

**PRIMARY SCHOOL  
LEAVING EXAMINATIONS**



**BOTSWANA  
EXAMINATIONS  
COUNCIL**

**2019 SUMMARY  
OF PROVISIONAL  
RESULTS**

**19**

Primary School Leaving Examination (PSLE) is a diagnostic examination meant to provide feedback to the education system, particularly, the departments of Basic Education and Curriculum Development and Evaluation. The examination measures candidates' academic performance against curriculum standards. It is administered to all learners who have completed the Ministry of Basic Education (MoBE) 7-year primary school programme. PSLE candidates sit examinations in seven subjects, namely: Setswana, English, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, Agriculture and Religious and Moral Education. Performance at PSLE is reported on a five (5) point grade scale of A-E, showing levels of achievement. Grades A to C, are credit pass grades while D to E are pass grades. The symbol U denotes failure to achieve minimum requirements at Grade E. This report presents a summary of the 2019 PSLE results. It reports performance at national and regional level. It also reports performance by subject and by gender. The report is structured as follows:

- 1.0 Candidature
- 2.0 Overall Performance
- 3.0 Performance by Region
- 4.0 Performance by Subject
- 5.0 Performance by Gender
- 6.0 Performance by Dimensions
- 7.0 Summary of Results

1.0 CANDIDATURE

Table 1.1: PSLE Candidature in 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019 by Subject					
SUBJECTS	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
<b>Setswana</b>	41905	41 911	43808	45837	46928
<b>English</b>	42553	42 517	44427	46432	47518
<b>Mathematics</b>	42553	42 517	44427	46432	47518
<b>Science</b>	42553	42 517	44427	46432	47518
<b>Social Studies</b>	42553	42 517	44427	46432	47518
<b>Agriculture</b>	42553	42 517	44427	46431	47518
<b>Religious and Moral Education</b>	42508	42 470	44375	46387	47466
<b>Total Candidature</b>	<b>42553</b>	<b>42 517</b>	<b>44427</b>	<b>46432</b>	<b>47518</b>

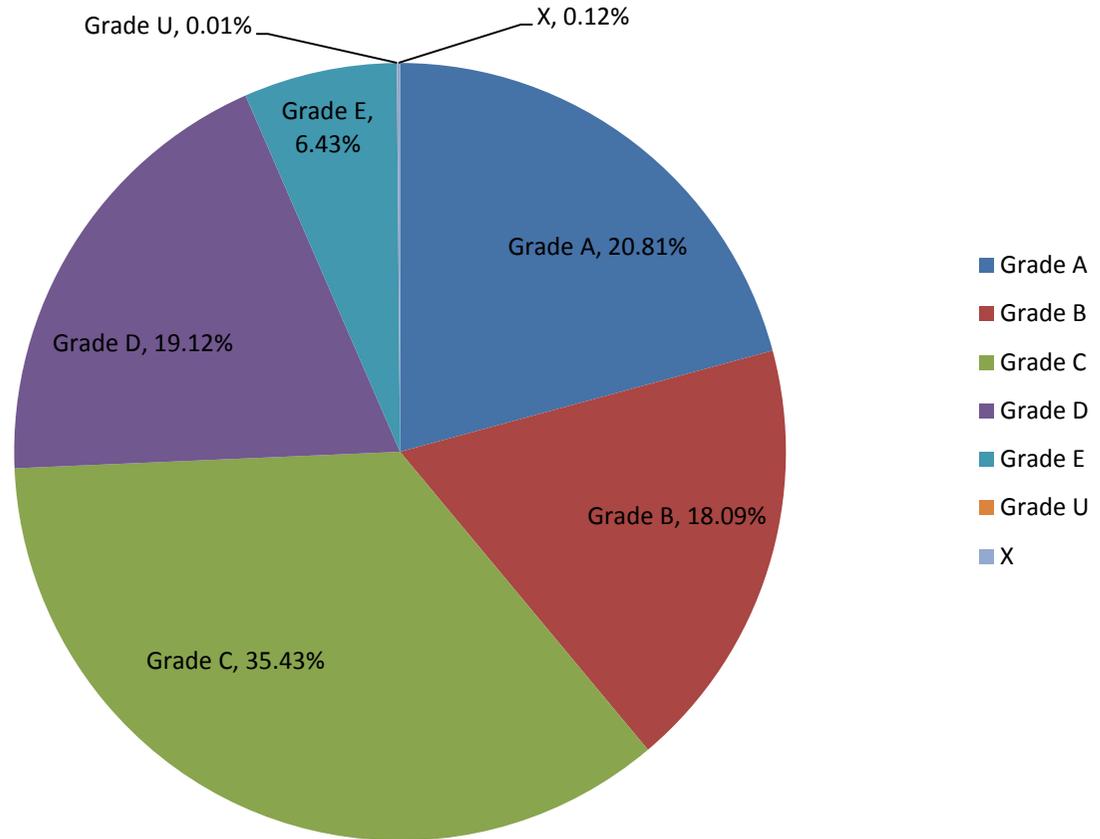
- A total of 47518 candidates sat for the 2019 Primary School Leaving Examination. The number comprises of 23746 **(49.97%)** females and 23772 **(50.03%)** males.
- Total candidature increased from 46432 in 2018 to 47518 in 2019, which represents an increase of 1086 candidates **(2.34%)**.

