

## 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;
- f) Equating of certificates from other examining boards and;
- g) Accreditation of other institutions and programmes.

#### 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) Teachers' Certificate in Adult Education Examination (TCAE),
- v) Early Childhood Development and Education Examination (ECDE),
- vi) Diploma in Teacher Education Examination,
- vii) Special Needs Education Examination.

## 2.0 INFORMATION ON THE YEAR 2009 KCSE EXAMINATION REPORT

### 2.1 THE YEAR 2009 KCSE EXAMINATION CANDIDATURE

In the year 2009 there were 337,404 candidates who were registered for the KCSE examination compared to 305,015 candidates who registered for the same examination in the year 2008.

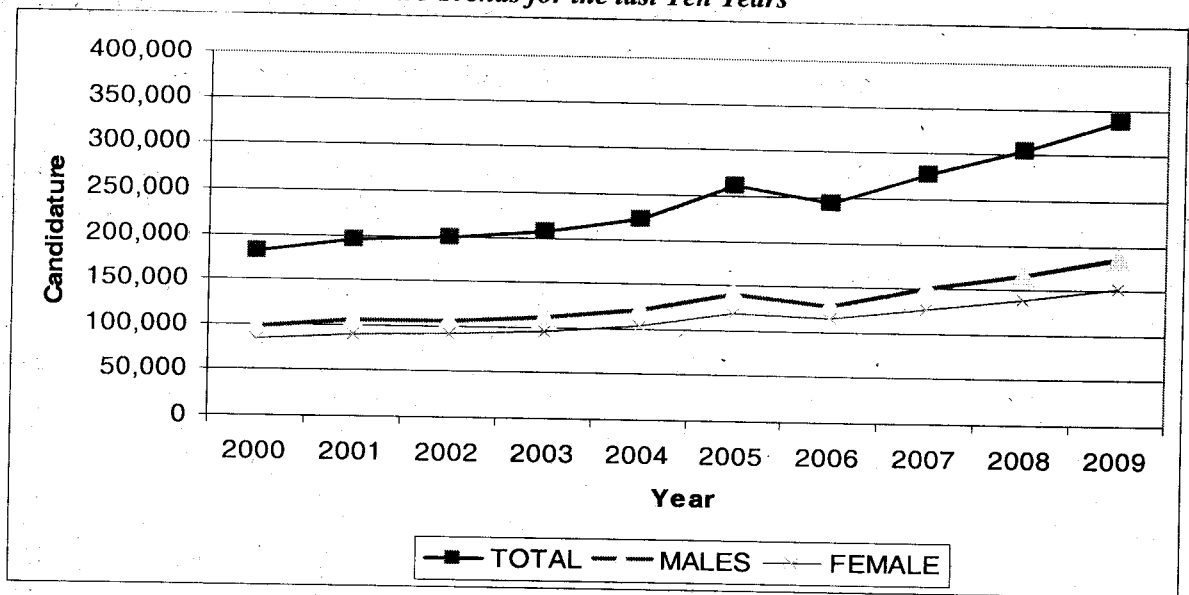
The information on total candidature by gender for the year 2009 KCSE examination has been tabulated below. Information for the years 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2008 has been included for comparison purposes.

### 2.2 KCSE EXAMINATION CANDIDATURE BY GENDER FOR THE LAST TEN YEARS

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

YEAR	NUMBER OF CENTRES	CANDIDATURE					
		TOTAL	INCREASE/ DECREASE (%)	MALE		FEMALE	
				TOTAL (%)	INCREASE/ DECREASE (%)	TOTAL (%)	INCREASE/ DECREASE (%)
2009	5,600	337,404	32,389 (10.62%)	184,563 (54.70%)	18,972 (11.46%)	152,841 (45.30%)	13,417 (9.62%)
2008	5,183	305,015	28,776 (10.42%)	165,591 (54.29%)	15,464 (10.30%)	139,424 (45.71%)	13,312 (10.56%)
2007	4,833	276,239	32,786 (13.47%)	150,127 (54.35%)	21,056 (16.31%)	126,112 (45.65%)	11,730 (10.26%)
2006	4,506	243,453	-17,212 (6.60%)	129,071 (53.02%)	-12,185 (8.63%)	114,382 (46.98%)	-5,027 (4.21%)
2005	4,257	260,665	37,989 (17.06%)	141,256 (54.19%)	21,189 (17.65%)	119,409 (45.81%)	-16,800 (16.37%)
2004	3,966	222,676	14,946 (7.20%)	120,067 (53.92%)	8,478 (7.60%)	102,609 (46.08%)	6,468 (6.73%)
2003	3,731	207,730	9,374 (4.73%)	111,589 (53.72%)	5,425 (5.11%)	96,141 (46.28%)	3,949 (4.28%)
2002	3,609	198,356	3,473 (1.78%)	106,164 (53.52%)	1,253 (1.19%)	92,192 (46.48%)	2,220 (2.47%)
2001	3,430	194,883	12,917 (7.10%)	104,911 (53.83%)	6,955 (7.10%)	89,972 (46.17%)	5,962 (7.10%)
2000	3,319	181,966	9,083 (5.25%)	97,956 (53.83%)	4,469 (4.78%)	84,010 (46.17%)	4,614 (5.81%)

**Graph 1: KCSE Examination Candidature Trends for the last Ten Years**



**Observations from Table 1 and Graph 1:**

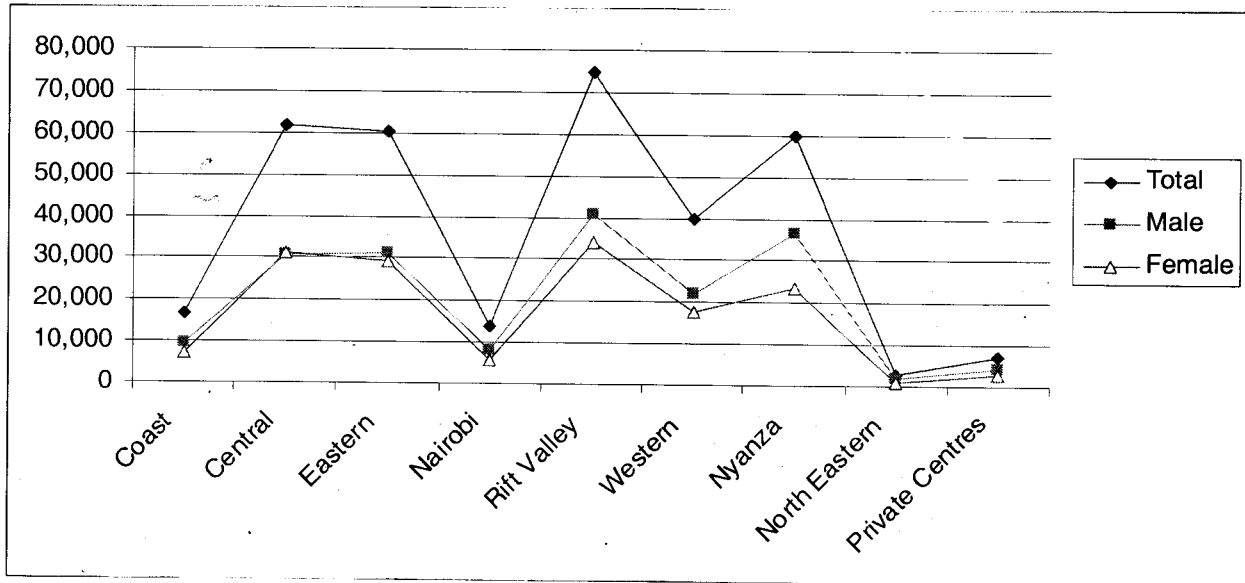
- 2.2.1 There has been fewer female than male candidates registered for the KCSE examinations over the last ten years;
- 2.2.2 The ratio of female to male candidates decreased slightly from 46%:54% in the last nine years to 45%:56% in the year 2009.

### 2.3 2008 AND 2009 KCSE EXAMINATION CANDIDATURE DISTRIBUTION BY PROVINCE AND GENDER

**Table 2: 2009 KCSE Examination Candidature Distribution by Province and gender**

PROVINCE		2009			2008		
		CAND. (%)	MALE (%)	FEMALE (%)	CAND. (%)	MALE (%)	FEMALE (%)
1.	Coast	16,731 (4.96%)	9,470 (5.13%)	7,261 (4.75%)	15,422 (5.06)	8,663 (56.17)	6,759 (43.83)
2.	Central	61,792 (18.31%)	30,518 (16.54%)	31,274 (20.46%)	56,882 (18.65)	27,859 (48.98)	29,023 (51.02)
3.	Eastern	60,416 (17.91%)	30,961 (16.78%)	29,455 (19.27%)	53,878 (17.66)	27,237 (50.55)	26,641 (49.45)
4.	Nairobi	13,916 (4.12%)	8,139 (4.41%)	5,777 (3.78%)	13,104 (4.30)	7,577 (57.82)	5,527 (42.18)
5.	Rift Valley	74,696 (22.14%)	40,585 (21.99%)	34,111 (22.32%)	65,739 (21.55)	35,374 (53.81)	30,365 (46.19)
6.	Western	39,883 (11.82%)	22,117 (11.98%)	17,766 (11.62%)	35,120 (11.51)	19,228 (54.75)	15,892 (45.25)
7.	Nyanza	59,912 (17.76%)	36,497 (19.77%)	23,415 (15.32%)	54,822 (17.97)	33,262 (60.67)	21,560 (39.33)
8.	North Eastern	2,655 (0.79%)	1,904 (1.03%)	751 (0.49%)	2,332 (0.76)	1,720 (73.76)	612 (26.24)
9.	Private centres	7,403 (2.19%)	4,372 (2.37%)	3,031 (1.98%)	7,716 (2.53)	4,671 (60.54)	3,045 (39.46)
<b>Total</b>		<b>337,404 (100%)</b>	<b>184,563 (54.70%)</b>	<b>152,841 (45.30%)</b>	<b>305,015 (100%)</b>	<b>165,591 (54.29%)</b>	<b>139,424 (45.71%)</b>

**Graph 2: Year 2009 KCSE Examination Candidature Trends by Gender & Provinces**



**Observations from Table 2 and Graph 2:**

2.3.1 In 2009, Rift Valley province registered the highest number of candidates while North Eastern province has the lowest;

2.3.2 Central province registered more female than male candidates in the year 2009.

**2.4 CANDIDATES WHO SAT THE KCSE EXAMINATION UNDER SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES**

Table 3 below shows the number of candidates who sat the year 2009 and 2008 KCSE examinations under various special circumstances.

**Table 3: Candidates who sat the Year 2009 and 2008 KCSE Examination under special circumstances**

Province	No. of candidates who took exam. In prison/police		No. of candidates who took exam in hospital		Candidates with special needs									
	2009	2008	2009	2008	Blind		Low vision		Physically Handicapped		Mentally handicapped		Hearing impaired	
					2009	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008
1. Coast	00	00	03	06	01	03	48	27	08	14	01	00	28	00
2. Central	00	03	17	17	47	34	18	18	32	37	00	06	00	25
3. Eastern	00	00	37	07	00	00	22	15	06	03	00	00	00	01
4. Nairobi	00	00	06	06	00	00	17	01	01	01	00	00	00	01
5. R/Valley	06	15	29	17	05	04	43	30	14	06	01	01	01	01
6. Western	02	00	19	17	02	01	17	10	06	02	03	00	18	30
7. Nyanza	03	02	30	10	29	02	22	21	21	18	02	00	00	26
8. N/Eastern	00	00	03	00	00	00	07	06	00	00	00	00	00	00
<b>Totals</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>07</b>	<b>07</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>84</b>

**Observations from Table 3:**

2.4.1 The highest number of registered candidates with special needs in 2009 were those with low vision (194) followed by the physically handicapped (88);

2.4.2 The number of candidates who took the examination in prison decreased in the year 2009 when compared to those in the year 2008. The number of candidates who took the examination in hospital in 2009 increased as compared to those in 2008.

**2.5 CANDIDATES' PERFORMANCE IN THE YEARS 2009 AND 2008 KCSE EXAMINATIONS**

Table 4 below shows candidates general performance in all subjects in the years 2009 and 2008.

