



1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 GENERAL INFORMATION ON THE KENYA NATIONAL EXAMINATIONS COUNCIL

The Kenya National Examinations Council (the Council) was established by the Government of Kenya in 1980 by an Act of Parliament (CAP 225A) as a non-profit making institution to conduct school and post-school examinations and award certificates to successful candidates.

THE COUNCIL'S VISION: *To be the leading organisation in testing and assessment for quality education.*

THE COUNCIL'S MISSION: *To objectively evaluate learning achievements so as to enhance and safeguard nationally and internationally acceptable certification standards.*

1.1.1 THE COUNCIL'S CORE FUNCTIONS:

- a) Development of both school and post-school examinations;
- b) Registration of candidates;
- c) Administration and processing of the examinations;
- d) Certification;
- e) Researching into examinations and the curriculum and;
- f) Equating of certificates from other examining boards.

1.1.2 THE COUNCIL'S STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES:

- a) To develop and administer tests and examinations annually for Kenya Certificate of Primary Education (KCPE), Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE) and Post-School candidates and to ensure that these tests and examinations are free from *bias* and are *valid, reliable, relevant, efficient* and of globally *accepted standards*.
- b) To conduct examinations, publish the results and issue certificates.

To achieve its Mandate, Vision, Mission and Strategic Objectives, the Council: - *develops, moderates, prints, distributes, administers, marks, processes examinations* and awards *certificates* to successful candidates in the following examinations: -

a) SCHOOL EXAMINATIONS:

- i) Kenya Certificate of Primary Education Examination (KCPE)
- ii) Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education Examination (KCSE)

b) POST SCHOOL EXAMINATIONS:

- i) Primary Teachers Education Examination (PTE),
- ii) Business Examinations,
- iii) Technical Examinations,
- iv) Teacher Certificate in Adult Education Examination (TCAE),
- v) Early Childhood Development Education Examination (ECDE)

2.0 GENERAL INFORMATION ON THE YEAR 2007 KCSE EXAMINATION REPORT

2.1 THE YEAR 2007 KCSE EXAMINATION CANDIDATURE

In the year 2007, there were 276,239 candidates who were registered for the KCSE examination compared to 243,453 candidates who registered for the same examination in the year 2006.

The information on total candidature by gender for the year 2007 KCSE examination has been *tabulated* below. Information for the years 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005 and 2006 has been included for comparison purposes.

Table 1: KCSE Examination Candidature by Gender for the last Nine Years

YEAR	CANDIDATURE TRENDS		
	TOTAL	MALE TOTAL	FEMALE TOTAL
2007	276,239	150,127	126,112
2006	243,453	129,071	114,382
2005	260,665	141,256	119,409
2004	222,676	120,067	102,609
2003	207,730	111,589	96,141
2002	198,356	106,164	92,192
2001	194,883	104,911	89,972
2000	181,966	97,956	84,010
1999	172,883	93,487	79,396

2.2 CANDIDATES' PERFORMANCE IN THE YEARS 2006 AND 2007 KCSE EXAMINATIONS

Table 2 below shows candidates general performance in all subjects in the years 2006 and 2007.

Table 2: Candidate's Performance by gender in the years 2006 and 2007 KCSE Examinations in all the Subjects

SUBJECT NAME & CODE	2006				2007			
	FEMALE		MALE		FEMALE		MALE	
	NO. SAT	MEAN %	NO. SAT	MEAN %	NO. SAT	MEAN %	NO. SAT	MEAN %
English (101)	113,754	39.75	128,286	39.78	123,654	39.65	146,975	39.74
Kiswahili (102)	113,767	52.56	128,280	51.87	124,107	45.53	147,387	45.95
Mathematics (121)	113,802	15.78	128,323	21.87	124,874	15.74	148,260	23.10
Biology (231)	108,065	25.00	109,863	29.84	118,395	38.99	127,516	44.70
Physics (232)	21,376	39.07	51,123	40.82	23,767	39.04	59,506	42.23

SUBJECT NAME & CODE	2006				2007			
	FEMALE		MALE		FEMALE		MALE	
	NO. SAT	MEAN %	NO. SAT	MEAN %	NO. SAT	MEAN %	NO. SAT	MEAN %
Chemistry (233)	111,969	22.56	124,932	27.01	122,532	22.65	144,229	27.69
Biology for the Blind (236)	-	-	-	-	11	24.17	25	25.16
History & Govt. (311)	66,228	46.72	78,206	54.04	72,602	46.31	91,308	54.60
Geography (312)	41,929	38.16	56,088	44.38	42,398	42.74	60,451	49.66
CRE (313)	82,613	55.63	61,678	55.40	92,586	62.40	71,699	62.39
IRE (314)	2,257	56.74	3,848	59.60	2,576	59.38	4,443	62.58
HRE (315)	08	57.44	05	62.60	03	64.67	04	36.25
Home Science (441)	9,856	49.42	730	43.28	10,493	49.91	774	42.05
Art and Design (442)	358	61.26	750	61.93	337	60.00	641	57.95
Agriculture (443)	47,275	35.96	58,888	41.09	50,350	40.54	66,401	46.06
Aviation Tech. (450)	-	-	46	65.80	-	-	53	54.08
Computer Studies (451)	1,874	52.09	2,309	56.87	2,147	51.66	2,590	57.61
French (501)	1,397	40.88	862	42.85	1,328	46.28	790	48.97
German (502)	222	60.99	94	63.76	304	60.20	111	56.32
Arabic (503)	311	64.26	663	69.07	327	64.58	748	68.73
Music (511)	746	52.20	553	51.03	734	53.79	559	52.13
Business Studies (565)	51,340	43.19	59,359	48.86	52,349	51.49	64,402	58.11

