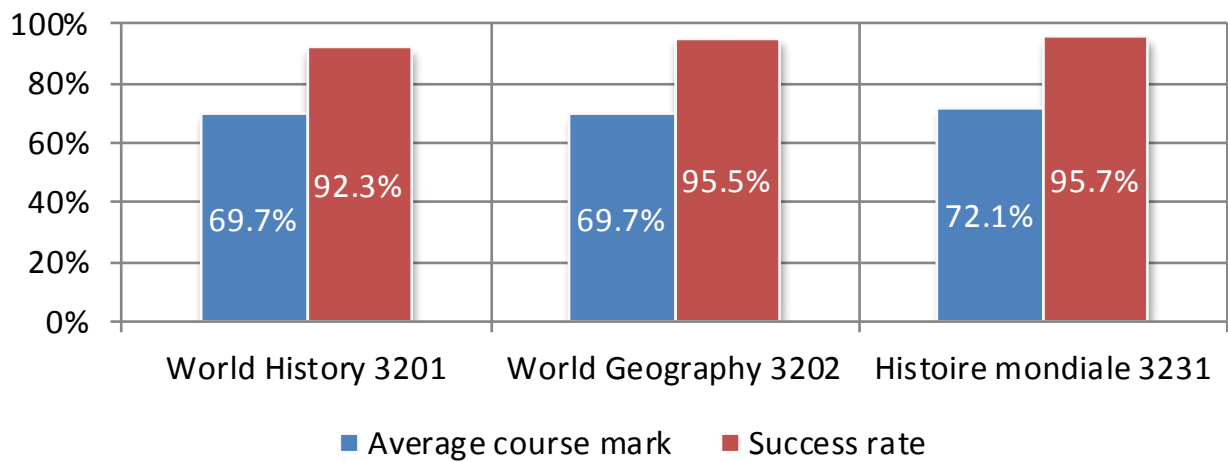
Two indicators are used to describe student performance: average final course mark and course success rate (i.e. the percentage of students scored at least 50% in the public examination course).

Figure 18 shows how students fared on each of the 2014/15 public examination courses. The vast majority of students successfully completed these courses with the success rate ranging from 83.4% in Earth Systems 3209 to 99.2% in Français 3202 (Immersion). The average final course mark was lower ranging from 61.1% in Earth Systems 3209 to 77.4% in Mathematics 3200 (Advanced).

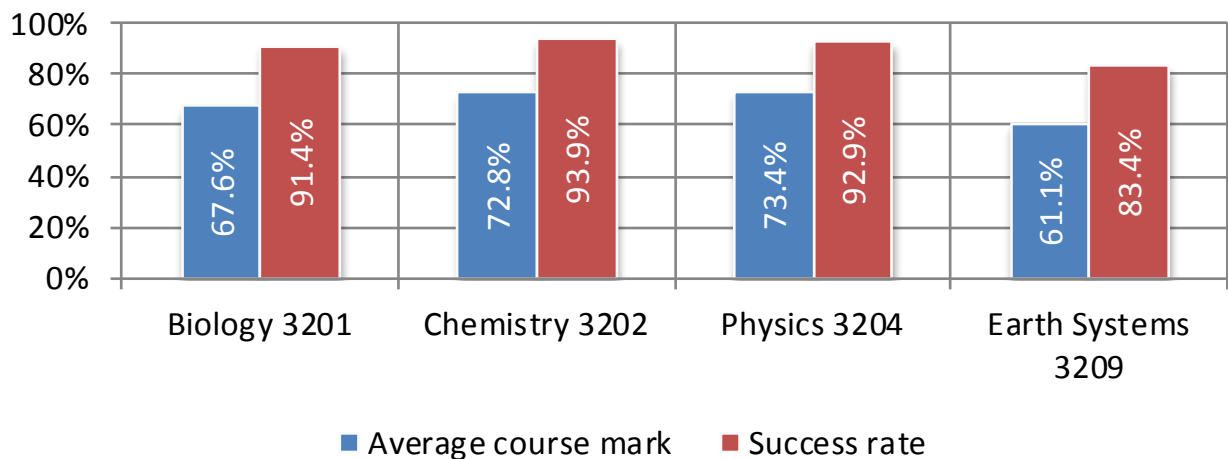
**Figure 18: Provincial performance on public examination courses (2014/15)**



(c) Social studies



(d) Sciences



(Source: Table 18)



## Languages

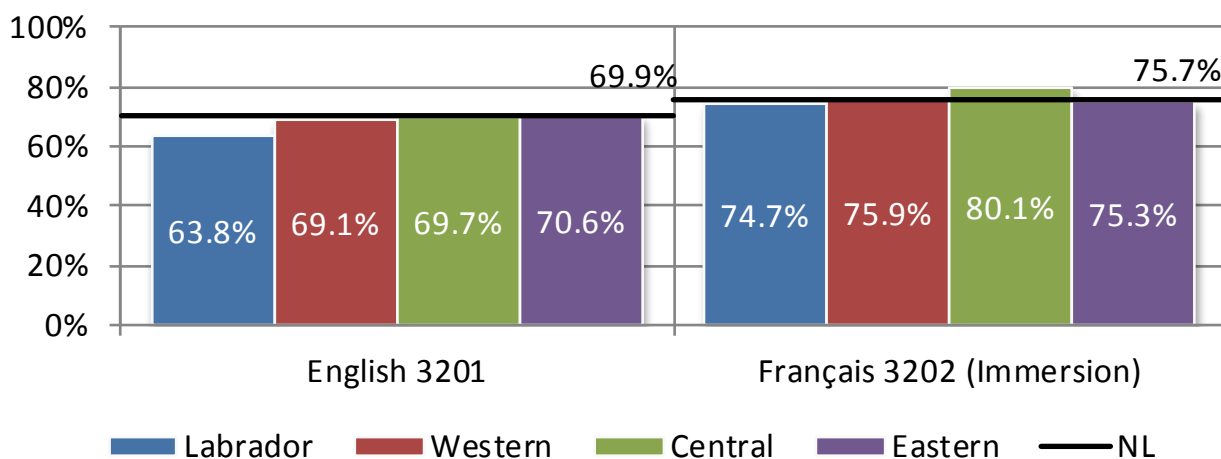
English 3201 and Français 3202 (Immersion) are the two language courses with public examinations. Provincially, the average course mark was 69.9% in English 3201 and 75.7% in Français 3202. Overall, there was little variation in student performance across the four regions with one exception - English 3201 (see figure 19a). In this course, the average final course grade in the Labrador region was lower (by approximately six points) than the other regions. Females performed better than males in both courses (see figure 19b). The female average course mark was between four and six points higher than the male average course mark.

Over the past five years, there has been little variation in student performance (see figure 19c). In English 3201, the average final course mark ranged from 66.2% in 2010/11 to 69.9% in 2014/15. Français 3202 was a little higher ranging from 73.7% to 75.7%.



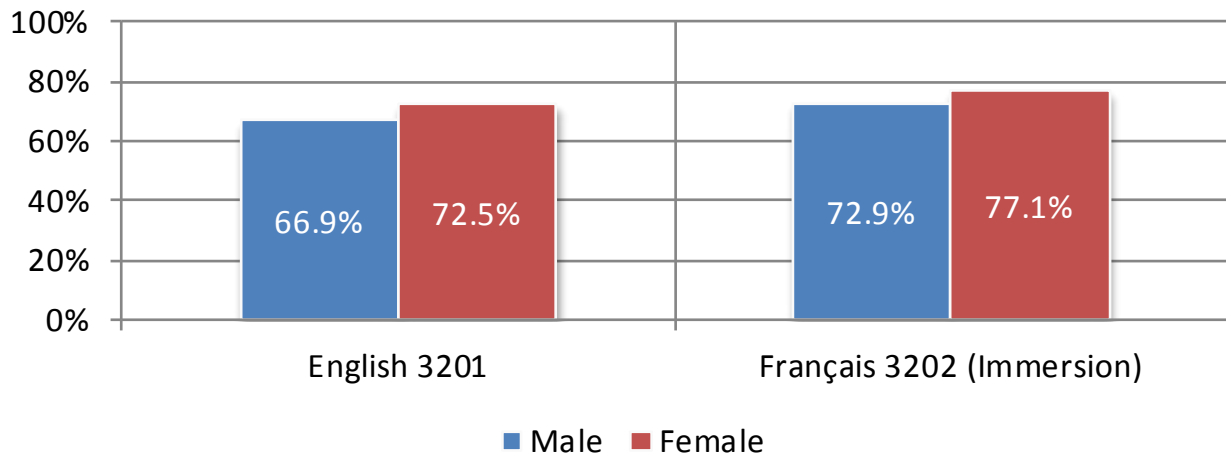
**Figure 19: Student performance in the languages**

