

4.0: ENGLISH (101)

The English language papers test candidates' capacity to handle the language both at the receptive and productive levels. They test their ability to comprehend the input, mainly the written word, their mastery of the grammar and communicative skills as evidenced in their written work as well as their ability to respond to literary cues and to express their response in an intelligible and effective way. Three papers are offered as follows:

Paper 101/1 Tests creative and functional writing;

Paper 101/2 Tests summary writing, comprehension and grammar and usage;

Paper 101/3 Tests literary knowledge and ability to present clearly argued points in response to questions.

Table 4 below shows the performance in the three papers in the year 2004. Data for the years 2001, 2002 and 2003 are also provided for comparison.

Table 4: Candidates' Overall Performance in English for the last Four Years

Year	Paper	Candidates	Maximum Score	Mean Score	Standard Deviation
2001	1		40	16.79	3.37
	2		80	33.87	10.34
	3		80	18.26	8.84
	Overall	193,826	200	68.84	20.00
2002	1		40	14.46	4.07
	2		80	29.21	10.77
	3		80	15.75	8.70
	Overall	197,090	200	58.16	21.23
2003	1		40	15.00	3.53
	2		80	29.22	10.12
	3		80	21.05	9.25
	Overall	207,929	200	65.26	20.89
2004	1		40	16.36	3.00
	2		80	31.40	10.25
	3		80	21.77	9.94
	Overall	221,321	200	69.51	20.00

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

- i) There was an improvement in performance across board as evidenced by the means. The overall mean was the highest in the four years.
- ii) Paper 1 improved by 1.36 points from 15.00 to 16.36.
- iii) Paper 2 rose from 29.22 to 31.40, while Paper 3 gained 0.62 points to stand at 21.77 from 21.05. A number of reasons accounted for this improvement and will become apparent when we consider the individual papers herebelow: