

**RESPONSIBILITIES OF HEADS IN PREPARING SHS  
STUDENTS FOR WASSCE 2016/ENSURING  
IMPROVED PERFORMANCE**

**BY:**

**CYNTHIA BOSUMTWI-SAM (MRS)  
DIRECTOR, CRDD**



# OUTLINE

- Roles of Heads
- Roles of Teachers
- Roles of Students/Candidates
- Roles of Parents/Guardians

# Introduction

The West Africa Secondary School Certificate Examination (WASSCE) is just around the corner. In a few weeks' time candidate will be writing their final examination. This could be a terminal exit or transition for these candidates. Looking at the time available at their disposal, teaching and learning should aim at completion of syllabi and revision.

# Introduction cont'd

At this critical moment there is the need to create an enabling environment for strategic planning and immediate action.

All planned activities should be religiously followed for students' benefit.

There's need for a friendly atmosphere and concern for students' welfare.

Therefore the following suggestions could be adopted in order to remediate the low performance of candidates at the WASSCE:

# THE SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT

## The role of the Head (What the head can do):

- Meet with staff members to discuss the issues and ask departments to strategize in providing revision and support for weak students.
- Plan the organisation of **remedial** classes for candidates.

# The Role of the Head cont'd...

**1.b. Head of schools meet the parents of candidates to discuss and agree on the way forward . Eg.**

How to encourage candidates to learn both at home and in school such as:

- Parents/Guardians excluding Day students from some household chores.
- Parents/Guardians restricting candidates from watching television programmes/films for long hours.
- Parents/Guardians creating an enabling environment and supervising their children's learning.

# The Role of Teachers

## (What can teachers do?)

### Teachers should:

1. Identify challenging topics which have already been taught and strategize with colleagues for team teaching and extra tuition. Seek help from available resource persons.
2. Provide Extra Tuition: Teachers should identify candidates who are weak in their subject areas to give them extra tuition.
3. Identify and introduce students to ability/mixed ability groups and get peers to teach.



# The Role of Teachers cont'd...

4. Teachers should conduct regular class tests in areas candidates have challenges.
5. Teachers should organise regular test questions and multiple practice examinations to test the level of preparedness and examination confidence of candidates.

# The Role of Teachers cont'd...

6. Candidates should be taken through the use of the scanable objective answer sheets by employing shading rehearsal which will be monitored and evaluated.
7. Get examiners to take candidates through how to read with understanding, select and answer questions correctly.
8. Sensitize candidates on the consequences of Examination Malpractices

# The role of Teachers cont'd...

8. Teach candidates how to employ study techniques  
Eg. SQ4R (Survey, Question, Read, Recall/Recite, Review/Repeat, React)
  
9. Teachers should advise and guide candidates on how to:
  - Write legibly
  - Adopt positive attitude towards learning
  - Draw and follow a time table (personal and exams) and Practice (study) with past questions

# The Role of candidates

(What support can peer learning and teaching give?)

1. Revise covering all topics taught in the 3 years.
2. Organise themselves into study groups to support one another to learn.
3. Candidates should form study groups to share what they know about a particular topic and to discuss exams questions: in this way the study group provides vital learning forum
4. Group members should be encouraged to present questions they could not answer to their respective subject teachers for clarification.
5. Individuals should be encouraged to draw up study time tables and follow them.

# The role of candidates cont'd...

4. There should be discipline, punctuality and orderliness among candidates especially in Day schools.
5. Candidates should be committed and persevere with their studies: They should show concern and be studious by developing their personal study time tables and observing them religiously to achieve their goals.
6. Candidates should refrain from engaging in any form of Examination Malpractice.

# The Role of candidates cont'd...

7. Candidates should employ the study technique SQ3R (Study, Question, Read, Recite and Review) which is a reading comprehension method of learning.

# The Role of Heads in Ensuring Improved Performance

- The various areas suggested:
  - Teachers organising remedial lessons/revision of areas taught.
  - Students' structured learning/Peer teaching and learning.
  - Parental involvement in supervising students etc
- Should all be monitored by the Head.

Every student has a fair chance of excelling in WASSCE given a rich teaching and learning environment.

# CONCLUSION

These are a few suggestions to help remediate the low performance of candidates at the forthcoming WASSCE 2016.

Some other innovations may work better in your school context. Try them.



