

PRINCIPAL EXAMINER'S REPORT



BOTSWANA
EXAMINATIONS
COUNCIL

JCE SOCIAL STUDIES

2025



MULTIPLE CHOICE PAPER 1

General Comments

The performance of the candidates was similar to that of the previous year with a slight decrease in the mean from 21.25 to 20.04. 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 prortion 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 Items

Question 1

| Option | Prop. | Key | Comments |
|--------|-------|-----|---|
| A | 0.08 | C | Well done. Most candidates were able to identify a statement the defines recommendations in research. The strongest distractor was D. |
| B | 0.07 | | |
| C | 0.60 | | |
| D | 0.26 | | |

Question 2

| Option | Prop. | Key | Comments |
|--------|-------|-----|--|
| A | 0.07 | D | Well done. Candidates were able to identify tswii as a product found in swampy areas |
| B | 0.08 | | |
| C | 0.15 | | |
| D | 0.70 | | |

Question 3

| Option | Prop. | Key | Comments |
|--------|-------|-----|--|
| A | 0.14 | C | Poorly done. The candidates were mainly spread between options B, C and D. Candidates should pay more attention to how statements are written to determine the answer. |
| B | 0.21 | | |
| C | 0.32 | | |
| D | 0.33 | | |



Question 4

| Option | Prop. | Key | Comments |
|--------|-------|-----|---|
| A | 0.11 | B | Fairly done. The candidates should be made aware that causes of climate change are long term and gradual. Some of the options were signs of climate change and only deforestation was a cause for climate change. |
| B | 0.47 | | |
| C | 0.23 | | |
| D | 0.19 | | |

Question 5

| Option | Prop. | Key | Comments |
|--------|-------|-----|---|
| A | 0.82 | A | Well done. Almost all the candidates were able to identify a health benefit of using the bicycle. |
| B | 0.05 | | |
| C | 0.05 | | |
| D | 0.08 | | |

Question 6

| Option | Prop. | Key | Comments |
|--------|-------|-----|--|
| A | 0.15 | B | Fairly done. The candidates were to select a statement that does not describe the uses of contour lines. The contour lines indicate ground elevations in a map and as such any description related to landscape was applicable except option B which was about direction. |
| B | 0.50 | | |
| C | 0.17 | | |
| D | 0.18 | | |

Question 7

| Option | Prop. | Key | Comments |
|--------|-------|-----|--|
| A | 0.19 | B | Fairly done. The candidates were to interpret the feature that is represented by the contour lines. The stronger distractors were A and D showing candidates had a little understanding about interpretation of contour lines. |
| B | 0.52 | | |
| C | 0.06 | | |
| D | 0.24 | | |

Question 8

| Option | Prop. | Key | Comments |
|--------|-------|-----|--|
| A | 0.07 | D | Well done. Almost all candidates were able to convert the map measurement into actual distance using the scale provided. |
| B | 0.07 | | |
| C | 0.09 | | |
| D | 0.77 | | |

Question 9

| Option | Prop. | Key | Comments |
|--------|-------|-----|--|
| A | 0.04 | D | Fairly done. The information provided is a statement unlike other formats where only numbers would have been used. |
| B | 0.19 | | |
| C | 0.30 | | |
| D | 0.48 | | |



Question 10

| Option | Prop. | Key | Comments |
|--------|-------|-----|---|
| A | 0.09 | D | Well done. The candidates were able to identify the environmental region described in the text. |
| B | 0.14 | | |
| C | 0.20 | | |
| D | 0.58 | | |

Question 11

| Option | Prop. | Key | Comments |
|--------|-------|-----|---|
| A | 0.03 | D | Well done. Candidates identified tourism and lumbering as the human activities that are likely to be practised in Region Y. |
| B | 0.10 | | |
| C | 0.23 | | |
| D | 0.64 | | |

Question 12

| Option | Prop. | Key | Comments |
|--------|-------|-----|---|
| A | 0.16 | D | Fairly done. The Kyoto Protocol is operationalise Framework for Climate Change hence it encourages reduction of emissions of greenhouse gases especially from industrialised countries. |
| B | 0.24 | | |
| C | 0.20 | | |
| D | 0.40 | | |

