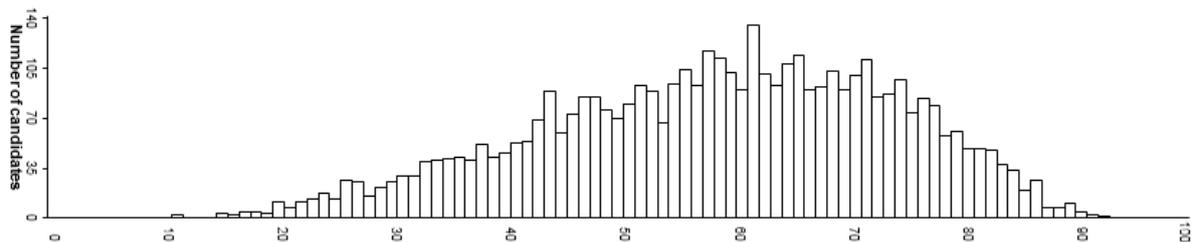




## Summary report for candidates on the 2015 WACE examination in Human Biological Science Stage 3

Year	Number who sat	Number of absentees
2015	4421	84
2014	2764	44
2013	3986	51

### Examination score distribution - Written



### Summary

This year's examination had an overall mean of 58.53%. The paper was a good discriminator, producing scores ranging from 10.75% to 92.75%. The standard deviation was 15.50%. The reliability of the examination was 0.85.

Section means were:

Section One: Multiple-choice

Mean 21.08(/30) Max 30.00 Min 4.00

Section Two: Short answer

Mean 27.49(/50) Max 46.75 Min 1.00

Section Three: Extended answer

Mean 10.00(/20) Max 20.00 Min 0.00

### General comments

Items in Section One: Multiple-choice worked very well. Questions 13, 16, 24 and 29 were the most difficult, with means of less than 50%. In Section Two: Short answer the means ranged from 37.35% to 71.55%. Questions 32, 33, 38 and 39 had means less than 50%. In Section Three: Extended answer, candidates performed well on question 40, but found questions 41 and 42 more difficult, with a mean scores of less than 50%. Most candidates (99.6%) attempted the last questions, indicating that the paper was of an appropriate length.

The mean of 58.53% for the whole paper was significantly better than the mean in 2014 of 55.51% and substantially better than the mean in 2013 of only 51.89%. Mean scores in all three sections of the paper showed improvement in 2015. Particularly pleasing is that the mean score for Section Three: Extended answer was above 50%. However, Section Three: Extended answer still proves to be the most difficult section of the examination paper and the area where candidates could develop further.

### Advice for candidates

- Candidates must read questions fully and ensure they understand the meaning of operational verbs used in the question. Candidates need to know the difference between a question requiring them to 'state' or 'identify' to one requiring them to 'outline', 'describe' or 'explain'.

- Candidates are reminded that if information is stated in the question or provided in the data, no points will be awarded for restating the same information in their answer.
- In Section Three: Extended answer the most thorough and complete answers were produced by candidates who had completed a plan. Taking the time to plan one's answer and ensure all parts of the question will be addressed is an essential examination technique.
- Candidates should attempt all sections and questions within the paper. Leaving questions blank provides no possible means of awarding marks. If candidates 'have a go' they have a better chance to being awarded some marks.
- Additional working space is provided at the back of the examination booklet. If more writing space is required, candidates should use these pages and not write in other parts of the examination booklet. Importantly candidates should not use the pages marked for the extended answers.

### ***Comments on specific sections and questions***

**Section One:** Multiple-choice Attempted by 4421 Candidates  
Mean 21.08(/30)    Max 30.00    Min 4.00

Section One: Multiple-choice had an overall mean of 70.28%. Generally, questions were well answered with only Questions 13, 16, 24 and 29 having means below 50%. Questions 9, 11, 14, 15, 19 and 20 were the easiest with means all above 85%. As expected, candidates performed well on straight forward recall style questions and found the more complex, multi-step questions challenging.

**Section Two:** Short answer Attempted by 4421 Candidates  
Mean 27.49(/50)    Max 46.75    Min 1.00

Section Two: Short answer had an overall mean of 54.87%. Questions 31, 34, 35, 36 and 37 all had means above 50%, while Questions 32, 33, 38 and 39 had means below 50%. The hardest question in Section Two: Short answer was Question 39. Candidates were able to demonstrate a good recall of facts and general knowledge in most questions. Many candidates struggled with the questions that required them to provide detailed explanations rather than just simple descriptions.

**Section Three:** Extended answer Attempted by 4405 Candidates  
Mean 10.00(/20)    Max 20.00    Min 0.00

Section Three: Extended answer had an overall mean of 50.02%. Question 40 was the most successfully answered question with a good mean of 65.67%. Both questions 41 and 42 proved to be more challenging with means of less than 50%. Generally, the answers provided in the Section Three: Extended answer were pleasing and showed improvement in writing style from previous examinations. More often candidates used tables and diagrams to help answer the questions, although this could be employed by even more candidates.