

## 2.0 GENERAL INFORMATION ON THE YEAR 2013 KCPE EXAMINATION

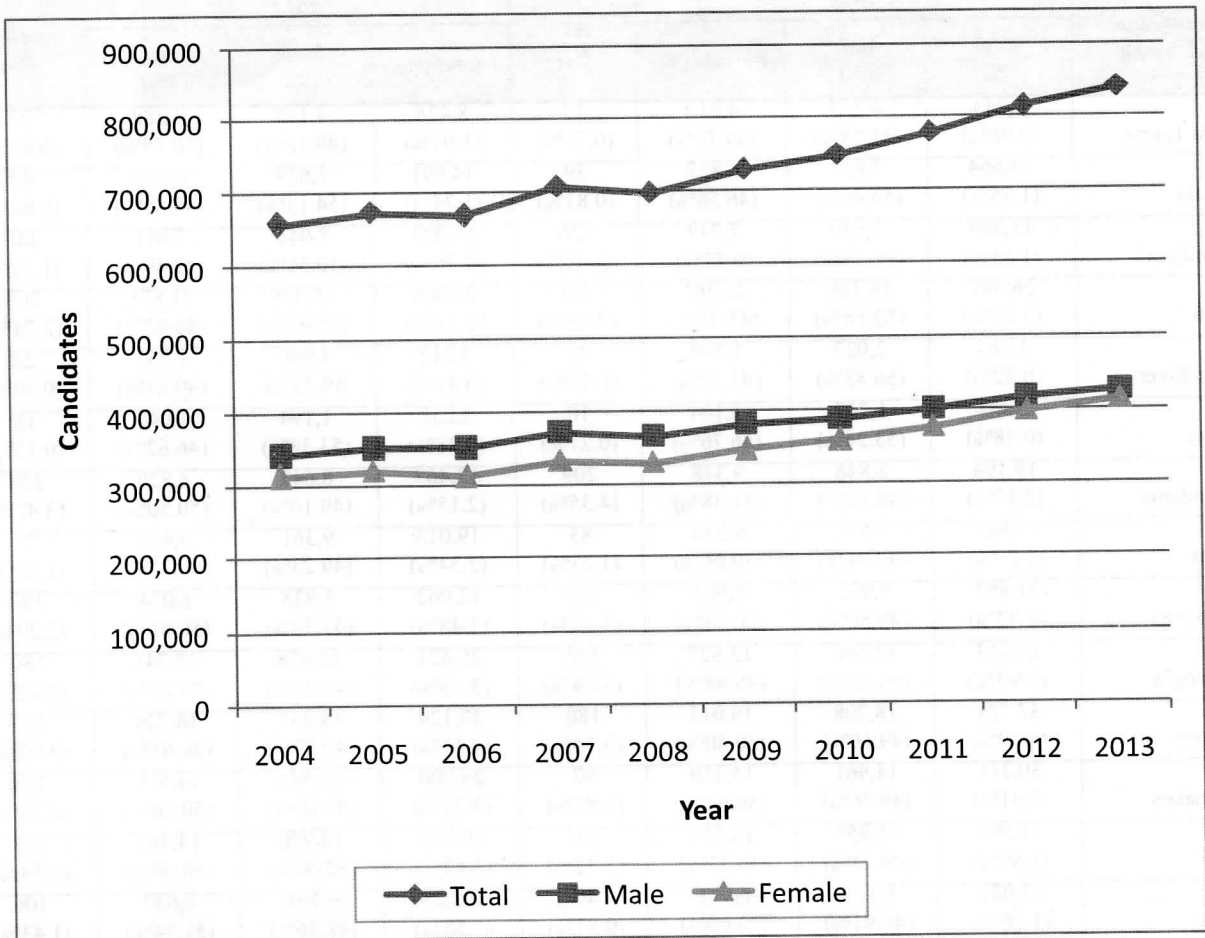
### 2.1 KCPE EXAMINATION CANDIDATURE

In 2013, the candidates who registered for the KCPE examination were 839,759 compared to 811,930 candidates registered in 2012. This represents an increase of 27,829 (3.43%) candidates. The KCPE Examination candidature for the last ten years is as shown in Table 1.

