

11.0: GEOGRAPHY (312)

The KCSE Geography syllabus is examined in two papers. Paper 1 covers physical Geography and Map Interpretation while Paper 2 is on Human and Economic Geography. In 2004 the Geography examination tested a wide range of skills that are spelt out in the specific objectives of the syllabus.

In this report, candidates' performance in the subject is analysed. The report discusses the questions in which candidates had difficulties answering, with a view to providing teachers with some useful information that will help them improve their approach while teaching the subject in future. It also highlights the possible causes of poor performance in those questions and provides the expected responses.

The table below provides statistics on performance in KCSE Geography for the period 2001 to 2004 for purposes of comparison.

Table 11: Candidates' Overall Performance in Geography for the Past Four Years

Year	Paper	Candidature	Maximum Mark	Mean Score	Standard Deviation
2001	1		100	31.89	15.60
	2		100	37.76	15.68
	Overall	109,464	200	68.59	29.00
2002	1		100	30.97	15.40
	2		100	39.66	15.57
	Overall	106,892	200	69.72	29.62
2003	1		100	32.83	16.22
	2		100	42.81	16.34
	Overall	92,551	200	75.64	30.92
2004	1		100	41.21	17.18
	2		100	41.34	15.91
	Overall	97,817	200	82.51	31.00

The following observations can be made from the table above:-

- i) There was an increase in the enrolment in the subject from 92,551 registered in 2003 to 97,817 in 2004. This represents an increase of 5,266 candidates.
- ii) There was a significant improvement in paper 1 as indicated by the national mean, which rose from 32.83 in 2003 to 41.21 in 2004. However, paper 2 recorded a slight drop from 42.81 in 2003 to 41.34 in 2004.
- iii) 2004 recorded the best performance in the four-year period represented on the table. The overall mean was 82.51 and this can be attributed to the improvement recorded in paper 1 whose mean had always been in the 30s but rose to 41.21.
- iv) The spread from the mean (standard deviation) for the two papers is reasonably good.