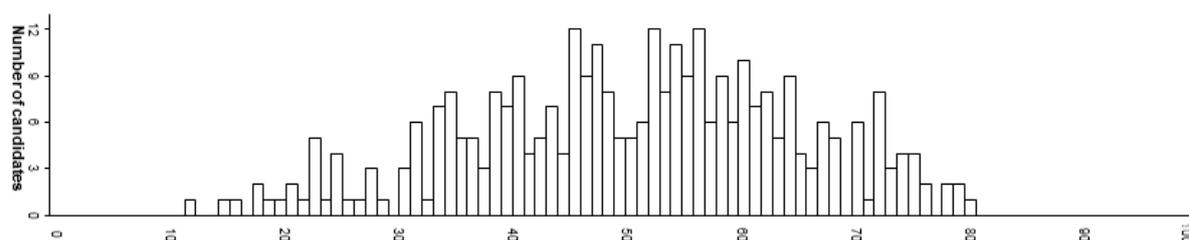




Summary report for candidates on the 2015 WACE examination in Outdoor Education Stage 3

Year	Number who sat	Number of absentees
2015	327	10
2014	170	7
2013	304	7

Examination score distribution - Written



Summary

The examination, attempted by 327 candidates, had a mean of 50.98% with a standard deviation of 14.40%. The section means were: Section One: Multiple-choice 58.59% with a standard deviation of 14.06%; Section Two: Short answer 47.10% with a standard deviation of 16.61%; and Section Three: Extended answer 52.84% and the standard deviation was 17.12%. The reliability of each section with the total examination was 0.75.

Written examination

General comments

Candidates appeared to have enough time to complete the examination with the majority attempting the entire examination. There were numerous opportunities for candidates to receive marks for demonstrating basic content knowledge and the majority of questions provided scenarios to assess application of content knowledge. Poor examination techniques meant that candidates often did not apply their responses to the required scenarios, which had a significant impact on the low mean particularly in the short answer and the extended answer sections.

There was a broad selection of content examined with minimal overlap between sections and questions. Syllabus content points assessed minimally in past examinations elicited significantly lower marks.

Advice for candidates

Read questions carefully to ensure you:

- provide responses and examples that relate to the specific scenario including the activity; mode of travel; timeframe (e.g. prior to or during); type of participants; program focus; or any other relevant conditions
- address the key verb (e.g. identify or describe) in the question
- revise the key terminology that is included in the syllabus content as a significant number of 'easy' marks are missed by candidates using incorrect terminology.

Comments on specific sections and questions

Written examination

Section One: Multiple-choice

Attempted by 327 Candidates Mean 11.72(/20) Max 18.00 Min 3.00

This section elicited the highest mean of 58.59% for the examination. Previously, this section examined areas of the syllabus including conflict management, debriefing and triangulation were only in the multiple-choice section. While not allowing candidates to demonstrate all of their higher-level knowledge and skills, the questions emphasised the ability of candidates to demonstrate calculations and application.

Only fifty three per cent of candidates were able to apply magnetic variation correctly in Question 1. Question 2 found the majority of candidates had selected (a) incorrectly indicating that they were unsure when to subtract or add when calculating magnetic variation. Responses to Question 9 suggested that many candidates were confused between 'disadvantages of the compromise' and 'confronting conflict-management techniques'. Question 14 had a high proportion of candidates who had selected (b) incorrectly. In the final question in this section, there was a reasonably even spread across the three incorrect responses relating to the World Heritage criteria for Purnululu National Park.

Section Two: Short answer

Attempted by 327 Candidates Mean 23.55(/50) Max 44.16 Min 3.57

This section proved to be the most challenging for the candidates with a mean of 47.10%. Each question included a program focus with the intention of providing opportunities for higher-order application. Unfortunately, poor examination techniques meant candidates often failed to relate responses to the scenarios provided and therefore missed a significant number of marks.

Section Three: Extended answer

Attempted by 324 Candidates Mean 15.85(/30) Max 28.12 Min 2.62

The mean of the extended answer section was 52.84% with a similar level of difficulty across the three questions. There was a reasonably even spread of candidates selecting each of the questions. The highest number of candidates attempted the final question that focused on environmental awareness.