(a) Average course mark (2014/15)

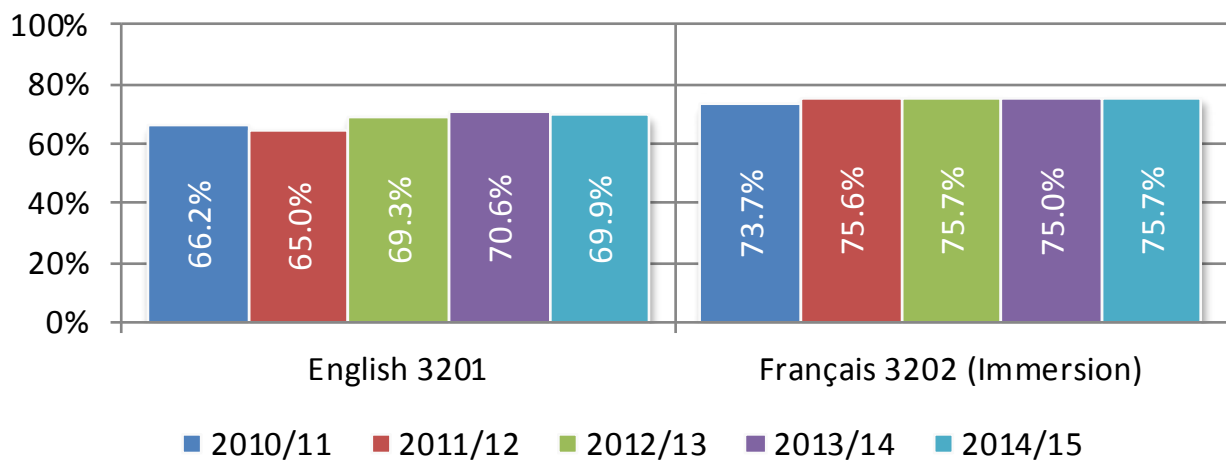




(b) Gender differences in average course mark (2014/15)



(c) Provincial trends (2010/11 – 2014/15)



(Source: Table 19)



## Mathematics

Public examinations occur in two mathematics courses: Mathematics 3200 (Advanced) and Mathematics 3201 (Academic). Comparisons should not be made between these two courses. Students who excel in mathematics or who plan on studying mathematics at the post-secondary level are typically encouraged to select advanced mathematics courses in high school rather than the academic mathematics courses.

Provincially, the average course mark was 77.4% in Mathematics 3200 (Advanced) and 66.1% in Mathematics 3201 (Academic). Across the province, student performance in Mathematics 3200 (Advanced) ranged from 73.2% in the Labrador region to 81.5% in Western. In the Western and Central regions, the average course mark was higher than the provincial average. Student performance in Mathematics 3201 (Academic) was similar across all four regions, ranging from 64.4% in the Labrador region to 68.2% in the Eastern region (see figure 20a).

