PRINCIPAL EXAMINER'S REPORT

BOTSWANA
EXAMINATIONS
COUNCIL

JCE GENERAL SCIENCE

2025

Advancing learning, certifying your future

PAPER 1: MULTIPLE CHOICE

General Comments

The performance of the candidates was similar to that of the previous year with a slight increase in the mean from 18.38 to 19.88. As usual, the performance varied across the items with some having very high proportions of candidates getting the item correct while others had very low proportions.

The strongest distractors across the options generally indicate that there were some misconceptions that were shown by the candidates and hence should be used as an indicator for identifying the next steps to rectify such misconceptions during teaching and learning.

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 necessarily 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 proportion of candidates at each of the options. The key for reading the table:

Prop. the percentage of candidates that selected the option as their answer

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

Comments on Individual Questions

Question 1

Option	Prop.	Key	Comments
A	0.15	B	Poorly done. The item was a recall question that required candidates to choose the part of the eye that bends light. The strongest distractor was C. The lens bends the light and makes it converge for an image to be focused on the retina.
B	0.35		
C	0.35		
D	0.15		

Question 2

Option	Prop.	Key	Comments
A	0.16	B	Well done. Candidates were able to identify the hazard that increases when using materials made from glass.
B	0.59		
C	0.16		
D	0.10		

Question 3

Option	Prop.	Key	Comments
A	0.02	B	Well done. Most candidates were able to identify the telescope as the device where lenses are used to view distant stars. The microscope was the strongest distractor.
B	0.67		
C	0.28		
D	0.04		

Question 4

Option	Prop.	Key	Comments
A	0.23	A	The candidates were to interpret the densities of different metals and use it to select the metal with the largest volume. Since it is looking for the largest volume, the density should be the smallest. It looks like candidates struggled with the re arrangement of the formula and selected copper (least volume) as their answer.
B	0.64		
C	0.10		
D	0.04		

Question 5

Option	Prop.	Key	Comments
A	0.14	C	The candidates were to use the given nail measurements in inch and millimetres to determine the equivalence of an inch in millimetres. The item was well done.
B	0.13		
C	0.60		
D	0.13		

Question 6

Option	Prop.	Key	Comments
A	0.22	D	Fairly done. The candidates were to identify paraffin as a source of energy that can be finished when used over and over.
B	0.10		
C	0.14		
D	0.54		

Question 7

Option	Prop.	Key	Comments
A	0.04	B	Well done. The candidates were able to relate the speed of light to the speed of sound to determine why sound is heard after light has been seen.
B	0.61		
C	0.05		
D	0.30		

Question 8

Option	Prop.	Key	Comments
A	0.44	A	Poorly done. Most candidates selected the Sun and the moon as bodies that produce their own light. The moon reflects light from the Sun and only the stars and the Sun produce their own light.
B	0.50		
C	0.03		
D	0.03		

Question 9

Option	Prop.	Key	Comments
A	0.19	B	The item was testing the candidates on the understanding and reading of the triple beam balance scale. The question was fairly done as most of the candidates selected the correct readings from the beams.
B	0.51		
C	0.18		
D	0.12		

Question 10

Option	Prop.	Key	Comments
A	0.04	C	The candidates were to identify the diagram that shows the correct path of light rays as they move through a concave lens. Most of the candidates opted for C which is the path for the light rays through a converging lens (convex).
B	0.50		
C	0.36		
D	0.09		

Question 11

Option	Prop.	Key	Comments
A	0.09	D	Well done. Candidates were able to identify the house that is coolest in the summer based on the materials used to build the house.
B	0.16		
C	0.04		
D	0.71		

Question 12

Option	Prop.	Key	Comments
A	0.03	D	Well done. The concept of white colour was related well with decrease of absorption of heat radiation in a house.
B	0.30		
C	0.04		
D	0.63		

Question 13

Option	Prop.	Key	Comments
A	0.74	A	Well done. Candidates were able to identify the most possible disease that could be easily transmitted when looking at the set-up.
B	0.02		
C	0.11		
D	0.14		

Question 14

Option	Prop.	Key	Comments
A	0.23	A	Poorly done. Most candidates selected the vertebral column as their answer. Less than 25% of the candidates selected the correct option.
B	0.17		
C	0.17		
D	0.43		