## 2.0 OVERALL PERFORMANCE

Table 2.1: 2019 Primary School Leaving Examination Results

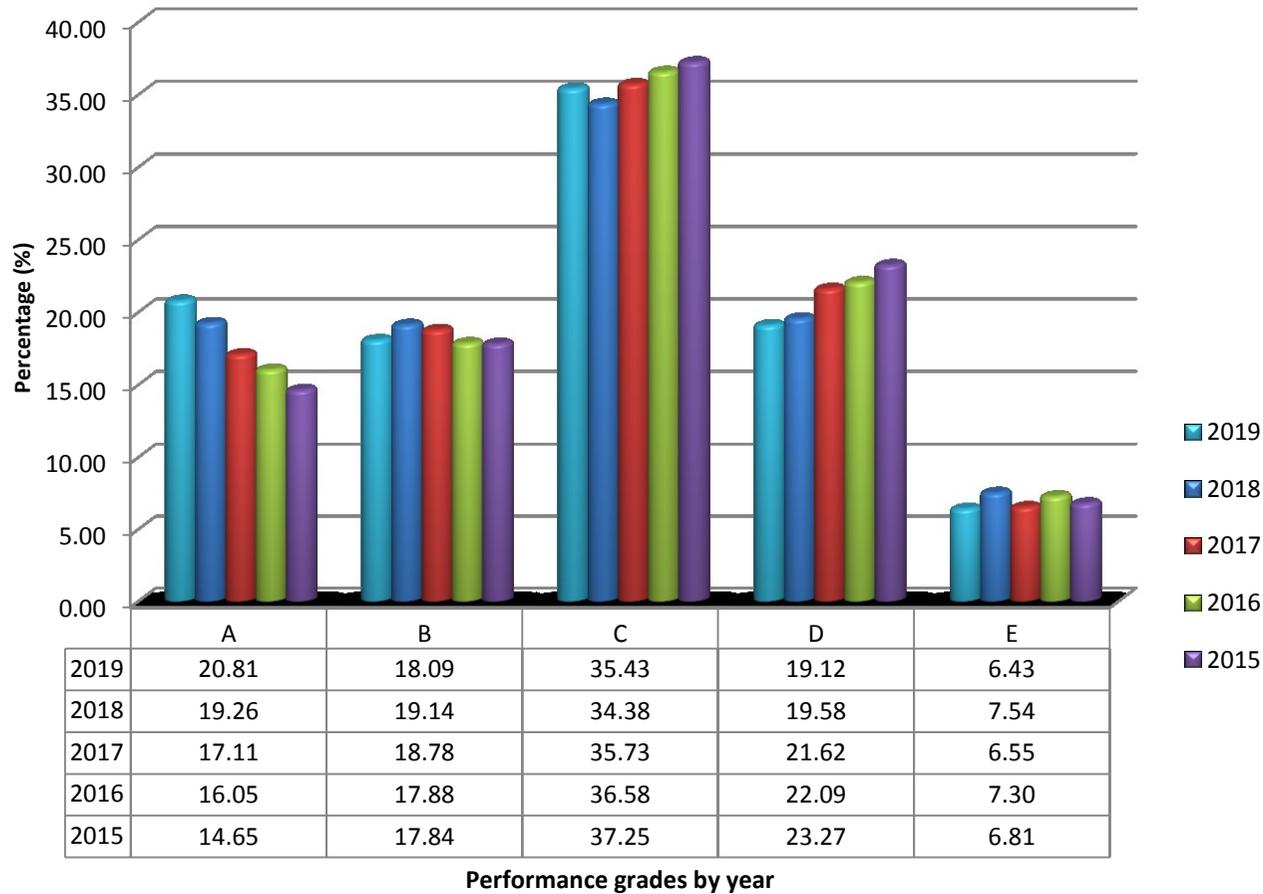
Grade	Candidature	Percentage	Cumulative
<b>A</b>	9887	20.81	20.81
<b>B</b>	8598	18.09	38.90
<b>C</b>	16837	35.43	74.33
<b>D</b>	9084	19.12	93.45
<b>E</b>	3054	6.43	99.88
<b>U</b>	3	0.01	99.89
<b>X</b>	55	0.12	100
<b>Total</b>	<b>47518</b>	<b>100%</b>	

Figure 2.1: 2019 Primary School Leaving Examination Results



Most candidates obtained a Grade C (35.43%) as shown in the pie chart, 19.12% obtained Grade D while 6.43% obtained Grade E.

**Figure 2.2: Comparison of PSLE overall performance in 2019, 2018, 2017, 2016 and 2015**

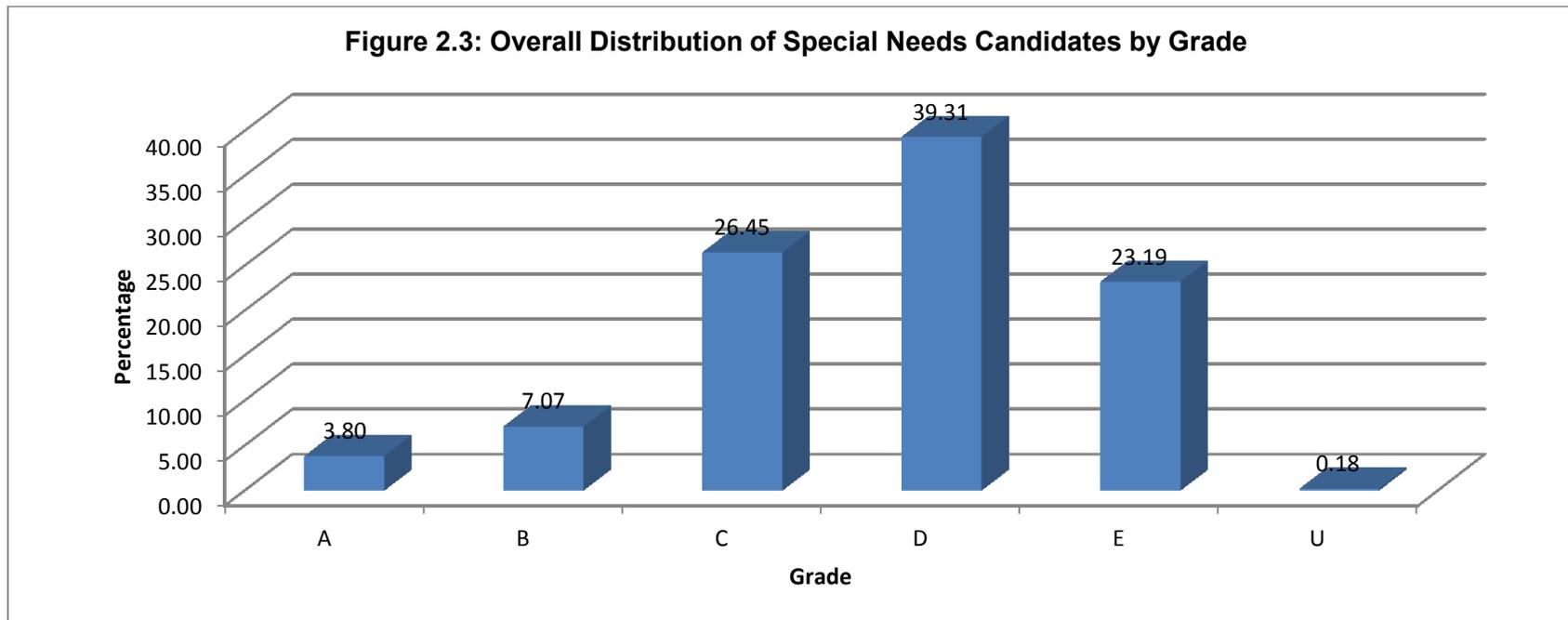


In 2019 performance at grade A increased by **1.55%**, from 19.26% in 2018 to 20.81%.

Percentage of candidates obtaining grade B has however slightly declined by **1.05%**, from 19.14% in 2018 to 18.09% in 2019. Candidates at Grade C improved by **1.05%** from 34.38% in 2018 to 35.43% in 2019. Cumulatively, the percentage of credit pass grades (A-C) is 74.33 compared to 72.78% of 2018. This represents an overall increase of **1.55%** at **A-C grades**.