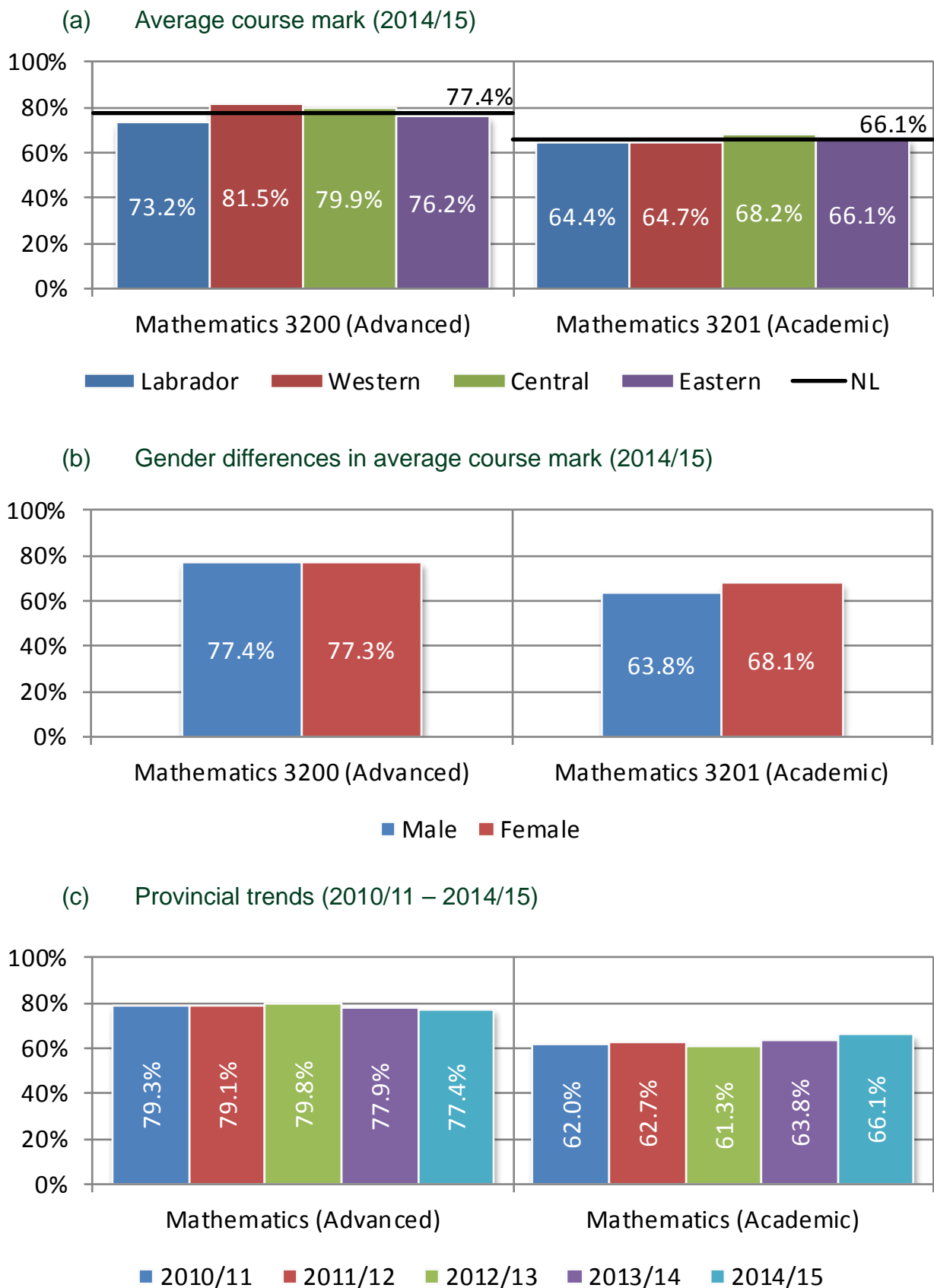
In terms of gender, the female average course mark was slightly higher than the male for the academic mathematics course (68.1% vs. 63.8%), but virtually identical in the advanced mathematics course (see figure 20b).

There has been a slight change in the provincial average final course marks over the past five years<sup>1</sup> (see figure 20c). For the advanced mathematics course, there has been a slight decrease between 2010/11 and 2014/15 (79.3% to 77.4%), and a gradual increase in the average course marks in the academic mathematics course (from 62.0% to 66.1%).



<sup>1</sup> The course numbering for high school mathematics changed in 2013/14. The academic mathematics course (Mathematics 3204) became Mathematics 3201 and the advanced mathematics course (Mathematics 3205) changed to Mathematics 3200.

**Figure 20: Student performance in mathematics**



(Source: Table 20)



## Social studies

Three social studies courses have public examinations: World History 3201, World Geography 3202, and Histoire mondiale 3231. In 2014/15, student performance has remained fairly consistent with the provincial average final course mark in each of these courses (see figure 21a).

There was a small degree of variability found across the province. Typically, the average course marks found in the Labrador region were lower in relation to the other three regions (see figure 21a). Along gender lines, there was virtually no difference between the male and female average final mark in each of the three courses (see figure 21b).