**TABLE 1: KCPE EXAMINATION CANDIDATURE TRENDS FOR THE LAST 10 YEARS**

Year	Total Candidates		Male Candidates		Female Candidates	
	Total No. Sat	Increase/Decrease (%)	No. Sat (%)	Increase/Decrease (%)	No. Sat (%)	Increase/Decrease (%)
2013	839,759	27,829 (3.43%)	426,369 (50.77%)	10,749 (2.59%)	413,396 (49.23%)	17,080 (4.31%)
2012	811,930	35,716 (4.60%)	415,620 (51.19%)	14,806 (3.69%)	396,310 (48.81%)	20,910 (5.57%)
2011	776,214	30,134 (4.04%)	400,814 (51.64%)	12,593 (3.24%)	375,400 (48.36%)	17,541 (4.90%)
2010	746,080	19,026 (2.62%)	388,221 (52.03%)	6,621 (1.74%)	357,859 (47.97%)	12,405 (3.59%)
2009	727,054	31,277 (4.50%)	381,600 (52.49%)	14,475 (3.94%)	345,454 (47.51%)	16,802 (5.11%)
2008	695,777	-9,141 (-1.30%)	367,125 (52.76%)	-5,140 (-1.38%)	328,652 (47.24%)	-4,001 (-1.20%)
2007	704,918	38,467 (5.77%)	372,265 (52.81%)	19,483 (5.52%)	332,653 (47.19%)	18,984 (6.05%)
2006	666,451	-5,099 (-0.76%)	352,782 (52.93%)	-44 (-0.01%)	313,669 (47.07%)	-5,055 (-1.59%)
2005	671,550	13,803 (2.10%)	352,826 (52.54%)	9,847 (2.87%)	318,724 (47.46%)	3,956 (1.26%)
2004	657,747	69,786 (11.87%)	342,979 (52.14%)	39,072 (12.86%)	314,768 (47.86%)	30,714 (10.81%)

**Graph 1: KCPE Examination Candidature Trends for the Last 10 Years**



**Observations from Table 1 and Graph 1**

- 2.1.1 Candidature increased by **27,829 (3.43%)** to **839,759** in 2013 KCPE examination compared to **811,930** candidates registered in 2012.
- 2.1.2 Female candidates increased by **17,080 (4.31%)** while male candidates increased by **10,749 (2.59%)** respectively.
- 2.1.3 For the last ten years, there have been more **male** than **female** candidates registering for the KCPE examination.