**Table 4(a): Candidate's Performance by gender in the years 2009 and 2008 KCSE Examinations in all the Subjects'**

SUBJECT CODE & NAME	2009						2008					
	ALL		FEMALE		MALE		ALL		FEMALE		MALE	
	NO. SAT	MEAN %	NO. SAT	MEAN %	NO. SAT	MEAN %	NO. SAT	MEAN %	NO. SAT	MEAN %	NO. SAT	MEAN %
101 English	334,883	39.26	151,823	39.18	183,060	39.33	300,794	33.79	137,498	33.98	163,296	33.62
102 Kiswahili	334,822	38.57	151,797	38.82	183,025	38.36	301,389	37.27	137,517	37.75	163,872	36.86
121 Mathematics	335,014	21.13	151,915	18.11	183,099	23.63	302,648	21.30	138,255	17.71	164,393	24.31
231 Biology	299,302	27.20	143,359	25.15	155,943	29.08	271,735	30.32	130,866	28.49	140,869	32.01
232 Physics	104,188	31.33	29,233	29.93	74,955	31.88	92,648	36.71	26,322	36.10	66,326	36.95
233 Chemistry	328,922	19.13	149,755	17.56	179,167	20.43	296,360	22.74	135,950	20.93	160,410	24.27
236 Biology for the Blind	52	18.43	22	14.07	30	21.63	30	21.63	13	21.54	23	22.87
311 History & Govt	210,622	45.87	92,462	42.03	118,160	48.87	182,850	40.96	81,034	36.49	101,816	44.52
312 Geography	112,446	38.89	45,578	34.04	66,868	40.52	109,745	37.01	44,701	33.52	65,044	39.39
313 CRE	217,404	42.82	119,791	42.97	97,613	42.63	188,749	50.41	105,735	50.17	83,014	50.71
314 IRE	9,026	48.48	3,238	44.73	5,788	50.57	8,622	54.71	3,128	52.31	5,494	56.08
315 HRE	6	60.17	2	68.25	4	56.13	13	61.69	4	53.38	9	65.39
441 Home Science	12,300	51.89	11,416	52.36	884	45.78	12,117	48.38	11,258	48.79	859	42.91
442 Art and Design	1,067	58.57	387	58.76	680	58.45	990	66.18	400	66.50	600	65.55
443 Agriculture	137,217	38.83	60,770	35.71	76,447	41.32	133,055	27.32	57,477	30.76	73,533	35.86
444 Woodwork	421	47.11	-	-	421	47.11	98	46.45	1	47.00	97	46.41
445 Metalwork	227	60.82	2	51.00	225	60.91	90	59.24	1	57.00	88	59.92
446 Building & Construction	193	50.05	6	42.00	187	50.31	18	49.61	1	49.00	17	49.64
447 Power Mechanics	136	56.73	3	58.66	133	56.69	57	49.77	2	51.00	52	52.48
448 Electricity	216	59.55	2	66.50	214	59.48	48	48.50	3	51.66	43	49.72
449 Drawing & Design	312	46.74	4	22.50	308	47.06	19	46.58	3	30.66	16	49.56
450 Aviation Techn.	68	61.07	3	42.66	65	61.92	63	61.33	-	-	63	63.33
451 Computer Studies	5,992	48.13	2,490	44.83	3,502	50.47	5,498	45.83	2,378	44.36	3,089	47.42
501 French	2,194	50.09	1,513	49.68	681	51.01	2,185	46.65	1,448	46.29	739	47.26
502 German	381	63.95	273	63.49	108	65.12	386	62.90	258	64.47	129	59.40
503 Arabic	1,512	71.95	453	70.33	1,059	72.65	1,264	64.96	399	63.21	880	65.09
511 Music	1,480	46.88	877	47.22	603	46.39	1,442	46.85	821	47.88	624	45.40



SUBJECT CODE & NAME	2009						2008					
	ALL		FEMALE		MALE		ALL		FEMALE		MALE	
	NO. SAT	MEAN %	NO. SAT	MEAN %	NO. SAT	MEAN %	NO. SAT	MEAN %	NO. SAT	MEAN %	NO. SAT	MEAN %
565 Business Studies	146,959	35.42	64,540	32.91	82,419	37.39	126,224	37.73	56,293	35.14	69,931	39.81

