6.0   MATHEMATICS   (121)

The report is based on an analysis of performance of candidates in the year 2004 KCSE Examination. Candidates were virtually tested in all the skills on the Blooms' taxonomy on cognitive domain: *knowledge, comprehension, application, analysis, synthesis and evaluation*.

Traditionally, the KCSE Mathematics Examination tests in two papers; paper 1 and paper 2. Each paper is marked out of hundred percent and the two papers supplement each other in covering the entire syllabus.

It is hoped that whatever is contained in this report will be helpful to teachers of Mathematics in preparing learners for examinations.

The table below shows the overall performance of both papers for the past four years.

Table 6: Candidates' Overall Performance in Mathematics for the Last Four Years

Year	Paper	Candidature	Maximum Mark	Mean Score	Standard Deviation
2001	1		100	18.83	18.45
	2		100	18.62	17.15
	Overall	193,702	200	37.43	34.00
2002	1		100	19.95	19.38
	2		100	19.51	19.25
	Overall	197,118	200	39.39	37.95
2003	1		100	17.17	16.31
	2		100	21.45	19.86
	Overall	205,232	200	38.62	36.17
2004	1		100	14.57	15.42
	2		100	22.63	20.43
	Overall	221,295	200	37.20	35.85

From the table above, the following observations can be inferred:

i)   For the second year running, the overall mean score declined depicting poor performance.

ii)   There has been a noticeable upward trend in terms of performance improvement in paper 2, as shown by the mean scores over the years.

iii)   On the contrary, performance in paper 1 has been declining since the year 2002.