**TABLE 2: KCPE EXAMINATION CANDIDATURE IN 2013 & 2012 BY COUNTY**

County Code & Name	2013			AB (%)	2012			AB (%)
	Total (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)		Total (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)	
01 Taita Taveta	8,243 (0.98%)	4,227 (51.28%)	4,016 (48.72%)	37 (0.77%)	8,428 (1.04%)	4,140 (49.12%)	4,288 (50.88%)	72 (0.97%)
02 Kwale	14,664 (1.75%)	7,837 (53.44%)	6,827 (46.56%)	39 (0.81%)	14,091 (1.74%)	7,628 (54.13%)	6,463 (45.86%)	49 (0.66%)
03 Mombasa	15,569 (1.85%)	7,820 (50.23%)	7,749 (9.77%)	126 (2.62%)	15,923 (1.96%)	8,042 (50.51%)	7,881 (49.49%)	148 (1.99%)
04 Kilifi	26,909 (3.20%)	14,148 (52.58%)	12,761 (47.42%)	165 (3.43%)	25,806 (3.18%)	13,928 (53.97%)	11,878 (46.02%)	203 (2.74%)
05 Tana River	3,567 (0.42%)	2,027 (56.83%)	1,540 (43.17%)	11 (0.23%)	3,315 (0.41%)	1,980 (59.73%)	1,335 (40.27%)	22 (0.30%)
06 Lamu	2,361 (0.28%)	1,257 (53.24%)	1,104 (46.76%)	10 (0.21%)	2,237 (0.28%)	1,194 (53.38%)	1,043 (46.62%)	16 (0.22%)
07 Nyandarua	18,194 (2.17%)	8,846 (48.62%)	9,348 (51.38%)	209 (4.35%)	17,467 (2.15%)	8,647 (49.10%)	8,820 (50.50%)	254 (3.42%)
08 Nyeri	19,047 (2.27%)	9,513 (49.94%)	9,534 (50.06%)	83 (1.73%)	19,013 (2.34%)	9,361 (49.23%)	9,653 (50.77%)	93 (1.25%)
09 Kirinyaga	11,897 (1.42%)	5,932 (49.86%)	5,965 (50.14%)	114 (2.37%)	12,002 (1.48%)	5,928 (49.39%)	6,074 (50.61%)	170 (2.29%)
10 Murang'a	25,113 (2.99%)	12,586 (50.12%)	12,527 (49.88%)	156 (3.24%)	25,421 (3.13%)	12,678 (49.87%)	12,743 (50.13%)	180 (2.43%)
11 Kiambu	37,721 (4.49%)	18,708 (49.60%)	19,013 (50.40%)	180 (3.74%)	37,129 (4.57%)	18,337 (49.39%)	18,729 (50.61%)	291 (3.92%)
12 Machakos	30,311 (3.61%)	14,961 (49.36%)	15,350 (50.64%)	87 (1.81%)	29,000 (3.57%)	14,441 (49.80%)	14,559 (50.20%)	163 (2.20%)
13 Kitui	31,893 (3.80%)	15,859 (49.73%)	16,034 (50.27%)	107 (2.22%)	29,815 (3.67%)	14,906 (50.00%)	14,909 (50.00%)	203 (2.74%)