Observations on Candidates Performance

- In the year 2007 KCSE examination, female candidates performed better than male candidates in only *six (06) subjects* out of the *twenty two (22) subjects* offered. These were *CRE (313), HRE (315), Home Science (441), Art and Design (442), German (502) and Music (511)*.
- Male candidates performed better than female candidates in the remaining *fifteen (15) subjects* during the year 2007 KCSE examination.

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- c) In the year 2007 KCSE examination, there were more female candidates who sat for *CRE (313)*, *Home Science (441)*, *French (501)*, *German (502)* and *Music (511)* when compared to male candidates.
- d) No female candidates sat for the *Aviation Technology (451)* examination in the 2006 and 2007 KCSE examinations.

2.3 RANKING OF KCSE SCHOOLS

Ranking of KCSE schools is worked out by considering all the candidates' mean grades to obtain a school mean grade. This is expressed as what is commonly referred to as the performance index which is based on a twelve point numeric grading system.

2.3.1 RANKING OF KCSE CANDIDATES

2.3.1.1 KCSE candidates are ranked nationally and by province. This is based on the individual candidates' subject mean grade and subject marks in accordance with *KCSE Awards criteria* based on the minimum seven best performed subjects.

2.3.1.2 The Council uses both subject mean grades and subject marks to rank candidates instead of using mean grades alone for the following reasons:

- If grades are used to rank candidates, many candidates will tie in one position because a grade has a range of marks;
- Grades do not distinguish variations in candidates' scores. For example two candidates could have *As* in a particular subject, one with an *A* of 82 and the other one with an *A* of 73.

2.4 OVERVIEW OF THE YEAR 2007 KCSE EXAMINATION REPORT

This report covers two areas of the year 2007 KCSE examination. *Part I* deals with the examination questions which the majority of the candidates found difficult. *Part II* covers all the question papers and their sample marking schemes in most of the subjects and the year 2007 KCSE Top Ten schools' and candidates' statistics.

It should be noted that the attached marking schemes are but a sample. These sample marking schemes are normally discussed in detail by the examiners and may be amended accordingly before they are used to score the candidates scripts.

The KCSE examination report analyses in detail candidates' performance in the KCSE examination. Its main aim is to provide a feedback on candidates' performance in KCSE examination subjects, with a focus on those questions which candidates found difficult. Such questions have been identified and discussed, possible causes of mistakes pointed out and expected responses in some cases have been given in order to show what kind of responses were expected.

The report indicates areas of the syllabus not adequately covered as evidenced by the poor performance of candidates in these areas and gives recommendations on how such areas could be managed or better taught.

2.6 GENERAL COMMENTS ON THE FEEDBACK REPORT

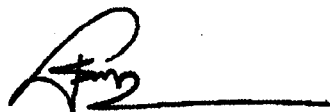
It is hoped that schools will find the information given in this feedback report useful. The Council will highly appreciate any informed comments and suggestions from teachers, students and the public that can be considered for inclusion in the next issue of this report to enrich it. We hope that this report will continue to create an avenue through which teachers can share their experiences especially in the handling of those topics that students find difficult to understand.

Comments/suggestions from teachers, students and the public may be forwarded to the Council in writing or by completion of the questionnaire inserted in every copy of this report. We thank all those who have in the past given us useful suggestions/or comments on previous issues of this report. In this regard, we are happy to note that as a result of the feedback we received after the previous issue of this report was published, we have now included question papers and sample marking schemes for most of the group 4 and 5 subjects.

The Council would like to remind schools and the general public that all the past and current issues of the KCSE examination reports can be purchased from *The Kenya National Examinations Council, Mitihani bookshop* situated on the *Ground floor of the National Housing Corporation Building along Aga Khan Walk*, opposite Co-operative Building. The cost and postage charges of the KCSE examination reports will be given on request.

2.7 APPRECIATION

Finally, I wish to commend the efforts of Mr. E. Wanderi, Mr. I. Gicheru, Mr. F. Kyalo, Mrs. J. Wachira, Mrs. R. Nthamburi, Mr. G. Mwanzia, Mrs. Z. Mutea, Mr. D. Kivai, Ms. J. Sabari - Karanu, Ms. J. Maribie, Mr. P. Kimanthi, Mr. F. A. Otieno, Mr. P. Miano, Mr. G. Itute, Mrs. L. Njuguna, Mr. J. Onjoro, Mrs. L. Ngugi, Mr. H. Bundu, Mrs. A. Onacha, Mr. G. Katungwa, Mr. G. Gathungu, Mr. S. Wainaina, Mrs. J. Osok, Ms. A. Kikvi and all the officers in the Data Processing & Research, Test Development, Manuscript and Reprographics Departments and the entire Senior Management of the Council for their contribution in one way or the other to the preparation and publication of this report.



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