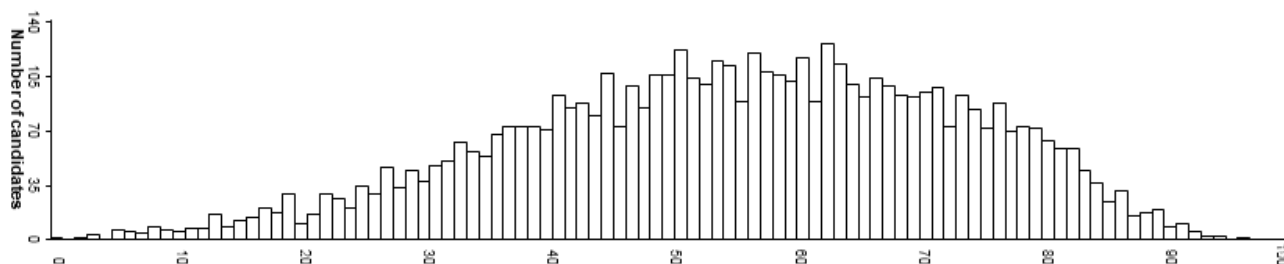




Summary report for candidates on the 2015 WACE examination in Mathematics 3A/3B

Year	Number who sat	Number of absentees
2015	5372	92
2014	3430	54
2013	4693	54

Examination score distribution - Written



Summary

The examination had a mean of 55.42% with a standard deviation of 17.89%. The section means were: Section One: Calculator-free 56.56% with a standard deviation of 20.47%; and Section Two: Calculator-assumed 54.88% with a standard deviation of 17.80%. The reliability of each section with the total examination was 0.92 for Section One and 0.98 for Section Two.

Candidates performed above average on all but the last four questions. Question 9 (project networks) appeared to be the easiest on the paper with a mean of 86.26% and Question 18 appeared to be the most difficult with a mean of 34.85%.

General comments

Written examination

There were some good discriminating questions requiring candidates to think carefully about their responses. However, candidates did not read questions carefully. Question 1(a) was a good example where candidates were told that 'a' was a constant but still proceeded to differentiate it as a variable.

Advice for candidates

- read each question carefully
- show some working, even on a two mark question
- use a pencil and ruler for any graph work

Comments on specific sections and questions

Section One: Calculator-free

Attempted by 5371 Candidates Mean 18.85(/33.33) Max 33.33 Min 0.00

This section contained some fairly routine questions that most candidates handled successfully. Question 5 appeared to be a good discriminating question with many candidates struggling with what was being asked. Many candidates had difficulty with basic algebraic skills and numerical calculations involving fractions.

Section Two: Calculator-assumed

Attempted by 5370 Candidates Mean 36.58(/66.66) Max 63.33 Min 0.00

This section had some similar questions to that of the 2014 paper. However, candidates still made the same careless mistakes. Where a question required an explanation, candidates seemed to struggle to

write a simple sentence. The last four questions were good discriminators with Question 18 appearing to be hardest. This was surprising since questions of this type have been on several past papers.