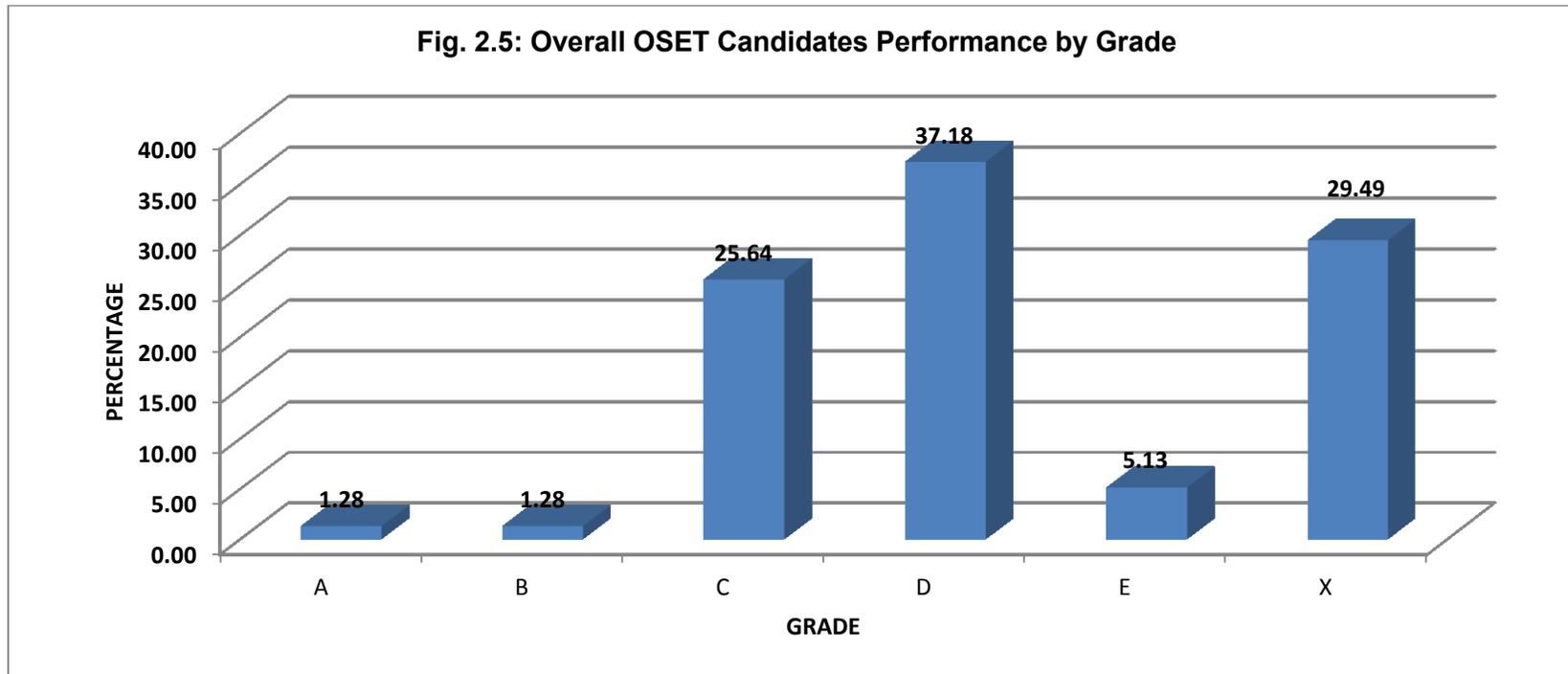
The proportion of candidates at grade D has slightly decreased by 0.46% from 19.58% in 2018 to 19.12% in 2019. Even Grade E has a decrease of 1.11% from 7.54% in 2018 to 6.43% in 2019.

2.3 Performance by Special Educational Needs



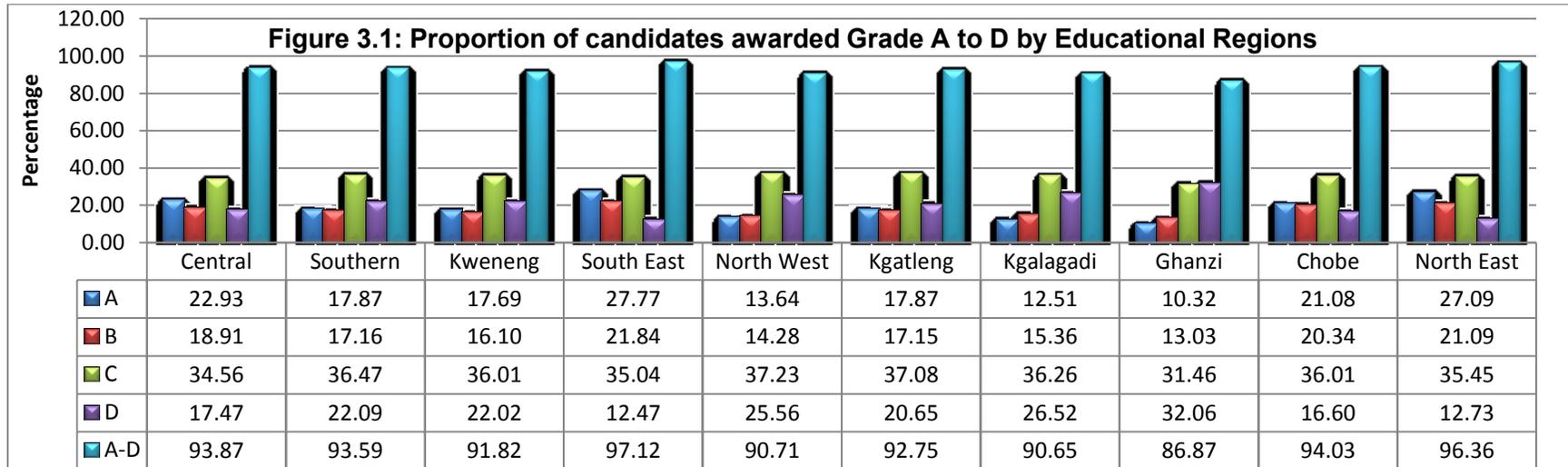
BEC accommodates learners with various Special Educational Needs e.g. hearing impairment (deaf), learning disability, dyslexia, medical condition, visual impairment (low vision), hearing impairment (hard of hearing) to mention but a few. Out of the 552 candidates with Special Educational Needs, 3.80% obtained grade A, 7.07% obtained grade B while 26.45% obtained grade C. The modal grade was D at 39.31%. Majority of the Special Educational Needs candidates were under the categories of learning disability (322) followed by dyslexia (125), low vision (31), medical condition (15) and various other conditions having less than 10 candidates.

2.5 Performance by Out of School Education and Training (OSET) Centres



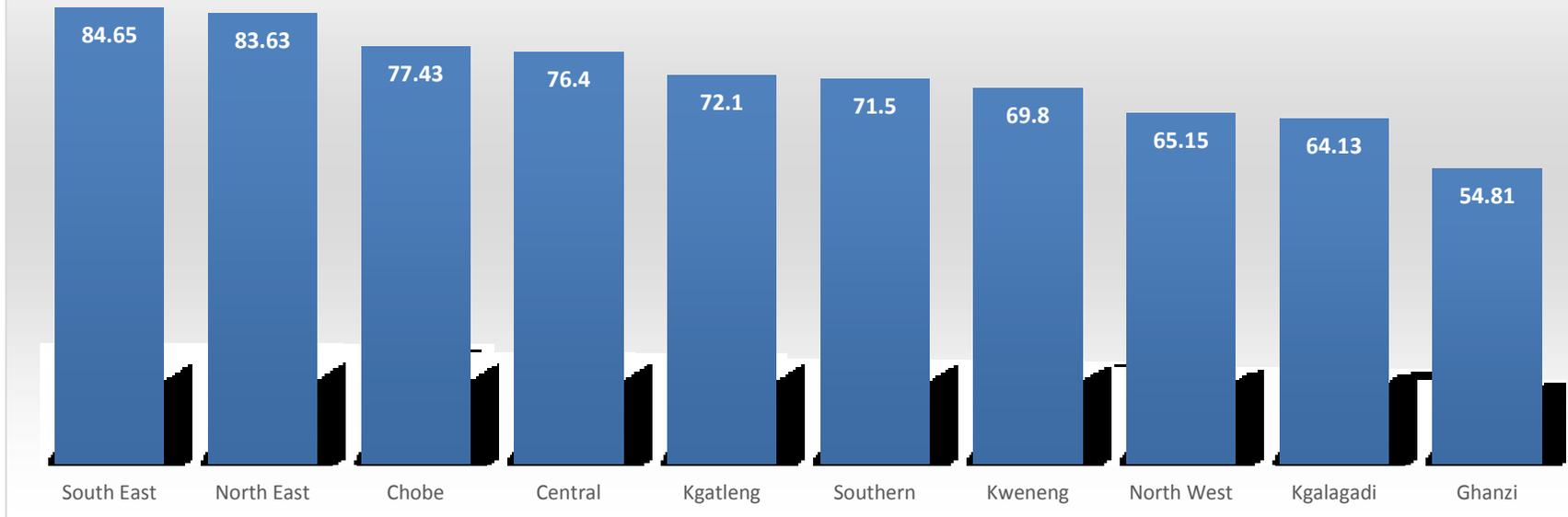
BEC caters for Out of School Education and Training (OSET) learners to write their PSLE examinations. In 2019 there were a total of 78 OSET candidates, from which 1.28% obtained grades A and B each, 25.64% obtained grade C. The modal grade was D at 37.18%.

3.0 PERFORMANCE BY REGIONS



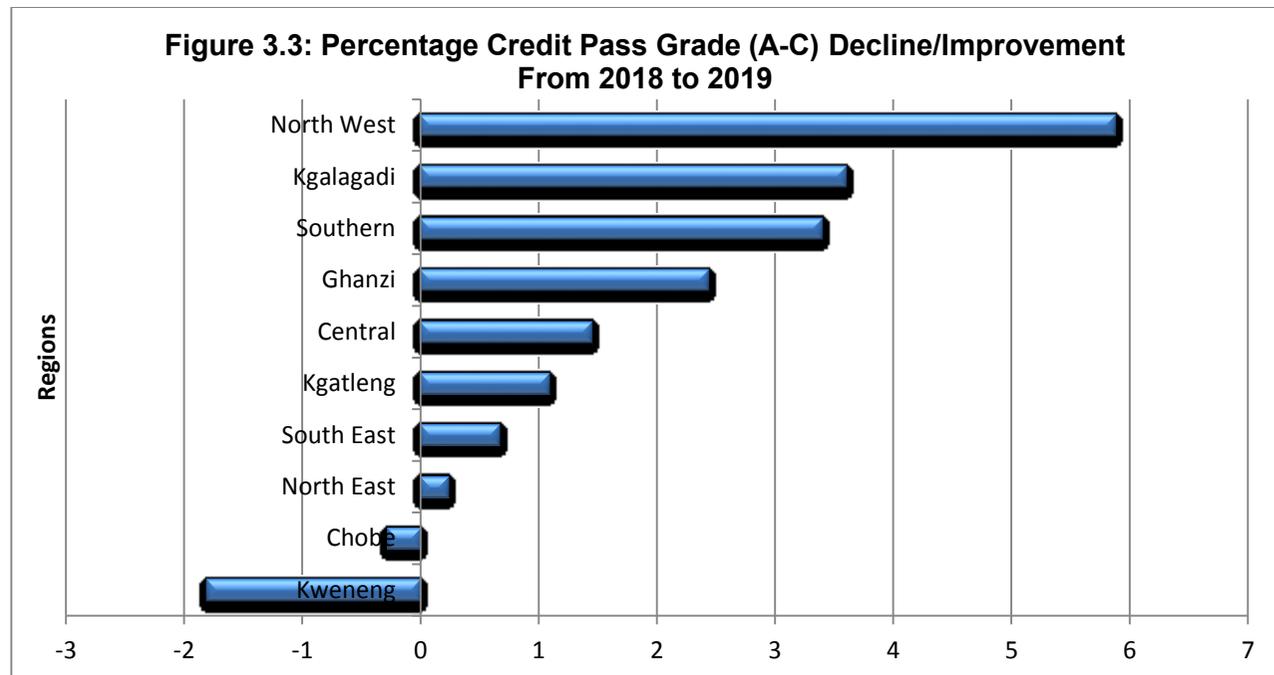
South East has the highest proportion of Grade A (27.77%) while Ghanzi has the least proportion of Grade A (10.32%), and Ghanzi has the largest proportion of Grade D (32.06%).

Figure 3.2: Proportion of candidates awarded grades A to C credit grades in Educational Regions



South East Region with 84.65% and North East Region with 83.63% performed significantly higher than other regions. The least performing region is Ghanzi at 54.81 although improved from 52.37% recorded in 2018.

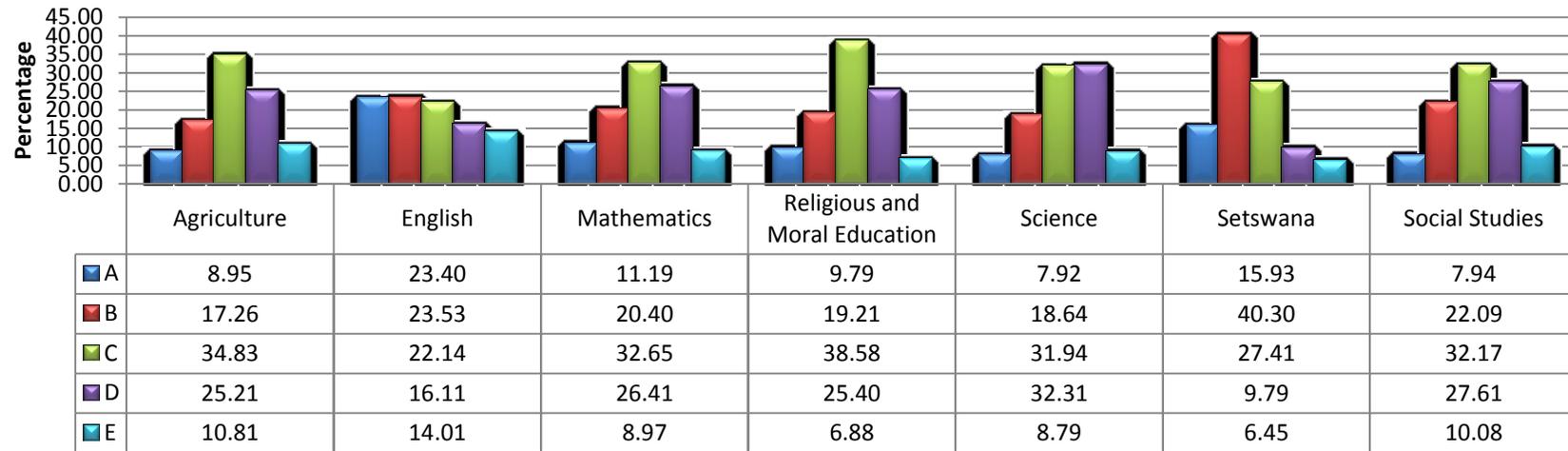
Region	Decline/ Improvement
Kweneng	-1,81
Chobe	-0,28
North East	0,24
South East	0,67
Kgatleng	1,09
Central	1,45
Ghanzi	2,44
Southern	3,4
Kgalagadi	3,6
North West	5,88



In 2019 the proportion of candidates obtaining credit pass grades (A to C) has increased in almost all regions, apart from Kweneng and Chobe at 1.81% and 0.28% declines respectively. North West has the greatest improvement of 5.88%, followed by Kgalagadi at 3.6%, then Southern and Ghanzi at 3.4% and 2.44% respectively.

