



PSLE

Principal Examiners Report

AGRICULTURE

2023

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INTRODUCTION

This report aims to analyze the 2023 PSLE candidate's performance in Agriculture. Generally, this year's candidates have shown a similar performance when compared to the previous cohort of 2022.

General Comments

The 2023 Agriculture paper was easily accessed by candidates as observed from the marking exercise. It appeared to be more friendly even though comprehension was still a dominant skill to apply in responding to many of the items and, the majority of the candidates somehow performed better than the previous year if not equivalent.

Section A, which has a total of 20 marks has been satisfactorily accessed by most candidates. Most of the items in this section required candidates to supply short responses and they did well.

Section B has a total of 40 marks. All the items in this section are stimulus/scenario-based. Some items required candidates to give short responses while other items required candidates to write long responses. Similarly, as observed in Section A, candidates managed well those items that required short responses, but some faced a serious challenge in attempting items that required long responses.

In addition, some items in Section B had follow-up items and as such, follow-up items required candidates to provide evidence to support their given responses and some of the candidates failed such sequenced items. They failed to give evidence in support of their responses. The



evidence required is usually embedded in the stimulus material; therefore, this is an indication that the candidates failed to interrogate the stimulus in addressing follow-up questions, a skill that they need to acquire.

Generally, most candidates easily accessed knowledge items that required recalling facts but failed those that required high-order thinking skills. Most of these high-order thinking skills items were stimulus-based and most candidates failed to interrogate the stimulus to infer correct responses. Despite all the challenges encountered by candidates in Agriculture, there is a significant improvement recorded every year looking at how questions were attempted. This shows positivity towards the subject, both in teaching and learning.



SECTION A

Question 1

- A. Majority of the candidates got it well. They were able to name the tool.
- B. Majority of the candidates accessed the item as they managed to state the reason for cultivating a plot.

Question 2

The item was well performed by the majority of the candidates. They were able to state the disadvantages of using chemical fertilizers and, majority gave pollution and burning of crops when applied in excessive as responses.

Question 3

A well performed question as candidates were able to state food that are a product of biotechnology.

Question 4

The majority of candidates accessed maximum marks for the question. They managed to give ways of goats' identification by farmers.

Question 5

Well attempted question, and majority of the candidates accessed maximum marks by naming any two breeds of goats.

Question 6



The item was fairly performed by most candidates. They managed to state places Batswana sell their cattle. Majority accessed maximum marks.

Question 7

A fairly performed item. Candidates had a challenge in sequential arrangement of steps for description. Majority accessed a minimum of 1 mark.

Question 8

Majority of the candidates accessed maximum marks by stating the reasons for giving animals water regularly,

Question 9

The item was fairly attempted. Some candidates Confused Agricultural Economics stimulus, to Horticulture.

Question 10

Fairly performed item. Majority of the candidates were able define causes of soil erosion while some used the same definition for agents of soil erosion.



SECTION B

Question 11

- (a) The item was well performed most candidates accessed maximum marks by naming the soil constituents.
- (b) The item was well attempted. Majority of candidates stated the importance of water to plants life.
- (c) Very well performed item as many candidates stated the percentage of air in the soil as 25%.

Question 12

- (a) Fairly attempted item.
- (b) The item was fairly attempted as most candidates accessed only one mark. They were challenged to come up with the second benefit of hoof trimming other than reducing lameness.
- (c) Majority of candidates got it well as they were able to state the tools used for hoof trimming.

Question 13

- (a) Fairly performed item. Majority of the candidates singled out one part of the structure and named it instead giving the naming it as a whole.
- (b) The item was performed well and majority of candidates accessed maximum marks.



- (c) The item was fairly attempted.

- (d) The item was well attempted.

Question 14

- (a) Most candidates performed well in this item as they were able to name the management practice.

- (b) The item was fairly attempted because some of the learners used negative statements such as ... **not/avoid/no etc.**

- (c) This item was well attempted. Candidates managed to name the method of planting used.

QUESTION 15

- (a) The item was well attempted. Candidates named the correct level.

- (b) The item was well attempted as most of the candidates supported their answer in A.

- (c) The item was poorly attempted as most candidates failed to give ways the Botswana Government helps the type of farmer stated.

- (d) Well attempted item. Majority of candidates were able to state the other types of farming apart from the mentioned one



QUESTION 16

- (a) Majority of the candidates performed well in this item. Candidates gave the type of weathering shown on the picture.
- (b) The item was poorly as majority of the candidates defined biological weathering instead of describing what was shown in the diagram that made it qualify to be termed as biological weathering.
- (c) Well performed item as candidates stated the other types of weathering apart from the named one.

Question 17

- (a) Majority of the candidates were able to access maximum marks for the item. They managed to name the management activity shown.
- (b) The item was poorly performed. They failed to state the correct time to remove mulch.
- (c) Fairly performed item. Most candidates accessed minimum mark as 1 as they failed to explain the reasons for removing mulch.

Question 18

- (a) A fairly attempted item. Some listed the steps shown instead of describing them.



- (b) Fairly attempted item. Some candidates gave the name of the step as the reason for carrying it out.

- (c) The item was well attempted as the candidates were able to name the suitable leaf vegetables.