



Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary Education

West African Senior School Certificate Examination (WASSCE) 2019

Preliminary

The West African Senior School Certificate Examination (WASSCE) results for school candidates that sat the examination in 2019 were released to the Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary Education (MBSSE) on Saturday 31 August 2019, much later than in 2018, primarily because of the increased entries (almost 4 times as many as in 2018) and the breakdown of 3 scanners.

The increase in numbers is partly due to the fact that the return from 6-3-4-4 to 6-3-3-4 meant that there were two sets of students sitting the WASSCE together i.e. students promoted from SS3 to SS4, which no longer existed, and those from SS2 that were promoted to SS3. Notwithstanding efforts made by the MBSSE, the entries seen for some schools suggests that candidates additional to those that were actual students of the school were entered for the examination.

It is important to note that although 115,098 entered for the 2019 WASSCE, at the time of release of the results to the MBSSE, 34 schools were having their results with-held. 32 of these were private schools with incomplete payments to WAEC and 2 were government-assisted schools responsible for major disturbances during the conduct of the examinations.

Preliminary analyses of the results released to the MBSSE to date have been carried out and is reported below:

➤ Candidate Entry

Candidate entry for the examination was 105,685 from 372 Senior Secondary Schools nationwide. The entry figure comprised of 55,835 males and 49,850 females. This contrasts with the 2018 entry figure of 33,396 from 191 schools, comprising 17,691 males and 15,705 females.

Of the 105,685 that entered for the 2019 WASSCE, and whose results have been released to the MBSSE, 3,064 were absent or had all their results with-held.

➤ Performance

• Candidates

The best three performing candidates in the 2019 WASSCE obtained the following:

Candidate 1: Obtained **5 Excellent/Distinctions (Unit 1s)**, 1 Very Good (Unit 2), 3 Good (Unit 3) and 1 Credit (Unit 6)

Candidate 2: Obtained **6 Excellent/Distinctions (Unit 1s)**, 2 Good (Unit 3) and 1 Pass (Unit 8)

Candidate 3: Obtained **2 Excellent/Distinctions (Unit 1s)**, 4 Very Good (Unit 2), 2 Good (Unit 3) and 1 Credit (Unit 4)

The top candidate obtained an Average Unit of 1.78 for the 9 subjects sat. Whilst the 2nd and 3rd best candidates were tied with Average Units of 2.22. The top candidates' average unit of 1.78 is **better** than the average unit of 2.11 for the best candidate in 2018.

Of the 102,621 candidates (out of the 105,685 released to the MBSSE) for whom grades/units were recorded, a total of 6,003 candidates (inclusive of the 3 top performers), i.e. approximately 6%, met the minimum requirement for entry into degree programmes in terms of number of passes. These candidates have a minimum of 5 Credits (Unit 6 or better). The 6,003 candidates are made up of 3,107 males and 2,896 females. In comparison, in 2018, 5,797 candidates i.e. 18% of all those who sat, and comprising 2,989 males and 2,808 females, met the minimum requirement for entry into degree programmes in terms of number of passes. (Note that if the requirement of tertiary institutions is for the 5 'credits' and above to include a minimum of a 'credit' in English Language as well as in Mathematics, then the number of successful candidates for 2019 drops drastically from 6,003 to a total of 3,835 candidates.

7,473 candidates (4,131 males and 3,342 females), i.e. 7.3% of all who sat at least 4 subjects, qualified for entry into higher diploma and teacher training programs in polytechnics and teacher training colleges. These candidates have a minimum of 4 Credits (Unit 6 or better). In comparison, in 2018, 9,205 candidates, i.e. 29% of those who sat in at least 4 subjects, met the requirement for direct entry into higher diploma and teacher training programmes.

12,694 candidates (6,840 males and 5,854 females) i.e. 12.4% of those sitting at least 3 subjects qualified for entry into certificate courses

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The Top 10 WASSCE students in 2019 are as follows:

School Name	Candidate Name	Sex	Sat	Excellent	V.Good	Good	Credit	Pass	Ave Unit
Sierra Leone Grammar School, Freetown	Gbakima Aiah	M	9	5	1	3	0	0	1.78
Sierra Leone Grammar School, Freetown	Johnson Gideon Miracle	M	9	6	0	2	0	1	2.22
Sierra Leone Grammar School, Freetown	Fofana Lansana	M	9	2	3	4	0	0	2.22
Sierra Leone Grammar School, Freetown	Suma Emmanuel	M	9	2	4	2	1	0	2.33
St. Matthew's Sec. Sch., Bumbuna	Marrah Brima	M	9	2	2	3	2	0	2.67
Sierra Leone Grammar School, Freetown	Gbla John	M	9	2	3	2	1	1	2.78
Sierra Leone Grammar School, Freetown	Kabia Musa Kormeh	M	9	3	0	4	1	1	2.89
Sierra Leone Grammar School, Freetown	Wyse Reynold	M	9	3	1	2	3	0	3.00
Royal Becklyn Academy, Freetown	Bassie Abel Alusine	M	9	3	1	2	3	0	3.00
Sierra Leone Grammar School, Freetown	Mansaray Michael	M	9	1	0	7	1	0	3.00

• **The top performing students for the different regions are as follows**

Reg	District	SCH NAME	Cand Name	Sex	Sat	Excellent	V.Good	Good	Credit	Pass	Fail	Ave Unit
East	Kono	Unique Int. Acad, Koidu	Sheriff Kullah M	F	7	2	0	2	3	0	0	3.29
North	Tonkolili	St. Matthew's Sec. Sch., Bumbuna	Marrah Brima	M	9	2	2	3	2	0	0	2.67
South	Bo	SOS Herman Gmeiner Int. Sec., Bo	Jojo Irene Gracecilia	F	8	1	2	3	1	0	1	3.50
West	West-Urban	Sierra Leone Grammar Sch, F/town	Gbakima Aiah	M	9	5	1	3	0	0	0	1.78