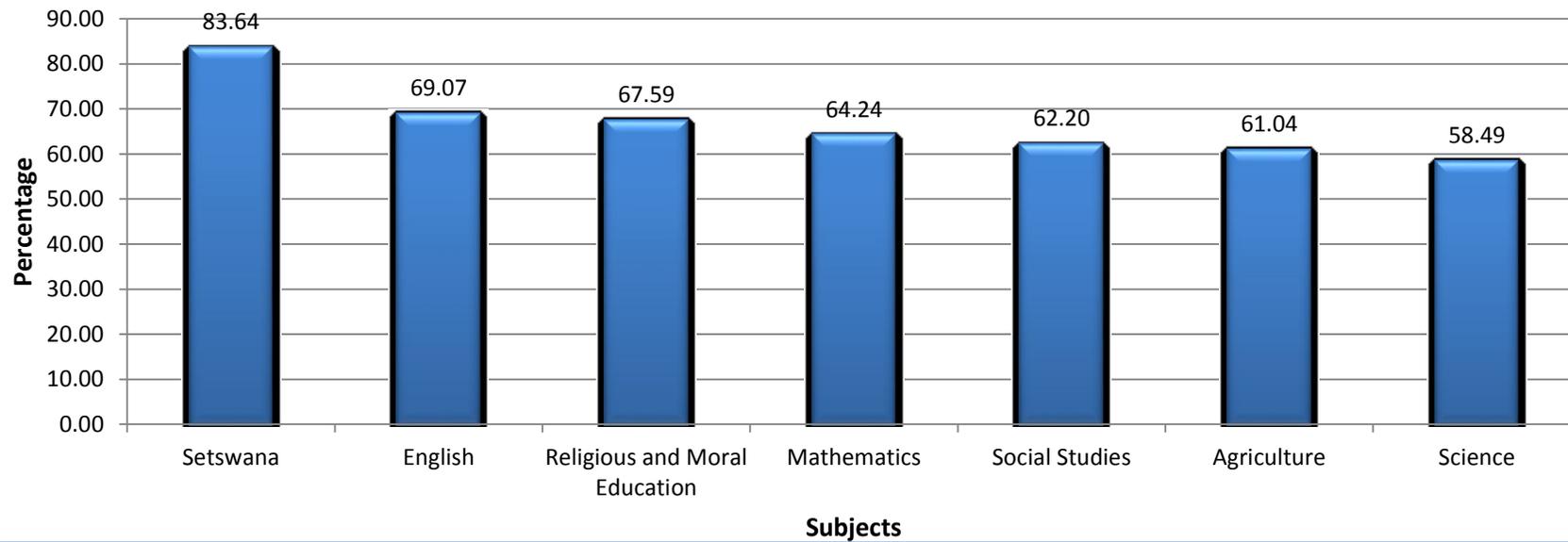
4.0 PERFORMANCE BY SUBJECT

Figure 4.1: 2019 PSLE Subject Grades A to E

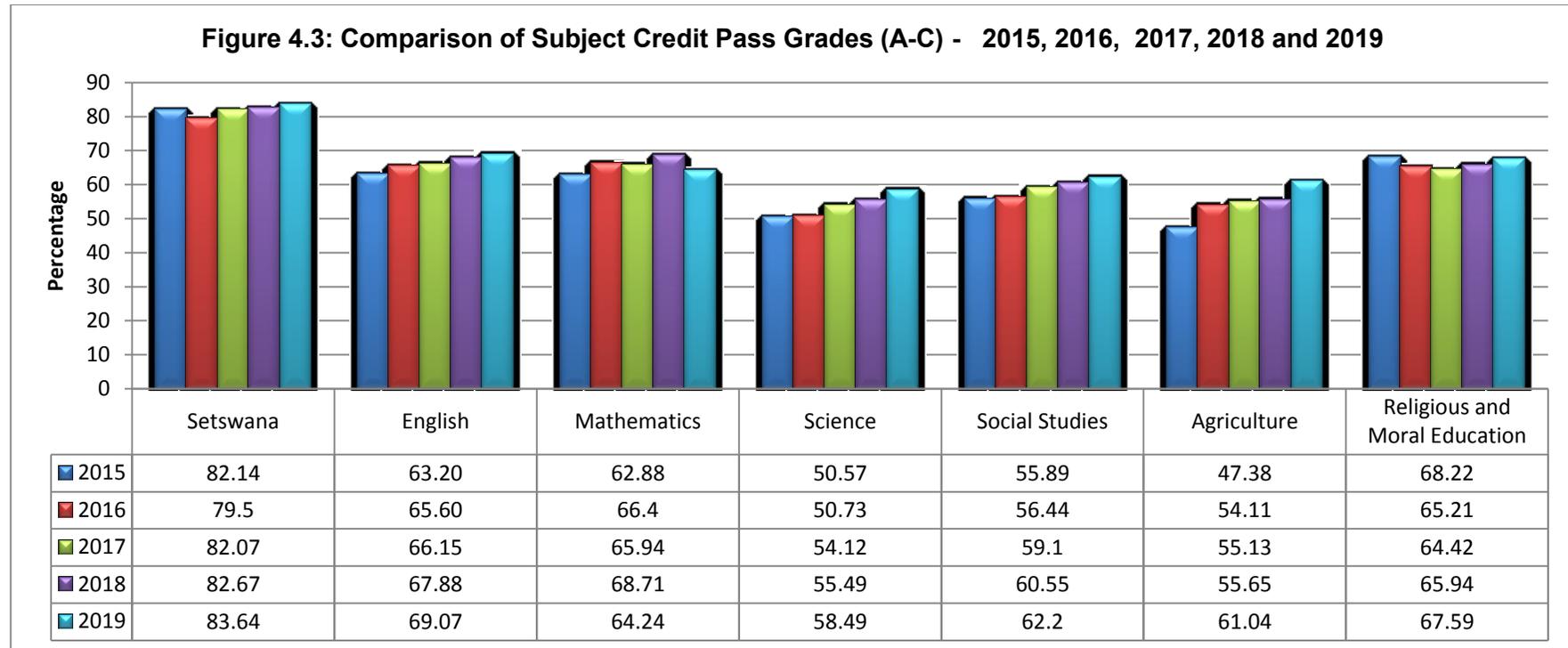


- The results show the highest proportion of candidates awarded grade A in English at 23.40%. For English and Setswana, grade B is the modal grade, at 23.53% and 40.30% respectively. Grade C is the modal grade for other syllabi, except Science whose modal Grade is D at 32.31%.
- The lowest proportion of candidates awarded grade A was in Science at 7.92%.
- Religious and Moral Education had the highest proportion of candidates awarded grade C at 38.58% compared to other subjects.
- Surprisingly, English has the highest proportion of candidates awarded grade E at 14.01% even though it also has the highest proportion of Grade A candidates.