14 Embu	13,022 (1.55%)	6,109 (46.91%)	6,913 (53.09%)	40 (0.83%)	12,828 (1.58%)	6,191 (48.26%)	6,637 (51.74%)	106 (1.43%)
15 Meru	26,976 (3.21%)	12,438 (46.11%)	14,538 (53.89%)	225 (4.68%)	24,881 (3.06%)	11,549 (46.42%)	13,332 (53.58%)	383 (5.16%)
16 Marsabit	3,535 (0.42%)	1,994 (56.41%)	1,541 (43.59%)	29 (0.60%)	3,650 (0.45%)	2,110 (57.81%)	1,540 (42.19%)	35 (0.47%)
17 Isiolo	2,649 (0.32%)	1,459 (55.08%)	1,190 (44.92%)	16 (0.33%)	2,443 (0.30%)	1,349 (55.22%)	1,094 (44.78%)	23 (0.31%)
18 Makueni	27,618 (3.29%)	13,479 (48.81%)	14,139 (51.19%)	81 (1.68%)	26,748 (3.29%)	13,254 (49.55%)	13,494 (50.45%)	99 (1.33%)
19 Tharaka Nithi	8,668 (1.03%)	4,213 (48.60%)	4,455 (51.40%)	32 (0.67%)	8,130 (1.00%)	4,069 (50.05%)	4,061 (49.95%)	59 (0.79%)
20 Nairobi	46,131 (5.49%)	22,282 (48.30%)	23,849 (51.70%)	102 (2.12%)	45,402 (5.59%)	22,278 (49.07%)	23,124 (50.93%)	630 (8.49%)
21 Turkana	6,304 (0.75%)	3,949 (62.64%)	2,355 (37.36%)	181 (3.76%)	6,068 (0.75%)	3,898 (64.24%)	2,170 (35.76%)	134 (1.81%)
22 Samburu	3,144 (0.37%)	1,911 (60.78%)	1,233 (39.22%)	40 (0.83%)	3,114 (0.38%)	1,868 (59.99%)	1,246 (40.01%)	21 (0.28%)
23 Trans Nzoia	18,897 (2.25%)	9,375 (49.61%)	9,522 (50.39%)	140 (2.91%)	17,926 (2.21%)	8,917 (49.74%)	9,009 (50.26%)	222 (2.99%)
24 West Pokot	9,068 (1.08%)	4,998 (55.12%)	4,070 (44.88%)	74 (1.54%)	8,430 (1.04%)	4,608 (54.66%)	3,822 (45.34%)	108 (1.46%)
25 Bomet	20,208 (2.41%)	10,266 (50.80%)	9,942 (49.20%)	52 (1.08%)	20,453 (2.52%)	10,529 (51.48%)	9,924 (48.52%)	83 (1.12%)
26 Uasin Gishu	20,360 (2.42%)	10,008 (49.16%)	10,352 (50.84%)	86 (1.79%)	19,275 (2.37%)	9,485 (49.21%)	9,790 (50.79%)	165 (2.22%)
27 Nakuru	42,650 (5.08%)	21,359 (50.08%)	21,291 (49.92%)	240 (4.99%)	40,944 (5.04%)	20,565 (50.23%)	20,379 (49.77%)	473 (6.37%)