Question 15

Option	Prop.	Key	Comments
A	0.04	B	Well done. Candidates were able to identify the heart and the lungs as the body organs that are found in the rib cage.
B	0.64		
C	0.25		
D	0.08		

Question 16

Option	Prop.	Key	Comments
A	0.26	C	Poorly done. The candidates were spread almost equally across options A, B and C. This shows lack of understanding of the concept of respiration where oxygen is used to break down sugar and provide energy.
B	0.28		
C	0.30		
D	0.16		

Question 17

Option	Prop.	Key	Comments
A	0.27	D	Fairly done. The candidates were able to identify the cell wall as being matched with its function. The strongest distractor was A.
B	0.12		
C	0.08		
D	0.54		

Question 18

Option	Prop.	Key	Comments
A	0.11	C	Poorly done. The candidates were on the main split between options C and D. Candidates should note that they were to determine the growth per week as indicated by change in length divided by the number of weeks for the period.
B	0.17		
C	0.30		
D	0.42		

Question 19

Option	Prop.	Key	Comments
A	0.27	A	Poorly done. The candidates were expected to interpret the pyramid of biomass which shows that the total mass of the organisms decreases as one moves up the level and provide an explanation for the decrease. Thus, not only the mass decreases but also the energy decreases. The candidates focused on the size of the organisms but not the energy levels.
B	0.16		
C	0.26		
D	0.32		

Question 20

Option	Prop.	Key	Comments
A	0.02	C	Well done. Almost all the candidates noted that the skin is correctly matched with its stimulus.
B	0.01		
C	0.95		
D	0.01		

Question 21

Option	Prop.	Key	Comments
A	0.15	B	Well done. This is a simple recall question that wanted candidates to identify the part of a flower that develops into a seeds.
B	0.62		
C	0.13		
D	0.10		

Question 22

Option	Prop.	Key	Comments
A	0.26	B	Poorly done. The candidates were mainly split between options A, B and C. A is the receptor while B is the sensory neurone and C is the relay neurone.
B	0.26		
C	0.34		
D	0.14		

Question 23

Option	Prop.	Key	Comments
A	0.35	B	Fairly done. Transpiration which is movement of water through the plants and its evaporation is increased when temperature increases. The strongest distractor was A which actual decreases evaporation and transpiration.
B	0.53		
C	0.04		
D	0.07		

Question 24

Option	Prop.	Key	Comments
A	0.18	B	Well done. Almost all candidates were able to identify the traditional methods of the traditional preservation of food.
B	0.78		
C	0.02		
D	0.03		

Question 25

Option	Prop.	Key	Comments
A	0.40	A	The candidates were mainly split between options A and B. Thus, they were aware that water is needed for seed germination but were not aware of which gas is required for germination.
B	0.47		
C	0.04		
D	0.10		

Question 26

Option	Prop.	Key	Comments
A	0.05	B	Poorly done. The candidates were to recall the characteristics of an animal cell and choose the one that is **not** applicable to the cell.
B	0.37		
C	0.18		
D	0.41		

Question 27

Option	Prop.	Key	Comments
A	0.10	D	Well done. The candidates were to identify a condition which will stop plants from making food. The candidates understood the task well and selected removal of carbon dioxide, which is necessary for photosynthesis,
B	0.18		
C	0.09		
D	0.62		

Question 28

Option	Prop.	Key	Comments
A	0.50	A	Fairly done. Candidates identified adrenaline as the hormone that increases heart and breathing rate. The strongest distractor was C though oestrogen is a hormone found in females.
B	0.11		
C	0.29		
D	0.10		

Question 29

Option	Prop.	Key	Comments
A	0.27	B	Fairly done. The candidates were able to identify the liver, stomach and pancreas as being parts of the circulatory system. The strongest distractors were A and C, which both had one organ which was not correct.
B	0.54		
C	0.16		
D	0.04		

Question 30

Option	Prop.	Key	Comments
A	0.13	D	Well done. Candidates were able to identify the purpose of joint fluids as reducing friction between the bones.
B	0.10		
C	0.16		
D	0.61		

Question 31

Option	Prop.	Key	Comments
A	0.17	C	Well done. The candidates were able to identify shivering as an involuntary action.
B	0.08		
C	0.66		
D	0.08		

Question 32

Option	Prop.	Key	Comments
A	0.38	D	Poorly done. The candidates were to select processes that add carbon dioxide to the atmosphere, which are respiration and combustion. Photosynthesis, which was selected by most candidates uses carbon dioxide from the atmosphere as a reactant.
B	0.13		
C	0.26		
D	0.23		

