

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 a world class organization in assessment for quality education.*

THE COUNCIL'S MISSION: *To objectively evaluate learning achievements so as to safeguard and enhance globally 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;
- 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 (PTE) Examinations,
- ii) Business Examinations,
- iii) Technical Examinations,
- iv) Teachers' Certificate in Adult Education (TCAE), Examinations
- v) Early Childhood Development and Education (ECDE) Examinations,
- vi) Diploma in Teacher Education (DTE) Examinations,
- vii) Special Needs Education (SNE) Examinations.

2.0 INFORMATION ON THE YEAR 2010 KCSE EXAMINATION REPORT

2.1 THE YEAR 2010 KCSE EXAMINATION CANDIDATURE

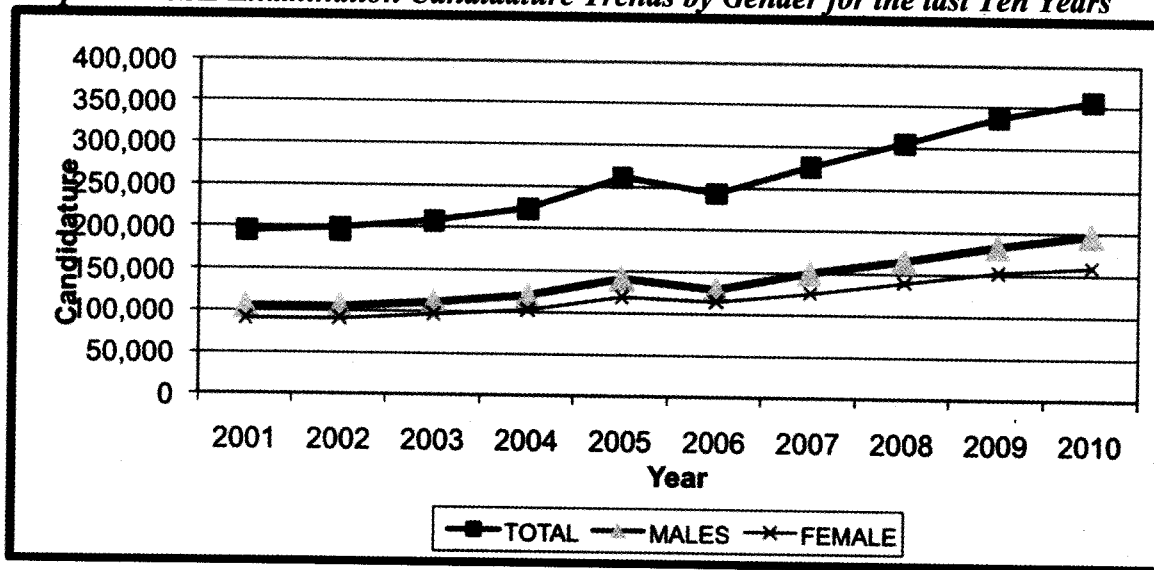
In the year 2010 there were 357,488 candidates who were registered for the KCSE examination compared to 337,404 candidates who registered for the same examination in the year 2009.

The information on total candidature by gender for the year 2010 KCSE examination has been tabulated below. Information for the years 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2009 has been included for comparison purposes.

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 (%)
2010	6,004	357,488	20,084 (6.00%)	188,740 (52.79%)	19,537 (7.33%)	150,388 (44.59%)	6,547 (4.28%)
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%)

