

PRINCIPAL EXAMINER'S REPORT



BOTSWANA
EXAMINATIONS
COUNCIL

JCE SOCIAL STUDIES

2023



General Comments

The academic performance of the 2023 cohort was generally fairly good. Candidates, across all the key grades, exhibited some strength against such questions that were meant for them. Even those at grade E would fairly attempt some questions that did not belong to them. In several instances, even if a candidate would not perform well against the questions, they still tried to respond. They articulated their responses much better especially in questions that required them to express themselves. A slight improvement was also noticeable in the way Candidates presented their work with a good number of them attempting to identify points and expanding them instead of presenting bloated statements. Majority of the Candidates did well in section A and C. The performance was poor at Section B which is essay-based section. Like with the previous cohorts, Candidates did badly in question 5 (a & b) that were History based questions. It is quite common that, Candidates from the previous cohorts, have always performed badly against such questions.

There was still evidence of similar mistakes that were observed with the previous cohorts. A good number of Candidates failed to include units at 2(a) while providing the correct figure. Where Candidates were required to show the differences, there were still those who would use a table instead of writing an essay. There is also a problem of Candidates who tend to attempt questions before they have read and understood what a question requires. For example, question 2(b) used a table which showed that the figures provided were in million carats. This information was overlooked by most Candidates as they just wrote a figure that had no units. In question 4(b), Candidates were asked for effort by government to promote gender equity. Several Candidates, instead, suggested what should be done by government, which was wrong. In Section C, some Candidates still failed to provide a title for their data presentation, and this occurs in every examination series. Every presentation should have a title or topic.



SECTION A

1. (a) Candidates did well in this question with quite a significant number being able to apply the skill of using a map key.
 - (b) Most Candidates did well in this question as a significant number of them was able to identify the line as the Equator.
 - (c) Finding direction of 'Erta'Ale from Lake Victoria was well done by most Candidates.
 - (d) The Candidates did badly in this question. Most of them showed very limited knowledge on the formation process of a Rift valley. They could not come up with a proper sequence of the process.
 - (e) Most Candidates did well as they were able to describe the importance of the valley to the people living along it.
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2. (a) This question was properly answered by most Candidates. They managed to describe the trend of diamond production well.
 - (b) While most Candidates did the calculations properly, they failed to put the units or correct units but rather just wrote 2.5 and that made them to perform poorly in this question. Where units are provided, it is vital that Candidates should always put such units as part of their answers.
 - (c) The question was well answered as most Candidates managed to identify the year with the lowest production of diamonds.
 - (d) The performance in this question was very good. Majority were able to correctly identify minerals mined in Botswana.
 - (e) The Candidates' performance in this question was just fair. Most concentrated on the general challenges facing the mining sector and, in that case, disregarding the stimulus provided on which the question was based.
 - (f) The performance of Candidates in this question was quite good. Most were able to identify the mining areas in Botswana.



3. (a) Performance in this question was fair. Most Candidates were able to apply their learnt content to address the question and therefore, a good number of them managed to provide correct responses.
- (b) The performance was average for this question. A reasonable number of Candidates were able to come up with ideas of what could be done to address the problem of road accidents. However, it was still evident that where Candidates, were required to suggest, they brought up measures that are already in place. So, it is imperative that where Candidates are required to suggest, instead of repeating measures as they are, they should rather suggest for an improvement or intensifying of the same measure.
- (c) Most Candidates did not do well in this question. They were expected to show how the presence of the bridge would contribute positively to the economy of the country. The bridge is part of the transport and communication network and therefore Candidates were expected to write answers such as easy movement of goods and services in and out of the country and increased employment opportunities. Most Candidates instead gave responses like people will cross the river using the bridge.

SECTION B

4. (a) The question was fairly responded to. Most Candidates were able to identify the traditional roles of women, but some failed to expand their points.
- (b) This question was badly done. Most Candidates could not come up with measures that are put in place by government to promote gender equity. Some Candidates were suggesting measures to be taken by government. This problem is quite common as in many instances, where Candidates are to provide what is being done, they always suggest and where they are supposed to suggest they replicate what is already in place.



- 5.(a) Candidates did not do well in this question, but only a few were able to give correct responses. This question was on the Early European traders but many of them mixed up issues of Early European missionaries with those of the Early European traders/hunters. Others wrote about the Boers' relations with Batswana. This is one question that Candidates showed lack of content.
- (b) There was poor performance in this question. Candidates were being asked to explain factors leading to the declaration of protection over Bechuanaland by the British government. Candidates were supposed to identify a factor then show how it influenced the British decision to protect Bechuanaland. Most Candidates were not able to come up with the factors while others described the reasons for the scramble for Africa. Those who managed to come up with the factors were not able to fully explain them.
- 6.(a) Most Candidates were able to get the differences well but only a few could explain why such differences. Most overlooked this explanatory requirement and only provided the differences. The question expected Candidates, for example, to show that urban settlements have a higher population than rural settlement since a lot of people move to towns for employment, services, and business opportunities.
- (b) Most Candidates failed this question. They seemed not to understand what the question required as some showed the similarities between the settlements while others discussed the challenges. This question required Candidates to show the way rural communities and urban communities relate or deal with each other. For example, rural dwellers produce farm produce or raw materials that are sold to urban dwellers. So, rural dwellers are producers while urban dwellers are a market.



SECTION C

- 7.(a) Most Candidates did well in this question. They were able to come up with a proper topic for the research. Those who failed the question did not provide all the characteristic of a research topic like a title, research site and year.
- (b) The performance of Candidates in this question was fair. There was an element of confusion among the Candidates as they seem to confuse data presentation methods and data collection methods. This made some Candidates not to perform well in this question.
- (c) The question was fairly done but some Candidates had a very wrong interpretation of the stimulus. Most of those who did badly on the question had a wrong understanding of the word 'sex'. So, the objectives they came up with were completely irrelevant. Secondly, objectives are supposed to have stems like "to find out or to establish" which makes them distinct from other statements. Furthermore, Candidates should not craft objectives that are not catered for by the content of the stimulus material provided. Some Candidates would come up with objectives which sought to find out the causes of low enrolment in some regions. The information being used may not provide such a finding and therefore such an objective remains irrelevant.
- (d) Most Candidates failed this question due to wrong interpretation of the stimulus material. They gave the answer as 10 boys instead of 10 000 boys. The table showed that the figures were in thousands, but most Candidates overlooked that. Candidates fail to read questions and instructions thoroughly but rush into responding to questions.
- (e) The performance in this question was also unsatisfactory. Majority provided responses that were irrelevant as they wrote about sexual activities. Some did not write their findings with the stem "found out that". This stem is a requirement whenever research findings are being presented.
- (f) Majority did well in this question by being able to suggest possible institutions that could be used to collect data.



- (g) The performance of Candidates in this question was good. A good number managed to come up with correct conclusions.
- (h) This question was failed by most Candidates. They could not come up with correct recommendations. Recommendations are supposed to address an authority, to have a stated action to be taken and to be written with “should or must”. Majority wrote recommendations without these characteristics.
- (i) Most Candidates did very well in this question. They seem to be aware of the challenges that may be encountered during research.
- (j) The performance of Candidates in this question was good. There was an indication that most of them had a fair knowledge of a pie-chart. The problem however, was failure to pay attention to specific instruction. The pie-chart was for a specific group and not on the entire graph. Some Candidates came up with a title for the whole graph.