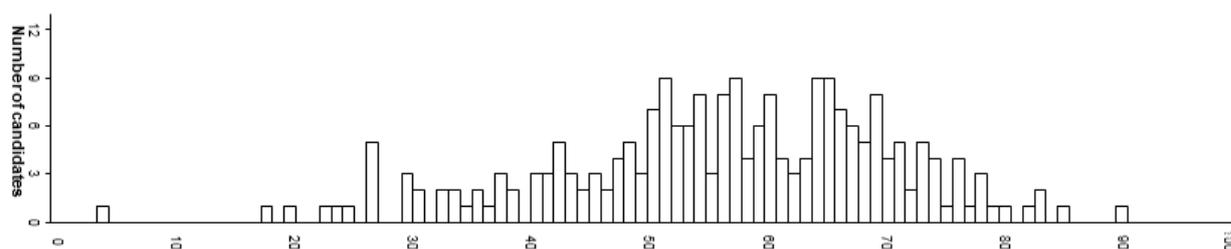




Summary report for candidates on the 2015 WACE examination in Earth and Environmental Science Stage 3

Year	Number who sat	Number of absentees
2015	227	10
2014	160	6
2013	244	7

Examination score distribution



Summary

Attempted by 227 Candidates Mean 56.74% Max 90.50% Min 4.00%

Section means were:

Section One: Multiple-choice

Mean 10.19% (/15) Max 15.00 Min 4.00

Section Two: Short answer

Mean 31.67% (/55) Max 48.50 Min 9.50

Section Three: Extended response

Mean 15.29% (/30) Max 29.00 Min 2.00

General comments

The 2015 Earth and Environmental Science Stage 3 examination was very successful. Overall performance was good, with most candidates demonstrating a good understanding of the concepts and skills of the course. The areas of relative strength included introduced species and their environmental impact, the effect of deforestation on the global biomass and the graphing of scientific data. Areas of relative weakness included the El Niño and La Niña phenomena, the formation and interpretation of banded iron formation and Earth's energy budget. Over 96% of candidates attempted one of the final optional questions, indicating the examination was of appropriate length.

Advice for candidates

It is essential that all questions are read fully, paying particular attention to the key verbs used in the question (list, describe, identify etc.). It is therefore important that you are familiar with the meaning of the commonly used verbs. To gain full marks in a question, all required parts must be addressed in your response, paying particular attention to specific instructions (e.g. 'describe **two** ways' or 'draw a labelled diagram'). Ensure that you answer what is asked, rather than simply presenting all the information you can recall that relates to the topic. If appropriate, use specific rather than general examples. In your examination preparation, revise all areas of the syllabus.

Comments on specific sections and questions

Written examination

Section One: Multiple-choice Attempted by 227 Candidates

Mean 10.19% (/15) Max 15.00 Min 4.00

Section One (Multiple-choice) produced an overall mean of 68%. The highest mean marks were achieved in questions 2, 3, 4, 7 and 15 all with results over 0.80. Question 11 produced the poorest result of 0.34 (the only question below 0.5). All candidates attempted all questions.

Section Two: Short answer Attempted by 226 Candidates

Mean 31.67% (/55) Max 48.50 Min 9.50

Section Two (Short answer) produced an overall mean of 58%, with individual question means ranging from 48% to 70%. Questions 18 and 22 had means of 65% or higher. Questions 17 and 24 had means below 50%. Over 98% of candidates attempted each question.

Section Three: Extended response Attempted by 223 Candidates

Mean 15.29% (/30) Max 29.00% Min 2.00%

Section Three (extended response) produced an overall mean of 51%, with individual question means ranging from 48% to 54%. Approximately equal numbers of candidates attempted the two optional questions, and found them of similar difficulty.