

GENERAL RESUME OF THE CHIEF EXAMINERS’ REPORTS FOR THE JUNE 2011 BASIC EDUCATION CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION

1. STANDARD OF THE PAPERS

With the exception of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) all the Chief Examiners reported that the standard of this year’s papers compared favourably with that of last year. The Chief Examiner for ICT reported that the standard of this year’s papers could not be compared to any year’s because the examination in the subject was the first one at the Basic Education level.

Most of the Chief Examiners also observed that the questions set were within the syllabuses of the various subjects.

2. PERFORMANCE OF CANDIDATES

The reports of the chief Examiners revealed variations in candidates’ performance; ranging from poor/below average to improvement over that of the previous years.

The performance of candidates in Nzema, Dagbani, Integrated Science, Religious and Moral Education, Basic and Design and Technology , Home Economics and Visual Art was reported to be an improvement over the previous year’s whiles that for ICT, Social Studies and BDT (Pre-Technical Skills) was said to be average.

In respect of Ga, Ewe and Mathematics, the Chief Examiners reported that candidates’ performance was below average or poor.

3. SUMMARY OF CANDIDATES’ WEAKNESSES

The Chief Examiners commended candidates for the following features in their scripts:

- Accurate and concise answers given by candidates in Gonja, Akuapem Twi, BDT (Home Economics) and Visual Arts.
- Mastery of subject matter exhibited in Fante, Dangme, Kasem, Twi (Asante), Twi (Akuapem), English Language and Science.
- Legibly handwriting in Social Studies, Religious and Moral Education and BDT (Home Economics).

- Good organizational skills in Ewe, Dangme, Nzema, Dagbani, BDT (Pre-Technical Skills).
- Good expressions as exhibited in Social Studies and Religious and Moral Education.
- Adherence to rubrics exhibited in Social Studies, Religious and Moral Education and Integrated Science.
- Appropriate use of terminologies in Science.
- Adequate preparation for the examination in BDT (Pre-Technical Skills)

4. A SUMMARY OF CANDIDATES' WEAKNESSES

The Chief Examiners identified the following weaknesses in the candidates' work:

- Inadequate preparation for the examination.
- Inability to read and understand the questions posed.
- Lack of knowledge of the formal features of letter writing in English Language and the Ghanaian Languages.
- Non-adherence to rubrics.
- Poor command English Language are reflected in poor spelling, grammar and inappropriate vocabulary.

5. SUGGESTED REMEDIES FOR WEAKNESSES

The Chief Examiners suggested the following remedies to help overcome some of the weaknesses identify.

- Schools should endeavour to acquire relevant tools such as computers and other facilities for learning.
- Teachers and parents should encourage students to read extensively to improve their vocabulary, spelling and expression in the English Language.
- Candidates should be given more practical work to enhance learning.
- Teachers should give candidates more exercises to help them get used to the various topics taught.

- Teachers should make it a point to discuss exercises done with the aim of correcting mistakes of candidates.
- Teachers should teach candidates the techniques of answering questions to enable them keep within the demands of the questions and rubrics.
- Basic Design and Technology teachers should acquaint themselves with the teaching syllabus to enable them give the right instructions to the students.
- The Ghana Education Service must also organise in-service training for teachers, especially those teaching Basic Design and Technology to enhance their effectiveness.

