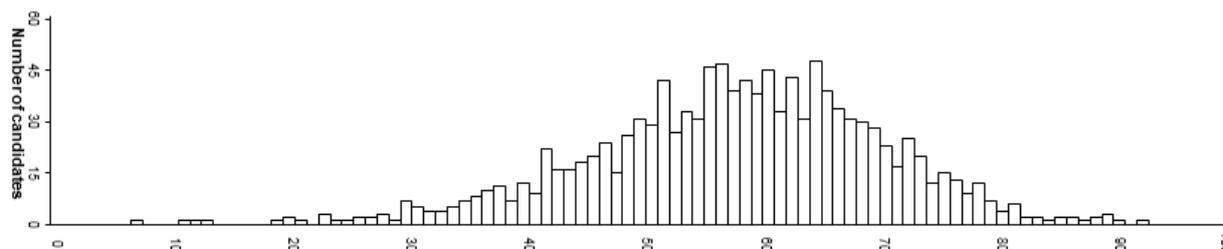




Summary report for candidates on the 2014 WACE examination in Geography Stage 3

Year	Number who sat	Number of absentees
2014	1214	18
2013	2012	31
2012	1894	28

Examination score distribution



Summary

The examination was generally well received by candidates and teachers and there were some papers with excellent responses across all sections. The mean of 57.9% is consistent with the 2013 mean of 57.65%. Innovations within the Broadsheet included a graph of demographic data for a megacity and an additional topographic map extract, providing an enhanced opportunity for candidates to demonstrate practical skills.

The mean for Section One: Multiple-choice was high at 74.49% and candidate scores ranged from 3 to the full 20 marks available. The Section Two: Short response mean was 67.05% and candidate scores ranged from 1 to the full 20 marks. In Section Three: Extended response the means were 52.46% for Part A and 47.06% for Part B. Candidate scores ranged from 0–28.5 for Part A and 0–29 for Part B out of a possible 30 marks.

Most candidates were able to complete the paper in the required time which suggests that the examination was appropriate in length and level of difficulty. Results revealed a broad spread in the allocation of marks, ranging from 6.5% to 92.5%. The standard deviation for the paper was 12.43%. The correlation with exam total in Section One: Multiple-choice was 0.58, in Section Two: Short response 0.77 and in Section Three: Extended response Part A was 0.85, consistent with Part B at 0.86. The examination had an internal reliability of 0.8 (0.76 in 2013).

General comments

The examination covered the breadth of the syllabus and discriminated between candidate responses. It was noted by markers that when extended responses were required some candidates provided quite short, general responses or did not provide accurate and detailed explanation. The more applied questions, in particular, highlighted those candidates with an inadequate understanding of the content of the syllabus such as geographical concepts, processes and interactions. As in previous papers, candidates were encouraged to make full use of evidence from the Broadsheet and to provide their own supporting diagrams.

In Section Three: Extended response Part A candidates provided better answers than in Part B. In Part B some candidates experienced difficulty with the concept of stakeholders, the terms 'adaptation' and 'mitigation', as well as the requirement to refer to specific examples in 30(b) and 31(b). For Part A Questions 28(c) and 29(c) the most commonly studied megacities were New York and Tokyo.

Advice for candidates

- Practise geographical techniques such as the use of diagrams and sketches in written responses.
Become familiar with definitions for key terminology and practise the application of geographical concepts.
- Practise more effective utilisation of the Broadsheet to improve your written responses.