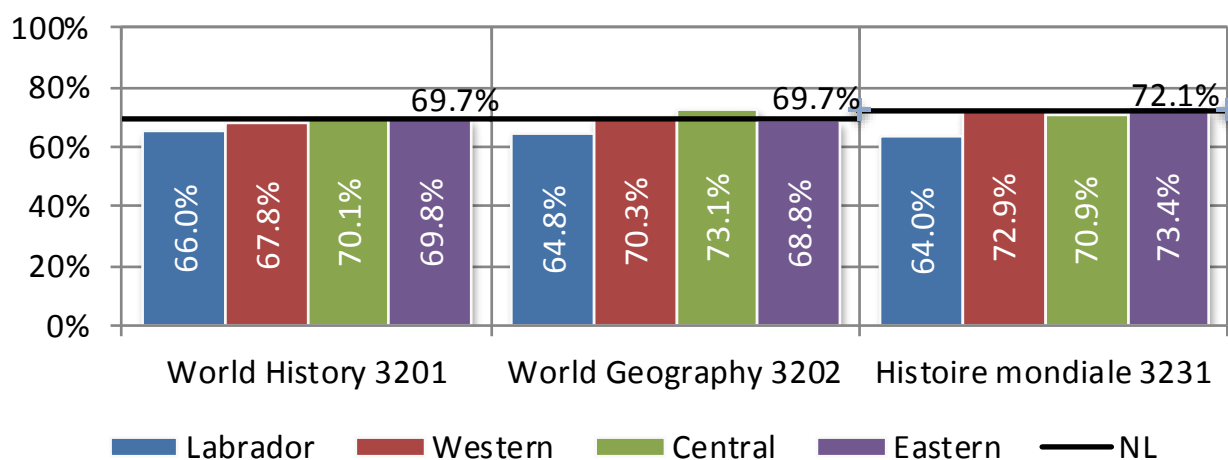
Provincially, the average final course marks have been similar over the past five years. During this time, two points separated the highest and lowest average course marks in World History 3201 and World Geography 3202. For Histoire mondiale 3231, this difference was slightly larger with approximately six points separating the highest and lowest scores (see figure 21c).



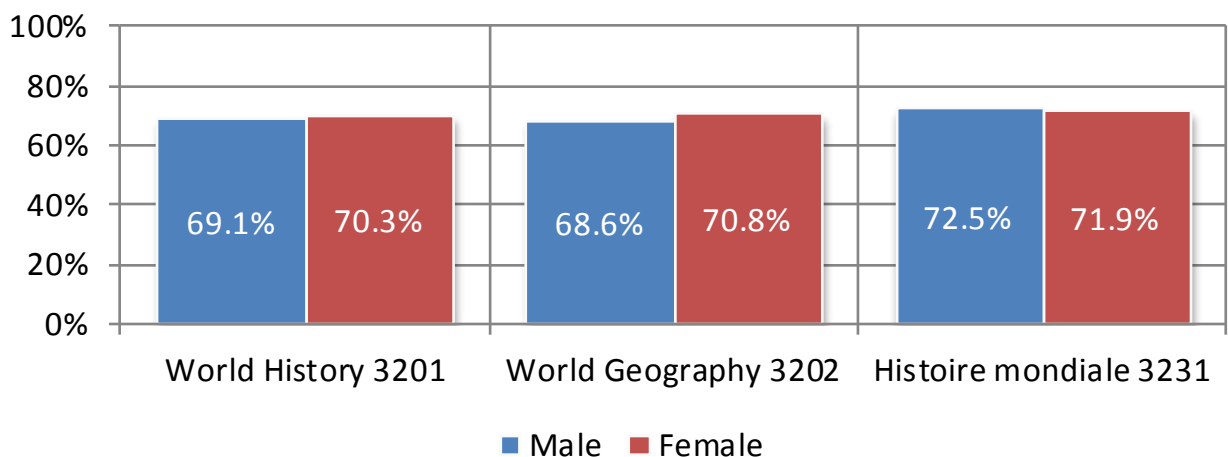


**Figure 21: Student performance in social studies**

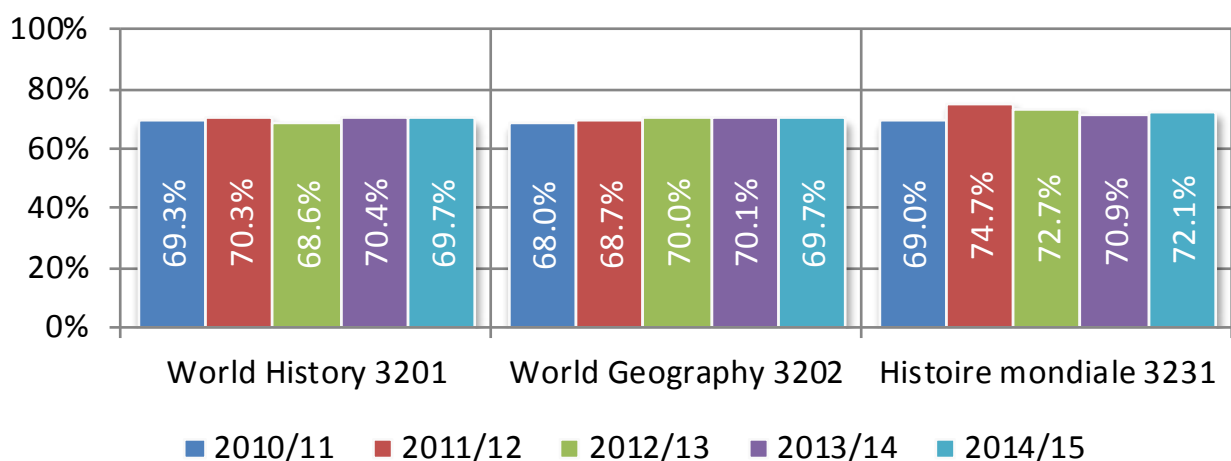
(a) Average course mark (2014/15)



