



Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary Education

National Primary School Examination (NPSE) 2019

The 2019 National Primary School Examination (NPSE) results have on Saturday 17 August been released to the Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary Education (MBSSE). The results are to be forwarded to all schools concerned nation-wide immediately. In the meanwhile, the Ministry has carried out an analysis of the results received and report as follows:

Entries

The candidate entry for the exam was 136,526 from 3,597 primary schools nationwide. The examination was conducted in 243 centres across the country. The entry figure comprised of 68,134 (49.9%) boys and 68,392 (50.1%) girls. All candidates had scores assigned.

Entries for 2019 were 12,934 (6,549 boys, 6,385 girls) greater than for the 2018 NPSE. This is an increase of approximately 10.5%.

Candidate entered and sitting by region and gender were as follows:

Region	Total	Sex	
		Male	Female
East	26,756	13,059	13,697
North	44,781	23,820	20,961
South	24,120	12,009	12,111
West	40,813	19,215	21,598
Guinea	56	31	25

It is worth noting that, just as last year, only in the Northern Region and Guinea were fewer girls than boys entered for the examination.

Performance

Performance of Candidates

The highest T-score obtained in the 2019 NPSE was 360; this is above the highest T-score of 354 obtained in 2018.

103,533 candidates, comprising 52,542 boys and 50,991 girls, passed the NPSE in 2019. Their aggregate scores were on or above the cut-off score of 230 stipulated by the Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary Education. This corresponds to an overall pass rate of 75.8%, a boys' pass rate of 77.1% and a girls' pass rate of 74.6%. The overall pass rate is below the 2018 pass rate of 79.2%.

Regional candidate performance

Region	Total		Pass Rate All	Rank
	Scores for all Papers	(Passed)		
East	26,756	20,568	76.87%	2nd
North	44,781	33,505	74.82%	3rd
South	24,120	17,071	70.78%	4th
West	40,816	32,382	79.34%	1st
Guinea	53	7	13.21%	5th
National	136,526	103,533	75.83%	

It is worth noting with regards to the information just presented, that only for the Western Area did the pass rate increase between 2018 and 2019.

Details of the top 5 candidates nation-wide are as follows:

Region	Primary School	Cand. Num	Candidate Name	Sex	AGG	Rank
West	The International Sch., (Prim)	203001052	Russell Affuah	F	360	1st
West	Modern Element. Sch.	205008010	Bright Chantal Esther	F	359	2nd
West	Tower Hill Kindergarten & Pri.	203007039	Taylor Williams Melrose D A	F	358	3rd
West	The International Sch., (Prim)	203001045	Macarthy Gershon	M	357	4th
West	UCC Pri. Sch. Tower Hill	259003025	Matturie Winifred Kumba	F	356	5th

It is worth noting that 4 of the top 5 candidates in the 2019 NPSE are female. Congratulation to the girls who have once again proven that they can more than match the best of the boys.

The top 3 candidates regionally are as follows:

Eastern Region

Region	Primary School	Cand. Num	Candidate Name	Sex	AGG	Rank
East	Free The Children Pri, Koidu	415041037	Moigua Alimatu Sia	F	341	1st
East	Free The Children Pri, Koidu	415041035	Mansaray Mohamed Sahr	M	338	2nd
East	Free The Children Pri, Koidu	415041050	Sesay Mariama Seray	F	337	3rd
East	Living Stone Pri., Kenema	435012069	Vandi Nyakeh Bona	M	337	3rd

Northern Region

Region	Primary School	Cand. Num	Candidate Name	Sex	AGG	Rank
North	Modern Prep., Makeni	129036038	Kawaley Jason Denzil George	M	342	1st
North	Allison Int. Elementary, Makeni	149015002	Bangura Isha	F	342	1st
North	Troy Tilkaran Pri., Kamsondo	121035016	Thompson Adetta V. M.	F	339	2nd
North	Modern Prep., Makeni	129036060	Tholley James Ozan	M	339	2nd
North	Modern Prep., Makeni	129036044	Magbity Joetina Augustine I.	M	334	3rd