County Code & Name	2013			AB (%)	2012			AB (%)
	Total (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)		Total (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)	
28 Kericho	20,829 (2.48%)	10,374 (49.81%)	10,455 (50.19%)	67 (1.39%)	20,261 (2.50%)	10,343 (51.05%)	9,918 (48.95%)	100 (1.35%)
29 Nandi	18,113 (2.16%)	8,919 (49.24%)	9,194 (50.76%)	99 (2.06%)	17,071 (2.10%)	8,371 (49.04%)	8,700 (50.96%)	137 (1.85%)
30 Laikipia	10,349 (1.23%)	5,219 (50.43%)	5,130 (49.57%)	56 (1.16%)	10,211 (1.26%)	5,297 (51.88%)	4,914 (48.12%)	87 (1.17%)
31 Kajiado	13,283 (1.58%)	7,071 (53.23%)	6,212 (46.77%)	90 (1.87%)	12,293 (1.51%)	6,685 (54.39%)	5,608 (45.62%)	143 (1.93%)
32 Narok	15,001 (1.79%)	8,329 (55.52%)	6,672 (44.48%)	79 (1.64%)	13,938 (1.72%)	7,993 (57.35%)	5,945 (42.65%)	89 (1.20%)
33 Baringo	13,954 (1.66%)	7,130 (51.10%)	6,824 (48.90%)	31 (0.64%)	13,693 (1.69%)	7,026 (51.31%)	6,667 (48.69%)	53 (0.71%)
34 Elgeyo Marakwet	11,313 (1.35%)	5,679 (50.20%)	5,634 (49.80%)	43 (0.89%)	11,225 (1.38%)	5,561 (49.54%)	5,664 (50.46%)	59 (0.79%)
35 Busia	16,187 (1.93%)	8,362 (51.66%)	7,825 (48.34%)	127 (2.64%)	14,972 (1.84%)	7,950 (53.10%)	7,022 (46.90%)	123 (1.66%)
36 Bungoma	35,014 (4.17%)	17,205 (49.14%)	17,809 (50.86%)	156 (3.24%)	33,449 (4.12%)	16,513 (49.37%)	16,936 (50.63%)	274 (3.69%)
37 Kakamega	37,428 (4.46%)	18,146 (48.48%)	19,282 (51.52%)	189 (3.93%)	36,267 (4.47%)	17,691 (48.78%)	18,575 (51.22%)	320 (4.31%)
38 Vihiga	14,148 (1.68%)	6,602 (46.66%)	7,546 (53.34%)	67 (1.39%)	13,569 (1.67%)	6,387 (47.07%)	7,182 (52.93%)	84 (1.13%)
39 Kisumu	21,045 (1.68%)	10,598 (50.36%)	10,447 (49.64%)	154 (3.20%)	20,668 (2.55%)	10,695 (51.75%)	9,973 (48.25%)	229 (3.09%)
40 Kisii	26,471 (3.15%)	13,534 (51.13%)	12,937 (48.87%)	126 (2.62%)	24,677 (3.04%)	12,568 (50.93%)	12,109 (49.07%)	174 (2.34%)
41 Homa Bay	22,486 (2.68%)	12,323 (54.80%)	10,163 (45.20%)	240 (4.99%)	22,378 (2.76)	12,569 (56.17)	9,809 (43.83)	291 (3.92%)
42 Siaya	19,990 (2.38%)	10,272 (51.39%)	9,718 (48.61%)	154 (3.20%)	19,329 (2.38%)	9,910 (51.27%)	9,419 (48.73%)	198 (2.67%)
43 Nyamira	12,952 (1.54%)	6,633 (51.21%)	6,319 (48.79%)	73 (1.52%)	13,428 (1.65%)	6,748 (50.25%)	6,680 (49.75%)	60 (0.81%)
44 Migori	19,443 (2.32%)	10,791 (55.50%)	8,652 (44.50%)	170 (3.53%)	19,034 (2.34%)	10,831 (56.90%)	8,203 (43.10%)	224 (3.02%)
45 Garissa	7,632 (0.91%)	5,231 (68.54%)	2,401 (31.46%)	178 (3.70%)	6,815 (0.84%)	4,748 (69.67%)	2,067 (30.33%)	03 (0.04%)
46 Wajir	3,710 (0.44%)	2,478 (66.79%)	1,232 (33.21%)	13 (0.27%)	3,220 (0.40%)	2,158 (67.02%)	1,063 (32.98%)	11 (0.15%)
47 Mandera	4,788 (0.57%)	3,351 (69.99%)	1,437 (30.01%)	36 (0.75%)	4,610 (0.57%)	3,121 (67.70%)	1,489 (32.30%)	46 (0.62%)
48 Kauda (Sudan)	904 (0.11%)	561 (62.06%)	343 (37.94%)	-	883 (0.11%)	576 (65.23%)	307 (34.77%)	114 (1.54%)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>839,759</b> <b>(100.00%)</b>	<b>426,369</b> <b>(50.77%)</b>	<b>413,390</b> <b>(49.23%)</b>	<b>4,810</b> <b>(100%)</b>	<b>811,930</b> <b>(100.0%)</b>	<b>415,620</b> <b>(51.19%)</b>	<b>396,310</b> <b>(48.81%)</b>	<b>7,422</b> <b>(100%)</b>