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



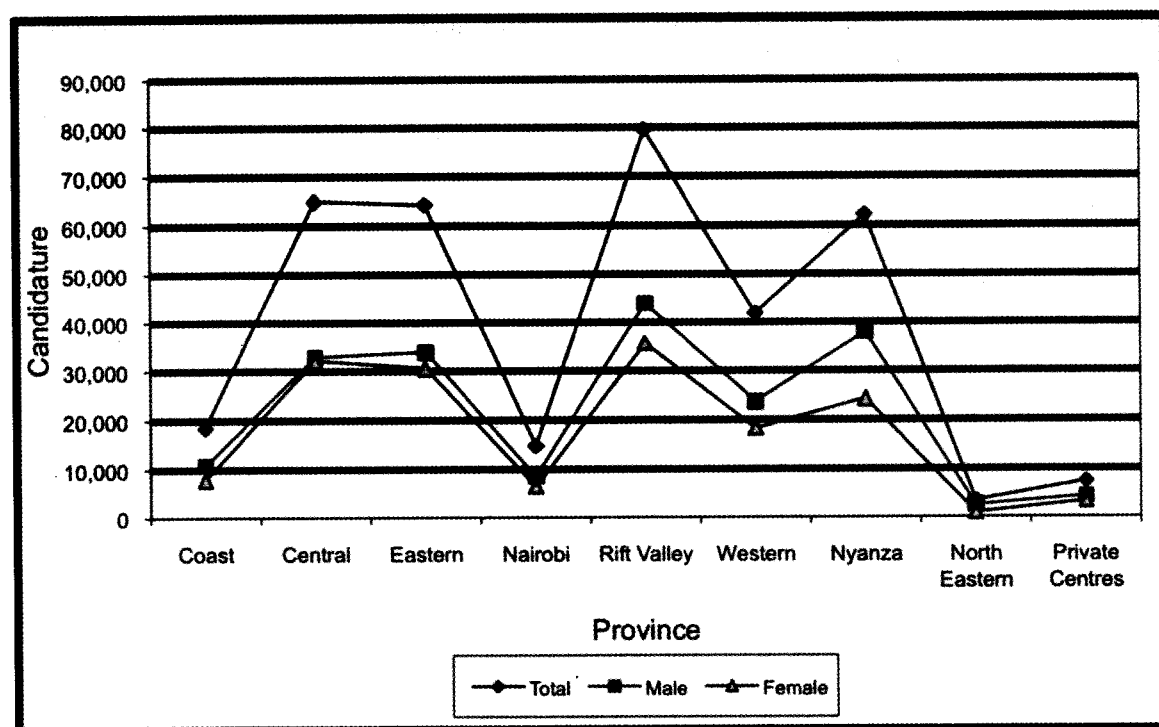
Observations from Table 1 and Graph 1:

- 2.1.1 There has been a gradual increase in candidature from 194,883 in 2001 to 357,488 in 2010. However in 2006 there was a drop in enrolment from 260,665 in 2005 to 243,453 in 2006.
- 2.1.2 The number of male candidates has been higher than that of the female over the last ten years.
- 2.1.3 The ratio of female candidates has dropped from 45.30% in 2009 to 44.59% in 2010 while that of male candidates increased from 54.70% in 2009 to 55.41% in 2010.

Table 2: Year 2010 KCSE Examination Candidature Distribution By Gender and Province

PROVINCE		2010			2009		
		CAND. (%)	MALE (%)	FEMALE (%)	CAND. (%)	2009	FEMALE (%)
1.	Coast	18,621 (5.21%)	10,765 (5.43%)	7,856 (4.93%)	16,731 (4.96%)	9,470 (5.13%)	7,261 (4.75%)
2.	Central	64,953 (18.17%)	32,826 (16.57%)	32,127 (20.16%)	61,792 (18.31%)	30,518 (16.54%)	31,274 (20.46%)
3.	Eastern	64,351 (18.00%)	33,827 (17.08%)	30,524 (19.15%)	60,416 (17.91%)	30,961 (16.78%)	29,455 (19.27%)
4.	Nairobi	14,893 (4.17%)	8,463 (4.27%)	6,430 (4.03%)	13,916 (4.12%)	8,139 (4.41%)	5,777 (3.78%)
5.	Rift Valley	79,509 (22.24%)	43,905 (22.16%)	35,604 (22.34%)	74,696 (22.14%)	40,585 (21.99%)	34,111 (22.32%)
6.	Western	41,946 (11.73%)	23,617 (11.92%)	18,329 (11.50%)	39,883 (11.82%)	22,117 (11.98%)	17,766 (11.62%)
7.	Nyanza	62,174 (17.39%)	37,946 (19.15%)	24,228 (15.20%)	59,912 (17.76%)	36,497 (19.77%)	23,415 (15.32%)
8.	North Eastern	3,508 (0.98%)	2,548 (1.29%)	960 (0.60%)	2,655 (0.79%)	1,904 (1.03%)	751 (0.49%)
9.	Private centres	7,533 (2.11%)	4,203 (2.12%)	3,330 (2.09%)	7,403 (2.19%)	4,372 (2.37%)	3,031 (1.98%)
Total		357,488 (100.00%)	198,100 (100.00%)	159,388 (100.00%)	337,404 (100.00%)	184,563 (54.70%)	152,841 (45.30%)

Graph 2: Year 2010 KCSE Examination Candidature Trends By Gender and Provinces



Observations from Table 2 and Graph 2:

- 2.1.4 For two years running, Rift Valley province registered the highest number of candidates while North Eastern province registered the lowest.
- 2.1.5 In 2010 all the provinces recorded an increase in candidature compared to 2009.
- 2.1.6 The number of private candidates rose from 7,403 in 2009 to 7,533 in 2010. However, the number of male private candidates dropped from 4,372 in 2009 to 4,203 in 2010 while the female private candidates increased from 3,031 in 2009 to 3,330 in 2010.

2.2 CANDIDATES WHO SAT THE KCSE EXAMINATION UNDER SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

Table 3 below shows the number of candidates who sat the year 2010 and 2009 KCSE examinations under various special circumstances.