Southern Region

Region	Primary School	Cand. Num	Candidate Name	Sex	AGG	Rank
South	Njala Univ. Int. Sch., Njala	513035003	Conteh Adama Yayo	F	350	1st
South	The Gulf Int. Sch., Bo	502017001	Abbas Yara Mohamed	F	339	2nd
South	Jonathan's Child Care Pri.,	529016003	Davies Thea H.	F	336	3rd

Western Area

Region	Primary School	Cand. Num	Candidate Name	Sex	AGG	Rank
West	The International Sch., (Prim)	203001052	Russell Affuah	F	360	1st
West	Modern Element. Sch.	205008010	Bright Chantal Esther	F	359	2nd
West	Tower Hill Kindergarten & Pri.	203007039	Taylor Williams Melrose D A	F	358	3rd

Performance of Schools - 683 out 3,597 schools (19.0%) had 100% pass rates. 253 schools alarmingly had pass rates of less than 10%. The regional distribution of schools with 100% pass rates is as follows:

Region	Number of Schools
East	124
North	240
South	121
West	198
Guinea	0
National	683

Only the Western Area had more schools getting pass rates of 100% this year than last year.

The top 10 schools nation-wide were as follows:

Region	Sch No	Primary School	Sat	Avg. AGG	Passes	Pass Rate
West	220006	Gateway Prep. Sch. Fort St. F/tn	12	332.3	12	100.0%
West	259003	UCC Pri. Sch., Tower Hill	34	331.1	34	100.0%
West	237028	Naiahcom Nur. & Primary School, Baoma, Goderich	33	329.7	33	100.0%
West	215004	Yamakai Action Prep. Fatta Rahman St	24	328.1	24	100.0%
West	244007	Jewels Model Prep. Sch. Upper Allen Town Freetown	11	325.5	11	100.0%
West	273001	Romans Int. Academy, 39 Upper Waterloo St.	27	325.4	27	100.0%
West	242006	Alvette Prep. Sch., Kissy Bye Pass	9	324.2	9	100.0%
West	236001	Josuel Pri. Sch. Regent Rd., Lumley	23	321.5	23	100.0%
East	420028	Unique International Academy Old Yengema Rd. Kono	47	319.0	47	100.0%
West	205008	Modern Element. Sch., Congo Cross	64	318.9	64	100.0%

The top 3 schools from each region:

Eastern Region

Region	Sch No	Primary School	Sat	Avg. AGG	Passes	Pass Rate
East	420028	Unique Inter. Academy Old Yengema Rd. Kono	47	319.0	47	100.0%
East	415041	Free The Children Pri. Sch., Koidu	55	306.5	55	100.0%
East	428007	R.C. Pri. Sch., Koardu	31	300.4	31	100.0%

Northern Region

Region	Sch No	Primary School	Sat	Avg. AGG	Passes	Pass Rate
North	129036	Modern Prep. Sch., Makeni	65	314.2	65	100.0%
North	139029	CRC Pri., Sch. Yogomaia	22	313.2	22	100.0%
North	149015	Allison Int. Elementary Sch., Makeni	33	309.6	33	100.0%

Southern Region

Region	Sch No	Primary School	Sat	Avg. AGG	Passes	Pass Rate
South	532007	R.C. School, Bomotoke	4	308.5	4	100.0%
South	513035	Njala Univ. Int. Sch., Njala	23	307.4	23	100.0%
South	532027	M.D.E.C. Pri. Sch., Kondegboma	4	305.5	4	100.0%

Western Area

Region	Sch No	Primary School	Sat	Avg. AGG	Passes	Pass Rate
West	220006	Gateway Prep. Sch. Fort St. F/tn	12	332.3	12	100.0%
West	259003	UCC Pri. Sch., Tower Hill	34	331.1	34	100.0%
West	237028	Naiahcom Nur. & Prim., Baoma, Goderich	33	329.7	33	100.0%