**TABLE 3: KCPE EXAMINATION CANDIDATES WHO SAT FOR THE EXAMINATION UNDER SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES IN 2013 AND 2012 BY COUNTY**

County Code and Name	Prison		Hospital		Blind		Low vision		Physically/ Mentally challenged		Hearing impaired		Total	
	2013	2012	2013	2012	2013	2012	2013	2012	2013	2012	2013	2012	2013	2012
1. Taita Taveta	17	19	00	00	00	00	01	08	03	03	01	03	22	33
2. Kwale	00	00	00	00	00	00	16	17	04	05	28	07	48	29
3. Mombasa	40	29	00	00	07	9	16	18	27	19	09	17	99	92
4. Kilifi	00	01	01	00	00	02	12	08	10	03	29	28	52	42
5. Tana River	00	00	00	03	00	00	02	03	00	01	03	03	05	10
6. Lamu	00	00	01	00	00	00	03	09	00	00	00	00	04	09
7. Nyandarua	00	01	00	00	00	00	04	06	14	19	11	15	29	41
8. Nyeri	17	15	00	01	00	00	07	10	10	04	06	15	42	45
9. Kirinyaga	00	00	00	01	00	00	01	05	03	01	11	10	15	17
10. Murang'a	00	00	02	01	00	00	01	04	08	3	19	17	30	25
11. Kiambu	00	00	00	03	21	19	13	24	31	29	23	05	88	80
12. Machakos	00	00	02	00	03	01	07	14	30	29	19	21	61	65
13. Kitui	00	00	00	01	03	06	05	12	16	06	21	13	45	38
14. Embu	00	00	00	01	00	00	01	5	14	10	09	01	24	17
15. Meru	00	00	03	02	03	02	13	17	14	05	20	24	53	50
16. Marsabit	00	00	00	00	00	00	01	01	01	00	00	00	02	01
17. Isiolo	00	00	00	00	00	03	00	03	00	01	09	07	09	14
18. Makueni	00	00	02	00	00	00	13	11	17	10	10	06	42	27
19. Tharaka Nithi	00	00	00	00	00	00	03	02	03	02	00	00	06	04
20. Nairobi	29	40	01	00	04	02	22	17	32	23	11	12	99	94
21. Turkana	00	02	01	02	02	01	14	08	04	01	11	10	32	24
22. Samburu	00	00	00	00	01	01	22	27	02	00	06	11	31	39
23. Trans Nzoia	00	00	02	00	01	01	34	64	17	11	00	03	54	79
24. West Pokot	00	00	00	01	05	07	05	13	03	00	00	00	13	21
25. Bomet	01	02	00	01	03	03	05	09	20	09	00	00	28	24
26. Uasin Gishu	00	00	00	02	00	00	10	11	10	09	08	02	28	24
27. Nakuru	00	67	01	00	02	00	06	16	17	04	18	12	123	99
28. Kericho	00	01	01	00	01	02	06	14	14	08	32	31	54	56
29. Nandi	01	00	03	03	00	00	07	07	06	11	11	14	27	34
30. Laikipia	00	00	00	00	00	00	04	05	04	05	00	08	08	18
31. Kajiado	00	00	01	00	00	00	13	08	55	02	07	04	76	14
32. Narok	00	00	00	00	00	00	09	02	04	00	00	00	13	02
33. Baringo	00	00	01	00	01	00	08	12	09	14	11	08	30	34
34. Elgeyo Marakwet	00	00	03	02	02	00	12	05	14	01	09	07	40	15
35. Busia	00	00	01	01	00	00	10	07	09	06	09	04	29	18
36. Bungoma	00	00	01	02	00	00	38	34	90	26	20	05	149	67
37. Kakamega	00	01	02	03	03	00	32	78	40	21	48	54	125	157
38. Vihiga	00	00	02	02	00	00	07	06	02	03	24	24	35	35



County Code and Name	Prison		Hospital		Blind		Low vision		Physically/ Mentally challenged		Hearing impaired		Total	
	2013	2012	2013	2012	2013	2012	2013	2012	2013	2012	2013	2012	2013	2012
39. Kisumu	00	111	03	02	04	06	38	28	28	19	20	30	219	196
40. Kisii	13	00	03	02	01	01	05	04	08	03	21	18	38	28
41. Homa Bay	00	00	01	01	00	00	28	38	26	21	28	21	83	81
42. Siaya	00	01	03	03	08	11	37	53	10	12	24	17	82	97
43. Nyamira	00	00	00	02	00	00	07	10	22	03	00	01	29	16
44. Migori	00	02	02	01	00	01	05	28	13	10	44	45	64	87
45. Garissa	02	02	00	01	02	04	50	55	19	16	08	11	79	89
46. Wajir	00	00	02	02	00	00	01	04	04	03	11	11	18	20
47. Mandera	00	08	00	00	00	00	03	19	02	03	00	00	05	30
<b>Totals</b>	<b>307</b>	<b>302</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>557</b>	<b>759</b>	<b>690</b>	<b>394</b>	<b>609</b>	<b>556</b>	<b>2,287</b>	<b>2,137</b>

## 2.2 PAPERS OFFERED

In 2013, KCPE examination, candidates sat for eight (08) papers, namely; English Objective, English Composition, Kiswahili Objective, Kiswahili Insha, Kenyan Sign Language (KSL), Mathematics, Science, Social Studies and Religious Education (SSRE).

