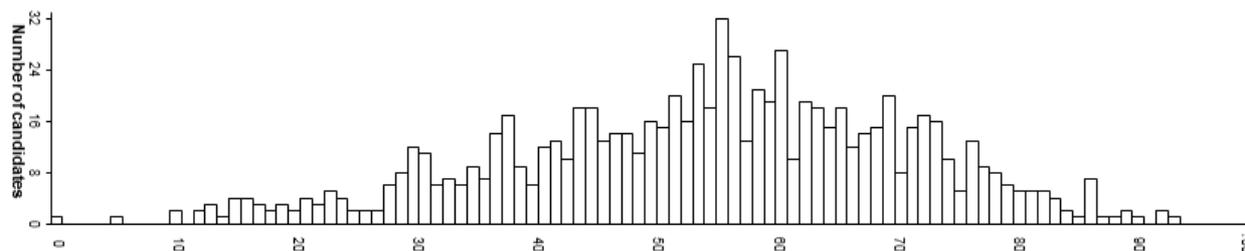




Summary report for candidates on the 2015 WACE examination in Politics and Law Stage 3

Year	Number who sat	Number of absentees
2015	824	11
2014	563	6
2013	887	13

Examination score distribution - Written



Summary

The examination had a mean of 54.20% with a standard deviation of 16.78%. The section means were: Section One: Short response 55.77% with a standard deviation of 19.84%; Section Two: Source analysis 55.74% with a standard deviation of 17.04%; Section Three: Extended response Part A: Unit 3A 53.52% with a standard deviation of 19.32%; Section Three: Extended response Part B; Unit 3B 53.52% with a standard deviation of 17.10%. The reliability of each section with the total examination was 0.91.

General comments

Written examination

Most candidates completed the paper answering all questions required in each of the sections. There were perhaps fewer parts of questions that were not answered than in previous years. Some questions were less popular, especially Questions 5, 7 and 10 with the mean for Question 7 below that of the other three essay questions. The mean for all other questions within sections was similar. Key terms such as 'rule of law', 'responsible government' and 'judicial review' were problematic for many candidates. There was also a lack of specific information provided in the responses. The accountability of parliament was not understood and was confused with the accountability of the executive. Candidates wrote in general terms especially evident in the essay section, namely Question 8, where examples were outdated. Very few candidates referred to examples in the Parliaments of Rudd, Gillard or Abbott. Evaluation was not done well as was evident in the (d) question parts of the Source analysis and Extended response Questions 7 and 8.

Advice for candidates

- ensure that you respond directly to the question asked
- it is essential that in the longer responses in all sections of the paper that examples and specific information is given
- do not use generalisations as they do not score highly

Comments on specific sections and questions

Section One: Short response

Attempted by 823 Candidates

Mean 16.73(/30)

Max 29

Min 2

It was concerning to see the number of non-attempts in sub-parts of questions in this section, especially the (b) and (c) question parts. It was notable that responsible government was not well understood and often confused with representative government. The lawmaking process

was not addressed and judicial review was obviously not understood. Responses lacked examples and precise information although there were some excellent answers. It was essential that the question be addressed directly.

Section Two: Source analysis

Attempted by 823 Candidates Mean 11.15(/20) Max 20 Min 2

Section Three: Extended response Part A: Unit 3A

Attempted by 813 Candidates Mean 13.38(/25) Max 24.5 Min 0.5

The evaluation of a claim proved to be a problem for most candidates and was evident in this section. The essay responses were far too general with very few, if any, relevant accompanying examples, especially in Question 8. The current reform proposal was not discussed in sufficient detail in Question 7.

Section Three: Extended response Part B: Unit 3B

Attempted by 810 Candidates Mean 13.38(/25) Max 24.50 Min 0.5