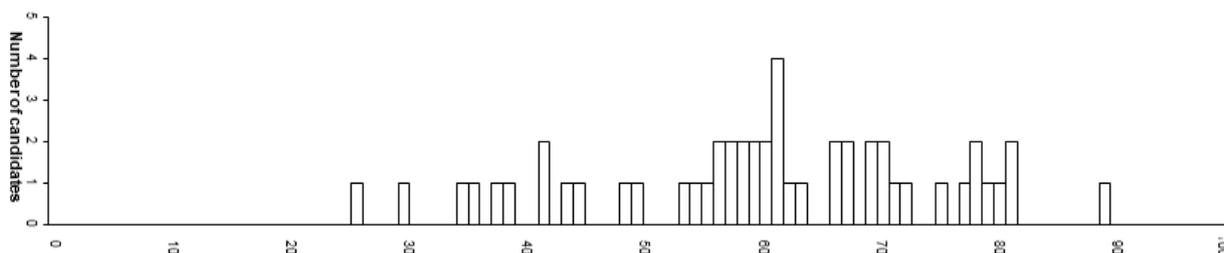




Summary report for candidates on the 2015 WACE examination in Plant Production Systems Stage 3

Year	Number who sat	Number of absentees
2015	50	1
2014	17	0
2013	39	0

Examination score distribution



Summary

The 2015 Plant Production Systems Stage 3 examination had a mean of 60.62%. The level of difficulty was appropriate to the stage, and the marking key was able to discriminate between strong and weaker candidates, with scores ranging from 26.42% to 90.39%. Candidates with lower marks also recorded a large number of non-attempts.

Candidates found the Multiple-choice (mean of 74%) the easiest section, followed by the Production practices section (mean of 66%) and Short answer (61%). Candidates found the Extended answer section difficult, with a mean of only 47% (compared to 54% in 2014).

Section means were:

Section One: Multiple-choice	Mean 11.14(/15)	Max 15.00	Min 5.00
Section Two: Short answer	Mean 30.56(/50)	Max 44.57	Min 14.13
Section Three: Production practices	Mean 9.88(/15)	Max 14.30	Min 3.75
Section Four: Extended answer	Mean 9.43(/20)	Max 19.00	Min 0.50

General comments

Advice for candidates

- Questions requiring a diagram need to be read carefully to ensure all components of the question are included in the diagram to receive full marks.
- Make sure all parts of an extended answer question are included in your response, and consider the marks allocated.

Comments on specific sections and questions

Section One: Multiple-choice

Attempted by 50 Candidates

Mean 11.14(/15) Max 15.00 Min 5.00

The multiple-choice section was well answered by most candidates and had the highest section mean of 74%. Questions 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 14 and 15 were the easiest with means greater than 80%. The most difficult questions (means less than 50%) were 8, 10 and 12.

Responses to Question 8 were evenly spread over three alternatives, indicating that candidates do not have a good understanding of standard deviation. Question 10 was about feedback loops, a concept that candidates consistently struggle with. Question 12 was on the long-term benefits of planting trees, and there was a fairly even spread of responses over three of the alternatives (and few selecting the fourth), indicating that candidates did not fully understand the question, or had difficulty selecting the most correct answer from the distractors.

Section Two: Short answer

Attempted by 50 Candidates

Mean 30.56(/50) Max 44.57 Min 14.13

This section was well answered generally, with a mean of 61%. All questions had a mean of over 50%.

Section Three: Production practices

Attempted by 49 Candidates

Mean 9.88(/15) Max 14.30 Min 3.75

Overall this question was answered reasonably well by most students, though there was a large range in marks.

Section Four: Extended answer

Attempted by 49 Candidates

Mean 9.43(/20) Max 19.00 Min 0.50

The extended answer section had an average of only 47%. Few candidates selected Question 25, despite it being relatively straight forward. Possible reasons could be that the mark allocation was different to the other two questions, or that candidates are more familiar with gross margin concepts being taught as a budget table.