## 2.3 CANDIDATES' PERFORMANCE IN 2013 KCPE EXAMINATION

The candidates' overall performance by gender for the year 2013 examination was as shown in **table 4**.

**TABLE 4: OVERALL CANDIDATES' PERFORMANCE IN 2013 KCPE EXAMINATION PER SUBJECT BY GENDER (RAW SCORES)**

	ALL		FEMALE		MALE	
	MEAN	STD	MEAN	STD	MEAN	STD
English Composition	16.76	7.22	17.49	7.09	16.05	7.27
English Objective	26.53	6.81	26.63	6.75	26.42	6.88
Kiswahili Insha	20.97	6.98	21.90	6.70	20.07	7.13
Kiswahili Lugha	22.89	5.86	22.90	5.70	22.89	6.01
Mathematics	26.43	9.47	25.72	9.01	27.11	9.85
Religious Education	21.13	4.96	21.17	4.77	21.08	5.14
Science	30.91	8.54	29.63	8.16	32.15	8.72
Kenyan Sign Language Composition	14.52	7.68	14.72	7.26	14.36	8.00
Kenyan Sign Language Objective	20.80	8.45	20.18	7.95	21.33	8.84
Social Studies	32.85	8.45	31.50	8.07	34.16	8.60

## 2.4 MARKING OF THE KCPE EXAMINATION

The objective papers in the KCPE examination are machine scored/marked while the compositions are manually marked by examiners. The KCPE examination is a norm-reference examination whereby candidates' scores are standardized to make the scores in each of the subjects have the same weighting.

### 2.4.1 Rationale behind the Standardization of Raw Marks to Standard Marks

Standardization of Raw Marks to Standard Marks in the KCPE examination is a process that involves adjusting the raw marks for each paper in the examination to allow for differences in difficulty and in the extent to which **marks scatter (standard deviation)**. In this process of standardization, the difficulty among the papers is measured in terms of the **mean raw marks** scored by all candidates, while the differences in scatter are measured in terms of the **Standard Deviation**.

It entails converting the raw marks of each paper in the KCPE examination so that the mean and Standard Deviations of each of the papers are identical. For the KCPE examination, the mean expected of a normal distribution is **50** and the standard deviation is **15**. The formula used for converting the raw scores to standard score is as follows:

$$X_{SD} = 50 + \frac{[X - M]}{SD} \times 15$$

Where  $X_{SD}$  = Standard score  
X = raw mark obtained by the candidates  
M = mean raw mark  
SD = Standard deviation of the raw marks

#### Example:

2.4.1.1 In a paper where the mean raw mark of all candidates is 20 and a Standard Deviation is 10, the standard score for a candidate whose raw marks is 25 would be:

$$50 + \frac{[25 - 20]}{10} \times 15 \approx 58$$

2.4.1.2 In a paper where the mean raw mark of all candidates is 47 and a Standard Deviation is 10 the candidate whose raw marks is 25 would be:

$$50 + \frac{[25 - 47]}{10} \times 15 \approx 17$$

### 2.4.2 Standard Scores

Standard scores as can be seen from the illustrations above are a measure of relative performance and have the ability to tell us how a candidate has performed in comparison to the other candidates. They are



essential when results from different papers must be combined to give an overall total, as is the case in the KCPE examination, and are useful for comparing relative performance of a candidate from subject to subject or from year to year. Once the raw marks have been standardized, the cut-off marks for all grades from Grade A to Grade E are identical for all subjects and are therefore maintained at the same level from year to year. The standardized scores are then used for reporting candidates' performance and for selection purposes. When the scores are standardized the relative positions of the candidates remain unchanged; the top candidate in each subject still remains at the top.

Standard scores always convey the exact information as to the position of a candidate relative to other candidates sitting the same examination.

