

**GENERAL RESUME OF THE CHIEF EXAMINERS' REPORTS ON THE
BASIC EDUCATION CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION FOR
SCHOOL CANDIDATES, 2017**

1. **STANDARD OF THE PAPERS**

All the Chief Examiners reported that the standard of the papers was comparable to that of the previous years in terms of syllabus coverage and level of difficulty of questions.

2. **PERFORMANCE OF CANDIDATES**

The Chief Examiners' assessment of the performance of candidates varied significantly from paper to paper as illustrated below:

- (1) The reports indicated that there was improvement in the performance of candidates over that of the previous year's in Dangme, Ga,Nzema, BDT Pre-Technical Skills, and Integrated Science.
- (2) The Chief Examiners for Mathematics, Gonja, Kasem and BDT Visual Art stated that the performance was average as compared to the previous year's.
- (3) A decline in performance was reported for Fante, Dagaare, French, BDT Home Economics, English Language, Religious and Moral Education, Information and Communication Technology and Social Studies.

3. **A SUMMARY OF CANDIDATES' STRENGTHS**

The Chief Examiners highlighted some commendable aspects of candidates' work such as:

(1) **Adherence to Rubrics**

The Chief Examiners for Integrated Science, Mathematics, English Language, Nzema, Dagbani, Fante, Dagaare, BDT Visual Art, BDT Home Economics and

BDT Pre-Technical Skills commended candidates for adhering to the rubrics of the papers.

(2) Provision of Precise Answers to Questions

The Chief Examiners for English Language, Gonja, Integrated Science, BDT Pre-Technical Skills, BDT Visual Art, BDT Home Economics, Information and Communication Technology and Mathematics found the answers provided by some candidates to be precise.

(3) Exhibition of Skills in Drawing

The Chief Examiner for BDT Pre-Technical Skills praised the candidates for displaying mastery in the handling of drawing equipment and their ability to draw according to a given scale. Candidates were reported to have exhibited good drawing skills in BDT Visual Art. Similarly, in Mathematics, candidates were able to draw bar charts with correct identification and labelled axes.

(4) Efficient Time Management

The Chief Examiners for ICT and BDT Pre-Technical Skills reported that candidates efficiently utilized the time allotted to the papers and were able to answer the required number of questions within the stipulated time.

(5) Improvement in Spelling

The Chief Examiners for BDT Visual Art and BDT Home Economics reported that candidates showed improvement in spelling.

(6) Neat and Orderly Presentation of Work

The Chief Examiners for BDT Home Economics and Integrated Science reported that candidates' work were neatly and orderly presented with few cancellation of

wrong answers which were neatly done.

(7) Appropriate use of Language

Some candidates in Dangme and BDT Visual Art for example, were commended for exhibiting appreciable mastery of the language.

(8) Legibility of Handwriting

A few candidates showed remarkable improvement in handwriting which made their work neat and readable. This was identified in Integrated Science, BDT Visual Art and BDT Home Economics.

4. **SUMMARY OF CANDIDATES' WEAKNESSES**

The weaknesses of candidates identified by the Chief Examiners included the following:

(1) Poor Grasp of Language

The reports indicated the poor linguistic competence of candidates as reflected in the following aspects of their language use:

(i) Lack of Vocabulary

The Chief Examiners noted the poor use of expressions, lack of knowledge of rules of grammar and inadequate stock of vocabulary in French and English Language.

(ii) Lifting of Comprehension Passage

The Chief Examiners expressed concern about the several instances of lifting of parts of the comprehension passage by candidates and

presenting them as answers to essays in Dagaare, Akuapem Twi, Dagbani, French, Ewe and Dangme.

(iii) Wrong Spelling

In BDT Pre-Technical Skills, BDT Home Economics, BDT Visual Art, ICT and Integrated Science, technical terms were wrongly spelt by some candidates.

(2) Inadequate Preparation

The Chief Examiners reported that a significant number of the candidates were not adequately prepared for the examination.

(3) Lack of Knowledge and Skills

The Chief Examiner for BDT Home Economics lamented the lack of knowledge and skills in handling Clothing and Textiles questions. In ICT, it was reported that most candidates could not identify basic steps for performing certain computer software tasks and in BDT Pre-Technical Skills, some candidates exhibited lack of knowledge of workshop processes.

5. SUGGESTED REMEDIES

The Chief Examiners suggested the following remedies for the weaknesses:

- (1) Teachers and parents should encourage candidates to read extensively in order to increase their stock of general and specialized vocabulary in all the languages and subjects.

This is so because reading is the most invaluable tool in the acquisition of vocabulary; hence when a candidate is handicapped in this area, it affects his or her stock of

general and specialized vocabulary in all the languages and subjects. Such a candidate struggles throughout the course.

(2) Teachers of French should use modern methodology obtainable at centres of teaching of French. This exposure will help improve upon their teaching skills which will subsequently reflect in the performance of candidates.

(3) Teachers should engage candidates in regular dictation exercises and spelling drills on both general vocabulary and technical terms. This is so important as practice makes a man perfect.

(4) Teachers should give practical exercises that would develop candidates' knowledge and skills in drawing, sketching, graph work, correct labelling of diagrams and handwriting.

The manipulative skills may only be acquired through constant practice which will subsequently help the candidate improve upon his memory and drawing skills.

(5) Teachers should encourage students to read and understand the demands of questions before answering them.

Understanding the question is like knowing your way to a given destination. If you do not know, you can never get to the given destination. Invariably most candidates beat about the bush because of their inability to understand the questions. Valuable time is spent without getting the marks at stake. When candidates are made aware, and conscious efforts made to arrest this situation, candidates may improve upon their final marks obtained in the examination.

(6) Candidates should be advised to explain their points clearly in order to obtain good marks for points raised.

When points are clearly explained by candidates, it makes it easier for their viewpoint to be understood and the allocation of marks easier for the examiner marking the scripts.

