

1.3.2 To conduct examinations, publish the results and issue certificates of these examinations.

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:-

1.3.2.1 SCHOOL EXAMINATIONS:

- 1.3.2.1.1 Kenya Certificate of Primary Education (KCPE)
- 1.3.2.1.1 Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE)

1.3.2.2 POST-SCHOOL EXAMINATIONS:

- 1.3.2.2.1 Primary Teachers Education (PTE)
- 1.3.2.2.2 Business Examinations
- 1.3.2.2.3 Technical Examinations
- 1.3.2.2.4 Teacher Certificate in Adult Education (TCAE)
- 1.3.2.2.5 Early Childhood Development and Education (ECDE)
- 1.3.2.2.6 Diploma in Teacher Education (DTE)
- 1.3.2.2.7 Special Needs Education (SNE)

2.0 GENERAL INFORMATION ON THE YEAR 2012 KCPE EXAMINATION

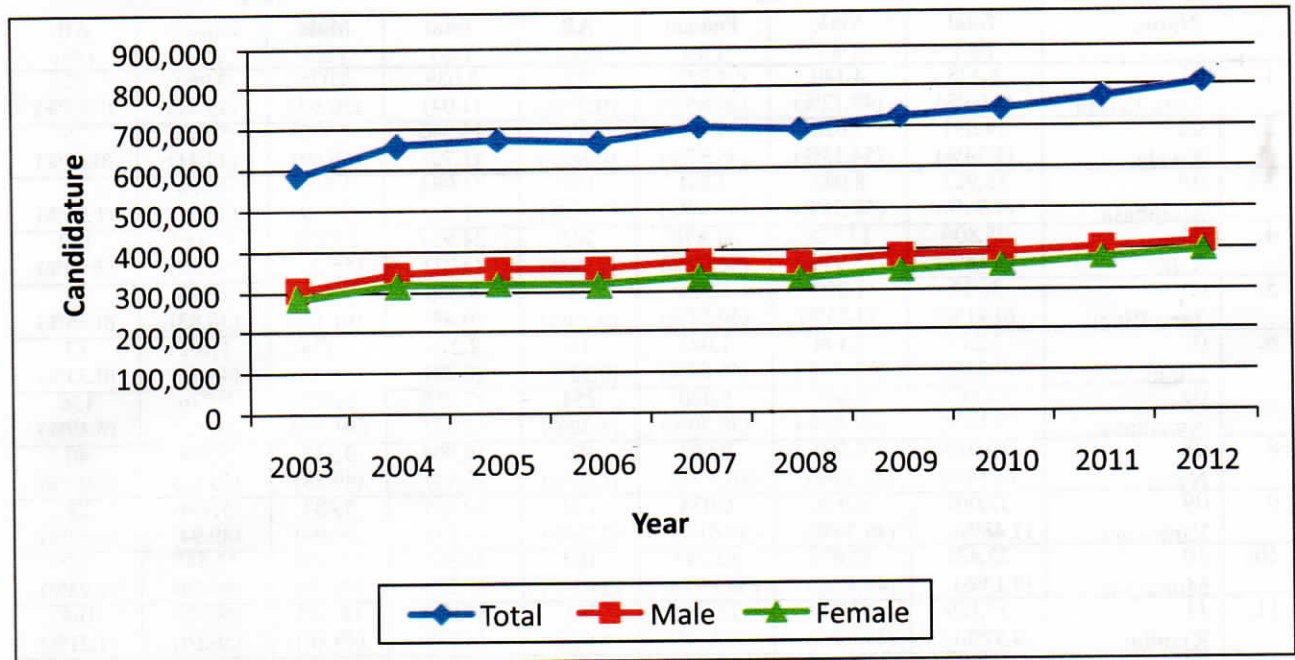
2.1 KCPE EXAMINATION CANDIDATURE

In 2012, the candidates who registered for the KCPE examination were 811,930 compared to 776,214 candidates registered in 2011. This represents an increase of 35,716 (4.60%) 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 Candidature		Males		Females	
	Total No. Sat	Increase/Decrease (%)	No. Reg. (%)	Increase/Decrease (%)	No. Reg. (%)	Increase/Decrease (%)
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%)
2003	587,961	47,892 (8.87%)	303,907 (51.69%)	25,266 (9.07%)	284,054 (48.31%)	22,626 (8.65%)