Standard scores are essential if marks from several papers are to be added to give a total score, and it is desired that each paper should contribute equally to the total score.

## 2.5 THE OBJECTIVE OF THE KCPE EXAMINATION REPORT

The objective of the KCPE Examination report is to form a dialogue between KNEC and the relevant stakeholders in order to enhance candidates' enrolment and performance by providing the indicators of enrolment as well as performance so that the relevant stakeholders can review the targets. The KCPE examination report also informs teachers and prospective candidates of areas of weaknesses for purposes of improvement. It also includes the question papers that candidates sat for in the year 2013 KCPE examination and the orders of merit for the top ten candidates in every county.

This year's report:

- 2.5.1 gives a detailed analysis of candidates' performance in each of the KCPE examination papers;
- 2.5.2 provides the classroom teachers with information about pupils' weaknesses in the course content;
- 2.5.3 provides suggestions on better teaching and learning methods that can enhance performance;
- 2.5.4 gives teachers advice on how they can re-orientate their teaching strategies to enhance pupils' learning and performance.

The year 2013 KCPE examination report therefore highlights those items in which candidates performed poorly and also advances possible reasons for the poor performance. It is hoped that analysis and discussion of difficult items will be helpful to the teachers and the comments given will continue to enrich their teaching methodology so as to enhance students' learning and hence improve their performance.

While the Council presents analysis and discussions of only the poorly performed questions, it is hoped that teachers will analyse all the questions at subject level to assess both the content and the cognitive skills tested for the benefit of teaching their future candidates better.

In determining the performance of candidates, *item analysis* is used. Item analysis involves determining the *Facility Index (f-index)* and *Discrimination Index (d-Index)* of each question in the paper for the chosen sample population of candidates. The facility index refers to the relative measure of *difficulty or ease* of a question based on the percentage of candidates obtaining a correct response to a question. The discrimination index on the other hand indicates how successfully a question can sort out the abilities into different categories ranging from the highest achiever to the lowest one. A good question is considered to be one that has a *Facility Index* of between **30%** and **80%**. Any question therefore with a Facility Index of below 30% is considered to have been found difficult by the candidates and one **above 80%**



*is considered* to have been found easy by the candidates. This is the criteria used by the *Item Analysis programme* to select questions with the low facility indices in a paper for discussion in the KCPE examination report.

Sometimes questions that have a *facility index of 40%* are considered for discussion. Candidates find a question difficult usually because of inadequate coverage of the syllabus content, which makes the candidates unable to tackle the question except by guessing. Candidates will also find it difficult to handle questions that require *higher order thinking abilities* like questions involving *problem solving, evaluation, application* etc. unless they have been taught how to handle such questions.

In the discussions of the questions that candidates performed poorly, a response pattern is given for every question showing the percentage of candidates from the sample population choosing the options to the question. An *asterisk (\*)* on an option denotes the correct response to the question and the *Facility Index* of the item is indicated below the correct response. Also under the response pattern, information on the mean mark of candidates in other questions is given. This is the average score on the rest of the items for each group of candidates choosing an option and it is important as it shows the way each group of candidates choosing a specific option scored in the other questions of the paper.

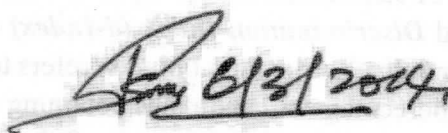
We encourage teachers to offer any informed comments and/or suggestions that can be considered for inclusion in future issues of the KCPE Examination Report to make them more enriching.

Comments and/or suggestions may be forwarded to us in writing or by completion of the questionnaire found at the end of this report. We would like to thank all those who have given us suggestions and/or comments before on our previous issues of the KCPE Examination Reports.

The Council would like to remind schools and the general public that all past and current issues of the KCPE Examination Report can be purchased from the Kenya National Examinations Council **Mitihani Bookshop** situated on the ground floor of the National Housing Corporation Building. The cost and postage charges of the KCPE Report will be given on request.

## 2.6 APPRECIATION

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