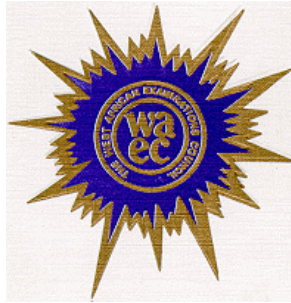


THE WEST AFRICAN EXAMINATIONS COUNCIL



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
OF ENTRIES, RESULTS AND CHIEF
EXAMINERS' REPORTS
ON

**THE SENIOR HIGH
SCHOOL CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION**

CONDUCTED IN
LIBERIA

IN 2006

THE WEST AFRICAN EXAMINATIONS COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF ENTRIES, RESULTS AND CHIEF EXAMINERS' REPORTS ON THE 2006 LIBERIA SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION

1. MAY 2006 LIBERIA SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL CERTIFICATE FOR SCHOOL CANDIDATES

(1) Statistics of Entries and Results

(a) Entry Figures for the May 2006 Liberia Senior High School Certificate Examinations

- Number of candidates that sat the examination = 15,232
- Number of Male candidates = 9,461
- Number of Female candidates = 5,771

(b) Subject Entries

The table below indicates the subject entries for boys and girls in the basic subject categories i.e. Compulsory, General and Science subjects.

Table I: Subject Entries by Gender

Subject		Male	Female	Total
Compulsory	English Language	9,660	5,886	15,546 + 1 Blind Candidate
	Mathematics	9,659	5,886	15,545
General	Economics	9,628	5,870	15,498
	Geography	9,529	5,820	15,349
	History	9,426	5,764	15,190
	Literature-In-English	9,267	5,769	15,036
Science	Biology	9,620	5,858	15,026
	Chemistry	9,370	5,656	15,026
	Physics	9,295	5,621	14,916

(c) **Performance Statistics**

Table II: Performance of Candidates Passing at Grades 1-8

Subject	Boys			Girls			Total		
	No. Sat	No. Passed	%	No. Sat	No. Passed	%	No. Sat	No. Passed	%
English Language	9,461	7,840	82.87%	5,771	4,570	79.19%	15,232	12,410	81.47%
Mathematics	9,457	7,706	81.48%	5,772	4,760	82.47%	15,229	12,466	81.86%
Economics	9,427	7,620	80.83%	5,753	4,698	81.66%	15,180	12,318	81.15%
Geography	9,331	7,338	78.64%	5,704	4,491	78.73%	15,035	11,829	78.68%
History	9,229	7,560	81.92%	5,649	4,498	79.62%	14,878	12,058	81.05%
Literature-In-English	8,877	7,308	82.33%	5,537	4,446	80.30%	14,414	11,754	81.55%
Biology	9,418	7,758	82.37%	5,742	4,697	81.80%	15,160	12,455	82.16%
Chemistry	8,719	8,367	95.96%	5,360	5,100	95.15%	14,079	13,467	95.65%
Physics	8,548	8,180	95.29%	5,298	5,037	95.07%	13,882	13,217	95.21%

Table III: Cumulative Percentage Pass Rate in all Subjects by Gender at Grades 1-8

Subject	CUMULATIVE PERCENTAGE PASS RATE AT GRADES 1-8								
	2004			2005			2006		
	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
English Language	85.33%	82.31%	84.18%	84.57%	81.58%	83.46%	81.48%	82.47%	81.86%
Mathematics	84.11%	82.74%	83.59%	81.15%	82.82%	82.21%	80.83%	81.66%	81.15%
Economics	86.88%	85.60%	86.39%	84.79%	83.79%	84.42%	80.83%	81.66%	81.15%
Geography	80.37%	75.04%	78.35%	81.29%	83.16%	81.99%	78.64%	78.73%	78.68%
History	86.66%	82.46%	85.05%	85.89%	83.95%	85.17%	81.92%	79.62%	81.05%
Literature-In-English	84.23%	81.02%	83.00%	76.16%	76.23%	76.19%	82.33%	80.30%	81.55%
Biology	87.49%	87.34%	87.43%	87.40%	85.70%	86.76%	82.37%	81.80%	82.16%
Chemistry	87.47%	89.74%	88.33%	86.95%	84.85%	86.17%	95.96%	95.15%	95.65%
Physics	88.70%	86.34%	87.79%	85.92%	85.92%	86.89%	95.29%	95.07%	95.21%

(d) **Interpretation of Entry and Performance Statistics**

- (i) There were more male candidates than female candidates.
- (ii) Except for Mathematics, Economics and Geography males performed better than females in the examination.
- (iii) Overall performance in Mathematics and English Language recorded a downward trend over the 3-year period (2004-2006).

(iv) Performance in the Science subjects fluctuated over the 3-year period (2004-2006).

(e) **Recommendations**

(i) Stakeholders should encourage teachers in Mathematics and English to cover the Syllabuses.

(ii) Qualified teachers should be engaged to teach in the schools.

(iii) Serving teachers should be motivated and given refresher courses to update their skills.

2. **STATISTICS OF ENTRIES AND RESULTS ON THE NOVEMBER 2006 LIBERIA SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL CERTIFICATE**

(1) **Entries for November 2006**

- Number of candidates that sat the examination = 2,575
- Number of Male candidates = 1,491
- Number of Females candidates = 1,084

(a) **Table I: Entries by Subject and Gender**

	Subject	Male	Female	Total
Compulsory	English Language	871	706	1,577
	Mathematics	1,055	705	1,760
General	Economics	554	384	938
	Geography	640	443	1,083
	History	566	423	989
	Literature-In-English	569	400	969
Science	Biology	639	443	1,082
	Chemistry	387	263	650
	Physics	382	258	640

(b) **Table II: Percentage Pass Rate at Grades 1-8**

Subject	Male			Female			Total		
	No. Sat	No. Passed	%	No. Sat	No. Passed	%	No. Sat	No. Passed	%
English Language	786	649	82.57%	632	505	79.91%	1,418	1,154	81.38%
Mathematics	939	817	87.01%	611	558	91.33%	1,550	1,375	88.71%
Economics	430	355	82.56%	285	234	82.11%	715	589	82.38%
Geography	440	370	84.09%	282	228	80.57%	723	598	82.71%
History	395	338	85.57%	289	227	78.55%	684	565	82.60%
Literature-In-English	329	270	82.07%	222	182	81.98%	551	452	82.03%
Biology	487	431	88.50%	313	264	84.35%	800	695	86.88%
Chemistry	274	227	82.85%	183	140	76.50%	457	367	80.31%
Physics	257	223	86.77%	191	151	79.06%	448	374	83.48%

(c) **Table III: Cumulative Percentage Pass at Grades 1-8**

Subject	2004			2005			2006		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
English Language	84.18	85.28	83.41%	89.15	86.69	88.24%	82.57	79.91	81.38%
Mathematics	72.84	72.68	73.15%	92.22	91.18	91.18%	87.01	91.33	88.71%
Economics	75.93	72.73	74.76%	91.89	88.96	90.80%	82.55	82.10	82.38%
Geography	78.11	82.42	79.87%	88.06	87.38	87.81%	84.09	80.57	82.71%
History	81.13	77.56	79.73%	87.61	77.76	84.00%	85.57	78.55	82.60%
Literature-In-English	74.56	78.90	76.28%	80.66	79.79	80.34%	82.17	81.99	82.03%
Biology	75.92	74.07	75.31%	87.77	85.31	88.13%	88.50	84.34	86.88%
Chemistry	74.59	73.25	74.13%	85.39	83.83	84.83%	82.85	76.50	80.30%
Physics	76.42	75.96	76.25%	88.50	87.06	87.06%	87.98	79.06	83.48%

(2) **Interpretation of Entry and Performance Statistics**

The statistics of entries and performance for the November examinations did not vary significantly in pattern from that of the May examination.

The comments and recommendations for the May examination are also applicable to the November examination.

3. **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF CHIEF EXAMINERS' REPORTS
ON THE MAY 2006 LIBERIA SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL
CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION**

(1) **Standard of the Papers**

The Chief Examiners reported that the standard of the papers compared favourably with those of the preceding years. The questions were unambiguous and within the scope of the syllabus. The rubrics were clearly stated.

(2) **Performance of Candidates**

Generally, the Chief Examiners reported that candidates' performance was unsatisfactory. However, some reported slight improvement in some papers such as Economics and Physics.

(3) **Candidates' Strengths**

The Chief Examiners reported the following strengths:

- (a) Adherence to rubrics
- (b) Knowledge of the subject matters.

(4) **Candidates' Weaknesses**

The Chief Examiners reported the following weaknesses by the candidates:

- (a) Inadequate knowledge of the subject matter.
- (b) Inadequate preparation.
- (c) Poor knowledge of grammar.
- (e) Poor mathematical background.
- (f) Non-adherence to Rubrics
- (g) Poor Diagrams and Illustrations

(5) **Suggested Remedies**

The Chief Examiners gave the following suggestions for improving candidates' performance:

- (a) candidates should read the rubrics before answering the questions;
- (b) school authorities should endeavour to cover examination syllabuses with candidates;
- (c) copies of the Chief Examiners' Reports and past questions should be made available to teachers and candidates;
- (d) the mechanics of the English Language should be taken seriously by candidates.

4. **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF CHIEF EXAMINERS' REPORTS
ON THE NOVEMBER 2006 LIBERIA SENIOR HIGH
SCHOOL CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION**

(1) **Standard of Papers**

All the Chief Examiners reported that the standard of the papers compared favourably with those of the previous years. The questions, were devoid of ambiguity and within the scope of the syllabus. The rubrics of the papers were also clearly stated.

(2) **Performance of Candidates**

On the whole, the Chief Examiners reported that candidates' performance were satisfactory. Some, however, reported slight improvement in some papers such as Economics.

(3) **Candidates' Strengths**

Some Chief Examiners commended the candidates for the following:

- (a) Adherence to rubrics.
- (b) Understanding the demands of the question.

(3) **Candidates' Weaknesses**

The Chief Examiners' identified the following weaknesses in the candidates:

- (a) Inadequate knowledge of the subject matter.
- (b) Inadequate preparation.
- (c) Poor knowledge of grammar.

- (d) Poor mathematical background.
- (e) Non-adherence to Rubrics
- (f) Poor Diagrams and Illustrations

(5) **Suggested Remedies**

The Chief Examiners advanced the following recommendations for improving the candidates' performance in future examinations:

- (a) special attention should be paid to the rubrics of the English Language by candidates before writing the examination;
- (b) school authorities should ensure that the examination syllabuses are adequately covered by teachers;
- (c) candidates should devote a considerable time for adequate revision prior to examination;
- (d) copies of the Chief Examiners' Reports together with past question papers should be procured by school authorities.