

30.0 COMMERCE (562)

The subject was tested in two papers and the paper formats were the same as they have been in the past. As we know this subject will be phased out by the end of 2005. We hope the last group of candidates will be able to gain from past criticisms, observations and recommendations on performance.

Table 30: Candidates' Overall Performance in Commerce for the Last Four Years

Year	Paper	Candidature	Max. Score	Mean Score	Standard Deviation
2001	1		100	44.22	14.88
	2		100	32.30	14.26
	Overall	93,526	200	73.45	28.00
2002	1		100	49.90	16.70
	2		100	42.04	21.07
	Overall	93,044	200	91.75	36.22
2003	1		100	49.14	14.92
	2		100	40.48	18.00
	Overall	91,895	200	89.63	31.47
2004	1		100	56.29	15.70
	2		100	33.90	17.62
	Overall	100,425	200	90.14	31.00

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

- i) Paper 1 in the year 2004 had the highest mean (56.29) in the last four years. The mean grade is above average and it means that most candidates found paper 1 manageable and not too challenging.
- ii) The story is different in paper 2 whose mean grade 33.90 is the lowest in the last three years. Candidates generally found this paper difficult and performance was poor. Performance in paper 2 is however always lower than in paper 1. In paper 2, candidates have more problems responding to the questions requiring extended responses.

We shall now discuss a few questions that candidates generally found difficult.