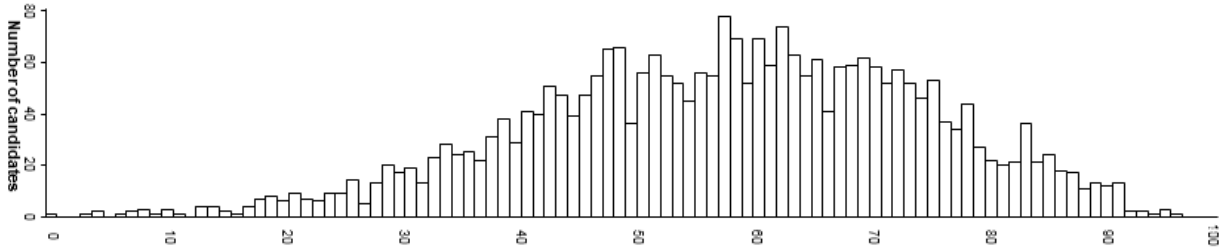
Government of **Western Australia**
School Curriculum and Standards Authority

WACE
Western Australian Certificate of Education

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

Year	Number who sat	Number of absentees
2014	2778	36
2013	3666	41
2012	3504	39

Examination score distribution



Summary

The examination was well received by candidates. Although slightly harder than last year's examination, the difficulty was judged to be appropriate. Section One: Short response had a mean of 61.0%; Section Two: Problem-solving had a mean of 60.7%; and Section Three: Comprehension had the lowest section mean of 47.4%. Section Three also had more non-attempts, which might indicate that the length of time required to complete the examination may have been insufficient for a minority of candidates. Most questions were straightforward with responses as expected, and every question had one or more candidates earning full marks. Use of scaffolding and direction of expected answer format, such as units and significant figures, continued to be successful. The paper had an overall mean of 58.1% and discriminated well, with scores ranging from 0% to 97%.

Section means were:

Section One: Short response	Mean 18.31(/30)	Max 29.72	Min 1.67
Section Two: Problem-solving	Mean 30.37(/50)	Max 48.33	Min 0.28
Section Three: Comprehension	Mean 9.48(/20)	Max 20.00	Min 0.00

General comments

Advice for candidates

- In graphing questions, it is important to read the question thoroughly and address the requirements. Ensure that you know how to construct a graph, and draw and use the line of best fit effectively.
- When drawing a line of best fit on a graph, all data points have equal value and should not be ignored or given extra weighting.
- Accuracy is important when drawing vector and free body diagrams, wave front diagrams, field line diagrams and sketch graphs; marks can be lost easily through carelessness, for example by drawing a straight line as a curve.
- When directed to 'Show **all** workings' in a calculation question, write down in a logical sequence the steps taken to work out the answer.
- When one object is in orbit around another, the radius of orbit is measured between the centres of the two objects, not their surfaces.
- Significant figures and units, when asked for in the question, allow you to obtain easy marks, if you follow the instructions.