

Statistical Summary of 2007 English WACE examination

Table 1. Exam enrolments

Year	Number who sat	Non-examination candidates	Absent
2007	9108	7346	1406
2006 (TEE)	7874	108	517
2005 (TEE)	8342	134	567

Table 2. Correlation of standardised examination to standardised school marks and standard deviation of final scaled scores.

Year	Correlation coefficient	Standard deviation
2007	0.77	13.45
2006	0.73	12.02
2005	0.73	12.04
2004	0.73	12.51
2003	0.73	12.38
2002	0.72	13.08

Table 3. Mean and standard deviation of raw exam marks

Year	Raw exam mean	Raw exam std Dev.
2007	58.20	13.20
2006	60.05	12.02
2005	55.79	12.17
2004	57.18	12.51
2003	57.83	12.38
2002	56.66	13.08

Table 4. Final scaled means and standard deviations

The data refers to students who have a combined mark

Year	Scaled mean	Scaled std dev.
2007	55.28	13.88
2006	55.73	13.59
2005	55.43	13.71
2004	55.15	13.73
2003	54.56	13.82
2002	54.23	13.87

Data on each question in the examination

Table 5. Section 1 Reading:

Question /mark	No. of answers	Highest mark	Lowest mark	Mean	% mean	% std deviation	Correlation with total
Q1 /15	9067	15	0	9.31	62.04	15.97	0.72
Q2 /15	8958	15	0	8.00	53.54	18.60	0.76

Please see next page

Table 6. Section 2 Writing:

Question /mark	No. of answers	Highest Mark	Lowest Mark	Mean	%mean	% std deviation	Correlation with total
Q1 /30	1138	30	0	16.30	53.34	16.25	0.82
Q2 /30	4477	30	0	18.46	61.53	14.34	0.81
Q3 /30	1076	30	4	19.06	63.53	15.79	0.77
Q4 /30	1085	30	1	17.61	58.68	16.15	0.83
Q5 /30	1123	30	0	17.00	56.67	16.27	0.77

Table 7. Section 3 Viewing:

Question /mark	No. of answers	Highest Mark	Lowest Mark	Mean	%mean	% std deviation	Correlation with total
Q1 /15	4731	30	0	17.41	58.03	16.71	0.84
Q2 /15	4351	30	0	17.35	57.84	16.89	0.84

Table 8. Data on each section

Section	No. of answers	Highest Mark	Lowest Mark	Mean	%mean	% std deviation	Correlation with total
1. Reading	9109	30	0	17.13	57.11	16.18	0.82
2. Writing	9109	30	0	17.19	59.71	15.68	0.81
3. Viewing	9109	30	0	17.33	57.77	17.06	0.84
Total	9109	100	0	58.20	58.19	13.44	1.00

Comments on data in each table

Table 1. The majority of additional candidates in English would have studied Senior English and Vocational English in previous years. The English Literature candidature for the examination decreased by 113.

Table 2. There is slightly stronger correlation with school marks than in previous years. The change in the correlation is not statistically significant.

Table 3. Marking panels in every subject/course are instructed to aim for a mean of 58. WACE English 2007 is thus very close to the ideal mean. The higher standard deviation for 2007 indicates the paper was able to discriminate between students more than in previous years.

Table 4. The mean for English students who studied four or more TEE subjects/courses is higher than in previous years. (See table 4.16 for 2007 English at the following link.

http://www.curriculum.wa.edu.au/internet/Communications/Reports_Statistics/TEE_Examiners_Reports).

Table 5. Each question was a little away from the ideal mean but overall this section correlated well with the overall examination mean. See table 8.

Table 6. Questions 3 and 5 had slightly lower correlation with the final totals than other questions. This difference is not statistically significant. A correlation of 0.77 is seen as very good.

Table 7. The correlation of the viewing questions with the final total was seen as very good. The means for each question were very close to the ideal 58.

Table 8. There was no significant difference in the correlation of each section with the exam total. In 2006 the correlation for each section was 0.8