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



Observations from table 1 and graph 1

- 2.1.1 Candidature increased by **35,716 (4.60%)** to **811,930** in 2012 KCPE examination compared to **776,214** candidates registered in 2011.
- 2.1.2 Female candidates increased by **20,910 (5.57%)** while male candidates increased by **14,806 (3.69%)** 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 by County for Years 2012 & 2011

County Code and Name		2012				2011			
		Total (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)	AB (%)	Total (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)	AB (%)
1.	01 Taita Taveta	8,428 (1.04%)	4,140 (49.12%)	4,288 (50.88%)	72 (0.97%)	8,039 (1.04)	4,075 (50.69)	3,964 (49.31)	32 (0.82%)
2.	02 Kwale	14,091 (1.74%)	7,628 (54.13%)	6,463 (45.87%)	49 (0.66%)	13,390 (1.72)	7,577 (56.59)	5,813 (43.41)	26 (0.67%)
3.	03 Mombasa	15,923 (1.96%)	8,042 (50.51%)	7,881 (49.49%)	148 (1.99%)	14,984 (1.93)	7,596 (50.69)	7,388 (49.31)	72 (1.85%)
4.	04 Kilifi	25,806 (3.18%)	13,928 (53.97%)	11,878 (46.02%)	203 (2.74%)	24,924 (3.21)	13,758 (55.20)	11,166 (44.80)	152 (3.90%)
5.	05 Tana River	3,315 (0.41%)	1,980 (59.73%)	1,335 (40.27%)	22 (0.30%)	3,206 (0.41)	1,961 (61.17)	1,245 (38.83)	14 (0.36%)
6.	06 Lamu	2,237 (0.28%)	1,194 (53.38%)	1,043 (46.62%)	16 (0.22%)	2,276 (0.29)	1,174 (51.58)	1,102 (48.42)	13 (0.33%)
7.	07 Nyandarua	17,467 (2.15%)	8,647 (49.50%)	8,820 (50.50%)	254 (3.42%)	17,258 (2.22)	8,482 (49.15)	8,776 (50.85)	136 (3.49%)
8.	08 Nyeri	19,013 (2.34%)	9,360 (49.23%)	9,653 (50.77%)	93 (1.25%)	18,904 (2.44)	9,335 (49.38)	9,569 (50.62)	40 (1.03%)
9.	09 Kirinyaga	12,002 (1.48%)	5,928 (49.39%)	6,074 (50.61%)	170 (2.29%)	10,961 (1.41)	5,487 (50.06)	5,474 (49.94)	71 (1.82%)
10.	10 Murang'a	25,421 (3.13%)	12,678 (49.87%)	12,743 (50.13%)	180 (2.43%)	24,985 (3.22)	12,438 (49.78)	12,547 (50.22)	77 (1.98%)
11.	11 Kiambu	37,129 (4.57%)	18,337 (49.39%)	18,792 (50.61%)	291 (3.92%)	37,072 (4.78)	18,313 (49.40)	18,759 (50.60)	164 (4.21%)
12.	12 Machakos	29,000 (3.57%)	14,441 (49.80%)	14,559 (50.20%)	163 (2.20%)	28,588 (3.68)	14,232 (49.78)	14,356 (50.22)	80 (2.05%)
13.	13 Kitui	29,815 (3.67%)	14,906 (50.00%)	14,909 (50.00%)	203 (2.74%)	28,341 (3.65)	14,266 (50.34)	14,075 (49.66)	69 (1.77%)
14.	14 Embu	12,828 (1.58%)	6,191 (48.26%)	6,637 (51.74%)	106 (1.43%)	12,043 (1.55)	5,714 (47.45)	6,329 (52.55)	62 (1.59%)