Schools

- **The top 10 schools nationally in the 2019 WASSCE in terms of percentage with 5 or more subjects/passes at credit level or better are:**

School ID	School Name	Entered	Sat or NR	5+ Subjs at Cred or Above	ELang_Cred+	Maths_Cred+	Ave Unit	% With 5+ Subjs at Cred or Above
6041371	Dele-Peddle Int. High, F/tn	43	42	42	41	39	4.55	100.00%
6041332	Browndel High, F/tn	13	13	13	13	10	5.02	100.00%
6041354	Providence Int. Snr High, F/tn	164	164	159	103	163	4.92	96.95%
6041472	Leone Int. Sec., Juba	21	21	20	5	15	4.60	95.24%
6041323	EducAid Sec., F/tn	42	42	39	10	40	5.55	92.86%
6010815	UMC Snr Sec., Yengema	5	5	4	5	4	5.36	80.00%
6041627	Fatima Mem Acad Snr Sec., Rokel	5	5	4	3	2	5.98	80.00%
6041442	Naiahcom High, Baoma, Goderich	199	199	134	137	38	5.47	67.34%
6041352	Holy Family Snr Sec., Ftn	216	202	135	107	106	5.68	66.83%
6041311	S Leone Grammar Sch., F/tn	266	266	153	221	76	5.98	57.52%

Note that in addition to looking at the pass rates it is always good to look at the average grade/unit per school which provides a better idea of the quality of the performance.

The top schools by region are:

Region	District	School ID	School Name	Entered	Sat or NR	5+ Subjs at Cred or Above	Ave Unit	% With 5+ Subjs at Cred or Above
East	Kono	6010815	UMC Snr Sec., Yengema	5	5	4	5.36	80.00%
North	Kambia	6020521	Movement of Faith Snr Sec, Kassirie	10	10	4	7.09	40.00%
South	Bo	6030116	SOS Herman Gmeiner Int Sec., Bo	94	94	17	7.38	18.09%
West	West-Rural	6041371	Dele-Peddle Int High, F/tn	43	42	42	4.55	100.00%

The top Government or Government-Assisted schools by region are:

Reg	District	School ID	SCH NAME	Entered	Sat or NR	5+ Subjs at Cred or Above	Ave Unit	% With 5+ Subjs at Cred or Above
East	Kono	6010815	UMC Snr Sec., Yengema	5	5	4	5.36	80.00%
North	Kambia	6020504	Ahmadiyya Muslim Snr Sec., Rokupr	644	627	246	6.64	39.23%
North-West	Karene	6020215	Wuroh Mem. Sec. Sch., Rokulun	314	314	58	6.90	18.47%
South	Bo	6030107	Queen of the Rosary, Bo	575	575	38	7.84	6.61%
West	West-Urban	6041312	St. Edwards Sec., F/tn	383	380	106	6.98	27.89%

Performance by the schools is not as good in 2019 as in 2018. For example, whilst the best average unit per subject sat by a school in 2019 was 4.55, the best average unit per

subject sat by a school in 2018 was 3.43. However, in 2018, only two schools had a hundred per cent of their candidates obtaining 5 or more passes with units that were at credit level or better, the same as in 2019.

This year, performance in English Language and Mathematics is of concern with just 3.75% and 5.01% respectively, obtaining Units in the range A1 to C6 (credits). This compares unfavourably with credit rates of 14.82% and 27.60% in English Language and Mathematics respectively in 2018. Failure rates in the two subjects in 2019 were a worrying 80.10% for English Language and 77.00% for Mathematics. We had hoped and worked for something much better, but having studied the results and identified two possible contributory factors we will do everything necessary to ensure that there is a marked improvement in performance in these two subjects starting in the next 1/2 years.

Overall performance in the 2019 WASSCE does not appear to be as good as in the 2018 WASSCE in percentage terms. It is however worth keeping in mind statements made earlier regarding the removal of the fourth year of the SSS and the bringing together of 2 sets of candidates with different numbers of years of schooling; the backdoor inclusion of candidates by schools, and the extra-thorough monitoring and supervision of WASSCE in 2019 by the MBSSE in order to cut-down on the level of malpractices threatening to overcome the system.

This year's WASSCE results has signalled not only to the Ministry but to schools, teachers, parents and society at large that we have fallen short, that we need to acknowledge our role in getting the nation to this point and then agree together on how to get things right – not through looking back but rather through forward thinking and action. In this regard the Ministry continues to encourage positive discussion and suggestions on what needs to be done.

➤ **Conclusion**

Not everything has been dark in this year's WASSCE some candidates and schools have done extremely well and we congratulate them. Just as last year, congratulations go to those students and teachers who have made the sacrifices necessary for what they are now enjoying. Congratulations also go to parents and guardians who provided the needed home support and encouragement. Heads of schools who through their management and administrative expertise so organised their schools that the conditions and atmosphere needed for effective teaching and learning to take place was and is present in their schools deserve a special congratulation.

Last year schools were warned about entering candidates that were not regular students of their schools. Instead of getting better, we notice that for this WASSCE, the situation is even worse. We are now going to embark on the promised appropriate action.

Schools, districts and proprietors are reminded that the Ministry is tracking the performance of schools and candidates in all school examinations conducted by WAEC. Both deserving and under-performing schools, districts and proprietors will be made known to the public at home and abroad – Additional measures will be taken as appropriate.