Question 33

Option	Prop.	Key	Comments
A	0.31	A	Poorly done. The candidates were expected to identify the part of blood which is a liquid with most of them selecting haemoglobin.
B	0.42		
C	0.20		
D	0.06		

Question 34

Option	Prop.	Key	Comments
A	0.46	A	Fairly done. The central nervous system is made out of the brain and the spinal cord. The brain controls the messages while the spinal cord transports the messages.
B	0.16		
C	0.19		
D	0.19		

Question 35

Option	Prop.	Key	Comments
A	0.11	C	Fairly done. Candidates were to identify the nucleus as the part that contains genetics material.
B	0.17		
C	0.47		
D	0.25		

Question 36

Option	Prop.	Key	Comments
A	0.19	D	Fairly done. The candidates were to recall the term given to a fertilised egg.
B	0.17		
C	0.16		
D	0.48		

Question 37

Option	Prop.	Key	Comments
A	0.07	B	Well done. Candidates were able to identify mercury as being in liquid form at room temperature.
B	0.65		
C	0.08		
D	0.19		

Question 38

Option	Prop.	Key	Comments
A	0.38	D	Poorly done. The candidates were to understand the process of distillation, where mixtures are separated based on differences in boiling point. The candidates should then be able to identify processes that occur during boiling which are evaporation from the liquid and condensation when cooling.
B	0.22		
C	0.11		
D	0.29		

Question 39

Option	Prop.	Key	Comments
A	0.24	A	Poorly done.
B	0.06		
C	0.17		
D	0.53		

Question 40

Option	Prop.	Key	Comments
A	0.09	B	Well done. Candidates were able to recall the effects of chlorine.
B	0.64		
C	0.22		
D	0.05		

PAPER 2: SHORT ANSWER AND STRUCTURED

General Comments

For candidates to enhance their overall performance, Centres are encouraged to assist candidates improve the following skills:

(a) Experimental and investigative skills

Though majority of candidates are private and probably do home study, those who are enrolled in private schools and do private tutoring should be encouraged to practice experimental activities. Candidates struggled with data interpretation and evaluation, as well as making observations and drawing qualitative conclusions.

(b) Computation skills

Every year, candidates are given tasks to demonstrate achievement of the skill. In 2025, most candidates demonstrated that they could work with tasks involving numbers with ease, substituting into the given formula was an easy task for them. Centres are also advised to assist candidates in ensuring that starting with a formula before completing any problem involving calculations is important. Candidates must also present their work in the space provided to avoid losing compensation marks in case the correct answer is wrong.

(c) Plotting a graph

Candidates did exceptionally well in plotting points from a table of results to a graph and joining the plotted points.

Overall Performance by Candidates

The performance of 2025 cohort was about the same as compared to 2024 cohort. Candidates were able to recall, relate scientific concepts and apply basic scientific knowledge to given situations. Nonetheless, candidates continue to show deficiencies in items that require science process skills, inferring relations of variables from experimental results and drawing conclusions based on information presented on graphs and tables. Centres are encouraged to expose learners to hands on activities and items which will engage their high order thinking skills and apply themselves rather than just engage in simple recall of information.

Candidates continue to ignore mark allocation and hence continue to lose marks by leaving out certain points to get full award of marks. Centres are also encouraged to advise candidates not to repeat the questions when answering as this takes up a lot of space for the answer.

Majority of the candidates had learning difficulties as they were too many spelling errors, poor sentence construction and language deficiency in answering questions. This made it difficult for the candidates to be awarded marks. Centres are advised to recommend candidates with learning difficulties for assessment at the Special Education Unit so that scribers are recommended to assist them.

Comments on Individual Questions

1 (a) This question was well done by most candidates. Almost all candidates were able to recall the name of organ X which was stomach, and a mark was awarded.

(b) Poorly done. Most candidates failed to understand the task, which required a description of peristalsis being contraction and relaxation of muscles. Most candidates stated the name of the process (Peristalsis) instead of the description. Candidates gave answers such as food mixes with saliva to flow easily to the stomach, the gullet expands and contracts, through swallowing, the gullet muscles contract and pushes the food. Centres are advised to teach candidates on the expectations of the different command words.

