Government of **Western Australia**
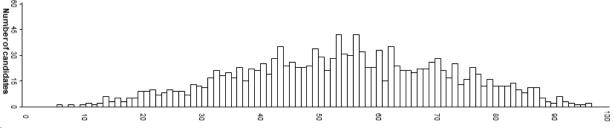School Curriculum and Standards Authority

WACE
Western Australian Certificate of Education

Summary report for candidates on the 2014 WACE examination in
Economics Stage 3

Year	Number who sat	Number of absentees
2014	1429	13
2013	2021	22
2012	1879	19

Examination score distribution

Summary
The examination was well received by candidates generally and there were some excellent responses to questions reflected in the large range of scores from 5% to 97%. All candidates attempted Section One: Multiple-choice and Section Two: Data interpretation/Short response. Only 11 candidates did not attempt Section Three: Extended response, indicating that the paper was of an appropriate length. The overall mean was 54.4% (standard deviation 18.01%), comparable with the 2013 examination mean of 54.28%. Section One: Multiple-choice had a sound mean of 62.56% and marks ranged from 2 to the maximum mark of 24. In Section Two: Data interpretation/Short response the mean was lower at 54.82% and marks ranged from 0 to 36.The mean for Section Three: Extended response was similar to previous years at 49.46% and marks ranged from 0 to 39.5 out of a possible 40.

The internal reliability of the examination was 0.87. The reliability of the three sections within the whole paper is consistent with correlations for Section One: Multiple-choice at 0.85, Section Two at 0.93, and Section Three at 0.95.

General comments
The paper as a whole functioned well. The examination was fair, well balanced and discriminated between candidates. The questions in Section Two: Data interpretation/Short response were fair and contemporary, offering a range of questions based on data, a graph and an excerpt. Each of the three questions tested candidates' economic skills and were both topical and relevant. The questions in Section Three: Extended response provided candidates with a good choice of both theory-based questions and more topical applied questions.

There were only two questions that candidates found particularly challenging: Question 27 in Section Two and Question 30 in Section Three. Question 27 required candidates to calculate growth rates from the data provided. Many candidates could not do this, highlighting a particular weakness in their preparation for the examination. Question 30 focussed on the terms of trade which can be a difficult topic for candidates. Part of the problem may have been the wording of part (b) that required candidates to explain the effects on three specific areas of the economy rather than a general discussion of effects.

Advice for candidates
- Read the extended response questions carefully as these questions are often mis-interpreted resulting in low marks.
- Note the mark allocation for each question and plan your time and writing accordingly.
- Answer all parts of the question.

- Ensure you can do simple numerical calculations such as the calculation of economic growth rates, inflation rates and unemployment rates.
- Ensure you are familiar with recent economic statistics and economic policy as outlined in the course syllabus. In particular, you should be aware of not only the current stance of economic policy, but also the economic circumstances that lead to the implementation of that policy.