Table 3: Candidates who sat the Year 2010 and 2009 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									
					Blind		Low vision		Physically Handicapped		Mentally handicapped		Hearing impaired	
	2009	2010	2009	2010	2009	2010	2009	2010	2009	2010	2009	2010	2009	2010
1. Coast	00	00	03	16	00	00	48	112	08	09	01	01	00	00
2. Central	00	01	17	15	46	52	18	123	32	65	00	02	29	44
3. Eastern	00	00	37	22	00	00	22	153	06	32	00	00	00	02
4. Nairobi	00	01	06	11	00	01	17	132	01	10	00	00	00	06
5. R/Valley	06	01	29	51	05	05	43	298	14	61	01	00	01	10
6. Western	02	00	19	23	02	03	17	185	06	34	03	01	18	14
7. Nyanza	03	02	30	20	00	00	22	366	21	88	02	04	29	34
8. N/Eastern	00	00	03	02	00	00	07	15	00	07	00	00	00	00
9. Private	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	35	00	08	00	00	00	02
Totals	11	05	144	169	53	61	194	1,419	88	314	07	08	77	104

Observations from Table 3:

- 2.2.1 In 2010, candidates who sat the examination under special circumstances increased except those who sat in prisons whose number dropped from 11 in 2009 to 5 in 2010.
- 2.2.2 Candidates with low vision increased significantly from 194 in 2009 to 1419 in 2010.

2.3 CANDIDATES' PERFORMANCE IN THE YEARS 2010 AND 2009 KCSE EXAMINATIONS

Table 4 below shows candidates general performance in all subjects in the years 2010 and 2009.

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

SUBJECT CODE & NAME	2010						2009					
	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	354,951	38.90	158,344	39.26	196,607	38.61	334,883	39.26	151,823	39.18	183,060	39.33
102 Kiswahili	354,767	43.63	158,284	44.34	196,483	43.06	334,822	38.57	151,797	38.82	183,025	38.36
121 Mathematics	353,871	23.06	157,816	19.71	196,055	25.75	335,014	21.13	151,915	18.11	183,099	23.63
122 Maths Alt.B	1,228	19.07	612	17.94	616	20.20	-	-	-	-	-	-
231 Biology	315,063	29.23	148,729	26.99	166,334	31.24	299,302	27.20	143,359	25.15	155,943	29.08
232 Physics	109,072	35.13	29,964	33.46	79,108	35.76	104,188	31.33	29,233	29.93	74,955	31.88
233 Chemistry	347,378	24.91	155,725	22.80	191,653	26.62	328,922	19.13	149,755	17.56	179,167	20.43
236 Biology for the Blind	58	14.26	21	11.45	37	15.85	52	18.43	22	14.07	30	21.63
237 General Science	1,223	12.76	611	12.07	612	13.47	-	-	-	-	-	-
311 History & Govt	225,526	45.82	97,546	41.73	127,980	48.95	210,622	45.87	92,462	42.03	118,160	48.87
312 Geography	111,646	37.53	44,471	33.86	67,175	39.95	112,446	38.89	45,578	34.04	66,868	40.52
313 CRE	240,220	46.13	128,762	46.05	111,458	46.22	217,404	42.82	119,791	42.97	97,613	42.63
314 IRE	10,773	46.68	3,774	44.31	6,999	47.96	9,026	48.48	3,238	44.73	5,788	50.57
315 HRE	1	-	-	-	1	-	6	60.17	2	68.25	4	56.13
441 Home Science	12,346	54.80	11,314	55.32	1,032	49.07	12,300	51.89	11,416	52.36	884	45.78
442 Art and Design	1,080	59.54	413	61.16	667	58.53	1,067	58.57	387	58.76	680	58.45
443 Agriculture	140,237	33.99	60,708	31.25	79,529	36.08	137,217	38.83	60,770	35.71	76,447	41.32
444 Woodwork	374	50.18	-	-	374	50.18	421	47.11	-	-	421	47.11
445 Metalwork	220	37.70	1	12.00	219	37.82	227	60.82	2	51.00	225	60.91
446 Building Construction	223	43.78	12	34.58	211	44.31	193	50.05	6	42.00	187	50.31
447 Power Mechanics	159	52.66	3	46.00	156	52.78	136	56.73	3	58.66	133	56.69
448 Electricity	161	61.51	-	-	161	61.51	216	59.55	2	66.50	214	59.48
449 Drawing & Design	307	50.05	5	45.00	302	50.13	312	46.74	4	22.50	308	47.06
450 Aviation Techn.	52	64.84	3	48.66	49	65.83	68	61.07	3	42.66	65	61.92
451 Comp. Studies	7,045	55.91	2,980	54.14	4,065	57.93	5,992	48.13	2,490	44.83	3,502	50.47
501 French	2,358	55.37	1,632	54.75	726	56.78	2,194	50.09	1,513	49.68	681	51.01
502 German	409	64.85	266	64.26	143	65.93	381	63.95	273	63.49	108	65.12
503 Arabic	1,926	67.00	557	65.71	1,369	67.52	1,512	71.95	453	70.33	1,059	72.65
504 Kenyan Sign Lang.	95	64.12	44	66.27	51	62.27	-	-	-	-	-	-
511 Music	1,416	39.66	859	39.51	557	39.86	1,480	46.88	877	47.22	603	46.39
565 Business Studies	159,567	39.73	69,492	37.28	90,075	41.61	146,959	35.42	64,540	32.91	82,419	37.39

