CANDIDATES’ ITEM RESPONSE ANALYSIS REPORT FOR THE ADVANCED CERTIFICATE OF SECONDARY EDUCATION EXAMINATION (ACSEE) 2018

111 GENERAL STUDIES
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FOREWORD

The candidates' Items Response Analysis report (CIRA) on the performance of candidates for Advanced Certificate of Secondary Education Examination (ACSEE), 2018 for General Studies subject has been prepared to provide feedback to students, teachers, policy makers and other educational stakeholders on the candidates' performance in this subject.

The Advanced Certificate of Secondary Education Examination marks the end of the two years of Advanced Secondary Education. This examination is a summative evaluation which, among other things, shows the effectiveness of the educational system in general and the education delivery system in particular. Essentially, the candidates' responses to the examination questions is a strong indicator of what the educational system was able or unable to offer to students in their two years of Advanced Secondary Education.

The report shows the factors for the candidates' good/poor performance in General Studies subject by using statistical data on the candidates' scores for individual question and the candidates' responses. Besides that, sampled extracts from the candidates' scripts have been inserted to illustrate the quality of the responses.

One of the most important observation of the ACSEE 2018 Candidates' Items Response Analysis Report (CIRA), is the candidates' sufficient knowledge in many topics from which questions were set. It is the right time for teachers and students alike to continue improving their teaching and learning strategies for better performance in future examinations administered by the National Examinations Council of Tanzania.

The Council expects that the feedback provided and the suggested recommendations in the conclusion of this report, will enable various stakeholders responsible for education to take appropriate measures to enhance the students' performance in General Studies.

Finally, the council would like to thank the Examination Officers, subject examiners and all individuals who participated in the preparation and processing of the data used in this report.

Dr. Charles E. Msonde
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
1.0 INTRODUCTION

This report analyses the performance of Candidates in General Studies subject for the Advanced Certificate of Secondary Education Examination (ACSEE) in 2018. The General Studies Examination covered the syllabus and conformed to the Examination format.

This paper had 8 questions, distributed in four sections namely A, B, C and D. The candidates were required to answer a total of five questions by choosing one question from each section and the firth question was supposed to be chosen from any section. All the questions were essay-type and each question carried 20 marks. However, it was noted that, a sizable number of candidates 2,695 (3.5%) of all the candidates who sat for this Examination could not attempt all the required five questions. This is one of the factor for the poor performance of some candidates in this examination as shown on Table 1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of questions attempted</th>
<th>Number of candidates who attempted less than 5 questions</th>
<th>Performance (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>0 - 34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>No.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>2,543</td>
<td>1,593</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>133</td>
<td>132</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>2,695</td>
<td>1,744</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The table above reveals that, 64.7% of the candidates who attempted less than five questions scored poorly as their scores ranged from 0 to 34%.

The candidates who sat for the 2018 Advanced Certificate of Secondary Education Examination (ACSEE) in General Studies were 76,730 out of which 72,043 (94.45%) passed. On the contrary, the data shows that, in 2017 a total of 62,718 sat for the same examination, out of which 39,802 (63.70%) passed. This indicates that, there is an increase of both the performance of the candidates and their enrolment by 30.75% and 18.26% respectively. The performance of candidates in various grades are summarised on Table 2.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>D</th>
<th>E</th>
<th>S</th>
<th>F</th>
<th>NO</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>451</td>
<td>11,471</td>
<td>23,564</td>
<td>5,672</td>
<td>3,201</td>
<td>41,159</td>
<td>92.78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>674</td>
<td>12,202</td>
<td>15,633</td>
<td>2,375</td>
<td>1,036</td>
<td>30,884</td>
<td>96.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1,125</td>
<td>23,673</td>
<td>39,197</td>
<td>8,047</td>
<td>4,237</td>
<td>72,043</td>
<td>94.45</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The analysis of individual questions is presented in the following sections by highlighting the requirements of each question, and thereafter, followed by an analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of candidates' responses. Extracts of the candidates' responses are inserted to illustrate some of the cases as appeared on candidates' responses.

Three scores categories have been used for the convenience of analysis of the candidates' performance in each question, whereby, scores ranging from 0 to 34 marks are referred to as weak performance, 35 to 59 marks as average and 60 to 100 marks as good performance. The candidates' performance in these categories for each question and topic is represented by colours whereas, the green colour has been used to show good performance, the yellow colour average performance and the red colour weak performance.

