

GENERAL RESUME OF THE CHIEF EXAMINERS' REPORTS ON THE JUNE 2014 BASIC EDUCATION CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION

1. STANDARD OF THE PAPERS

All the Chief Examiners reported that the standard of the papers was comparable to that of the previous years and the questions covered topics within the syllabuses.

2. PERFORMANCE OF CANDIDATES

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

- There was improvement in the performance of candidates over that of the previous years in BDT. Pre-Technical Skills 2, BDT Home Economics 2 and BDT Visual Arts 2.
- Performance in Information and Communication Technology 2, Integrate Science 2 and Mathematics 2 was poorer than that of the previous year.
- Performance for French was described as below average.
- Performance in Dangme 2 was described as impressive while that in Akuapem Twi 2, Ga, Dagaare and Gonja was found to be good.
- There was slight improvement in the performance for Asante Twi and Fante.
- The general performance in English Language 2 was woefully inadequate with just occasional outstanding performance by a few candidates.
- There was also no significant difference in the performance of candidates in Social Studies and Religious and Moral Education when compared to the previous years'.

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 2, Mathematics 2, BDT. Pre-Technical Skills 2, English Language 2, Nzema 2, Dagbani 2, Fante 2, Dagaare 2 and BDT Visual Art commended candidates for adhering to the rubrics of the papers.

(2) Provision of Precise Answers to Questions

The Chief Examiners for English Language, Integrated Science, BDT Pre-Technical Skills, Information and Communication Technology, BDT Home Economics, Mathematics and BDT Visual Art found appreciable precision in answers provided by some candidates.

(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 given scale. Similarly, in Mathematics, candidates were able to draw bar charts with correct identification and labelled axes. Candidates exhibited good drawing skills also in BDT Visual Art.

4. SUMMARY OF CANDIDATES' WEAKNESSES

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

(1) Poor Grasp of Language

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

(i) Lack of Vocabulary

The Chief Examiners stated that the candidates lacked both general vocabulary and registers. In French, some used English Language instead of French to answer the questions.

(ii) Poor Grammar and Construction

The Chief Examiners expressed concern about ungrammatical and poorly constructed sentences by many candidates.

(iii) Wrong Spelling

In BDT Pre-Technical Skills, BDT Home Economics, BDT Visual Arts and Integrated Science technical terms were wrongly spelt.

(2) Inadequate Preparation

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

(3) Lack of Skills

The Examiner for BDT Home Economics bemoaned the lack of skill in handling and working simple mathematical calculations e.g. total cost of articles, profit etc.

5. SUGGESTED REMEDIES FOR CANDIDATES WEAKNESSES

The Chief Examiners suggested the following remedies for the weaknesses:

- Teachers and parents should encourage candidates to read extensively in order to increase their stock of general and specialised vocabulary in all the languages and subjects.
- French teachers should use modern methodology in teaching the language.
- Teachers should engage candidates in regular dictation exercises and spelling drills on both general vocabulary and technical terms.
- Teachers should endeavour to cover all the topics in the syllabuses.
- Teachers should give practical exercises that would develop candidates' knowledge and skills in drawing, sketching, graph work and correct labelling of diagrams.
- Candidates should be advised not to leave blank pages in between their work.
- Candidates should be advised to explain their points in order to obtain the full marks for points raised.