(b) Gender differences



(c) Provincial trends (2010/11 – 2014/15)



(Source: Table 21)

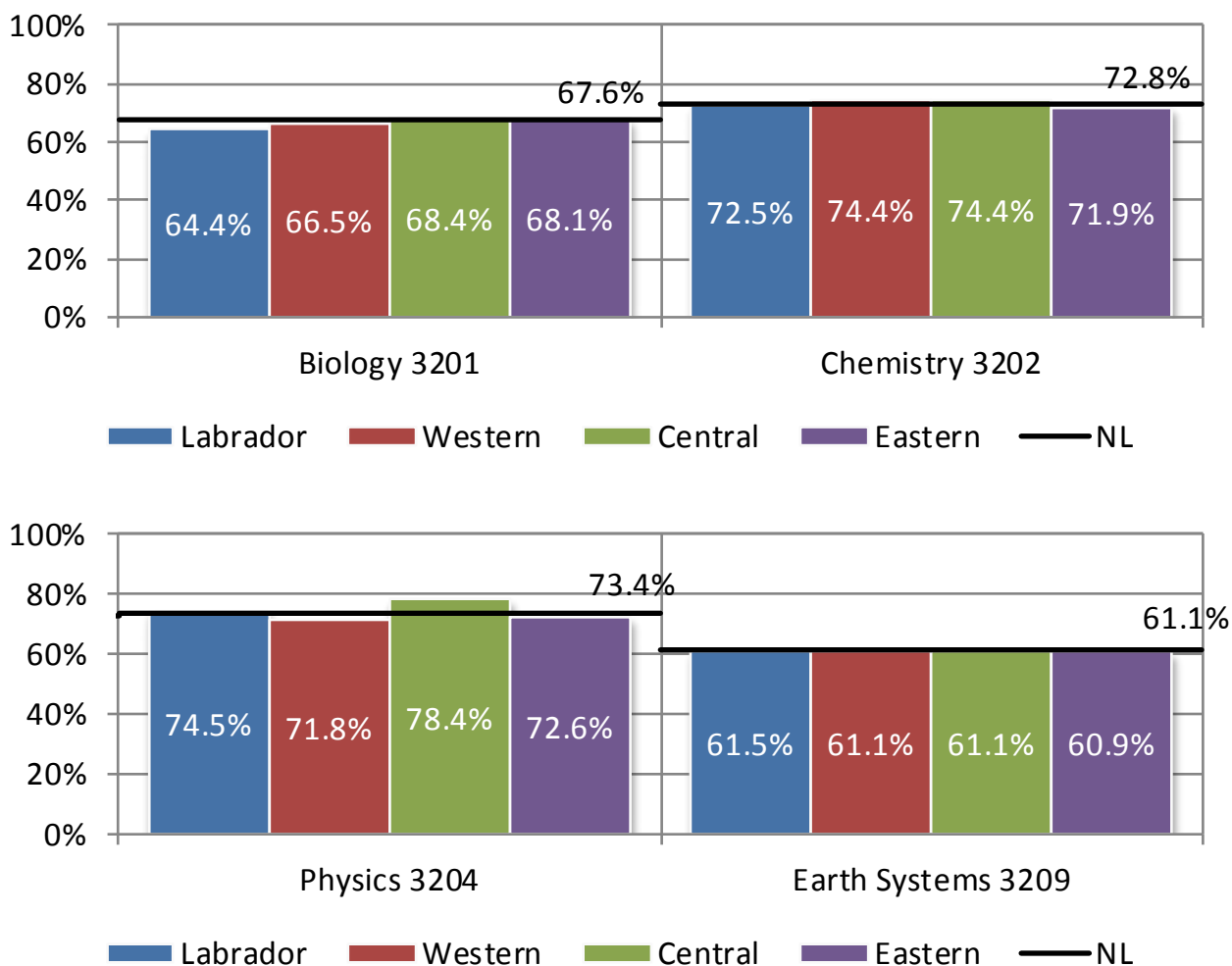
## Sciences

Four science courses have public examinations: Biology 3201, Chemistry 3202, Physics 3204, and Earth Systems 3209. Provincially, the average final course mark ranged from 61.1% in Earth Systems 3209 to 73.4% in Physics 3204. Students typically fared better in chemistry and physics than biology and earth systems. Students experienced the most difficulty with Earth Systems 3209. This course had the lowest