

PRINCIPAL EXAMINER'S REPORT



BOTSWANA
EXAMINATIONS
COUNCIL

JCE SOCIAL STUDIES

2024

PAPER 1: MULTIPLE CHOICE

General Comments

The performance of the candidates was similar to that of the previous year with a mean of 21.22 from the previous year of 20.56. Generally, the candidates demonstrated mastery of the content on the majority items with fewer items showing lack of content. The items were generally spread across topics.

It will be proper to look at the items where there was a demonstration of content lack and an improvement to address this deficiency be put in place. Generally, Multiple-Choice items have a guessing factor that is considered to be the lowest proportion of being able to get the item correct without knowing the answer. For a Multiple-Choice item with four options, the guessing factor is 25% and any item which has the proportion of candidates who got it correct lower than the guessing factor is a cause for concern. Candidates should be encouraged to always read the question for understanding before they select an answer. The report is mainly in table format showing the number of candidates at each of the options. The key for reading the table:

N number of candidates that selected the option as their answer

Key the option that was taken as the answer for the item

Comments on Individual Items

Question 1

| Option | N | KEY. | Comment |
|--------|-------|------|---|
| A | 4460 | B | The candidates could have misread the item or lacked content. |
| B | 3787 | | |
| C | 5929 | | |
| D | 29362 | | |

Question 2

| Option | N | KEY. | Comment |
|--------|-------|------|--|
| A | 14089 | A | The candidates demonstrated familiarity with Tsodilo hills as opposed to Domboshaba. |
| B | 3669 | | |
| C | 5034 | | |
| D | 20746 | | |

Question 3

| Option | N | KEY. | Comment |
|--------|-------|------|---|
| A | 3087 | C | A good number of candidates were able to pick the result of climate change. |
| B | 8770 | | |
| C | 20151 | | |
| D | 11530 | | |



Question 4

| Option | N | KEY. | Comment |
|--------|-------|------|--|
| A | 1120 | D | The majority of the candidates displayed mastery of content. |
| B | 1418 | | |
| C | 1200 | | |
| D | 39800 | | |

Question 5

| Option | N | KEY. | Comment |
|--------|-------|------|-------------------------------------|
| A | 27966 | A | Display of content mastery evident. |
| B | 7462 | | |
| C | 5505 | | |
| D | 2605 | | |

Question 6

| Option | N | KEY. | Comment |
|--------|-------|------|--|
| A | 5862 | D | An average number of candidates were able to demonstrate knowledge of characteristics of vegetation. |
| B | 6818 | | |
| C | 9975 | | |
| D | 20883 | | |

Question 7

| Option | N | KEY. | Comment |
|--------|-------|------|--|
| A | 22328 | A | Content mastery displayed by candidates. |
| B | 5240 | | |
| C | 8998 | | |
| D | 6972 | | |

Question 8

| Option | N | KEY. | Comment |
|--------|-------|------|--|
| A | 2174 | C | The candidates were able to show understanding of map reading. |
| B | 2412 | | |
| C | 37384 | | |
| D | 1568 | | |

Question 9

| Option | N | KEY. | Comment |
|--------|-------|------|------------------------------------|
| A | 5578 | B | Ability to interpret maps minimal. |
| B | 14162 | | |
| C | 19011 | | |
| D | 4787 | | |



Question 10

| Option | N | KEY. | Comment |
|--------|-------|------|-------------------------------|
| A | 3367 | C | Ability to read maps evident. |
| B | 1492 | | |
| C | 35291 | | |
| D | 3388 | | |

Question 11

| Option | N | KEY. | Comment |
|--------|-------|------|---|
| A | 12164 | C | Comprehension of processes lacking with the majority of candidates. |
| B | 5542 | | |
| C | 9922 | | |
| D | 15910 | | |

Question 12

| Option | N | KEY. | Comment |
|--------|-------|------|---|
| A | 32860 | A | Management of natural resources an easy concept for candidates. |
| B | 5267 | | |
| C | 2843 | | |
| D | 2568 | | |

Question 13

| Option | N | KEY. | Comment |
|--------|-------|------|--|
| A | 4744 | B | The majority of candidates lacked content on the influence of the environment on the people's lives. |
| B | 11295 | | |
| C | 19562 | | |
| D | 7937 | | |

Question 14

| Option | N | KEY. | Comment |
|--------|-------|------|---|
| A | 8555 | C | Display of content mastery by the candidates. |
| B | 3458 | | |
| C | 27353 | | |
| D | 4172 | | |

Question 15

| Option | N | KEY. | Comment |
|--------|-------|------|---|
| A | 5690 | B | The majority of candidates demonstrated comprehension of the given content. |
| B | 30968 | | |
| C | 2601 | | |
| D | 4279 | | |



