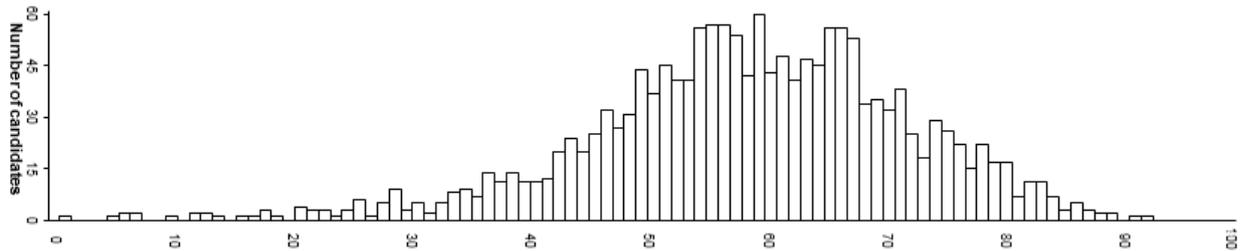




Summary report for candidates on the 2014 WACE examination in Modern History Stage 3

Year	Number who sat	Number of Absentees
2014	1650	19
2013	2532	39
2012	2670	43

Examination score distribution



Summary

The examination paper was generally well received by candidates and teachers. The examination mean was 58.64%, which is a positive upward trend from the 56.15% mean of the previous year. There was a range of scores from 1%–92.50%. The paper shows strong internal reliability of 0.93. This compares favourably with the 2013 WACE examination paper that had an internal reliability of 0.91. The standard deviation of the total examination was 13.59%, comparable with the 2013 standard deviation of 13.4%. The reliability of the four sections with the whole paper is consistent with correlations of 0.84, 0.84, 0.87 and 0.85 respectively.

Section means were largely consistent with candidates scoring higher in Section One: Document study–Unit 3A with a mean of 61.42% and a range of marks from 1–24. In Section Two: Essay– Unit 3A the mean was 57.82% and marks ranged from 0–24. The Section Three: Document study–Unit 3B mean was 58.48% with marks ranging from 0.5–23. Section Four: Essay– Unit 3B with a mean of 58.69% and marks ranging from 0–23.5 and was consistent with the marks awarded in Section Two essays.

General comments

The paper as a whole functioned well. There seemed to be a slightly higher number of candidates who ran out of time this year compared to last year. The number of N/A marks seemed to be lower than in previous years. There were very limited Middle East context papers, and few China context papers. Overwhelmingly Russia was the most popular context.

Candidates were required to answer all sections in relation to the time periods and contexts they had studied in class. The balance of questions across the paper directly reflected both the broader concepts outlined in the course rationale and the recommended focus within particular units of Cohesion and Division (Unit 3A) and Ideas that Shaped History (Unit 3B). In general, it was felt that question 1(c) and 1(d) are continuing to be answered poorly and secondly that there are still far too many candidates who do not answer the specific questions. Candidates simply write on those parts of the question which fall within the range of the material which they have specifically prepared for the examination. This was particularly evident in the essay sections. It was disappointing for markers to continue to see little evidence in the essays of high-order analysis. Too much 'narrative style' of writing occurred. There did seem to be a higher percentage of pre-prepared essays being 'fitted' into questions, and fitted in poorly at that.

As in 2012 and 2013, candidates found Section One: Document study Questions 1(c) and 1(d) problematic in terms of engagement with the question and writing appropriate answers. This seemed to be evident across all contexts. There was a continued attempt by both the examination panel and the marking panel this year to streamline the requirements of 1(c) to help clarify for candidates what the question required. It was deemed to have provided some improvement in the quality of answer that was given, but more improvement is needed on the part of candidates and teachers alike to address this question appropriately.

Advice for candidates

- Read the documents thoroughly in order to identify and understand qualifying or counter-arguments to those expressed elsewhere in the document.
- There is a small group of candidates who still argue that a source's usefulness or bias is related to whether it is a primary or secondary source. They need to realise that both types of source may be considered biased and both types may be considered useful. All sources need to be assessed on an individual basis.