



Summary report for candidates on the 2014 WACE examination in Physical Education Studies Practical Stages 2 and 3

Year	Number who sat	Number of absentees
2014	1422	74
2013	2038	117
2012	2193	132

Summary

In the 2014 Physical Education Studies Practical examination 1422 candidates presented for examination in one of seventeen sports. In each of these sports, candidates are required to perform a number of drills typical for the sport, and in which five chosen skills were assessed. This was followed by a game-play scenario, where game skills (e.g. tactics and strategies) were assessed. In addition a separate examination (the 'alternate') examination was offered to candidates (13 candidates in eight sports) with a long-term injury who could not perform in the practical examination. This was an interview type examination that parallels the content of the practical examination, requiring candidates to analyse skills shown on a number of video clips. Great care was taken to ensure that marking was equitable across different sports and gender.

The majority of sports were examined within an hour following a supervised warm-up period. Others, such as golf and equestrian, took longer, because of the logistics of moving to other locations for sections of the examination. The drills and skills chosen were sufficiently challenging to provide a good spread of marks. This is demonstrated in the overall distribution of marks, with a mean of 62.7% and a standard deviation of 14.4%. Means ranged from 55% (Badminton) to 75.6% (Squash). There were fewer very low marks this year, which probably reflects better examination preparation. The numbers were smaller this year because of the 'half cohort'. The difficulty level was about the same across all sports, as evidenced by the marks distributions.

This examination was similar to previous years, although the general consensus was that candidates seemed to be better prepared.

General comments

The organisation of the examination was excellent, with Authority officers working with marking team leaders and supervisors to ensure the smooth running of the examination. Fortunately, inclement weather did not hinder the conduct of the examinations. The structure of the practical examination seems to be working well; several markers commented on the fact that some of the drills in two sports were getting a bit crowded with skills, and that the examination panel should be mindful of this. Overall, the candidates were well prepared and the standard of performance higher than that of previous years. Teachers should continue to raise awareness of examination requirements, in particular punctuality and dress/personal equipment, with their students.