Question 13

| Option | Prop. | Key | Comments |
|--------|-------|-----|---|
| A | 0.42 | D | Poorly done. The candidates were mainly spread across options A and D, with A having the largest proportion. Candidates should be made aware that the chances of droughts occurring in arid regions is higher than in any other region. |
| B | 0.17 | | |
| C | 0.15 | | |
| D | 0.25 | | |

Question 14

| Option | Prop. | Key | Comments |
|--------|-------|-----|---|
| A | 0.16 | D | Fairly done. The item wanted candidates to identify in which men can be empowered to help fight gender-based violence and select a way which was not applicable. |
| B | 0.33 | | |
| C | 0.09 | | |
| D | 0.41 | | |

Question 15

| Option | Prop. | Key | Comments |
|--------|-------|-----|--|
| A | 0.15 | D | Well done. Candidates displayed knowledge on marriage laws |
| B | 0.09 | | |
| C | 0.07 | | |
| D | 0.68 | | |



Question 16

| Option | Prop. | Key | Comments |
|--------|-------|-----|--|
| A | 0.12 | C | Fairly done. The candidates should be advised to study the diagrams fully before they answer. The diagram showed air currents only and as such the answer should be about air. |
| B | 0.07 | | |
| C | 0.53 | | |
| D | 0.29 | | |

Question 17

| Option | Prop. | Key | Comments |
|--------|-------|-----|---|
| A | 0.13 | B | Poorly done. Most of the candidates selected D as their answer even though the British South Africa Company never succeeded in its attempt to control Bechuanaland. |
| B | 0.23 | | |
| C | 0.18 | | |
| D | 0.46 | | |

Question 18

| Option | Prop. | Key | Comments |
|--------|-------|-----|---|
| A | 0.16 | B | Well done. Majority of the candidates were able to interpret the meaning of dance for the dollar from the phrase. |
| B | 0.73 | | |
| C | 0.06 | | |
| D | 0.06 | | |

Question 19

| Option | Prop. | Key | Comments |
|--------|-------|-----|--|
| A | 0.05 | D | Well done. Candidates noted that advertising the Okavango Delta locally and internationally could improve tourism. |
| B | 0.05 | | |
| C | 0.05 | | |
| D | 0.85 | | |

Question 20

| Option | Prop. | Key | Comments |
|--------|-------|-----|--|
| A | 0.04 | D | Well done. The candidates identified the element of culture reflected with ease. |
| B | 0.08 | | |
| C | 0.07 | | |
| D | 0.81 | | |

Question 21

| Option | Prop. | Key | Comments |
|--------|-------|-----|---|
| A | 0.32 | A | Poorly done. Most candidates selected theory of evolution as their answer. Adaptation to the environment is a process where only the strongest (natural selection) that have survived the environment pass their genes. |
| B | 0.15 | | |
| C | 0.46 | | |
| D | 0.08 | | |



Question 22

| Option | Prop. | Key | Comments |
|--------|-------|-----|---|
| A | 0.17 | C | Well done. The candidates were able to identify a characteristic of the Homo Habilis that makes them to be called handyman. |
| B | 0.14 | | |
| C | 0.61 | | |
| D | 0.08 | | |

Question 23

| Option | Prop. | Key | Comments |
|--------|-------|-----|---|
| A | 0.30 | C | Fairly done. The candidates were mainly spread between options A and C. The ziggurats were holy temples which were believed to be dwelling places for gods, hence being used for worship. |
| B | 0.14 | | |
| C | 0.45 | | |
| D | 0.12 | | |

Question 24

| Option | Prop. | Key | Comments |
|--------|-------|-----|--|
| A | 0.76 | A | Well done. Candidates easily identified paper making as the Egyptian technological development shown in the picture. |
| B | 0.04 | | |
| C | 0.10 | | |
| D | 0.09 | | |

Question 25

| Option | Prop. | Key | Comments |
|--------|-------|-----|---|
| A | 0.23 | D | Poorly done. The candidates were spread across options A, B and D. It seems the candidates were not familiar with Dithubaruba and attack by Bakololo led by Sebetoane. Majority went for the Ndebele. |
| B | 0.40 | | |
| C | 0.08 | | |
| D | 0.29 | | |

Question 26

| Option | Prop. | Key | Comments |
|--------|-------|-----|---|
| A | 0.40 | A | Fairly done. The candidates were split between options A, B and D showing lack of understanding of the Bantu Khoisan interactions, which was also the only positive result. |
| B | 0.21 | | |
| C | 0.11 | | |
| D | 0.28 | | |