15.	15 Meru	24,881 (3.06%)	11,549 (46.42%)	13,332 (53.58%)	383 (5.16%)	24,627 (3.17)	11,421 (46.38)	13,206 (53.62)	295 (7.57%)
16.	16 Marsabit	3,650 (0.45%)	2,110 (57.81%)	1,540 (42.19%)	35 (0.47%)	3,193 (0.41)	1,892 (59.25)	1,301 (40.75)	17 (0.44%)
17.	17 Isiolo	2,443 (0.30%)	1,349 (55.22%)	1,094 (44.78%)	23 (0.31%)	2,159 (0.28)	1,196 (55.40)	963 (44.60)	1 (0.03%)
18.	18 Makueni	26,748 (3.29%)	13,254 (49.55%)	13,494 (50.45%)	99 (1.33%)	25,251 (3.25)	12,488 (49.46)	12,763 (50.54)	44 (1.13%)
19.	19 Tharaka Nithi	8,130 (1.00%)	4,069 (50.05%)	4,061 (49.95%)	59 (0.79%)	7,962 (1.03)	4,009 (50.35)	3,953 (49.65)	29 (0.74%)
20.	20 Nairobi	45,402 (5.59%)	22,278 (49.07%)	23,124 (50.93%)	630 (8.49%)	44,224 (5.70)	21,601 (48.84)	22,623 (51.16)	404 (10.37%)
21.	21 Turkana	6,068 (0.75%)	3,898 (64.24%)	2,170 (35.76%)	134 (1.81%)	5,481 (0.71)	3,506 (63.97)	1,975 (36.03)	58 (1.49%)
22.	22 Samburu	3,114 (0.38%)	1,868 (59.99%)	1,246 (40.01%)	21 (0.28%)	2,704 (0.35)	1,691 (62.54)	1,013 (37.46)	18 (0.46%)
23.	23 Trans Nzoia	17,926 (2.21%)	8,917 (49.74%)	9,009 (50.26%)	222 (2.99%)	17,245 (2.22)	8,691 (50.40)	8,554 (49.60)	160 (4.11%)
24.	24 West Pokot	8,430 (1.04%)	4,608 (54.66%)	3,822 (45.34%)	108 (1.46%)	7,335 (0.94)	4,087 (55.72)	3,248 (44.28)	22 (0.56%)
25.	25 Bomet	20,453 (2.52%)	10,529 (51.48%)	9,924 (48.52%)	83 (1.12%)	18,853 (2.43)	9,846 (52.23)	9,007 (47.77)	8 (2.59%)
26.	26 Uasin Gishu	19,275 (2.37%)	9,485 (49.21%)	9,790 (50.79%)	165 (2.22%)	17,949 (2.31)	8,901 (49.59)	9,048 (50.41)	101 (2.59%)
27.	27 Nakuru	40,944 (5.04%)	20,565 (50.23%)	20,379 (49.77%)	473 (6.37%)	38,173 (4.92)	19,384 (50.78)	18,789 (49.22)	197 (5.06%)
28.	28 Kericho	20,261 (2.50%)	10,343 (51.05%)	9,918 (48.95%)	100 (1.35%)	19,187 (2.47)	9,851 (51.34)	9,336 (48.66)	45 (1.16%)
29.	29 Nandi	17,071 (2.10%)	8,371 (49.04%)	8,700 (50.96%)	137 (1.85%)	15,905 (2.05)	8,031 (50.49)	7,874 (49.51)	59 (1.51%)
30.	30 Laikipia	10,211 (1.26%)	5,297 (51.88%)	4,914 (48.12%)	87 (1.17%)	9,367 (1.21)	4,834 (51.61)	4,533 (48.39)	53 (1.36%)
31.	31 Kajiado	12,293 (1.51%)	6,685 (54.38%)	5,608 (45.62%)	143 (1.93%)	10,987 (1.42)	6,078 (55.32)	4,909 (44.68)	52 (1.34%)
32.	32 Narok	13,938 (1.72%)	7,993 (57.35%)	5,945 (42.65%)	89 (1.20%)	12,673 (1.63)	7,422 (58.57)	5,251 (41.43)	27 (0.69%)
33.	33 Baringo	13,693 (1.69%)	7,026 (51.31%)	6,667 (48.69%)	53 (0.71%)	13,181 (1.70)	6,764 (51.32)	6,417 (48.68)	33 (0.85%)