Question 16

| Option | N | KEY. | Comment |
|--------|-------|------|-------------------------------|
| A | 39579 | A | Mastery of content displayed. |
| B | 946 | | |
| C | 913 | | |
| D | 2100 | | |

Question 17

| Option | N | KEY. | Comment |
|--------|-------|------|---|
| A | 6927 | D | Comprehension of given content displayed. |
| B | 6719 | | |
| C | 4418 | | |
| D | 25474 | | |

Question 18

| Option | N | KEY. | Comment |
|--------|-------|------|--|
| A | 3708 | D | The majority of candidates showed content knowledge. |
| B | 4114 | | |
| C | 4173 | | |
| D | 31543 | | |

Question 19

| Option | N | KEY. | Comment |
|--------|-------|------|----------------------------|
| A | 4133 | C | Content mastery displayed. |
| B | 2880 | | |
| C | 33907 | | |
| D | 2618 | | |

Question 20

| Option | N | KEY. | Comment |
|--------|-------|------|---|
| A | 6776 | D | An average number of candidates showed knowledge of economic terms. |
| B | 3734 | | |
| C | 9656 | | |
| D | 23372 | | |

Question 21

| Option | N | KEY. | Comment |
|--------|-------|------|--|
| A | 9942 | A | Lack of content displayed by the candidates. |
| B | 3917 | | |
| C | 4844 | | |
| D | 24835 | | |



Question 22

| Option | N | KEY. | Comment |
|--------|-------|------|---|
| A | 5320 | D | The majority of candidates were not able to match the diagrammatic representation with the correct description. |
| B | 7789 | | |
| C | 15482 | | |
| D | 14947 | | |

Question 23

| Option | N | KEY. | Comment |
|--------|-------|------|--|
| A | 9192 | B | The candidates demonstrated lack of content in this topic. |
| B | 15108 | | |
| C | 11724 | | |
| D | 7514 | | |

Question 24

| Option | N | KEY. | Comment |
|--------|-------|------|---|
| A | 7446 | D | A majority of candidates displayed content knowledge of the topic on ancient history. |
| B | 9201 | | |
| C | 6510 | | |
| D | 20380 | | |

Question 25

| Option | N | KEY. | Comment |
|--------|-------|------|--|
| A | 24224 | A | A fair demonstration of factors of production. |
| B | 3555 | | |
| C | 7429 | | |
| D | 8329 | | |

Question 26

| Option | N | KEY. | Comment |
|--------|-------|------|--|
| A | 6750 | D | The topic well understood by the candidates. |
| B | 8022 | | |
| C | 7784 | | |
| D | 20981 | | |

Question 27

| Option | N | KEY. | Comment |
|--------|-------|------|---|
| A | 18827 | A | Probably a case of limited content displayed. |
| B | 9246 | | |
| C | 12075 | | |
| D | 3388 | | |

Question 28

| Option | N | KEY. | Comment |
|--------|-------|------|--|
| A | 10519 | D | The majority of candidates lacked content. |
| B | 12699 | | |
| C | 4322 | | |
| D | 15995 | | |

Question 29

| Option | N | KEY. | Comment |
|--------|-------|------|--|
| A | 18484 | A | Demonstration of lack of content in current affairs. |
| B | 4948 | | |
| C | 8242 | | |
| D | 11861 | | |

Question 30

| Option | N | KEY. | Comment |
|--------|-------|------|---|
| A | 3713 | D | A good understanding of governance displayed. |
| B | 3550 | | |
| C | 5510 | | |
| D | 30761 | | |

Question 31

| Option | N | KEY. | Comment |
|--------|-------|------|---|
| A | 4134 | C | A good demonstration of issues related to parliament. |
| B | 7459 | | |
| C | 28154 | | |
| D | 3784 | | |

Question 32

| Option | N | KEY. | Comment |
|--------|-------|------|---|
| A | 8185 | A | A clear demonstration of lack of knowledge of the different branches of government. |
| B | 11029 | | |
| C | 8345 | | |
| D | 15971 | | |

Question 33

| Option | N | KEY. | Comment |
|--------|-------|------|---|
| A | 17022 | C | A good number of candidates comprehended the traditional set up on national principles. |
| B | 3485 | | |
| C | 19279 | | |
| D | 3741 | | |



Question 34

| Option | N | KEY. | Comment |
|--------|-------|------|---|
| A | 6001 | B | The majority of candidates correctly matched the challenge with the solution. |
| B | 25543 | | |
| C | 9600 | | |
| D | 2383 | | |

