

**COGNITIVE LEVELS OF THE WEST AFRICAN SENIOR
SCHOOL CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION (WASSCE) QUESTIONS
IN SELECTED SUBJECTS IN SIERRA LEONE (2000 – 2003)**

ABSTRACT

The importance of the West African Senior Secondary School Certificate Examination (WASSCE) demanded the need to examine the Taxonomy of the examination questions by Cognitive Domain in order to ascertain a consensus on their spread at the various levels of the domain. This survey involved a detailed scrutiny of the cognitive levels of WASSCE questions for 2000 – 2003 in five (5) selected subjects namely, English Language, Literature-in-English, Biology, Physics, and Typewriting. The scrutiny was carried out by panels of test and curriculum experts constituted from the University, Senior Secondary Schools, and the Curriculum Development and Research Centre.

The data generated was analyzed using frequency percentages and bar charts. The results revealed that majority of the WASSCE questions tested mainly the lower levels of thinking and lacked adequate spread over the various level of the Cognitive Domain. It was proffered that WAEC should train Item Writers, Moderators and Subject Officers.