

# PRINCIPAL EXAMINER'S REPORT



BOTSWANA  
EXAMINATIONS  
COUNCIL

**JCE SOCIAL STUDIES**

**2021**

## General Comments

### Section 1: General comments

Generally, the performance of the candidates on the 2021 examination was not good at all. Majority of the candidates, including those from the traditionally high performing centres, performed badly. The candidates, generally, do well in section A where they deal with short answer question. This is where they are required to identify, state, or provide a brief description. Candidates showed some very serious weaknesses as they generally failed to exhibit mastery of some key skills and knowledge of the subject concepts. The worst performance was particularly evident at Section B of the paper where candidates deal with structured essays. The 30 marks in this section was inaccessible. There are certain questions in the Social Studies examination that are routine questions, and these questions include map skill questions and research questions. The questions are based on the same skill throughout but, like the previous cohorts, candidates continue to fail to deal with them. While in the past research questions on Research objectives, findings, conclusions, and research titles were found to be accessible, this current cohort showed serious weakness over these.

### Section 2: Comments on Individual Questions

#### Question 1

Candidates did well in the rest of the question except in 1(c) where instead of identifying tourist attractions, they identified tourist attraction centres. Candidates failed to differentiate tourist attractions from tourist attraction centres. For example, they wrote Chobe National Park instead of Major wildlife as provided in the map key.

#### Question 2

Generally, the Candidates' performance on this question was good. Most Candidates did well on the rest of the question except at 2(c) where a good number of candidates identified overstocking as an agricultural practice. The practice is overstocking, and the resultant is overgrazing. However, those who managed to identify the correct practices were able to explain how they impact on the environment.

#### Question 3

Performance on this question was good. The only challenge was on 3(b) with a significant number of candidates failing to come up with possible reasons for the declining number of tourists into Botswana. The question proved to be quite challenging to candidates as they would give responses like poaching, decline in the number of animals and shortage of National parks and Game reserves instead of political instability, stiff competition from neighbouring countries and pandemics.

### Question 4

The performance in this question was quite poor. Majority of the candidates have displayed very limited knowledge of the tenets of Botswana's electoral system. The question gave candidate the opportunity to at least show knowledge of Botswana's electoral system and characteristics of the Proportional Representation system which they failed. A lot of candidates left blank spaces on the paper. Some candidates attempt to differentiate two different aspects. Candidates should be taught that If the difference is based on who wins and who loses it must appear like that on both sides which was not the case in their responses.

### Question 5

Generally, the performance in this question was poor. Question 5(a), some candidates made a list of names of different Stone Age tools while others discussed the different phases of stone technology. Some made no effort to attempt the question. Candidates needed to show how the Stone Age tools appeared. For example; the tools were crude, they were blunt, they were heavy etc. Question 5(b) was also a serious challenge as candidates showed extreme lack of knowledge on the causes of Bantu Migration. Candidates were discussing either the causes of the Mfecane wars or the Scramble for Africa. Those who came closer to giving correct responses like; the need for fertile land would fail to elaborate on why there was need for fertile land. Others wrote responses like, wars. Wars alone did not make any sense because the situation with the Bantu was not just wars but disputes over leadership successions.

### Question 6

Performance in this question was also quite poor. The first part of the question on Biblical theory was fair in that out of the total marks for the part, candidates were able to score half the marks. It is very important that it is realised that this question is based on how human beings came to be. Therefore, certain components of this story of creation become critical to be highlighted when responding to the question. For example, that God created Adam from the soil and that Eve was produced from Adam's rib and that God commanded Adam and Eve to multiply and fill the earth. This fully explains how people came to be as they fill the world today. Question 6(b) similarly required candidates to show how people originated right from the earliest stage up to today as per the theory of evolution. While some candidates had no idea about this theory, those who had, listed the stages of human evolution and not a description of how humans evolved through these different stages up to the human being that we have today. It was important to explain the factor of adaptation to the changing environmental conditions because the changes from the bases for the theory of evolution. The candidates would then indicate how each stage then evolved into the other.

### Question 7

Most candidates continue to do well in this question. However, there are still areas in the research question where Candidates showed serious weakness. 7(c) in which candidates were required to identify factors that needs to be considered when planning to carry out a

research proved to be very difficult for the candidates. Instead of identifying factors such as target population, research site and resources, candidates listed the steps followed when carrying out research. For example, writing a research topic, formulating objectives etc. In question 7(f), candidates confuse conclusions with the findings. They write conclusions with “found out that” which is wrong. Conclusions are ordinary statements and do not need to be attached to a stem. Question 7(h) has shown serious weakness among the candidates in as far as drawing a pie-chart is concerned. So many of the candidates used freehand to draw a pie-chart and divide the pie-chart using freehand. They completely lack the skill of constructing a pie-chart including labelling of the figure.

However, many of the candidates made an effort to provide a title for their presentation which is a notable improvement.