Question 35

| Option | N | KEY. | Comment |
|--------|-------|------|---|
| A | 4649 | D | A good grasp of agricultural practices well understood. |
| B | 2409 | | |
| C | 2283 | | |
| D | 34184 | | |

Question 36

| Option | N | KEY. | Comment |
|--------|-------|------|--|
| A | 1823 | C | A clear demonstration of knowledge of transport systems in Botswana. |
| B | 2029 | | |
| C | 38438 | | |
| D | 1234 | | |

Question 37

| Option | N | KEY. | Comment |
|--------|-------|------|--|
| A | 13401 | A | A lack of comprehension of copper processing stages displayed. |
| B | 20691 | | |
| C | 3813 | | |
| D | 5616 | | |

Question 38

| Option | N | KEY. | Comment |
|--------|-------|------|---|
| A | 20572 | A | The majority of candidates demonstrated definition of development concepts. |
| B | 4993 | | |
| C | 7466 | | |
| D | 10477 | | |

Question 39

| Option | N | KEY. | Comment |
|--------|-------|------|--|
| A | 3606 | B | Lack of content displayed by candidates. |
| B | 14101 | | |
| C | 9594 | | |
| D | 16137 | | |



Question 40

| Option | N | KEY. | Comment |
|--------|-------|------|---|
| A | 2673 | C | The majority of candidates were able to comprehend what was not an importance of tourism. |
| B | 2295 | | |
| C | 22533 | | |
| D | 15298 | | |

PAPER 2: WRITTEN

General Comments

The 2024 cohort was comparatively of about similar quality to the 2023 cohort. Their approach to items of similar requirements or demands was almost similar in several ways. They exhibited some serious weaknesses on History based questions and their approach to questions that required them to evaluate also showed some similar weaknesses. Most candidates, including those in the A grade bracket failed to evaluate but instead, they could only identify and explain their points but failed to make a judgment which is the core requirement of the question. Another challenge is with the use of stimulus material. Candidates still find it hard to use the stimulus material as required. They tend to expect to find answers in the stimulus or source used. This is a recurring challenge from the previous cohort. It is however impressive that candidates show that they have mastered the research component of the paper. Most candidates, including those in the E grade bracket, did well in this section. The good performance in this part of the paper was also reflected by the previous cohort. It therefore suggests that there's need for more emphasis on history topics and more work on high order questions including high order thinking skill questions (Stimulus based questions).

Comments on Individual Questions

- 1 (a) (i) The questions were well answered by most of the candidates. They were able to identify the river as the Nile river.
- (ii) The latitude line was identified as the Tropic of Cancer.
- (iii) Most candidates accessed and showed good skill of finding direction.
- (b) Most of the candidates were able to correctly identify the two deserts.
- (c) (i) Some candidates did well in this question being able to identify the climatic region as the Mediterranean region. However, some showed some confusion by naming the mountains in this region which are the Atlas Mountains instead of a climatic region. Others confused it to be a desert region which then affected their responses for the second part of the question.
- (ii) This question was not adequately answered by most of the candidates. The question requires candidates to show how the environment influences people's lifestyle. Most candidates on the human activities and fail to show how such activities are an influence of the environment. For instance, if the response is "wine production", the candidate should indicate that the climatic conditions here are favourable for growth of citrus fruits used to produce wine.
- 2 (a) An average number of candidates accessed this question. Some candidates, instead of writing Tsodilo hills, wrote rock paintings. This clearly indicates failure by the candidates to properly use the stimulus material. Rock paintings are mentioned in the source to stimulate the mind of candidates, that is, candidates are expected to remember the tourist site with rock paintings and name it.

- (b) The question was done well by the candidates being able to state the opportunities provided by the tourist site.
 - (c) Candidates generally did well in this question. They were able to identify other tourist sites in Botswana.
 - (d) Most of the candidates did well in this question. Most of them Identified pollution as a major environmental problem here with a few being able to cite soil erosion and woodland depletion caused by a large number of elephants being protected as part of tourist attraction.
 - (e) Most candidates failed to access this question. The question asked candidates to suggest ways of making tourism better. They were supposed to give responses such as increasing the number of tourist attractions in the country, introducing direct flights into the country, promotion of Community Based Natural Resource Management projects in order to widen the tourism sector and advertising the sector. Candidates, however, would provide responses like arresting poachers, constructing fences around national parks and game reserves which was very wrong.
- 3**
- (a) Most candidates were able to answer this question correctly.
 - (b) Most candidates failed to answer this question. It looks like candidates failed to properly interpret the stimulus material. Most of them wrote that the force of compression acts on the plates and the middle plate is forced to rise between the plates on the sides. This showed that they failed to realise that the drawing only showed the earth's crust. They were supposed to write that, the tectonic plates as they move towards each other, the force of compression acts or is applied on the crust and forces the crust to develop two parallel faults. The block between the faults is then forced up to rise over the adjacent (side blocks) blocks resulting in the horst mountain formed.
 - (c) Candidates failed this question. Very few candidates were able to access it. Those who got a mark on it could only go as far as writing "the higher you go, the cooler and the lower you go the warmer. Even then, most of them couldn't even write that. To get the second mark candidates had to show that at high altitude the air is thin and unable to absorb heat and vice versa.
 - (d) Most candidates did quite well in this question. They were able to describe the wide range of uses of the lakes such as tourism, transportation, fishing etc.
- 4**
- (a) The question was fairly answered. Candidates were expected to come up with ways that should be used to ensure sustainability of the world's environment. For example, practicing afforestation, making laws that protect the environment, using proper farming methods, practicing the 3Rs being, recycling waste, re-using and reducing waste. However, there's a significant occurrence of candidates who use negative answering to respond to the questions. For instance, some candidates wrote answers such as, avoiding cutting down trees, not keeping a large number of stocks in a small place, avoiding littering etc. Such responses that are negative are unacceptable.