It is expected that, the report will be useful to stakeholders, particularly the students, subject teachers, and parents in order to improve the teaching and learning of General Studies so as to minimize the students misconceptions on some of the topics. The comparison of performance in each topic for ACSEE 2017 and 2018 is shown in the Appendix.
2.0 ANALYSIS OF THE CANDIDATES' PERFORMANCE PER QUESTION

This section analyses the performance of candidates in each question by indicating the number of candidates who attempted each question and explaining the quality of their responses and the various score groupings identified in the analysis.

2.1 SECTION A
2.1.1. Question 1: Life Skills

The question required the candidates to analyse six problems experienced by local entrepreneurs in conducting their business in Tanzania. This question was attempted by 60,723 (79.1%) of all the candidates, whereby 22.6 percent scored 0 to 6.5 marks, 70 percent scored 7 to 11.5 marks and 7.4 percent were able to score 12 to 16.5 marks out of the 20 allocated marks. Generally, the performance in this question was good as 77.4 percent of the candidates were in the score range of 7 to 16.5 marks. The candidates' performance is summarised in Figure 1.

![Figure 1: The Candidates' Performance in question 1](image)

The candidates who scored 12 to 16.5 marks (7.4%) were able to focus on the demands of the question and observed essay writing rules. For example, in their introduction some defined local entrepreneurs as individuals who initiate, implement and develop their business ideas, and undertake the risks for the sake of profit. Thereafter, in the main body they were able to prove their mastery of the subject matter by analysing such problems experienced by local entrepreneurs in conducting their business in Tanzania as
bureaucratic processes, lack of enough capital, lack of business education, corruption, failure of the government to protect the domestic market, lack of confidence among local entrepreneurs, high taxation, lack of good packaging knowledge, lack of permanent business premises and poor infrastructures. Besides that, they had good flow of ideas, examples and provided plausible conclusions. However, their marks ranged from 12 to 16.5 due to repetitions' of some points and variation in clarity and coherence of their explanations. Hence, they could not score all the twenty marks for this question. Extract 1.1 is the sample of a relatively good candidate's response.
Extract 1.1

1. An entrepreneur is a person who designs, innovates and finalizes business in an effort to transform innovations into economic goods. Entrepreneurship is the process of designing, innovating and finalizing business in an effort to transform innovations into local economic goods. In Tanzania there are many entrepreneurs with the aim of developing economically and eradicate poverty. There are these entrepreneurs who are famous and well known such as Rodig Reginald Mongi and Mohamed Dewji. Other entrepreneurs are just found in our localities example "Mowa Ntilie".

The following are some of the problem experienced by local entrepreneurs in conducting their business in Tanzania capital:

- **Lack of enough funds for expanding their businesses**: Most of the local entrepreneurs have very small capital and as a result, little amount of profit is attained from it. Expanding the business is very hard since they can not acquire loans as most of them have no required documents. Example Masai beads and necklace made by most of the Maasai can not be expanded due to lack of enough capital.

- **Poor market of their products**: Most of the people in Tanzania prefer importing products from other countries of which at the same time they are made in
Our countries. This discourages the local entrepreneurs since they lack customers for their made products. Example: People import shoes, necklaces while they are all made in Tanzania by local people.

Poor government support. The government plays a very vital role in ensuring the development of the citizen economically and socially. The government could prepare market for the local entrepreneurs, also advertising the locally made goods internationally. The government has not recognized the efforts of the local entrepreneurs. Example: Making juice from Sugar cane, making soaps and tissues (toilet papers). All these people one not recognized.

Lack of Advanced knowledge and education for improving the goods and services. Most of the local entrepreneurs lack advanced skills and knowledge in conducting their businesses. Example: Some of the entrepreneurs have not realized their market and the need of their customer.

Eric Suguengo is an entrepreneur and writer of books. He has been providing education and skills on entrepreneurship but unfortunately he has not attained to reach all people in the country.