average course grades among the four science courses in each region and the province overall (see figure 22a). There was little difference between the male and female average final course mark in each of the science courses (see figure 22b).

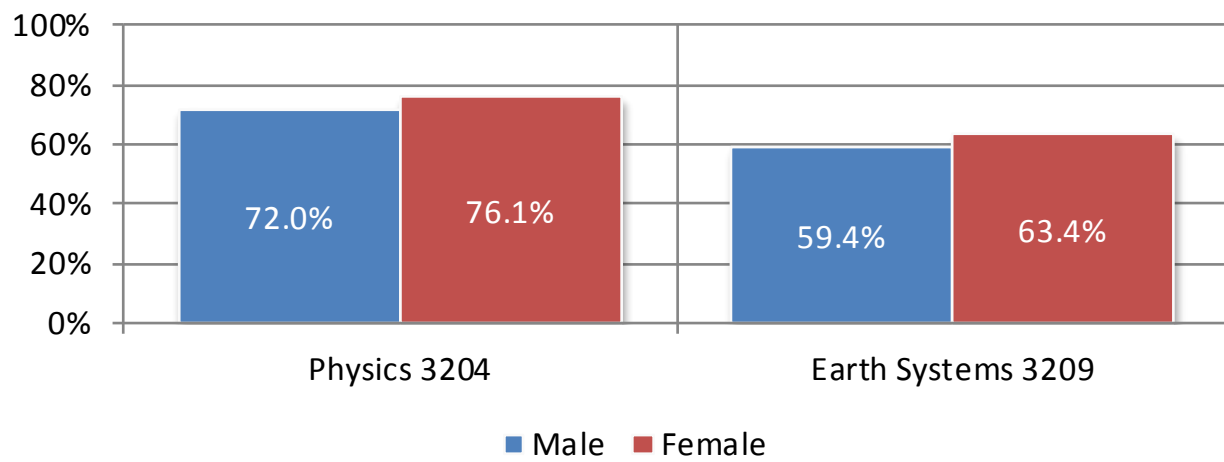
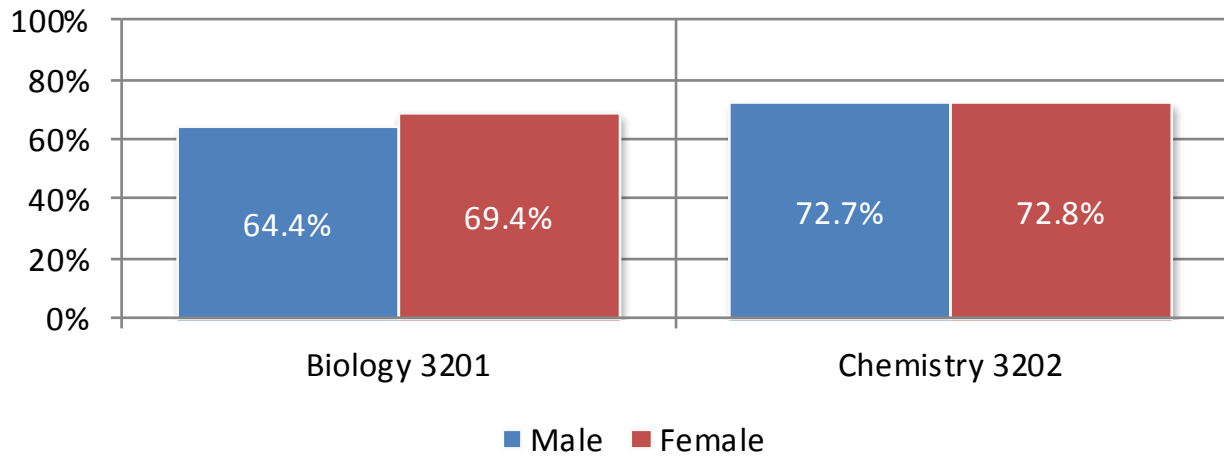
Since 2010/11, student performance in the science courses has been stable (see figure 22c). During this five year period, less than four points separated the highest and lowest final mark in each of the science courses.