Question 27

| Option | Prop. | Key | Comments |
|--------|-------|-----|--|
| A | 0.22 | C | Fairly done. The candidates were mainly spread between options A, C and D. The Khoisan were nomadic but kept some animals which they moved around to find enough grazing for them. |
| B | 0.11 | | |
| C | 0.45 | | |
| D | 0.22 | | |



Question 28

| Option | Prop. | Key | Comments |
|--------|-------|-----|---|
| A | 0.37 | D | Poorly done. The candidates were mainly split between A and D. Centres should emphasise historical events for candidates to grasp them. |
| B | 0.13 | | |
| C | 0.19 | | |
| D | 0.31 | | |

Question 29

| Option | Prop. | Key | Comments |
|--------|-------|-----|--|
| A | 0.18 | B | Poorly done. The candidates were almost spread across all the options. |
| B | 0.30 | | |
| C | 0.20 | | |
| D | 0.32 | | |

Question 30

| Option | Prop. | Key | Comments |
|--------|-------|-----|--|
| A | 0.11 | B | The candidates failed terribly to identify the objectives of LIMID. Most candidates selected option C, eliminate poverty which is one of the objectives of the five objectives of LIMID. |
| B | 0.19 | | |
| C | 0.56 | | |
| D | 0.15 | | |

Question 31

| Option | Prop. | Key | Comments |
|--------|-------|-----|--|
| A | 0.57 | A | Fairly done. The candidates were able to relate the rise in prices of goods and services to inflation. |
| B | 0.13 | | |
| C | 0.18 | | |
| D | 0.12 | | |

Question 32

| Option | Prop. | Key | Comments |
|--------|-------|-----|---|
| A | 0.12 | C | Fairly done. This is a simple recall which all candidates are expected to know. The workers fall under labour. A considerable proportion opted for entrepreneurship which is the ideas. |
| B | 0.21 | | |
| C | 0.56 | | |
| D | 0.12 | | |

Question 33

| Option | Prop. | Key | Comments |
|--------|-------|-----|---|
| A | 0.12 | B | Well done. Most candidates identified framing as being in the primary sector of production. |
| B | 0.69 | | |
| C | 0.11 | | |
| D | 0.08 | | |



Question 34

| Option | Prop. | Key | Comments |
|--------|-------|-----|---|
| A | 0.27 | D | Fairly done. This is an item where candidates were expected to show knowledge on sustainable development. The candidates were mainly spread between options A and D. Centres should differentiate between sustainable development goals and sustainable development itself. |
| B | 0.19 | | |
| C | 0.09 | | |
| D | 0.46 | | |

Question 35

| Option | Prop. | Key | Comments |
|--------|-------|-----|--|
| A | 0.45 | A | Fairly done. The proportion of candidates who were able to define entrepreneurship was worryingly low. Centres should emphasise definitions to assist candidates to understand concepts. |
| B | 0.19 | | |
| C | 0.10 | | |
| D | 0.26 | | |

Question 36

| Option | Prop. | Key | Comments |
|--------|-------|-----|---|
| A | 0.14 | B | Fairly done. The candidates may have been challenged by understanding the meaning of some words. The concept of whistleblowing its about reporting corrupt practices. The strongest distractor was D. |
| B | 0.42 | | |
| C | 0.19 | | |
| D | 0.26 | | |

Question 37

| Option | Prop. | Key | Comments |
|--------|-------|-----|--|
| A | 0.41 | C | Poorly done. Candidates were mainly spread between options A and C showing they could not differentiate between formal (under government) and informal (not under government) sectors. |
| B | 0.18 | | |
| C | 0.35 | | |
| D | 0.05 | | |

Question 38

| Option | Prop. | Key | Comments |
|--------|-------|-----|--|
| A | 0.56 | A | Fairly done. Candidates identified CEDA as being the institution suitable for funding the informal sector. |
| B | 0.11 | | |
| C | 0.12 | | |
| D | 0.22 | | |

Question 39

| Option | Prop. | Key | Comments |
|--------|-------|-----|--|
| A | 0.07 | C | Well done. Skills-based education would allow learners to acquire skills that can make them create more employment opportunities that do not rely on the assistance of the government. |
| B | 0.12 | | |
| C | 0.66 | | |
| D | 0.16 | | |



Question 40

| Option | Prop. | Key | Comments |
|--------|-------|-----|--|
| A | 0.19 | D | Fairly done. The spread of the candidates shows that the concept of Multi Party democracy is not well understood by most candidates. Centres are advised to differentiate between the different systems. |
| B | 0.13 | | |
| C | 0.17 | | |
| D | 0.50 | | |

PAPER 2: SHORT ANSWER AND STRUCTURED

General Comments

The 2025 cohort was generally weaker compared to the 2024 cohort. Their performance on items of similar demand or requirements was not as good compared to the previous cohorts. They exhibited some serious weaknesses in dealing with all stimuli-based questions as they tended to treat stimulus material like a comprehension. They would want to pick up answers from the stimulus instead of using it to create answers. They were also weak on History and civics'-based questions. Their performance on research questions was also quite poor compared to the previous cohort which did well in that section of the paper. However, they also exhibited similar weaknesses to the previous cohort on items that required them to discuss and evaluate issues. Generally, candidates perform fairly well on items that are based on map skills and on environment but, this cohort has not performed well on those questions. The candidates showed inadequate ability in dealing with map skills items and limited knowledge of environmental issues and these areas were never a challenge to the previous cohorts. 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) as well as map skills.

Comments on Individual Questions

- 1 (a) The question was poorly answered by most of the candidates. They wrote answers like to save time and for planning purposes. This was actually repeating the question because budgeting is planning. The responses were supposed to show that budgeting, helps to avoid unnecessary items, prevent overspending and to save money.
 - (b) Most candidates failed this item. The question wanted candidates to look at the challenges that may be faced by a person who is in business. A good number of candidates were able to come up with responses like crime(theft), shortage of market, competition from other entrepreneurs etc. The only challenge with the candidates was that most of them stated the challenges and stopped that far instead of providing a full description. For instance, competition from other entrepreneurs. Tuckshops may face stiffer challenges, especially from large retailers in their locality. This way, the challenge is fully described. The description here is at comprehension level and this is the reason why there are 4 marks allocated to the question.
 - (c) The question proved to be a challenge to a good number of candidates. The question required that candidates study the budget and suggest what could be done to address the problem in that budget. The candidates were expected to suggest that this budget be re-visited or changed, to cut down on items not so necessary. The problem with the candidates was the way most of them put their responses. They wrote answers like Tseo should stop paying for transport, should stop paying for books. This approach in some instances, creates a repetition of ideas.
- 2 (a) (i) On average, candidates did fairly well on this question. They were able to measure the distance correctly. However, some candidates still failed to write units for the distance. This takes away the marks of candidates because units are a requirement for such a question.



- (ii) Most of the candidates were unable to provide a correct location of this place using both Latitudes and Longitudes.
- (b) There was only a fair attempt to the question. There were some cases of confusion with some candidates confusing this line to be Tropic of Cancer instead of Tropic of Capricorn.
- (c) Most of the candidates were able answer this question correctly, North West.
- (d) (i) This question had a fair number of candidates being able to answer it correctly. Some candidates showed very little knowledge of international environmental zones since they gave names of Botswana's environmental zones instead of at least a name of a world environmental zone.

(ii) Most candidates did not do well in this question because they failed to distinguish between the normal human activities and exploitative practices. They wrote responses like hunting, cutting down trees and fishing. These practices, under normal circumstances, are not a problem unless are done excessively. The candidates were therefore, expected to write , over-hunting, deforestation, over-fishing or pollution and show how such activities are a mismanagement of the animals. This is just a concept of environmental mismanagement, and its effect and animals have been used as an example of elements of the physical environment.

Answers: (a) (i) 800 km \pm 10 km (ii) 23°S 46°W

- 3 (a) Most candidates were able to answer this question correctly. Those who got it wrong include those who came up with responses like polygamous marriage and monogamous marriage instead of civil and religious marriage.
 - (b) Most candidates failed this question. The question was meant for candidates to deduce from the passage some implied responsibilities of boys in a family and use statements from the passage as examples of responsibilities implied. This proved very difficult for most candidates. Implied responsibilities included taking care of family livestock and protecting family members.
 - (c) Most candidates did quite badly in this question. It seems they completely failed to understand it. The question sought to make learners reflect on the implications that a customary marriage has on the rights of married men under customary marriage. Men have rights that they enjoy under customary marriage and these are what the question was asking for example, the right to ownership/control over family property, the right to decision making, the right to custody of children.
- 4 (a) The question was done poorly. This question was asking for the negative impact that a large population has on the environment. The greater part of the responses was about economic impact instead of addressing the environmental impact. Candidates gave answers such as shortage of employment, over-crowding for services, and lack of resources. The responses were



supposed to include pollution resulting from excessive waste production, deforestation for settlements, extinction of animal species etc. all of which must be related to the environment.