Table 4(b) Summary of cumulative number of candidates who obtained mean grade C+ and above for 2010, 2009 and 2008

GRADE	A			A-			B+		
YEAR	2010	2009	2008	2010	2009	2008	2010	2009	2008
MALE	334	629	489	3,124	3,035	3,413	6,320	6,361	6,143
FEMALE	632	301	328	3,140	1,387	1,748	6,320	2,979	3,222
ALL	1,566	930	817	6,264	4,422	5,161	12,640	9,340	9,365
CUM.TOTAL	1,566	930	817	6,264	5,352	5,978	12,640	14,692	15,343
%	0.44	0.27	0.27	1.35	1.32	1.71	2.80	2.80	3.1
CUM%	0.44	0.27	0.27	1.35	1.59	1.98	4.39	4.39	5.08

GRADE	B			B-			C+		
YEAR	2010	2009	2008	2010	2009	2008	2010	2009	2008
MALE	13,846	6,361	8576	13,102	13,312	11,026	27,148	17,171	14,663
FEMALE	6,872	5,359	4793	6,224	8,511	7,397	13,024	12,402	10,851
ALL	39,018	14,960	13369	19,326	21,823	18,423	40,172	29,573	25,514
CUM.TOTAL	39,018	29,652	28712	19,326	51,475	47,135	40,172	81,048	72,649
%	5.12	4.48	4.43	6.54	6.54	6.11	8.86	8.86	8.46
CUM%	11.00	8.87	9.51	12.97	15.41	15.62	24.27	24.27	24.08

Observations on Candidates Performance:

- In the year 2010 KCSE examination, female candidates performed better than male candidates in only **four (04) subjects** out of the **thirty-one (31)** subjects offered. These were **English (101), Kiswahili (102), Home Science (441)** and **Art and Design (442)**.
- Male candidates performed better than female candidates in the remaining **twenty-seven (27) subjects**.
- In the year 2010 KCSE examination, there were more female than male candidates who sat for **CRE (313), Home Science (441), French (501), German (502)** and **Music (511)**.
- No female candidates sat for the **Woodwork (444)** and **Electricity (448)** examinations in the 2010 KCSE examinations.
- There were **1,566 (0.44%)** candidates who obtained an overall grade A in the year 2010 KCSE examination compared to **939 (0.27%)** candidates in the year 2009.
- There were **39,041 (11.0%)** candidates who obtained Grade B and above in the 2010 KCSE examination compared to **29,652 (8.87%)** in the year 2009.
- The number of candidates with minimum university entry qualification of grade C+ and above were **97,134 (27.38%)** in 2010 compared to **81,048 (24.27%)** in the year 2009 KCSE examination

2.3 RANKING OF KCSE CANDIDATES

- 2.3.1 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.
- 2.3.2 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**.

2.4 OVERVIEW OF THE YEAR 2010 KCSE EXAMINATION REPORT

- 2.4.1 This report covers two areas of the year 2010 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 2010 KCSE Top Ten schools' and candidates' statistics are also included.
- 2.4.2 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.
- 2.4.3 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 the kind of responses that were expected.
- 2.4.4 The report indicates areas of the syllabus that were 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.

2.5 GENERAL COMMENTS ON THE FEEDBACK REPORT

- 2.5.1 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.
- 2.5.2 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.
- 2.5.3 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.

2.6 APPRECIATION

Finally, I wish to commend the efforts of Dr. J. Kivilu, Mrs. L. Njuguna, Mrs. A. Onacha, Mr. G Itute, Mr. J. Onjoro, Mr. S. Kasinga, Mr G. Katungwa, Ms. J. Osok, Ms. K. Iman, Mr. A. Amaunda., Mr. L. Adhiambo, Ms R Ndaana, Mr. W. Orora, Ms. C. Makunda, Mr. M Malusi, Ms J. Kiviu, Mrs. R. Ngumbao, Mrs. A. Matei, ICT, Research Division, 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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