Figure 4.2: 2019 PSLE Subject Pass Levels: Credit Pass Grades (A-C) by Subject

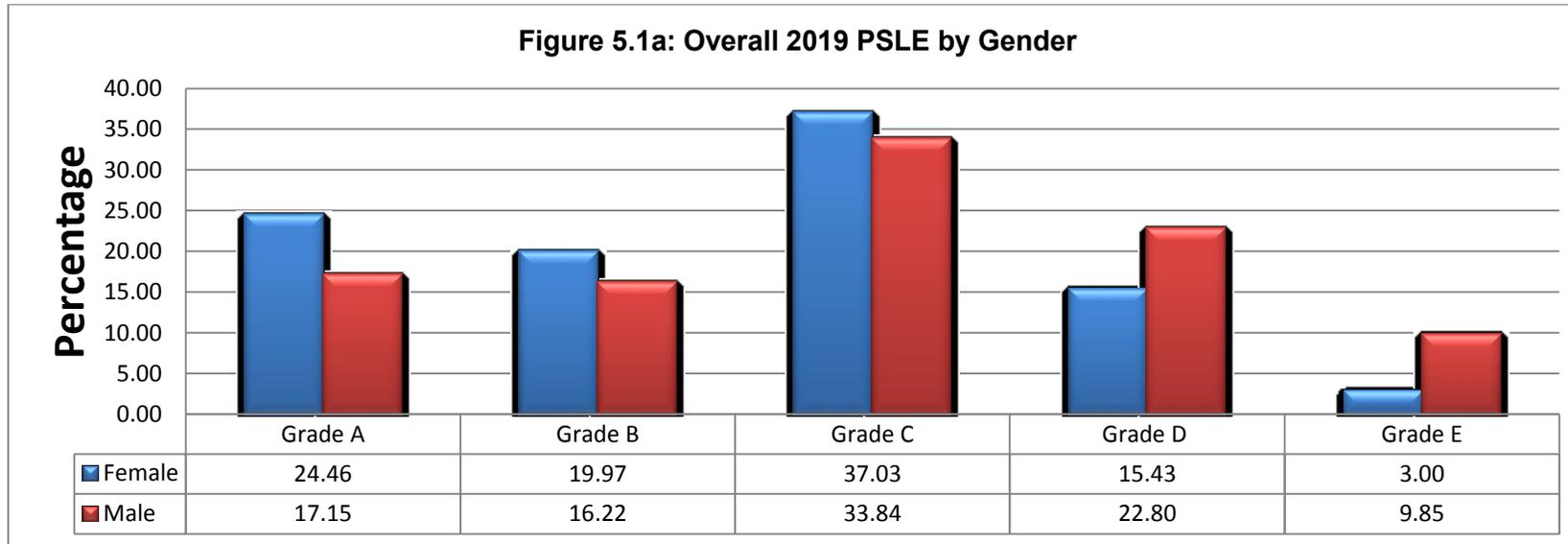


- Setswana registered the highest A to C grades at 83.64% followed by English at 69.07%.
- Science has the lowest A to C grades at 58.49%.



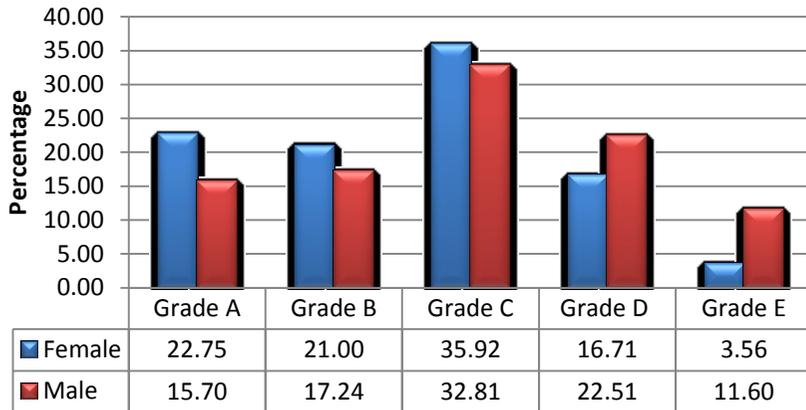
Agriculture obtained the largest significant improvement of 5.39% followed by Science with 3%. Generally, all subjects experienced some slight improvement at grades A to C in 2019 except for Mathematics which had a decline of 4.47%.

5.0 OVERALL PERFORMANCE BY GENDER

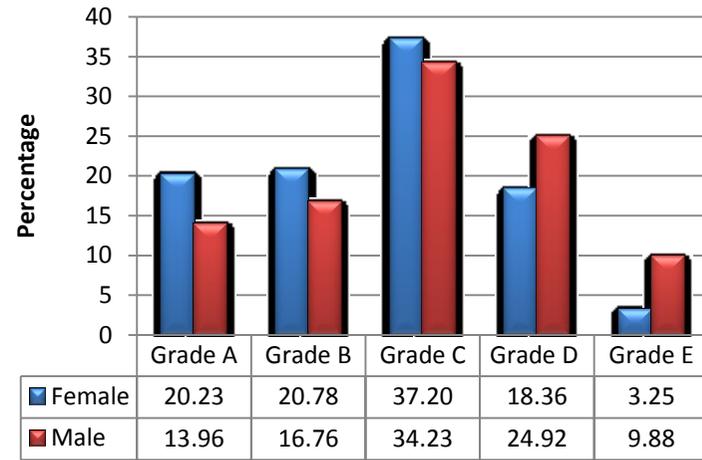


- Generally, females are performing better than the males across all the four (4) years; 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019 results as shown in Figures 5.1a to 5.1e.
- The proportions of males obtaining Grades D and E are more than that of females and the trend is continuing from previous years.

