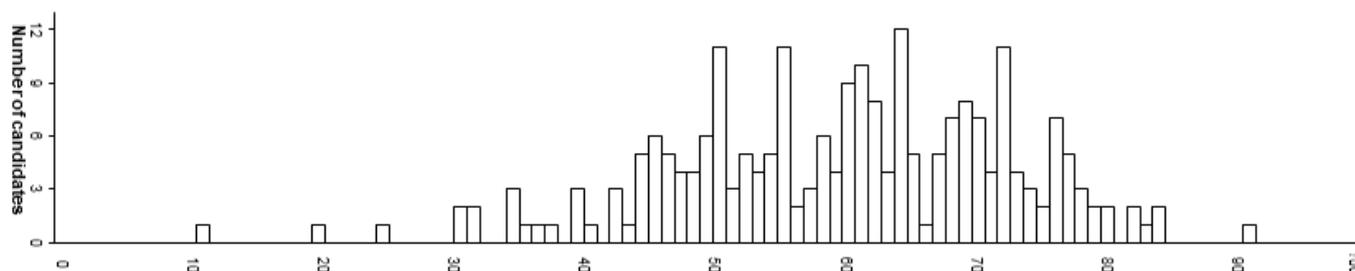




Summary report for candidates on the 2015 WACE examination in Food Science and Technology Stage 3

Year	Number who sat	Number of absentees
2015	230	2
2014	82	0
2013	78	0

Examination score distribution - Written



Summary

The written examination consisted of three sections with candidates being required to attempt all questions in Sections One and Two and to choose two of the three questions in Section Three. Almost three times as many candidates (230) sat the examination in 2015 as in 2014. The mean of the paper rose by 11.67% to 60.36% in 2015. The spread of marks ranged from 11.29% to 91.86%. It appeared that candidates had sufficient time and maybe greater knowledge to complete the paper as there were far fewer instances of questions not being attempted as in 2014.

Section means were:

Section One: Multiple-choice	Mean 13.67%(/20)	Max 19.00%	Min 4.00%
Section Two: Short answer	Mean 34.69%(/60)	Max 57.86%	Min 7.29%
Section Three: Extended answer	Mean 12.16%(/20)	Max 19.00%	Min 4.25%

General comments

In general, candidates showed an improved level of understanding of the course content. They also demonstrated a better understanding of the meaning of the verbs used to inform questions evidenced by the inclusion of explanations and justifications for statements made. There was also a raised level of use of the terminology of the course but there remains room for improvement. A significant number of candidates included the use of dot points or began parts of questions on a new line making their responses much clearer. Some scripts were barely legible with very small writing that was extremely difficult to read. Candidates continue to provide lengthy introductions to questions or rewrote the questions, neither of which attracted marks.

Advice for candidates

- Avoid rewriting the question as an introduction to your response. Lengthy introductions that do not address the question also do not attract marks.
- Write legibly. Make it easier for markers to read what you are saying.
- Use the terminology of the course. Words such as 'fluffy' to describe the results of aeration are not appropriate.
- Use dot points or new lines to respond to parts of questions.

Comments on specific sections and questions

Section One: Multiple-choice

Attempted by 230 Candidates Mean 13.67%(/20) Max 19.00% Min 4.00%
Questions 6 and 10 were the most difficult with means of 0.34 and 0.29 and questions 16 and 17 the easiest, both with means of 0.99. For question 10 it would appear that many candidates responded to the effect of biotechnology on food production rather than food processing.

Section Two: Short answer

Attempted by 230 Candidates Mean 34.69%(/60) Max 57.86% Min 7.29%

Candidates generally included explanations in support of their answers thus attracting additional marks. There was an improved knowledge of course content displayed than in previous examinations, and, whilst there were examples of scripts where candidates clearly lacked knowledge, this was not typical. Question 26 (b) had too generous a mark allocation and candidates gained marks for brief statements, however 18 candidates chose not to respond to this question. Question 21 shows that there is confusion between Food Safety and Occupational Safety and Health and Safety. Question 23 revealed an assumption that people living in remote communities are poor, uneducated or unemployed and this causes malnutrition rather than the unequal distribution of quality food supplies.

Section Three: Extended answer

Attempted by 227 Candidates Mean 12.16%(/20) Max 19.00% Min 4.25%
The extended answer questions were answered to a higher standard than in previous years. Candidates demonstrated a greater level of knowledge and an improved ability to write an extended response. Question 31 was the least popular choice with 74 candidate responses, question 29 was chosen by 202 candidates and question 30 by 177. Many candidates rewrote the questions as lengthy introductions that did not attract marks.