(c) Question was well done by most candidates. The question was focusing on the role of saliva when mixed with food which is mainly on chemical digestion and lubrication. Most of the candidates scored one out of the possible two marks as they only focused on lubrication only and did not cover the aspect of digestion by salivary amylase. The expected responses were for easy swallowing/lubrication and digestion of starch. Some of the responses that were not credited included: easy digestion, easy absorption, prevent choking. Centres are advised to cover the purpose of saliva in details including chemical digestion of starch.

2 **(a)** **(i)** Poorly done. The question expected candidates to demonstrate knowledge on the direction of flow of blood into the heart from the lungs. Candidates should be advised that the oxygenated blood from the lungs enter the side of the heart that has thicker muscles from where it is pushed to the rest of parts of the body. The candidates were expected to show their understanding by labelling the arrows. Candidates failed to notice that oxygen poor blood from the body enters the heart through the vena cava while oxygen rich blood from the lungs enters the heart through the pulmonary vein hence it was important to label the arrows as expected to differentiate the blood vessels.

(ii) Poorly done. Most candidate failed to follow the instruction of the question which required the drawing of arrows to show the direction of blood flow. The candidates were to show the blood flow out of the heart to the body. Some candidates drew all the arrows to show blood flow into and out of the heart (both oxygenated and de-oxygenated blood), failing to provide the correct response that required two arrows.

(b) **(i)** Question was poorly done. Most candidates failed to identify structure P, which was the bicuspid valve.

(ii) This question was poorly done. Candidates failed to note that structure P opens or the valves open when the left ventricle is relaxed because they could not identify structure P.

(c) Question was well done by most candidates. Most candidates were able to state any two diseases of the human circulatory system like high blood pressure, stroke, heart attack, heart failure. Common wrong response amongst some of the candidates was anaemia, which is a blood - related disorder and not a disease of the circulatory system. Therefore, this led to some of the candidates failing to get the second marking point.

3 **(a)** This question was poorly done. Candidates failed to give the name of the chemical substance used to test for the presence of glucose which was Benedict's solution. Most candidates gave the name of the test for proteins which was biuret test and failed to score one mark.

(b) This question was well done most candidates were able to interpret the information from the table. Food sample which had the least nutrients present was **M**.

(c) Question was well done as candidates were able to suggest a food sample that will give most energy which was **N**.

(d) This question was poorly done by most candidates. Most candidates could not process the information from the table. Candidates could not recall that the enzyme amylase digests starch into glucose, therefore starch will be absent to score the first mark, and glucose will be present to score the second mark.

4 **(a)** The question was well done by most of the candidates. Almost all the candidates were able to label with letter X the part which produces egg cells which was the ovary. Candidates placed X at the ovary, some candidates drew a line starting from the ovary and labelled it X this attracted one mark. Few candidates failed to score the mark because they placed the letter X next to the ovary without using a line.

(b) This question was well done by most of the candidates. Candidates were able to name the part labelled W which was the womb or uterus.

(c) Question was poorly done by most of the candidates. Candidates failed to name the method of birth control shown in the diagram which was tubal ligation or female sterilisation. Candidates failed to score one mark because they stated the methods of birth control such as the IUD loop.

(d) This question was well done by most of the candidates. Candidates were able to state one disadvantage of the method of birth control shown in the diagram, which was its permanent and does not prevent STD's.

(e) This question was well done by the candidates. Almost all the candidates were able to state one example of a sexually transmitted disease which was HIV/AIDS, syphilis, gonorrhoea, chlamydia, genital warts, genital herpes.

5 **(a)** **(i)** This question was poorly done most candidates. The candidates were expected to state the reasons for the thorns in the cactus plant which is for protection or to reduce water loss by transpiration. Some candidates indicated that cactus plants have thorns for transpiration.

(ii) Poorly done. Another question that required knowledge about cactus plants. The candidates failed to comprehend why the plant has a waxy layer. They failed to realise that the waxy layer reduces water loss from the plant by evaporation. Some candidates suggested that the plant has a waxy layer for evaporation.

(b) The question was poorly done most candidates. They failed to name the substance that makes the stem to be green in colour which was chlorophyll. Candidates named the process of respiration which was a common wrong response and lost one mark.