County Code and Name		2012				2011							
		Total (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)	AB (%)	Total (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)	AB (%)				
34.	34 Elgeyo Marakwet	11,225 (1.38%)	5,561 (49.54%)	5,664 (50.46%)	59 (0.79%)	10,830 (1.40)	5,451 (50.33)	5,379 (49.67)	1 (0.03%)				
35.	35 Busia	14,972 (1.84%)	7,950 (53.10%)	7,022 (46.90%)	123 (1.66%)	14,187 (1.83)	7,555 (53.25)	6,632 (46.75)	66 (1.69%)				
36.	36 Bungoma	33,449 (4.12%)	16,513 (49.37%)	16,936 (50.63%)	274 (3.69%)	32,918 (4.24)	16,430 (49.91)	16,488 (50.09)	114 (2.93%)				
37.	37 Kakamega	36,267 (4.47%)	17,691 (48.78%)	18,576 (51.22%)	320 (4.31%)	34,684 (4.47)	17,206 (49.61)	17,478 (50.39)	155 (3.98%)				
38.	38 Vihiga	13,569 (1.67%)	6,387 (47.07%)	7,182 (52.93%)	84 (1.13%)	13,099 (1.69)	6,182 (47.19)	6,917 (52.81)	90 (2.31%)				
39.	39 Kisumu	20,668 (2.55%)	10,695 (51.75%)	9,973 (48.25%)	229 (3.09%)	19,831 (2.55)	10,520 (53.05)	9,311 (46.95)	146 (3.75%)				
40.	40 Kisii	24,677 (3.04%)	12,568 (50.93%)	12,109 (49.07%)	174 (2.34%)	24,952 (3.21)	12,970 (51.98)	11,982 (48.02)	123 (3.16%)				
41.	41 Homa Bay	22,378 (2.76%)	12,569 (56.17%)	9,809 (43.83%)	291 (3.92%)	20,959 (2.70)	11,995 (57.23)	8,964 (42.77)	137 (3.52%)				
42.	42 Siaya	19,329 (2.38%)	9,910 (51.27%)	9,419 (48.73%)	198 (2.67%)	18,852 (2.43)	9,765 (51.80)	9,087 (48.20)	168 (4.31%)				
43.	43 Nyamira	13,428 (1.65%)	6,748 (50.25%)	6,680 (49.75%)	60 (0.81%)	12,823 (1.65)	6,576 (51.28)	6,247 (48.72)	50 (1.28%)				
44.	44 Migori	19,034 (2.34%)	10,831 (56.90%)	8,203 (43.10%)	224 (3.02%)	17,513 (2.26)	10,091 (57.62)	7,422 (42.38)	62 (1.59%)				
45.	45 Garissa	6,815 (0.84%)	4,748 (69.67%)	2,067 (30.33%)	03 (0.04%)	5,973 (0.77)	4,218 (70.62)	1,755 (29.38)	79 (2.03%)				
46.	46 Wajir	3,220 (0.40%)	2,158 (67.02%)	1,062 (32.98%)	11 (0.15%)	2,796 (0.36)	1,938 (69.31)	858 (30.69)	6 (0.15%)				
47.	47 Mandera	4,610 (0.57%)	3,121 (67.70%)	1,489 (32.30%)	46 (0.62%)	4,071 (0.52)	2,858 (70.20)	1,213 (29.80)	18 (0.46%)				
48.	48 Kauda	883 (0.11%)	576 (65.23%)	307 (34.77%)	114 (1.54%)	1,299 (0.17)	958 (73.75)	341 (26.25)	49 (1.26%)				
Totals		811,930 (100.0%)	415,620 (51.19%)	396,310 (48.81%)	7,422 (0.91%)	776,214 (100.0)	400,814 (51.64)	375,400 (48.36)	3,895 (0.50%)				
TOTAL REGISTERED CANDIDATES		2012			819,353 CANDIDATES			2012			7,422 (0.90%)		
		2011			780,109 CANDIDATES			2011			3,895 (0.50%)		

2.2 PAPERS OFFERED

In 2012, 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).

