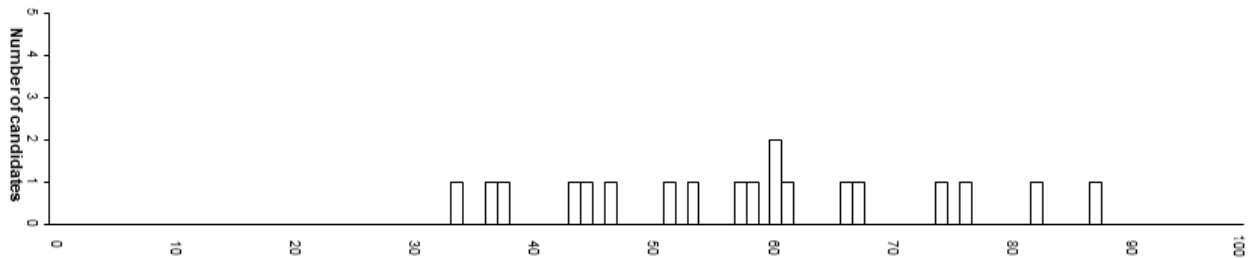




Summary report for candidates on the 2014 WACE examination in Animal Production Systems Stage 3

Year	Number who sat	Number of absentees
2014	19	0
2013	52	0
2012	32	0

Examination score distribution



Summary

The examination consisted of four sections. Candidates were required to complete all of the questions in sections one to three and two questions from a choice of three in section four (Extended answer). The mean of the 2014 examination was 58.38%, which was similar to the 2013 mean (57.22%). The standard deviation was 15.09, with a range in scores from 34.12% to 88.30%. The means of each section ranged from 51.8% (Extended answer) to 65.1% (Short answer). While still less than ideal, it should be noted that the performance in the extended answer section has steadily improved since the first examination in 2010. The majority of candidates attempted all questions. The decline in the number of candidates was a direct result of the 'half year' cohort.

General comments

Advice for candidates

- Take care to read the stem of each multiple-choice question as sometimes there is a key word that is integral to selecting the correct answer.
- Have a detailed understanding of at least one selected animal enterprise.
- Use relevant examples to illustrate answers.
- Avoid restating the question in an answer.
- Be familiar with some current research, as well as valid experimental methods.
- In the Extended answer section, stick to the requirements of the question and form factual and concise responses. Convoluting or superficial responses should be avoided. Filling up space does not necessarily correlate with providing a good answer. Make sure all parts of the question are covered in sufficient detail.
- Write as neatly as possible.
- Use the marks as a guide to what level of detail is required in the answer.

Comments on specific sections

Section One: Multiple-choice

Attempted by 19 Candidates

Mean 9.58(/15) Max 13.00 Min 6.00

All candidates attempted the multiple-choice questions. Questions 7, 8, 9, and 14 were the more difficult questions. Question 3, a simple calculation, was the only question that every candidate answered correctly.

Section Two: Short answer

Attempted by 19 Candidates

Mean 29.31(/50) Max 45.00 Min 16.58

Specific questions that were done poorly include Questions 17(b), 17(d), 19(b), and most parts of 21. These particular issues have been expanded on below.

Section Three: Production practices

Attempted by 19 Candidates

Mean 9.13(/15) Max 14.32 Min 4.09

This section consisted of one question (with several sub-questions) where candidates could demonstrate their knowledge of a selected enterprise. The marks for this question/section ranged from 4.09 to 14.32.

Section Four: Extended answer

Attempted by 19 Candidates

Mean 10.36(/20) Max 17.00 Min 4.50

This section required candidates to answer two questions out of three. Contrary to previous examinations, there was a fairly even selection of the three alternative questions by candidates.