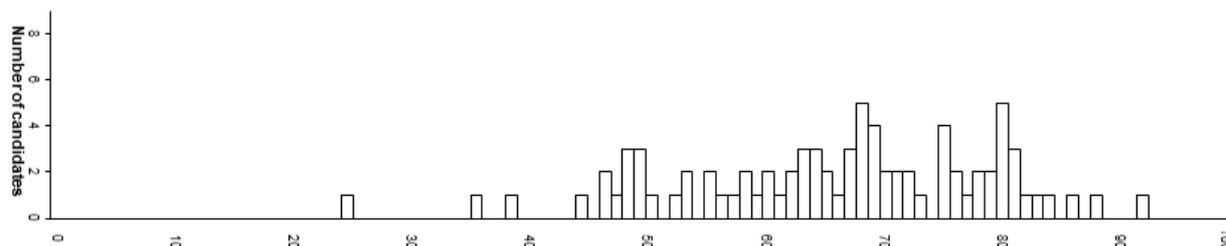




Summary report for candidates on the 2015 WACE examination in Marine and Maritime Studies Stage 3

Year	Number who sat	Number of absentees
2015	82	3
2014	31	1
2013	62	0

Examination score distribution



Summary

Attempted by 82 Candidates Mean 66.56% Max 92.66% Min 25.43%

Section means were:

Section One: Multiple-choice

Mean 15.89%(/20) Max 20.00% Min 7.00%

Section Two: Short answer

Mean 32.03%(/50) Max 45.06% Min 15.43%

Section Three: Extended answer

Mean 18.64%(/30) Max 27.60% Min 1.50%

General comments

This was a straightforward examination with many candidates achieving good marks in most sections. The majority of candidates attempted most questions across the paper. A generally high quality of response was noted in many questions and the broad range of knowledge demonstrated was pleasing.

Advice for candidates

Candidates are recommended to:

- study the specific terminology used in Marine and Maritime Studies. Misunderstood terminology leads to time spent on incorrect answers. Because the syllabus content is diverse and wide-ranging, a significant amount of time invested in coming to grips with the language will be rewarded.
- use the number of marks allocated to each question as a guide to structuring your answer. Too many responses were weak, vague and/or lacked sufficient development of ideas.
- show all of your working in calculation questions, because marks are allocated to workings as well as the final answer. Always include units in the answers to calculations.
- address all parts of a question, paying particular attention to specific instructions (e.g. 'describe **two** ways' or 'draw a labelled diagram'). Ensure that you answer the question asked, rather than simply presenting all the information relating to the topic that you can recall. Where appropriate, use specific rather than general examples.

Comments on specific sections and questions

Section One: Multiple-choice Attempted by 82 Candidates
Mean 15.89%(/20) Max 20.00% Min 7.00%

While in general this section was considerably easier than the other sections, question difficulties were spread over a relatively wide range.

Section Two: Short answer Attempted by 82 Candidates
Mean 32.03%(/50) Max 45.06% Min 15.43%

This section provided a wide range of results. Most questions had mean scores around 60% but Question 21 was significantly easier (mean 80%) while Question 26 was significantly more difficult (mean 41%). Some candidates evidently had difficulty understanding questions and providing suitable responses.

Section Three: Extended answer Attempted by 82 Candidates
Mean 18.64%(/30) Max 27.60% Min 1.50%

It was pleasing to see a high proportion of candidates answering two questions fully, with relatively few attempting only one question or providing parts of questions blank or incomplete. Question 29 was by far the most popular choice, with the remainder spread approximately evenly across the cohort. This would suggest that candidates had similar areas of strength, but the small cohort may prejudice this observation. Question 29 elicited generally better quality responses than those answered less frequently. Many responses were clear and addressed the question in depth, but too often, candidates failed to read the question and provide what was required.