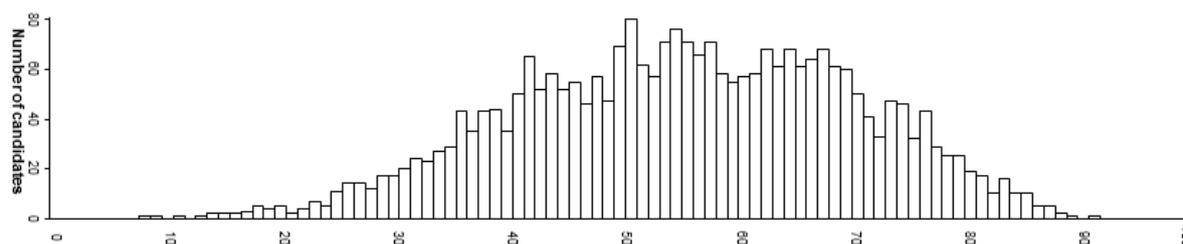




## Summary report for candidates on the 2014 WACE examination in Human Biological Science Stage 3

Year	Number who sat	Number of absentees
2014	2764	44
2013	3986	51
2012	3998	54

### Examination score distribution



### Summary

The mean of this year's examination paper was 55.51%. The section means were Section One: Multiple-choice 66.42%, Section Two: Short answer 52.14% and Section Three: Extended answer 48.15%. The paper was a good discriminator, producing scores ranging from 8.00% to 92.25%. The standard deviation was 14.79%. Correlation of question marks with the total marks was very good, indicating that there was consistency across questions within the paper. The reliability of the examination was 0.85.

### General comments

Items in Section One: Multiple-choice worked very well. Questions 4, 7, 9, 13, 17, 18 and 25 were the most difficult, with means of less than 50%. In Section Two: Short answer the means ranged from 35.63% to 69.82%. Questions 33, 38 and 39 had means less than 50%. In Section Three: Extended answer, candidates performed similarly on questions 40 and 41, but found question 42 more difficult, with a mean score of less than 50%. Most candidates (99%) attempted the last questions, indicating that the paper was of an appropriate length.

The mean of 55.51% for the whole paper was considerably better than the mean in 2013 of only 51.89%. Last year, many candidates had difficulty in constructing satisfactory answers in Section Two: Short answer and Section Three: Extended answer questions. This year, a significant improvement could be seen in the candidates' performance in these sections. Particularly noticeable was the improvement in Section Three: Extended answer with an increase of 13% in the mean score for that section. 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 ensure they know the difference between a question requiring them to 'state' or 'identify' to one requiring them to 'outline', 'describe' or 'explain'.
- It is essential candidates understand the difference between the terms: 'structure', 'function' and 'mode of action', as they relate to the human body.

- Candidates should aim to write answers that address the specific focus of the question and not simply restate all the information they can recall that relates to the topic.
- 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 the answer.
- In Section Three: Extended answers the most thorough and complete answers were produced by candidates who had completed a plan. Taking the time to plan the answer and ensure all parts of the question are addressed is an essential examination technique.
- Additional working space is provided at the back of the question/answer booklet. If more writing space is required, candidates should use this space only. Importantly candidates should not use the pages marked for the extended answers.