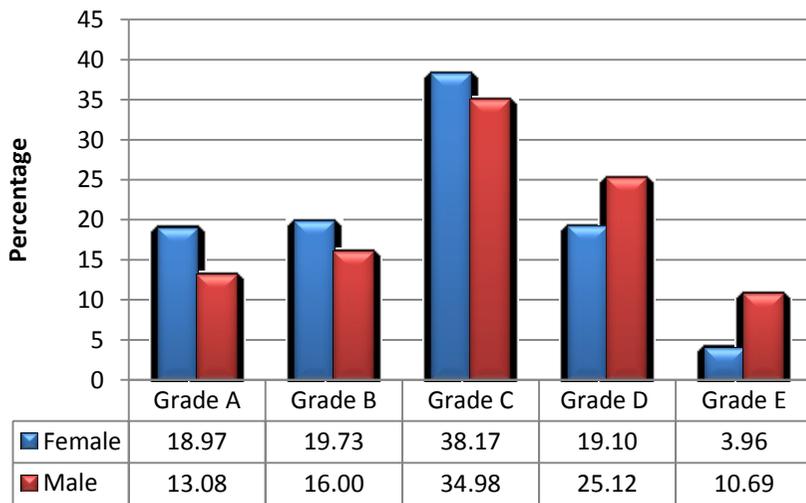
**Figure 5.1b: Overall Performance on the 2018 PSLE by Gender**



**Figure 5.1c: Overall 2017 PSLE by Gender**



**Figure 5.1d: Overall Performance on the 2016 PSLE by Gender**



**Figure 5.1e: Overall 2015 PSLE by Gender**

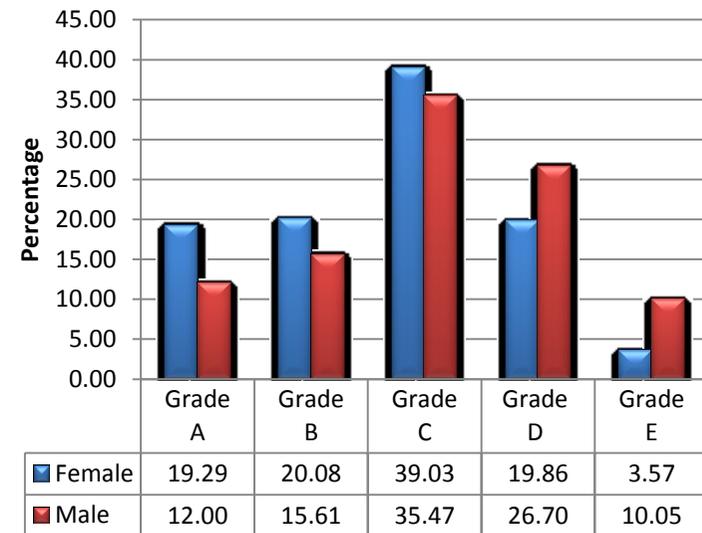
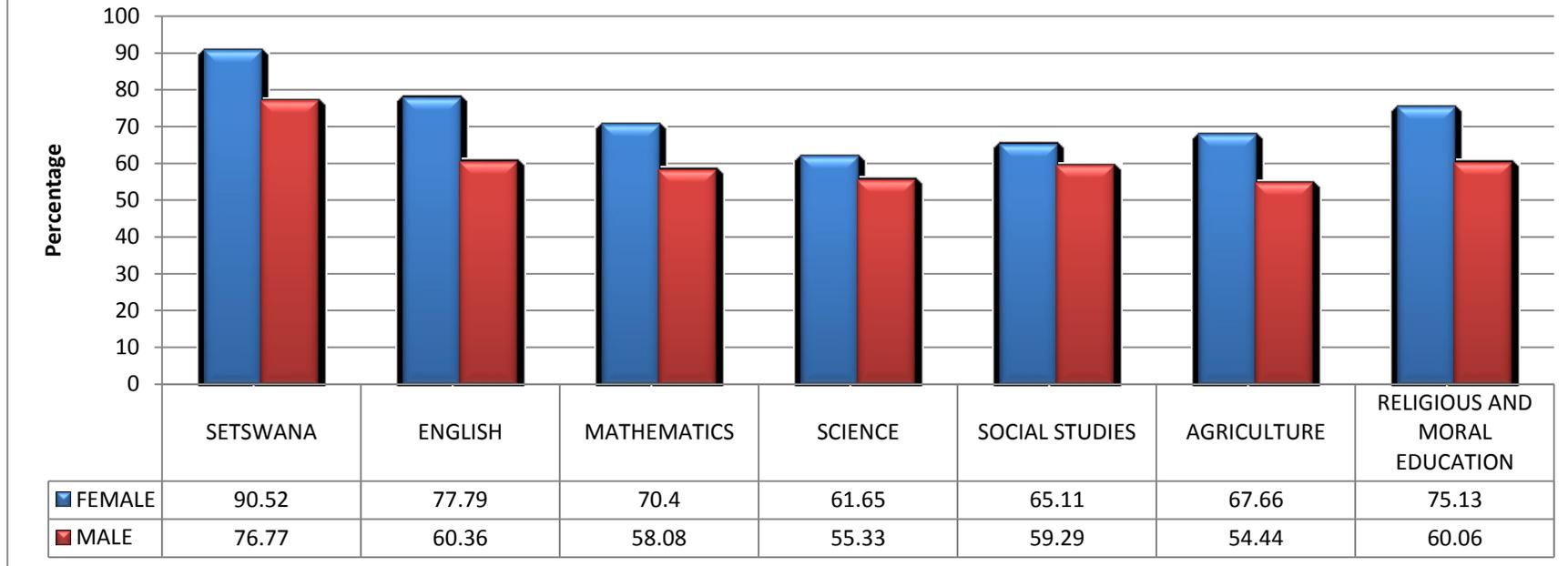


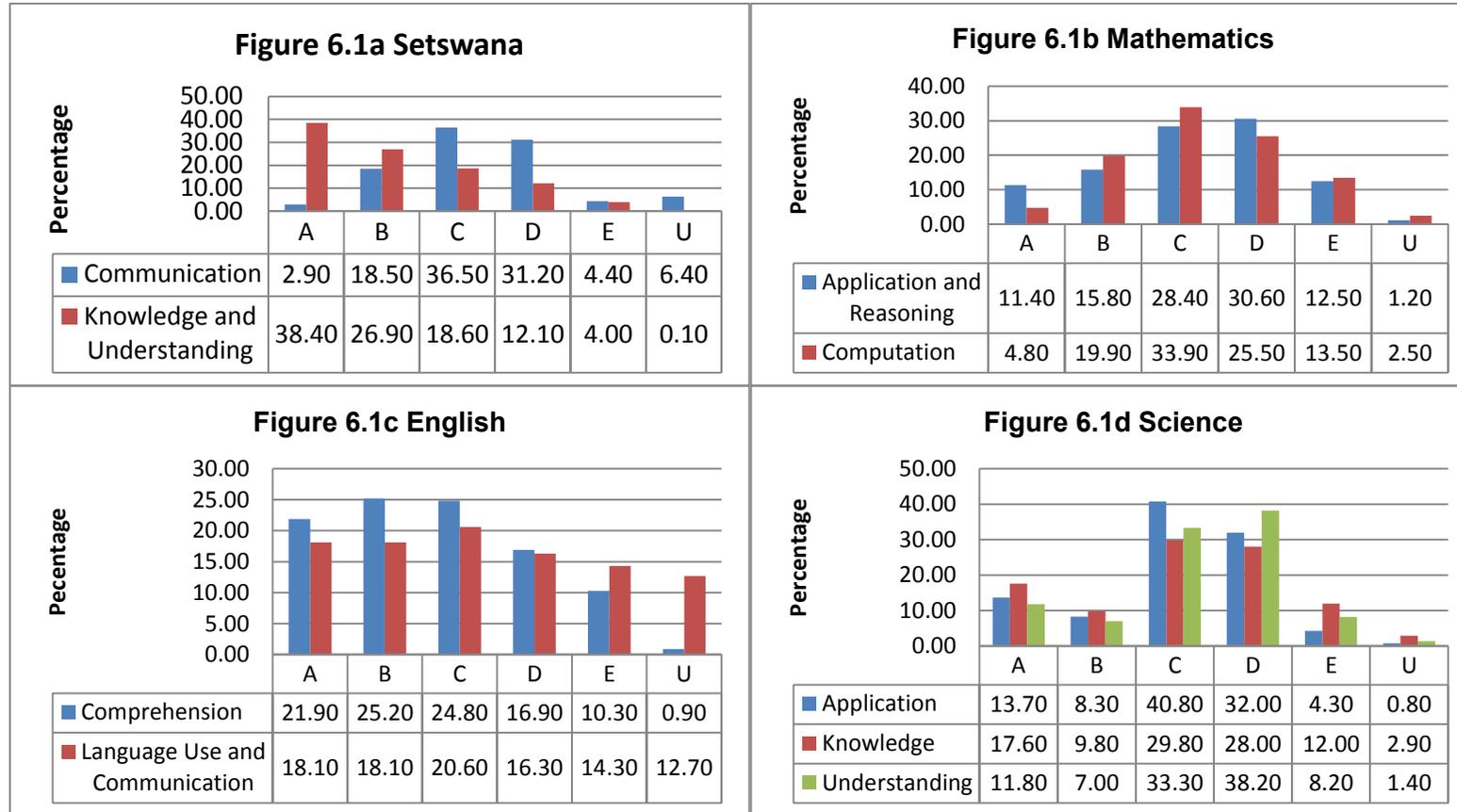
Figure 5.2: 2019 PSLE Subject Credit Pass Grades (A-C) by Gender



