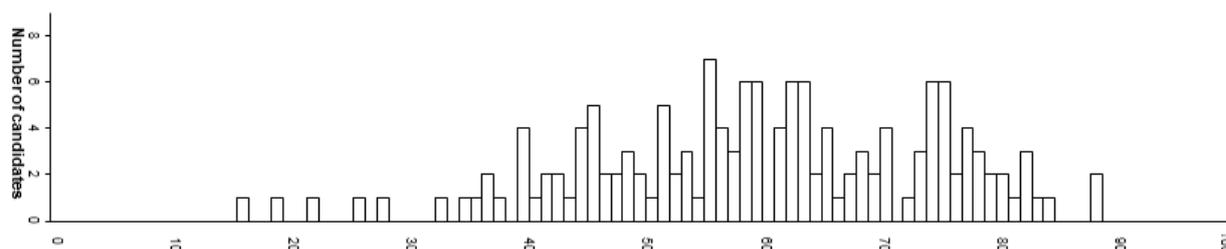




Summary report for candidates on the 2014 WACE examination in Ancient History Stage 3

Year	Number who sat	Number of absentees
2014	148	1
2013	154	2
2012	212	3

Examination score distribution



Summary

The examination had a new format to previous years as it provided the context of Ancient Greece only. This significantly reduced the complexity and length of both the Question/Answer Booklet and the Document Booklet. The intent was intended to improve candidate navigation through the examination and as all but a few candidates completed all parts of the examination, it would indicate that the new streamlined examination did not pose any issues for candidates and that it was of an appropriate length.

The examination mean of 59.72% is comparable with the previous year of 58.59% and the total examination marks ranged from 15.50% to 90.50%. The standard deviation of the total examination was 14.93% which indicates a good spread of marks. This is consistent with the 2013 standard deviation of 13.82%.

The percentage mean for Section One: Document study was 59.97% with a range of 6.00–45.50 out of a possible 50 marks. In Section Two: Essay Part A: Unit 3A, the percentage mean was 62.12% an increase from 56.99% in 2013, with allocated marks ranging from 1.00–22.50 out of a possible 25. These results are comparable with Section Two: Essay Part B: Unit 3B, with the mean of 58.01% and marks ranging from 2.50–23.00 out of a possible 25.

The correlation of the three sections totals with the examination total is consistent with correlations of 0.95, 0.88 and 0.93 respectively.

General comments

Candidates were generally well prepared for the examination and many demonstrated a thorough knowledge of historical narrative and a sound understanding of the interpretation and use of evidence. Other candidates struggled with questions requiring the use of evidence and did not use the information provided in the source material. As in previous examinations, a significant number of candidates provided largely 'narrative' responses to questions requiring an evaluation of contribution or significance or an assessment of impact. There were no scores of 25 marks awarded for any of the essay responses. This was disappointing as the questions were devised to provide opportunity for the best prepared candidates to be rewarded with full marks.

Advice for candidates and teachers

- Candidates should be advised about what is expected in the examination questions, particularly in relation to Document study Questions 1 and 2 (c) dealing with the evaluation of the contribution of source material.
- In Document study responses there is an expectation that candidates provide direct reference to the extract.
- Candidates should note that all questions require more than a narrative response.
- There would seem to be a need for candidates to better understand competing perspectives and the reason(s) why this occurs.
- Attention to strategies of interpretation, rather than a focus on facts, events, dates and the general shape of the historical narrative, will help candidates address questions throughout the examination.