

SOCIAL STUDIES

1. GENERAL COMMENTS

The standard of the paper was the same as that of previous years. However, the performance of candidates was slightly lower as compared to that of last year. The answers of most candidates indicate that they did not prepare adequately for the paper. As such, the scores of a considerable number of them were miserably low.

2. A SUMMARY OF CANDIDATES' STRENGTHS

- (1) Some candidates had a very good command of the English Language which was seen in the good essays they wrote.
- (2) Most candidates adhered to the rubrics by answering the required number of questions from the various sections as demanded by the paper.
- (3) The handwriting of candidates was quite legible, making marking very easy.

3. A SUMMARY OF CANDIDATES' WEAKNESSES

- (i) Some candidates simply listed points without any explanation, causing them to lose marks considerably.
- (2) Some candidates (a few) chose to answer more than the required number of questions which meant that they could not devote time to answer the three questions very well.
- (3) Some candidates answered the 'a' part of a question on a page, and the 'b' part on say the very last page, making marking difficult.

4. SUGGESTED REMEDIES

- (1) Candidates should be taught that when writing essays, they should list points and expand them with relevant examples where necessary.
- (2) Candidates should be taught that they should strictly adhere to the rubrics of the paper by answering **only** three questions, that is **one** question from each section **only**.
- (3) Candidates should be encouraged to answer all parts of a question in a continuous manner. Not answering 2a on page 1 and 2b on page 5.

4. DETAILED COMMENTS

Question 1

(a) **State four problems created in the urban areas by rural-urban migration.**

(b) **Describe four measures that can be adopted to reduce rural-urban migration.**

(a) The question demanded candidates to state four problems with each problem scoring a mark. Most candidates scored the four marks by naming or giving a one-word answer eg. streetism, urban slums etc. However, a few went on to write on the problems and further explained the problems that the question did not ask for.

Some candidates also got the question wrong and stated problems that are likely to prevail in the rural areas when the youth depart for the urban areas. Such candidates lost all four marks.

(b) This part asked candidates to describe **four** measures that can be adopted to reduce rural-urban migration. Candidates answered this part very well and the good ones went on to further explain them. They scored very high marks as this was the thrust of the question. The average candidates just enumerated the measures in short sentences and at times in phrases without explaining how the measures would help stem the tide of rural-urban migration. On the whole, this question was well -answered with candidates scoring above average.

Question 2

(a) (i) **What is superstition?**

(ii) **Give two examples of superstitious beliefs.**

(b) **Outline five effects of superstitious beliefs on a community.**

This (a) part of the question asked for the definition of superstition and (ii) to give **two** examples of superstitious beliefs. As stated earlier, various definitions were given by candidates and they were all correct. The **two** examples were all given with some citing local beliefs like “not whistling at night”, clearing sacred groves”etc. However, a few fell short of the answers by citing Nigerian movies. That is not a superstitious belief. The (b) part asked them to outline five effects of superstitious beliefs on society. This part was also well handled by the candidates as they wrote and explained how superstitious beliefs affect a community. This was a well-answered question.

Question 3

- (a) Why was the Watson Commission set up?**
- (b) Give four reasons for the 1948 riots.**

The (a) part asked them to tell us the reason for the setting up of the Watson Committee. The answer was in two parts- namely to investigate the 1948 riots in the Gold Coast and to give recommendations to forestall all future riots. Nearly all the candidates forgot or were ignorant of the second part of the answer - to make recommendations. So they lost two marks. The (b) part asked them to give reasons for the 1948 riots. They all answered this part very well and scored good marks

Question 4

- (a) Identity four sources of conflicts in Ghana.**
- (b) Explain four effects of conflicts in Ghana.**

The (a) part tasked the candidates to identify **four** sources of conflicts in Ghana which was well answered. It was the (b) part of explaining the effects of conflict in Ghana that was the problem for candidates. Candidates kept repeating themselves on three effects eg. destruction of property and life and maiming of people. Candidates could not envisage the economical and political implications like brain drain, increase in government expenditure and retardation of progress. This question was averagely answered.

Question 5

- (a) Give four reasons for saving.**
- (b) Outline four avenues for saving.**

The (a) part asked for reasons for saving. Candidates answered this part very well by giving varied answers as to why people save. It was with the (b) part that candidates lost marks. They were asked to outline **four** avenues for saving. This placed an onus on the candidates to identify the avenues eg. we save at the bank eg. the Ghana Commercial Bank or we buy Shares in companies eg. Coca Cola. Most candidates did not do this and as a result, lost marks.

Question 6

- (a) Give four reasons for the establishment of state-owned enterprises in Ghana.**
- (b) Highlight four problems facing state-owned enterprises in Ghana.**

The 'a' part of the question asked candidates to assign reasons for the establishment of state-owned enterprises. Some good answers were given and candidates answered very well this part of the question. Their difficulty was the (b) part where they were asked to highlight problems facing state-owned enterprises.

Either the candidates were not taught or they did not know. This led to giving answers that were far from the answers eg. 'lack of skilled labour', when answers should include nepotism, corruption, poor maintenance culture, negative attitude to work etc. This question was poorly answered by the majority of candidates who attempted it.