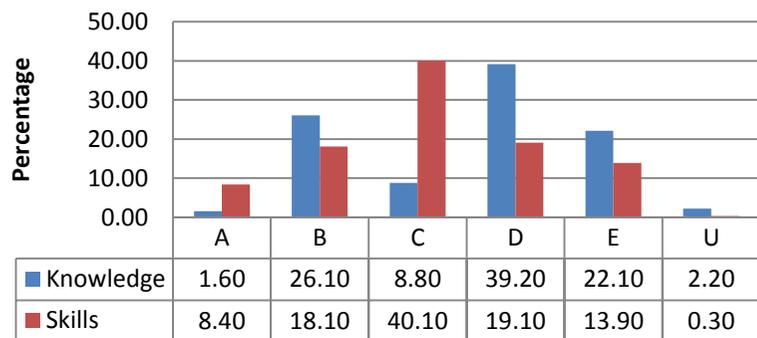
- For the year 2019 at subject level, females outperformed their male counterparts in all subjects.

### 6.0 PERFORMANCE BY DIMENSIONS

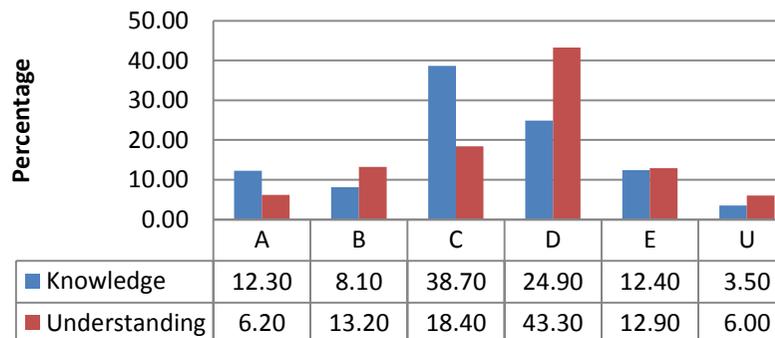
PSLE is a diagnostic assessment and each subject is divided into skills areas called dimensions. The purpose is to provide information for the next level of education on the strengths and weaknesses of the candidates. The following are subject performance according by dimensions.



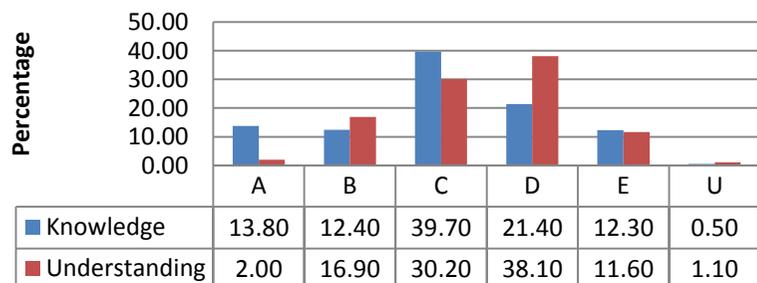
**Figure 6.1e Social Studies**



**Figure 6.1f Agriculture**



**Figure 6.1g Religious and Moral Education (REME)**



**Setswana:** A high proportion of candidates (83.9%) performed better in the dimension of Knowledge and Understanding compared to Communication (57.9%) in Setswana as shown in Figure 6.1a for grades A to C, demonstrating that candidates were somewhat weaker in the skill of “Communication”.

**Mathematics:** Candidates performed slightly better in the dimension of Computation (58.6%) compared to (55.6%) in the dimension of Application and Reasoning for grades A to C. The same trend was observed in the TIMSS studies, particularly TIMSS 2011 which involved Standard 6 learners.

**English:** A high proportion of candidates have performed better in the dimension of Comprehension (71.9%) compared to Language Use and Communication at (56.8%) for grades A to C.

**Science:** Candidates performed better in Application (62.8%) than in Knowledge and Understanding (57.2%) and (52.1%) respectively as shown in Figure 6.1d for grades A to C. The TIMSS Standard 6 report also showed this reversal trend of skills acquisition.

**Social Studies:** Candidates performed better in the dimension of Skills at 66.6% than Knowledge and Understanding (36.5%) for grades A to C.

**Agriculture:** Candidates performed better in the dimension of Knowledge at 59.1% than Understanding which stands at 37.8% for grades A to C.

**Religious and Moral Education (REME):** showed that (65.9%) of candidates performed better in Knowledge than in Understanding (39.1%) for grades A to C.

Generally, candidates are weak on high order thinking skills and it is envisaged that the introduction of the new reforms of School Based Assessment at primary school level will enhance the teaching and learning such that the candidates will gain these skills.

### 7.0 SUMMARY OF THE 2019 PSLE RESULTS

- A total of 47518 candidates sat the 2019 PSLE compared to 46432 in 2018 and 44427 in 2017, representing an increase of 2.34% in candidature between 2019 and 2018, whereas there was an increase of 4.51% in candidature between 2018 and 2017.
- Overall, there is an increase of 1.55% in the candidates awarded Credit Pass Grades A to C, in 2019 (74.33%) compared to 2018(72.78%).
- Agriculture had the most significant improvement at 5.39%, while Mathematics declined significantly by 4.47%
- Females performed better than males across all subjects.
- Four Regions have shown significant improvement namely, North West (5.88%), Kgalagadi (3.6%), Southern (3.4%) and Ghanzi (2.44%).