- (b) The question was well responded to. Candidates were able to describe how different natural disasters affect people's lives. Those who did not do well in the question were due to repetition of responses because they would state an example of a natural disaster then its effect which then caused them to repeat effects.
- 5 (a) The question was answered well by most candidates. They were able to identify, mainly, two effects being loss of life and loss of property. The problem that was observed was repetition of the point in an attempt to explain it. For instance, a candidate would write, loss of life, then people lost their lives during the war. The explanation should describe how lives were lost by stating that, people got killed during the war while others died due to hunger and starvation. Loss of property as their cattle got captured by stronger groups, people fled their settlements leaving their property behind.
- (b) The performance of almost all the candidates in this question, including a candidate who did extremely well in the rest of the questions, was quite terrible. There were multiple challenges observed from the candidates. Some confused the Native Administration proclamation with the Native Tribunal. Others would write only one statement that Dikgosi lost their powers. Candidates were expected to cite a condition brought about by the proclamation and show how it affected the Bogosi institution. For instance, the law introduced tribal council to rule with the chiefs. This affected the traditional roles of royal uncles and headmen who were key advisors to the Dikgosi.
- 6 (a) Most candidates showed some confusion between factors influencing population growth and factors influencing family size. A few were able to provide correct responses like birth rate being higher than death rate, death rate being higher than birth rate and migration. Others wrote about teenage pregnancy, preference for a particular gender and all those that influence family size.
- (b) The question was fairly attempted with most candidates able to state or suggest the strategies that could be used to manage population. But candidates failed to expand on their strategies to point out how the strategies would work and could not even evaluate the strategies. Candidates were expected to give responses like family planning education then, explain that public education on family planning is offered at community clinics and it is also offered in schools. The evaluation would show that we have a reduction in teenage pregnancy in schools and that most families today have spaced child births.
- 7 (a) The question was well answered with the majority of the candidates able to state area Z as the site of data collection.
- (b) Majority of the candidates got the title correct. Candidates showed good skill in formulation of a research topic.

- (c) Most of the candidates did well in this question. However, there were some candidates who instead of identifying data collection method such as interview, document study and or questionnaire, wrote quantitative method.
- (d) The question was well answered by majority of the candidates. The candidates showed mastery of the required format of writing research objectives.
- (e) The candidates did quite well on the question and also did well in the formulation of research findings.
- (f) An average number of candidates performed well while others got the question wrong. Candidates seem to misunderstand the word fluctuation. There's a need to explain the term so that they are able to use it properly. The response was supposed to be an increase from 2009 to 2012 then a decrease from 2012 to 2013. Therefore, there was no fluctuation hence such candidates got it wrong.
- (g) The question was well done. The candidates were quite aware of the likely problems to be faced by the researcher.
- (h) (i) Candidates did very well on this question.
 - (ii) The question was poorly answered. Most candidates seem to have limited knowledge on Bibliography. Most of them wrote nothing while others wrote that it is reading books. Candidates were supposed to write that a bibliography is a list of information sources used by the researcher during his research, listed according to alphabetical order of the Authors.
- (i) Most candidates did badly on this question. Candidates did not seem to have the skill of writing a recommendation. The requirement for a recommendation is that the candidate should include the authority and action in the statement with a should. For instance, the **area Z management should introduce financial assistance schemes** to help people start their businesses. Area Z management is the authority and introduction of a financial assistance scheme is the recommended action.
- (j) This question was well answered. The majority of the candidates did very well on it. The most common problem in this question is failure to write the title of the graph. This is very important to note because even the previous cohorts made a similar mistake.