

7.0 BIOLOGY (231)

The performance of candidates in Biology in the year 2004 KCSE examination is given in the table below. The performance for the three previous years is also given for comparison.

Table 7: Candidates' Overall Performance in Biology for the Last Four Years

Year	Paper	Candidature	Maximum Mark	Mean Score	Standard Deviation
2001	1		100	28.22	15.40
	2		60	17.46	7.28
	Overall	176,954	160	43.99	21.00
2002	1		100	24.10	14.48
	2		60	13.12	5.41
	Overall	177,251	160	36.24	18.72
2003	1		100	25.54	12.76
	2		60	15.56	6.22
	Overall	184,438	160	41.11	17.82
2004	1		100	31.77	15.27
	2		60	17.31	7.85
	Overall	200,797	160	49.07	22.00

From the table it can be concluded that:-

- i) The candidature has been increasing since 2001.
- ii) The performance in the year 2004 was the best compared to the previous years. The mean and SD in 2004 was the best over the 4 years under review.
- iii) There was also an improved performance in both papers 1 and 2.

7.1 INDIVIDUAL QUESTION ANALYSIS

The questions that were performed poorly by the candidates are discussed below:-

7.1.1 PAPER 1 (231/1)

Question 1

- (a) Name the cartilage found between the bones of the vertebral column. (1 mark)
- (b) State the function of the cartilage named in (a) above. (1 mark)

The candidates were required to name the cartilage found between the bones of the vertebral column and state its function.