

THE WEST AFRICAN EXAMINATIONS COUNCIL

ACCRA, GHANA

WEST AFRICAN SENIOR SCHOOL CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION (WASSCE)

MAY/JUNE 2015

GENERAL RESUME OF THE CHIEF EXAMINERS' REPORTS FOR GHANA

1. STANDARD OF THE PAPERS

The Chief Examiners unanimously reported that the standard of the papers compared favourably with that of previous years. They also reported that the questions were appropriately spread over the syllabus topics and were unambiguous.

2. PERFORMANCE OF CANDIDATES

The reports contained varied ratings of the candidates' performance in the various papers. While an 'improved performance' was observed for some candidates in a number of the papers, 'an average' performance was reported for some others. Some of the Chief Examiners also noticed that the output of a few of the candidates was below average.

For instance the Chief Examiners for General Agriculture 2, Geography 3, English Language 2 and Animal Husbandry noticed improvement in the performance of some of the candidates.

The Chief Examiners for Technical Drawings 3, Metalwork 3, Clerical Office Duties and Typewriting described the performance of most of their candidates as encouraging.

In the reports on Integrated Science 2 & 3, Physics 2 & 3, Biology 2 & 3, Electronics 3, Auto Mechanics 3, General Knowledge in Art 1B, Jewellery 2, Picture Making 2 and Financial Accounting 2, the Chief Examiners described the performance of most of the candidates as average.

The Chief Examiners for Chemistry 2 & 3, General Agriculture 3, History 2, Economics 2, Clothing and Textiles 2, and Ceramics, among others, reported that some of the candidates performed poorly.

3. CANDIDATES' STRENGTHS

The Chief Examiners reported that some of the strengths exhibited by some of the candidates included the following:

- (1) **Orderly Presentation**
Some candidates of Principles of Cost Accountings 2, Literature-in-English 2 & 3, Christian Religious Studies 2, Government 2, Physics 2 were reported to have presented their answers very orderly. This invariably facilitated easy marking of such scripts.
- (2) **Adherence to Rubrics**
Many candidates were lauded for strictly observing the rubrics of the topics. The Chief Examiners for Literature-in-English 2 & 3, English Language 2, Fante 2, Government 2, Chemistry 2 & 3, for instance, reported that most of the candidates chose the required number of questions from the appropriate sections.
- (3) **Knowledge of Subject Matter and Relevant Answers**
The Chief Examiners for Technical Drawing 2, English Language 2, Kasem 2 and French 1 commended some of the candidates for presenting straightforward answers to the questions. A few of I.C.T. candidates were also reported to have exhibited good knowledge of the impact of the ICT on everyday life of people.
- (4) **Good interpretation of drawings** by some candidates was reported by the Chief Examiners for (Metal work 3, Technical Drawings 3, Geography 3).
- (5) **Citing of relevant examples** to illustrate points raised was commended in candidates' answers in Economics 2, Geography 3, Christian Religious Studies 2 and Basketry 2.
Candidates were praised for correct use of terminologies in Textiles 2, Sculpture 2, Picture Making 2.
- (6) **Good computational skills** of candidates was found adequate in Physics 2, Chemistry 3 and Economics 2.
- (7) **Legibility of Handwriting**: Legible handwriting was found in (Management in Living 3, Picture making 2, Physics 2, Social Studies 2).

4. SUMMARY OF CANDIDATES' WEAKNESSES

The Chief Examiners identified the following weaknesses of the majority of the candidates:

- (1) Presentation of sketchy answers as in the scripts of some candidates of Economics 2 and Social Studies 2.

- (2) Deviation was quite prominent in Government 2, History 2, Biology 3, Animal Husbandry 2.
- (3) Wrong spelling of scientific terms as displayed in Integrated Science, Forestry 3, General Agriculture 3.
- (4) The Mathematics (Core) Chief Examiner observed that most of the candidates
 - (i) lacked understanding of basic mathematical concepts;
 - (ii) were unable to translate story problems into mathematical statements.
 - (iii) were unable to solve problems involving partial variations.
- (5) Poor comprehension of scientific terms was exhibited in Integrated Science 2, Physics 3, Forestry 2.
- (6) Poor Command of English Language
 - (ii) Inability of candidates to adequately express themselves in the English Language detracted from their performance.

5. SUGGESTED REMEDIES

The Chief Examiners have suggested remedies such as the following to the weaknesses identified:

- (1) Teachers should guide candidates on how to approach answering questions, ensuring that all aspects of the questions are effectively tackled. By this answers will be elaborate to attract good scores;
- (2) Student should be guided to acquire the skills that would assist them identify the exact demands of questions before presenting their answers. This hopefully will reduce deviations and presentation of unrelated responses.
- (3) Students should pay attention to the correct spelling of terminologies particularly in the Science subjects. Teachers should frequently lead their students through brief spelling drills at the close of lessons.
- (4) Teachers should help students understand basic mathematical concepts and their applications.
- (5) Students should be encouraged to read widely, particularly good novels, to enable them have good grasp of the English Language.