(c) This question was poorly done by most candidates. Candidates failed to write the correct reactants (carbon dioxide and water) and products (glucose and oxygen), for the equation of the process of photosynthesis, instead mixed them up and lost two marks. Candidates failed to write the conditions necessary (sunlight and chlorophyll) for the process of photosynthesis to take place on top of the arrow and lost one mark.

$$\text{Carbon dioxide + water} \xrightarrow[\text{Chlorophyll}]{\text{Sunlight}} \text{glucose + oxygen}$$

6 **(a)** This question was well done by most candidates. Almost all candidates were able to name the producer in the food web which was plant plankton.

(b) The question was poorly done. Most candidates failed to identify krill as a herbivore in the food web and lost one mark. Candidates wrote octopus as the common wrong response.

(c) The question was poorly done by most candidates. Candidates failed to explain that the krill will decrease in numbers when all the seals die (as the octopus will increase in numbers) because candidates did not understand the feeding relationships in the food web and therefore lost two marks.

(d) **(i)** The question was poorly done by most candidates. Candidates failed to identify the organisms which will have the highest concentration of the pollutant. This should be the organisms that are higher in the food chain being seal and sperm whale.

(ii) The question was poorly done. Candidates did not know that concentration of pollutants increase as you move up the food chain therefore organisms at the last feeding level have the highest concentration. Candidates are advised to study the characteristics of food chains especially concentration of pollutants.

7 **(a)** This question was poorly answered by most candidates. Candidates failed to score one mark because candidates could not process the information from the line graphs. Candidates did not know what happens to the thickness of the uterus lining during ovulation and therefore failed to interpret the line graphs and identify day 14 as the ovulation date.

(b) This question was poorly answered by most candidates. Candidates failed to score one mark because candidates could not process the information from the line graphs. Candidates failed to realise that fertilisation was unlikely from day 1 to 7, from day 7 to 14 or from day 1 to 14.

(c) **(i)** Poorly done. Candidates failed to interpret the graph and identify the stage where menstruation was taking place which between day 1 and day 7.

(ii) This question was poorly answered by most candidates. Candidates failed to score two marks because candidates could not process the information from the line graphs. Candidates failed to explain why menstruation was taking place which was due to thickness of the uterus lining decreasing as shown by the line graphs.

8 **(a)** **(i)** This question was well done by most candidates. Candidates scored one mark in recording the volume of the water in the measuring cylinder.

(ii) The question was well done by most candidates. The candidates were expected to state anything of the precautions from placing the measuring cylinder on a flat surface, taking readings from the bottom of the meniscus and placing eye perpendicular to point where reading is taken. Some of the responses were take the reading below the meniscus (instead of at the bottom of the meniscus), avoid the parallax error (without stating how)..

(b) **(i)** This question was well done by most candidates. Candidates scored one mark in recording the height of the water in the transparent vase.

(ii) Question was well done by most of the candidates. Candidates were able to substitute very well in the provided formula to calculate the cross – sectional area.

Answer: **(a) (i)** 43 cm^3 **(b) (i)** 8.5 cm **(ii)** 5.1 cm^2

9 **(a)** This question was poorly done. Candidates failed to score one mark. Candidates stated types of waves such as longitudinal waves and transverse waves rather than describing the back-and-forth movement of the particles.

(b) The question was poorly done. Majority of the candidates did not attempt the question and failed to score a mark. The particles should be drawn with an arrow pointing to the right and another equal arrow pointing to the left.

(c) **(i)** The question was poorly done. The candidates failed to relate the speed of sound to the medium through which it travels. Sound travels faster in solids hence it should be faster when travelling through the wall.

(ii) The question was poorly answered. Candidates seemed not to understand what the question wanted as the answers given were not related to sound. The particles in a solid are closely packed hence making collisions to be faster and sound to also travel faster.

10 **(a)** This question was poorly done by most candidates. Candidates misinterpreted the question as candidates' responses were aligned with the solar panel is black in colour because black is a good absorber of heat. But the question stated that solar panel is used to harness solar energy to charge a battery which is conversion of light to electrical hence, the solar panel absorbs more light rather than heat. Candidates failed to score one mark.

(b) The question was poorly done by most candidates. The candidates were expected to identify that electrical energy (not electricity) is transmitted in the wires and chemical potential energy is stored in the battery. Most candidates wrote forms of energy such as sound energy and kinetic energy. This showed that candidates did not understand what these forms of energy mean and lost two marks.