School Performance Categories

The Ministry has introduced examination performance categories for schools and districts in a bid to improve performance and stimulate healthy and friendly competition. The national picture in terms of performance categories this year in comparison with last year is as follows:

Year	STARS			Boundary (50.0 – 54.9%)	WARNINGS			All
	Gold (90.0 – 100%)	Silver (70.0 – 89.9%)	Bronze (55.0 – 69.9%)		Turquoise (35.0 – 49.9%)	Purple (20.0 – 34.9%)	Brown (0 – 19.9%)	
2019	1570 (44%)	874 (24%)	306 (9%)	99 (3%)	176 (5%)	190 (5%)	382 (11%)	3,597
2018	1658 (47%)	951 (27%)	305 (9%)	91 (3%)	172 (5%)	136 (4%)	215 (6%)	3,528
2017	1,611 (46%)	917 (26%)	334 (10%)	91 (3%)	198 (6%)	142 (4%)	200 (6%)	3,493
2016	1,501 (44%)	771 (23%)	323 (9%)	102 (3%)	187 (5%)	192 (6%)	350 (10%)	3,426

Alarming, 181 schools with a total of 2,627 NPSE candidates from every region of the country had zero percent pass rates. The heads of these schools will be invited to the Ministry to explain and to help map out actions to improve learning and performance in the affected schools.

Performance in Papers

As expected the average mark for the different papers was approximately 50 but it is noticeable that the percentage on or above the Average T-score of 50 is less for Verbal Aptitude than for the other papers. It is also noticeable that boys have higher T-scores than girls for every paper. The suggestion is that girls are slightly under-performing.

NPSE 2018 – Average T-Scores by Sex

Description	QA	VA	MAT	ENG	GS	Agg.
M	50.6	49.8	50.1	50.6	50.5	251.6
F	49.9	49.4	49.8	50.3	50.1	249.5
Both	50.3	49.6	50.0	50.4	50.3	250.5

There are regional differences in performance in the different subject areas examined.

Region	Avg QA	Avg VA	Avg MAT	Avg ENG	Avg GS	Avg AGG
East	50.2	50.5	50.4	49.0	50.6	250.6
North	49.5	48.7	49.9	49.0	50.7	247.8
South	48.5	48.0	48.8	48.0	50.6	244.0
West	52.3	50.9	50.4	54.5	49.5	257.5
Guinea	40.3	44.9	36.5	44.6	34.2	200.5

The advantage of the Western Area over the other regions in terms of performance in English Language is very noticeable. This advantage is not so noticeable for mathematics and the other subject areas. In fact the Western Area is out-performed by all the other regions, except for the candidates from Guinea, in General Studies.

The performance of candidates from Guinea is of some concern. The suggestion is that the quality of teaching and learning in the schools is less than in Sierra Leone.

Conclusion

The 2019 NPSE was conducted at a time that public concern about the integrity of the examination was even greater than in 2018. Measures additional to those adopted in 2018 were put in place to keep malpractices down to the minimum. Reports of malpractices were received but were lower than in the preceding years as a result of, among other things, the increased monitoring of centres and candidates as well as the presence of the police. Even so, there is still much work to be done and the need for the education of the public as great as ever. The measures adopted for this year's examination will continue next year and be further enhanced with the ultimate goal of reducing examination malpractices to zero.

Overall, performance at the NPSE was seemingly down on the last two years. This is probably the result of the much more stringent monitoring and supervision of the examinations that was carried out. As is always the case, some candidates and schools have done very well whilst others have much room for improvement. As usual, much thanks go to teachers, the majority of whom continue to work very hard even without any recognition and limited reward.

Finally, the challenges of the Freetown Office of WAEC need to be acknowledged. Nevertheless, something has to be done to ensure timely processing and release of results. In this regard, the MBSSE will discuss with WAEC the way forward so that results can be released on time starting next year.