Discussion on MATHEMATICS (CORE)
9th February, 2016

Introduction

☙WAEC compiles an examination syllabus from the National teaching syllabus.

☙Teachers are advised to use their own National teaching syllabus.

☙The aims of the WAEC Examination Syllabus are to test candidates's:

1) mathematical competency and computational skills;

2) understanding of mathematical concepts and their relationship to the acquisition of entrepreneurial skills for everyday living in the global world;

INTRO cont'd

3) ability to translate problems into mathematical language and solve them using appropriate methods;

4) ability to be accurate to relevant to the problem at hand;

5) logical, abstract and precise thinking.

General Comments

❧ Over the years, the standard of the SHS Mathematics Paper compares quite favourably to that of the previous years.

❧ The questions are very clear and manageable; but at times many of the candidates must have thought otherwise since good scripts are sometimes few and far between.

❧ It appears the basic ideas principles and skills which candidates should have a grasp were the very things candidates tended to either ignore or take for granted.

❧ Candidates should be reminded that the examination covers major topics expected to be studied at the S. H. S.

❧ The paper is be designed to test some of these very basic topics, ideas principles and skills involved in Mathematics.

General Comments cont'd

* Candidates can improve their computational skills if they would be encouraged to work more mathematics questions on their own instead of using pamphlets of questions and answers.

* Candidates should be given more exercises and encourage them to work them on their own.

* Practice more instead of reading mathematics.

* Teachers should be encouraged to have time for the weak students and teach them the basic principles and skills in the topics that they are weak in.

* Teachers should upgrade their skills in Topics in which they are weak in to help them teach those Topics effectively.

SUMMARY OF CANDIDATES' WEAKNESS

- Candidates lack of basic understanding of mathematical principles. Many of the candidates are not able to apply basic concepts and theories correctly in some aspects of the syllabus.

- Some candidates could not detect glaring errors. Certain answers do not just make sense and candidates should be advised to pause and think just how plausible their answers were. (eg. Probability is between 0 and 1, 1235%).

- Candidates lack computational skills.

- Failure to read and understand rubrics of the questions.

- Omissions of units of measurements.

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Candidates Weakness cont'd

꒰ Lack of understanding and appreciation for Geometry, Measuration and Three Dimensional Figures Questions.

꒰ Translating worded problems into equations.

꒰ Candidates do not show all rough work with their answered questions.

꒰ For construction questions, drawing diagrams instead of constructions.

꒰ Do not show arc's in construction questions and inaccurate measurement of lines and angles.

꒰ Difficulty in constructing angles.

Candidates Weakness cont'd

Difficulty in constructing angles.

Non-labelling of Diagrams /Graphs.

Plotting of points wrongly, failure to label vertices and co-ordinates clearly in graph questions.

Choosing of wrong scales for graph questions.

Wrong calculation of sectorial angles in Pie Chart questions.

SUGGESTED SOLUTIONS

ﾓ Candidates should be advised to read carefully and understand the demands of questions before attempting them.

ﾓ Candidates should be helped to solve more mathematical questions on their own. This will give them the necessary understanding and confidence to answer similar questions during examination.

ﾓ Candidates should be reminded that marks are lost if they do not indicate the **UNITS** of measurement where applicable for the answer.

ﾓ Candidates should be encouraged to help to solve sample questions on GEOMETRY and MEASURATION questions.

SUGGESTED SOLUTIONS cont'd

൞All currency answers should be written to **two (2) decimal places.** Candidates are reminded that marks are lost if they do not do this.

൞When using the graph paper, candidates need to learn to plot their points properly and as accurately as their scales will allow, bearing in mind the scale being used. They should learn to read values from the graph paper as accurate as possible. They should learn to choose scales that make the plotting easy.

൞Candidates stop reading mathematics and do a lot of practice by working more questions on their own.

൞Candidates should learn to show all rough work with their answer.

Thank You