(c) This question was poorly done by most candidates. Some candidates left blank spaces and did not answer the question whilst other responses showed that the candidates did not really understand what the question wanted and lost two marks. Most candidates failed recognise that harnessing solar energy does not cause the greenhouse effect. It appears most candidates confuse environmental concepts providing responses such as global warming, destruction of the ozone layer and deforestation.

11 **(a)** The question was poorly done. The method of heat transfer through a metal, being the body of the kettle, is conduction. Candidates named other methods of heat transfer such as convection and radiation and lost a mark.

(b) This question was poorly done. Most candidates and candidates failed to interpret the question as it required for heat transfer within the water. The candidates were expected to describe the convection currents created by heated less dense water that rises and is replaced by more dense particles from the top. Candidates gave irrelevant answers which were not related to the question.

(c) **(i)** This question was well done by most candidates as they were able to identify an insulator that can be used to the handle from any of plastic, rubber and cork.

(ii) This question was poorly done. Candidates failed to explain why the material of their choice is used for making the handle of the kettle. Candidates' common wrong response was plastic does not conduct heat and lost a mark rather than plastic is a poor conductor of heat.

(d) This question was poorly done by most candidates. Most candidates responded by saying the hot handle may burn the person instead of the steam from the kettle may burn the user and therefore lost a mark.

(e) This question was well done by most candidates as they drew the handle to the left side of the kettle.

12 **(a)** This question was poorly done by candidates. Candidates failed to recall the definition of matter as anything that has mass and occupies space.

(b) **(i)** This question was well done by most candidates as they noted that the state of matter which can easily be compressed is gas.

(ii) The question was well done by most candidates as they noted that particles were far apart.

(c) This question was well done by most candidates. Candidates stated any two uses of carbon dioxide which included being used as a refrigerant, in fire extinguishers, in carbonated beverages, inflating life jackets, photosynthesis, baking and scored two marks.

13 **(a)** This question was poorly done. Candidates failed to identify reactant X which was hydrogen peroxide and catalyst Y, which was manganese(IV) oxide which are used for the laboratory preparation of oxygen. Common wrong responses for reactant X were water and acid while for catalyst Y it was magnesium oxide and manganese 4 oxide.

(b) The question was poorly done. Candidates failed to describe the test for oxygen, which requires the use of a glowing splint in a test tube containing oxygen. The candidates and lost both marks as they were not able to state that the glowing splint relights to earn the second marking point. Common wrong responses were test: lighted splint, result produces a pop sound.

(c) This question was poorly done by most candidates. The candidates were expected to realise that for the method to be used, the gas must be less dense than water for it to move above the water and also it must not be soluble in water (or slightly soluble) to allow it to bubble through the water. Some candidates did not attempt the question. Other wrong responses were not aligned with preparation of oxygen in the laboratory.

(d) The question was well done by most candidates. The candidates were able to recall at least two properties mainly from it is tasteless, odourless, colourless, supports burning, slightly soluble in water, denser than air, low boiling point, causes rusting, poor conductor of heat or electricity and scored two marks.

14 **(a)** Well done. Most candidates were able to plot the points correctly within half a small square to get the first two marks. The candidates had to join the plotted points using a smooth curve which a few failed to do, a few failed to join the points. The candidates were allowed to join all the points using a ruler (discrete data) hence most of them got the mark for joining the points correctly. It should be noted however that for graphs where the dependent variable varies with a change in the independent variable, candidates must sketch a smooth curve to join the points. However, despite the limitations of the data provided almost all the candidates sketched a smooth curve to join their plotted points.

(b) **(i)** The question was poorly done by most candidates. Candidates failed to describe the shape of the graph, which indicated that there was a decrease in the number of deaths between the years 1994 and 1996 but instead described the trend, it was decreasing and lost one mark.

(ii) The question was poorly done by most candidates. Candidates failed to score two marks on suggesting two possible reasons why the is a decrease in the number of deaths. The candidates should have provided answers that could be related to improved lifestyle which could be anyone from people started exercising, eating a balanced diet, medicine became available, etc.

(c) **(i)** This question was well done by most candidates. Most of the candidates were able to determine that the difference in the number of deaths was the highest between 1995 and 1996.

(ii) This question was well done by most of the candidates. Almost all the candidates were able to calculate the highest difference in the number of deaths between the two years which follow each other and scored two marks.

Answer: 720 – 510 = 210