**Figure 22: Student performance in the sciences**

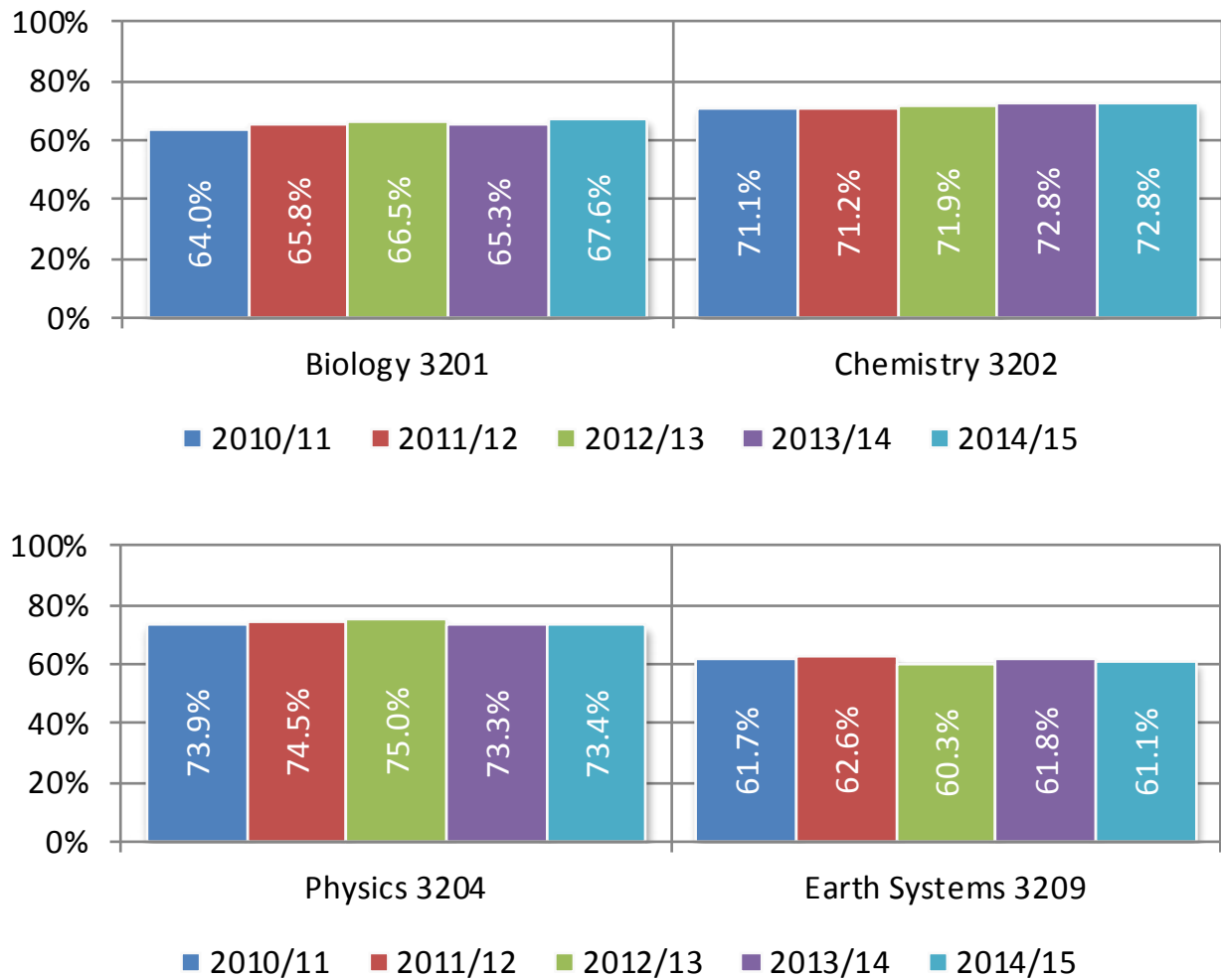
(a) Average course mark (2014/15)



(b) Gender differences (2014/15)



(c) Provincial trends (2010/11 – 2014/15)



(Source: Table 22)