Table 3: 2012, 2011, 2010 and 2009 KCPE Examination Overall Candidates Performance per Subject and by Gender

The candidates' performance by subject and gender for the years 2012, 2011, 2010 and 2009 KCPE examinations was as shown in table 3.

PAPERS	MEAN PERFORMANCE (%)											
	2012			2011			2010			2009		
	All	Female	Male	All	Female	Male	All	Female	Male	All	Female	Male
1. English Language	48.16	48.46	47.92	47.10	46.67	47.51	49.12	49.54	48.74	45.76	45.86	45.66
2. English Composition	42.43	44.38	40.58	42.45	44.20	40.80	42.70	44.48	41.08	40.48	41.85	39.23
3. Kiswahili Lugha	46.38	46.42	46.34	41.46	41.02	41.88	52.76	52.88	52.64	57.28	57.62	56.96
4. Kiswahili Insha	54.98	57.43	52.63	54.68	56.83	52.68	50.30	52.70	48.08	53.68	56.00	51.58
5. Mathematics	56.30	54.00	58.48	52.18	49.94	54.28	53.80	51.34	56.06	49.56	46.88	51.98
6. Science	62.76	59.44	65.94	67.48	63.80	70.92	60.86	56.80	64.59	59.92	56.70	62.82
7. Social Studies	60.87	57.78	63.82	56.32	53.41	59.07	64.93	61.88	67.73	62.42	58.87	65.62
8. Religious Education	75.73	76.07	75.43	62.45	61.48	63.34	60.07	59.40	60.70	61.60	60.10	62.51

Table 4: 2012 KCPE Examination Candidates who sat for the Examination under Special Circumstances by County

County code and name		Cands. who took exam in prison		Cands. who took exam in hospital		Blind		Low vision		Physically/ Mentally challenged		Hearing impaired		Total	
		2012	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011
1.	Taita Taveta	19	0	0	1	0	0	8	4	3	4	3	0	33	9
2.	Kwale	0	1	0	0	0	2	17	22	5	2	7	9	29	36
3.	Mombasa	29	0	0	0	9	9	18	22	19	26	17	15	92	72
4.	Kilifi	1	2	0	2	2	3	8	4	3	4	28	26	42	41
5.	Tana River	0	0	3	0	0	0	3	13	1	0	3	5	10	18
6.	Lamu	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	7	0	1	0	0	09	8
7.	Nyandarua	1	0	0	0	0	0	6	4	19	5	15	14	41	23
8.	Nyeri	15	1	1	0	0	0	10	15	4	4	15	15	45	35
9.	Kirinyaga	0	0	1	0	0	0	5	0	1	1	10	10	17	11
10.	Murang'a	0	0	1	0	0	0	4	5	3	9	17	0	25	14
11.	Kiambu	0	0	3	3	19	14	24	18	29	38	5	26	80	99
12.	Machakos	0	0	0	2	1	0	14	11	29	25	21	21	65	59
13.	Kitui	0	0	1	1	6	3	12	16	6	6	13	21	38	47
14.	Embu	0	1	1	2	0	0	5	5	10	9	1	0	17	17
15.	Meru	0	0	2	0	2	5	17	30	5	16	24	13	50	64
16.	Marsabit	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	01	3
17.	Isiolo	0	0	0	0	3	0	3	0	1	2	7	15	14	17
18.	Makueni	0	0	0	2	0	0	11	12	10	10	6	15	27	39
19.	Tharaka Nithi	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	2	4	0	0	04	6
20.	Nairobi	40	40	0	4	2	4	17	33	23	6	12	16	94	103
21.	Turkana	2	5	2	0	1	0	8	6	1	0	10	7	24	18
22.	Samburu	0	0	0	0	1	0	27	16	0	8	11	6	39	30
23.	Trans Nzioua	0	0	0	0	1	1	64	44	11	9	3	0	79	54
24.	West Pokot	0	1	1	1	7	11	13	8	0	0	0	8	21	29
25.	Bomet	2	0	1	0	3	1	9	8	9	3	0	1	24	13
26.	Uasin Gishu	0	7	2	0	0	1	11	11	9	13	2	6	24	38
27.	Nakuru	67	28	0	1	0	0	16	11	4	16	12	15	99	71
28.	Kericho	1	1	0	7	2	0	14	15	8	19	31	29	56	71
29.	Nandi	0	0	3	2	0	1	7	2	11	1	14	12	34	18
30.	Laikipia	0	0	0	1	0	0	5	5	5	10	8	0	18	16
31.	Kajiado	0	0	0	2	0	0	8	9	2	5	4	3	14	19
32.	Narok	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	1	0	0	02	3
33.	Baringo	0	0	0	3	0	2	12	9	14	4	8	0	34	18
34.	Elgeyo Marakwet	0	0	2	1	0	0	5	4	1	0	7	8	15	13
35.	Busia	0	0	1	2	0	0	7	7	6	4	4	13	18	26
36.	Bungoma	0	0	2	0	0	1	34	31	26	42	5	4	67	78
37.	Kakamega	1	2	3	2	0	1	78	51	21	104	54	42	157	202
38.	Vihiga	0	0	2	0	0	0	6	7	3	7	24	13	35	27
39.	Kisumu	111	3	2	3	6	13	28	37	19	38	30	18	196	112
40.	Kisii	0	6	2	3	1	1	4	9	3	16	18	21	28	56
41.	Homabay	0	0	1	2	0	1	38	41	21	31	21	31	81	106
42.	Siaya	1	0	3	0	11	17	53	30	12	14	17	26	97	87
43.	Nyamira	0	0	2	1	0	0	10	11	3	9	1	0	16	21
44.	Migori	2	0	1	3	1	0	28	30	10	15	45	49	87	97
45.	Garissa	2	1	1	0	4	4	55	79	16	13	11	12	89	109
46.	Wajir	0	0	2	2	0	0	4	4	3	3	11	12	20	21
47.	Mandera	8	2	0	0	0	1	19	16	3	2	0	1	30	22
Totals		302	101	46	53	82	96	759	727	394	355	556	559	2,137	2,096