- (b) The question was poorly done. The majority of candidates' responses focused on routine church service activities such as praying for the youth and teaching the youth the word of God. The candidates were expected to provide the key roles of churches such as provision of spiritual guidance, education through sponsorships, advocacy for youth empowerment policies etc.
- 5 (a) The question was answered fairly by most candidates. They were able to identify such practices that can be done to conserve water but most of them fell short of showing how such practices help in conserving water. For instance, some would write re-cycling wastewater or protecting water resources then fail to expand the points and hence lose 2 marks for failing to explain.
- (b) The performance of most candidates in this question was quite bad. There were multiple challenges observed from the candidates. Some confused consumer rights with human rights while others discussed the roles of consumers instead of those of government. A few who did well in the question were able to write about government's role to make laws that protect consumers, promoting consumer protection organisations as well as providing consumer education.
- 6 (a) Most candidates failed this question. Most candidates showed very little idea about this content area except very few. The candidates wrote about construction of tarred roads, schools, hospitals and clinics. The question wanted candidates to describe the events that took place prior to independence between 1963 and 1966 that were paving way to the independence. Those included the Lobatse conference, National census, National elections, transfer of the capital from Mafikeng to Gaborone, the London conference and independence in 1966. Very few candidates came closer to this discussion.
- (b) The question was as well poorly done. The question was seeking for indications of a successful relations between Botswana and other international entities such as organisations and other countries. Instead, candidates wrote about tourists visiting Botswana, mining and selling of diamonds and that there are Batswana who are in the diaspora. Indications of Botswana's foreign policy successes include her participation in peace making and peace keeping efforts, ability to maintain good relations with her neighbours and beyond, peaceful conflict resolution as exemplified by the case of Sedudu Island as well as Bi-lateral and multi-lateral relations and Trade.
- 7 (a) The question was well answered with majority of the candidates able to come up with a correct title that contained the three aspects being, the issue/problem, place or site of research and the period of study. Those candidates who failed the question include those who copied down the introductory statement into the paper in the name of a research title and also those who excluded the date of research.



- (b) Majority of the candidates got this question correct. Candidates were able to identify areas where statistics on agricultural produce can be obtained, which included Ministry of Agriculture, Crops Unit, Extension office (Molemisi) in Mosukwane farms, Botswana University of Agriculture and Natural sciences. Those who failed the question wrote responses like, Ministry, BAMB or Agricultural demonstration.
- (c) Most of the candidates did well in this question. They show that they mastered the concept of trend in research.
- (d) The question was well answered by majority of the candidates. They were able to interpret the information and suggested a valid reason for the answer they provided. The responses focused mainly on reasons related to good rains, the use of fertilisers, good farming practices and extension workers.
- (e) The candidates did quite well on the question. They demonstrated good knowledge of the kind of challenges that a researcher is likely to encounter during the exercise. Such challenges include, shortage of transport, shortage of materials/stationary, uncooperative participants, bad weather and language barrier.
- (f) Candidates' performance in this question was fair though this is one question that candidates normally perform very well. Candidates were confused between how objectives and findings are written. Some lost marks for not writing the stem "To find out" that differentiate objectives from any other statements.
- (g) The question was badly done. The candidates demonstrated little knowledge of writing a hypothesis but instead, they defined the term hypothesis.
- (h) Candidates performed fairly well on this question. The most evident problem with the candidates is failure to draw a distinction between findings and conclusions. Most candidates write conclusions with the stem "Found out that". These then become findings rather than conclusions.
- (i) The question was poorly answered. Most candidates seem to have limited knowledge on types of research. A few were able to give the correct answer as Quantitative Research but most of them wrote things like agricultural research. Others wrote quantitative research but could not support their answers.
- (j) This question was poorly answered. Most of the candidates couldn't draw a proper bar-graph showing the two crops. Some drew two separate graphs for maize and beans. Labelling of the axis was not well done and a lot of candidates lost marks on this question.