**Table 4(b) Summary of cumulative number of candidates who obtained mean grade C+ and above for 2009, 2008 and 2007**

GRADE	A			A-			B+		
YEAR	2009	2008	2007	2009	2008	2007	2009	2008	2007
MALE	629	489	806	3,035	3,413	3,386	6,361	6,143	6,569
FEMALE	301	328	351	1,387	1,748	1,231	2,979	3,222	2,560
ALL	930	817	1,157	4,422	5,161	5,094	9,340	9,365	9,129
CUM. TOTAL	930	817	1,157	5,352	5,978	6,251	14,692	15,343	15,380
%AGE	0.27	0.27	0.42	1.32	1.71	1.87	2.80	3.1	3.36
CUM %AGE	0.27	0.27	0.42	1.59	1.98	2.29	4.39	5.08	5.65
GRADE	B			B-			C+		
YEAR	2009	2008	2007	2009	2008	2007	2009	2008	2007
MALE	6,361	8,576	9,538	13,312	11,026	13,228	17,171	14,663	17,257
FEMALE	5,359	4,793	4,825	8,511	7,397	8,647	12,402	10,851	13,259
ALL	14,960	13,369	14,363	21,823	18,423	21,875	29,573	25,514	30,516
CUM. TOTAL	29,652	28,712	29,743	51,475	47,135	51,618	81,048	72,649	82,134
%AGE	4.48	4.43	4.28	6.54	6.11	8.05	8.86	8.46	11.23
CUM %AGE	8.87	9.51	10.93	15.41	15.62	18.98	24.27	24.08	30.21

**Observations on Candidates Performance:**

- In 2009 KCSE examination, female candidates performed better than male candidates in only **eight (08) subjects** out of the **twenty eight (28) subjects** offered. These were **Kiswahili (102), CRE (313); HRE (315); Home Science (441), Art and Design (442), Power Mechanics (447); Electricity (448), and Music (511)**.
- Male candidates performed better than female candidates in the remaining **twenty (20) subjects** during the year 2009 KCSE examination.
- In 2009 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.
- No female candidates sat for **Woodwork (444)** in 2009 KCSE examination.
- There were **930 (0.27%)** candidates who obtained an overall grade A in 2009 KCSE examination compared to **817 (0.27%)** candidates in 2008.

- f) There were **29,652 (8.87%)** candidates who obtained Grade B (plain) and above in the 2009 KCSE examination compared to **28,712 (9.51%)** in 2008.
- g) The number of candidates with minimum university entry qualification of grade C+ and above were **81,048 (24.27%)** in 2009 compared to **72,649 (24.08%)** in the year 2008 KCSE examination

## 2.6 RANKING OF KCSE CANDIDATES

- 2.6.1 KCSE candidates are ranked nationally and by province. This is based on candidates' mean grade and subject marks in accordance with KCSE Awards criteria based on the seven best performed subjects.
- 2.6.2 The Council uses both mean grades and subject marks to rank candidates instead of using mean grades alone because if mean grades are used to rank candidates, many candidates will tie in one position for a mean grade has a range of marks; 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 **95**.

## 2.7 OVERVIEW OF THE YEAR 2009 KCSE EXAMINATION REPORT

- 2.7.1 This report covers two areas of the 2009 examination. **Part I** consists of an analysis/discussion of examination questions which the majority of the candidates found difficult. **Part II** is a compilation of all the question papers and their sample marking schemes in most of the subjects. The year 2009 KCSE Top Ten schools' and candidates' statistics are also included.
- 2.7.2 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.
- 2.7.3 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.
- 2.7.4 The report indicates areas of the syllabus not adequately covered as evidenced by the poor performance of candidates in these areas and also gives recommendations on how such areas could be managed or better taught.

## 2.8 GENERAL COMMENTS ON THE FEEDBACK REPORT

- 2.8.1 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.
- 2.8.2 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 receive, we have continued to improve on the quality of the reports.
- 2.8.3 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.



## 2.9 APPRECIATION

Finally, I wish to commend the efforts Mr. F. Kyalo, Mr. G. Mwanzia, Mrs. L. Njuguna, Mr. G Itute, Mr. J. Onjoro, Mr. S. Kasinga, Mrs. A Onacha, Mr G. Katungwa, Mr. S. Wainaina, Mrs. J. Osok, Mrs. K. Iman, Mr. A. Amaunda., Mr. L. Adhiambo, Ms R Ndaana, Mr. J. Nderitu, Mr W. Orora, Mrs. C. Makunda, Mr. M Malusi, Ms J. Kiviu, ICT, 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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**COUNCIL SECRETARY/CHIEF EXECUTIVE**