2.3 MARKING OF THE KCPE EXAMINATION

The objective papers in the KCPE examination are machine scored/graded 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.

2.3.1 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:

2.3.1.1 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:

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

2.3.1.2 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:

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

2.3.2 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.

2.4 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 2012 KCPE examination and the orders of merit for the top ten candidates in every county.

This year's report:

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

The year 2012 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.

2.5 APPRECIATION

Finally, I wish to acknowledge and commend the effort of: Dr. J. Kivilu, G. Ingolo, D. Kiarie, J. Kiviu, G. Itute, K. Iman, J. Kariuki, R. Ngumbao, H. Bundu, A. Matei, S. Mundi, A. Amaunda, G. Mwenja, ICT, Test Development, Reprographics & Manuscript Departments, Research Division and the entire Senior Management of the Council for their contribution in preparation and publication of this report.



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3.0 ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION

The English examination consisted of two sections:

Section A – Objective items; **Section B** – composition writing.

3.1 GENERAL PERFORMANCE OF CANDIDATES

Table 5 below shows the performance of candidates in English in the 2012 KCPE examination. Similar data for the years 2009, 2010 and 2011 is also provided for comparison.

Table 5: General Performance in English for the last four years.

Year	2009		2010		2011		2012	
Paper	Obj	Comp	Obj	Comp	Obj	Comp	Obj	Comp
% Mean	45.76	32.40	49.12	42.70	46.24	42.47	49.88	42.43

From the **Table 5** above, the following can be deduced:

- (i) That the percentage mean for the objective paper rose by **3.64** points from **46.24** in 2011 to **49.88** in 2012.
- (ii) That the percentage mean for the composition paper declined slightly by **0.04** points from **42.47** in the year 2011 to **42.43** in 2012.

Figure 1 below shows the performance pattern in the two papers graphically.

Figure 1: Frequency of marks in the two English papers

