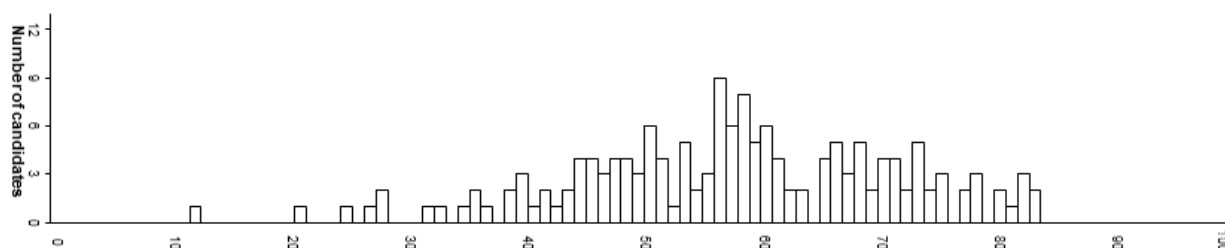




## Summary report for candidates on the 2014 WACE examination in Earth and Environmental Science Stage 3

Year	Number who sat	Number of absentees
2014	160	6
2013	244	7
2012	248	1

### Examination score distribution



### Summary

Section means were:

Section One: Multiple-choice	Mean 8.16(/15)	Max 15.00	Min 2.00
Section Two: Short answer	Mean 32.42(/55)	Max 47.75	Min 8.75
Section Three: Extended response	Mean 17.53(/30)	Max 29.50	Min 4.50

### General comments

The 2014 Earth and Environmental Science Stage 3 examination was very successful. The overall mean for the examination was 58% with a range from 12% to 84%. Sectional means were similar ranging from 54% to 59%. Overall performance was good, with the majority of candidates demonstrating a basic understanding of the concepts and skills of the course. However some responses lacked depth and often contained misconceptions, possibly indicating a superficial understanding of the content. Approximately equal numbers of candidates attempted the two optional questions, and found them of equal difficulty. Areas of candidate strength included basic igneous processes, geological cross-sections, graphing and interpretation of scientific data, biogeochemical cycles and sustainability. Noticeable areas of weakness included El Niño, metamorphism and extinction events. Over 98% of candidates attempted the final question indicating the examination was of appropriate length.

### Advice for candidates

- Ensure that you have revised all syllabus dot points.
- Ensure that you are familiar with the meanings of the commonly used key verbs.
- Read questions fully, paying particular attention to the key verbs used in the question (list, describe, identify etc.)
- Address all required parts of the question in your response.
- Ensure that you respond to what is asked, rather than simply presenting all the information you can recall that relates to the topic.