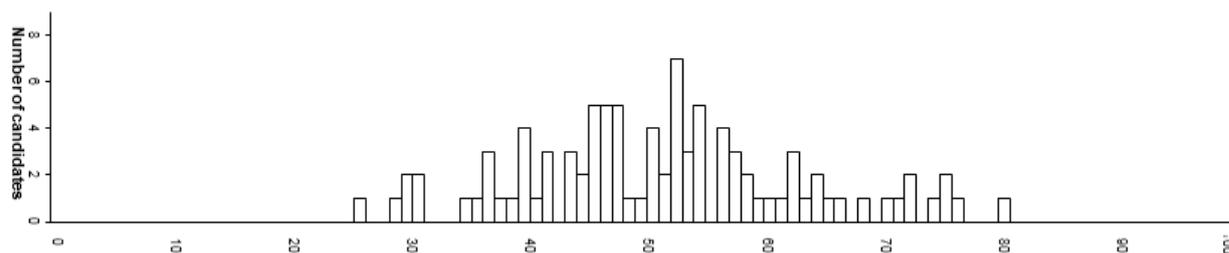




Summary report for candidates on the 2015 WACE examination in Integrated Science Stage 3

Year	Number who sat	Number of absentees
2015	94	0
2014	55	0
2013	100	4

Examination score distribution



Summary

The Integrated Science Stage 3 paper provided a thorough and balanced coverage of the syllabus, and was of an appropriate level of difficulty for the candidates. The mean mark for the paper as a whole was 51.79% slightly less than the previous year (57.04%), and the standard deviation was 11.87%, smaller than the previous year (14.43%). The maximum score was 81.12% and the minimum score was 26.10%.

Section means were:

Section One: Multiple-choice	Mean 11.45(/20) Max 18.00 Min 3.00
Section Two: Short response	Mean 21.77(/50) Max 38.29 Min 7.21
Section Three: Extended response	Mean 18.58(/30) Max 26.12 Min 5.43

These data follow a similar pattern to the 2014 data.

General comments

Advice for candidates

- Some questions examine particular facts and you need to know these in detail. It is not sufficient to have a broad, general overview when the syllabus specifies specific details are to be known.
- Some questions involve making comparisons and conclusions. These are more difficult questions and you should practise these as a part of your preparation for the examination.
- You should access past examination papers and complete them to ensure you have an understanding of the depth and applications of the syllabus content. There will, however, always be new questions that you have not been seen before, so studying beyond past examinations is essential.

Comments on specific sections and questions

Section One: Multiple-choice

Attempted by 94 Candidates

Mean 11.45(/20) Max 18.00 Min 3.00

This section provides examiners with the opportunity to assess a wide range of syllabus not covered in longer responses. It would appear that many candidates were unaware of aspects of the syllabus. Candidates should be aware that all aspects of the syllabus have equal importance, and all may be examined.

The multiple-choice questions had a range of difficulty as shown by the mean score which varied from 93% to 26%. Questions 2, 6, 7 and 20 were the easiest with means of 84% or above. The most challenging questions of the section were 4, 6 and 12, with means lower than 36%.

Section Two: Short response

Attempted by 94 Candidates

Mean 21.77(/50) Max 38.29 Min 7.21

This section is well scaffolded allowing candidates to provide short, direct answers. However the relative difficulty of this section for many candidates had a significant effect on the overall examination mean. Candidates often gave answers that suggested they were not answering the question but responding to the specific item. Hence many candidates gave a statement about that part of syllabus in a broad concept rather than responding to the question specifically.

In Question 26 candidates were required to interpret text. This has been a component of the examination for some years but it would seem candidates did not have the skill to extract important information from such text. Question 23 was the most difficult with a mean of 33% while the easiest was Question 24 with a mean of 55%.

Section Three: Extended response

Attempted by 94 Candidates

Mean 18.58(/30) Max 26.12 Min 5.43

This section involved longer questions but within them many parts were highly scaffolded to assist candidates. Candidates were asked to interpret data (Question 27) and graphical information (Question 28).

In both questions it was apparent that many candidates lacked experience in answering extended response questions. The more capable candidates showed a thought-out, logical sequence in their responses that clearly linked to the question. Many candidates, however, did not provide sufficient specific detail that was presented in a logical sequence. Some candidates continued the practise of re-writing the question as the introduction to their response. This practice takes time and earns no marks.