

GENERAL RESUME OF THE CHIEF EXAMINERS' REPORTS **ON THE APRIL 2012 BASIC EDUCATION CERTIFICATE** **EXAMINATION**

1. STANDARD OF THE PAPERS

The standard of the papers was adjudged by the Chief Examiners to be comparable to that of the previous years and within the scope of the syllabuses.

2. PERFORMANCE OF CANDIDATES

The Chief Examiners reported that the standard of the candidates' performance was diverse. Candidates' performance in Mathematics, French, Ewe and Religious and Moral Education was considered to have significantly improved. Performance in Twi(Asante) was described as quite satisfactory while that in Ga was found to be the same as that of the previous years.

In Social Studies, candidates' performance was described as average. On the other hand, performance in Information and Communication Technology and Dangme fell below expectation. The standard of performance in Integrated Science was reported to be below that of the previous years.

3. SUMMARY OF CANDIDATES' STRENGTHS

The Chief Examiners commended the following features of candidates' work:

(1) Appreciable Improvement in the Use of Language

Candidates were commended for their correct construction of sentences, appropriate use of words and knowledge of grammar in Social Studies, French, BDT (Home Economics) and Integrated Science.

(2) Indepth Knowledge of Subject Matter

Candidates demonstrated significant knowledge of the topics of the syllabuses in Mathematics, Religious and Moral Education and Information Communication Technology.

Their depth of knowledge was reflected in the high number of candidates that attempted the required number of questions. In BDT (Home Economics) candidates displayed better understanding of the demands of the questions than they did in the past years.

(3) Provision of Accurate and Appropriate Answers

Candidates displayed mastery in the development and organization of points and presented them in orderly manner as noticed in their scripts for Religious and Moral Education, French and Dangme. In Information and Communication Technology they provided concise answers as required of them. In BDT(Visual Arts), their presentations were found to be neat.

(4) Legible Handwriting

In Social Studies, Twi (Asante) and Twi (Akuapem), the candidates were praised for legible handwriting.

(5) Mastery of Practical and Computational Skills

Commendable knowledge and skills required for computations, operations and construction of diagrams and tables were noticed in the scripts for Mathematics and Information and Communication Technology. In BDT(Visual Arts), candidates exhibited mastery in enlarging given shapes and shaded them well.

(6) Creativity

The Chief Examiner for BDT(Visual Arts) reported that candidates were quite creative in their productions.

(7) Adherence to Rubrics

The Chief Examiners reported that the candidates generally adhered to the rubrics of the papers. Candidates were also commended for obeying the instruction to start answering a new question on a fresh page.

4. SUMMARY OF CANDIDATES' WEAKNESSES

The Chief Examiners highlighted the following weaknesses found in the work of the candidates:

(1) Inability to Apply Theoretical Knowledge

In Integrated Science the candidates' inability to apply scientific knowledge to physical phenomenon was evident.

Similarly candidates could not answer the question on spreadsheet satisfactorily in Information and Communication Technology.

(2) Poor Knowledge of Concepts and Principles

The Chief Examiners for Mathematics and Integrated Science observed that candidates were unable to write figures in standard form. They were also unable to write and

balance chemical equations and found construction of perpendicular bisectors of lines difficult.

(3) Poor Language

Many candidates demonstrated poor knowledge of grammar as evident in their wrong construction, incorrect spelling, poor punctuation etc reported by the Chief Examiners for English Language, Religious and Moral Education and Information and Communication Technology. Poor comprehension ability affected candidates adversely in the BDT(Home Economics) paper.

(4) Inadequate Preparation for the Examination

The Chief Examiners found some of the candidates ill prepared for the examination as exemplified in the Information and Communication Technology paper.

(5) Inadequate Practical Knowledge and Skills

In Sewing and Leatherwork, candidates showed deficiency in the skills required for fabric construction.

5. SUGGESTED REMEDIES

The Chief Examiners recommended the following remedies for the challenges:

- ❖ Acquisition of computers and recruitment of qualified teachers for Information and Communication Technology;
- ❖ Equal attention should be paid to both theory and practical work by teachers;
- ❖ Intensive teaching and learning of English grammar should be carried out in the schools;
- ❖ Students should be given frequent exercises to enhance skill development and application of theory;
- ❖ Teachers should endeavour to complete their syllabuses;
- ❖ Teachers should encourage reading among their pupils;
- ❖ Regular In-Service training should be organised for BDT teachers to keep them abreast of trends in their fields.
- ❖ Visual Arts curriculum in the Colleges of Education should be revised to enable teachers who come out of the colleges to cope with the teaching of BDT(Visual Arts).