Use of Poor technological tools. Use that is peer technology, Tanzania is a developing country. It is not much advanced in the science and technology. The local entrepreneurs in the villages have no advanced technology for producing their goods hence considered of low quality. Example: Some villages in Tanzania have discovered and use Biodos for extraction of
Extract 1.1 A sample of a relatively good candidates' response who analysed the problems experienced by local entrepreneurs in conducting their business in Tanzania such as lack of enough funds, poor market of their products, poor government support, use of poor technological tools and poor infrastructures.

Candidates who scored 7 to 11.5 marks demonstrated a relatively good knowledge on the problems experienced by local entrepreneurs in conducting their business in Tanzania but could not exhaust all the demanded points and in most cases their explanations were not exhaustive. Above all, repetitions of some points prevented them to score high marks as one candidate for example, treated "poor infrastructures" and "poor means of transport and communication" as two different points while it was not. Besides that, some of them were not able to provide sound introductions and conclusions.

Marks ranging from 0 to 6.5 were scored by all who associated the demand of the question with the negative effects of globalization to the developing countries such as; flow of market, environmental degradation,
Deforestation, spread of diseases and interference of culture and those who wrote a mixture of irrelevant responses such as raw materials, increase of people, encourage of people, population, education, science and technology presence of power engine, reputation of development and development of pandemic diseases. Apart from being wrong, other, candidate's responses in this category were characterized by mentioning of the points without giving explanations or giving partial explanations to fewer points and mixing up few correct responses with incorrect responses. Above all, some candidates' responses were affected by lack of relevant introductions and conclusions, gross repetition of points and inadequate language skills. These limitations hindered such candidates from scoring above 6.5 marks as illustrated in Extract 1.2.
Extract 1.2

| Entrepreneur - refer to the process of selling and holding the business at the condition of holy spirit in law. The following are the problems facing the entrepreneur in Tanzania: presence of AIDS/HIV. This affects many processes of marketing. Example: absence of water, mineral salts at the condition of holy spirit in law. Presence of power engine at the condition of holy spirit in law. This promotes formation of water management in hospitals at the condition of holy spirit in law. Manufacturing of power of water at the condition of holy spirit in law. This is shown due to the presence of low wages at the condition of holy spirit in law. Absence of processing industries. This is shown due to the presence of places of hospitals at the condition of holy spirit in law. Attribution of reputation of water. This is shown due to the presence of water analysis indicating the presence of malaria disease at the condition of holy spirit in law. Conduct of trouble in nature due to the condition of holy spirit in nature, for example water association during.

| Presence of AIDS at the condition of holy spirit in law. Therefore am action of R民航 a new am a discover of failure to live democratically myself at the condition of holy spirit in law. |

Extract 1.2 A sample of response explained in poor English on what seems to be the conditions necessary for the growth of entrepreneurship.
2.1.2. Question 2: Life Skills

The question required the candidates to elaborate six major effects of moral values decay in a society like Tanzania. The question was attempted by 52,490 (62.8%) candidates. It was averagely performed as 51.9 percent of the candidates scored 0 to 6.5 marks, 45.8 percent scored 7 to 11.5 marks and 2.3 percent scored 12 to 17 marks out of the 20 marks allocated. The candidates' performance is summarised in Figure 2.

A zero mark was inevitable to candidates who provided a series of irrelevant responses which were totally not in line with the effects of moral values decay in a society like Tanzania. Such deviations include those who explained the causes of moral values decay like; peer groups, mass media, lack of education, poor parental care, globalization and invention of modern culture and those who embarked on the importance of life skills like, helps to maintain good discipline, it encourage proper behaviour, it helps to maintain and promote love and unity among people and helps to maintain and promote peace and security, it promote and preserve culture and it encourage development.

Candidates whose marks ranged from 1 to 6.5 marks, their responses had the following qualities; some provided both fewer relevant points and examples, Others were able to identify the required points but were inhibited by lack of sufficient elaborations due to language inefficiency. Additionally, repetition was a common problem in the responses of some candidates whose knowledge on the subject matter was very limited. Extract 2.1 is a sample of a poor response from the candidate's script.
Moral values decay refers to the kind of behavior which is accepted in the society, like Tanzania, for example. Moral values decay are to make cooperation among people possible. Some of the moral values decay in the society, are like school, church. Moral values decay are the pillars of development because provide some of the effects in the society as follows:

- Maintain peace and order in the society, due to that; though moral values decay most of the people they cooperate together in each and every thing due to the preaching the same behavior, due to that for those who work together without conflicts this makes peace and order in the societies.
- Provide unity among members of the community; also moral value decay leads to the majority to be together in the society due to the respect among them, hence due to that leads to the improve of unity among members of the community.
- Improve high performance at school, most of the students who perform well in their exams are the ones who conducted moral value decay also are the one who make connection with their teachers by in way of disciplines due to that leads to the improve of high performance to the students.
Extract 2.1 A sample of a poor response by a candidate who went astray discussing advantages of moral values like maintain peace and order, provide unity, improve high performance at school and reduction of some diseases instead of the effects of moral values decay in a society like Tanzania
Candidates who scored 7 to 11.5 marks had a relatively good mastery of the subject matter as a result were able to provide some relevant points on the major effects of moral values decay in a society like Tanzania such as loss of social or national pride, increase of violations in the society and increase of poverty. Also, some managed to provide relevant introductions and conclusions and had a reasonable competence in constructing coherent English sentences. However, they could not score beyond 11.5 marks because of repetitions of some points, inability to exhaust all the required points and lack of exhaustive elaborations to some of the points.

On the other hand, marks ranging from 12 to 17 were scored by candidates who provided factual arguments and appropriate examples. They elaborated more clearly the effects of moral values decay in a society like Tanzania such as increase of social evils, increase of street children and orphans, a dependent nation, increase of human rights abuse, spread of diseases, unstable government, loss of social or national identity or pride and increase of poverty. This indicates that, they had sufficient knowledge on the subject matter and were more focused on the demands of the question. However, inability to provide sound introductions and conclusions, repetitions, lack of clarity, failure to exhaust the required points and explanations, limited them from scoring all the 20 marks for this question. Extract 2.2 presents a sample of one of the relevant response.

Extract 2.2

| 02. | Moral values are the set of behaviours followed by a certain community. Moral values decay is the destruction of the good moral values followed by a particular community in a particular area. Tanzania and other many African countries were good morally but due to moral values decay the morals are destructed. The destruction of moral values lead to the cause of many effects in a society like Tanzania.
| The following are the effects of moral values decay in a society like Tanzania:- As due to moral values decay in Tanzania many youths are involved in causing immoral activities such as crimes or committing thieves and... |
Extract 2.2 A part of relevant response from a candidate who was able to elaborate the major effects of Moral values decay in a society like Tanzania such as increase in crimes, number of street children, poverty and people who are dependant.

2.2 SECTION B

2.2.1. Question 3: International Affairs

The question instructed the candidates to describe six disadvantages of globalization in developing countries. This was both a popular and well
performed question. It was attempted by 72,932 (95.5%) candidates of which 26.5 percent scored 0 to 6.5 marks, 62.4 percent scored 7 to 11.5 marks and 11.1 percent were able to score 12 to 18 marks out of the 20 allocated marks. The candidates' performance is summarised on Figure 3.

![Figure 3: The Candidates' Performance in question 3](image)

The analysis of candidates' responses reveals that, candidates who scored 12 to 18 marks had sufficient English language skills and demonstrated good organizational skills in terms of adhering to essay writing format. Above all, they were able to articulate the demands of this question by describing the disadvantages of globalization in developing countries. For example, in the introduction one candidate defined globalization as ‘the process of integration and interconnectedness of various countries economically, socially and politically. In the main body, candidates came up with argument to justify their responses such as decline of local industries, environmental degradation, undermine our culture, spread of diseases, increase of terrorism, decline of employment opportunities, increases of crimes in the society and perpetuates inequality. This is an indication that candidates had knowledge on the subject matter. However, some did not exhaust all the required points and others were not able to provide detailed elaborations of some points. Hence, they couldn't score all the agreed 20 marks. Extract 3.1 illustrates this point.
Globalization is the state when the world become a single village. This involve the development in trade activities, development of science and technology, industrial development and different system in the world. Examples: the use of computers, laptops, mobile phone, mass media and also email. Globalization have different aspects such as free market economy, free movement of people and also development of industrial sectors.

Developing countries are those countries which continue to develop. Examples: Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, Zambia, Ivory Coast, and many of them especially African countries.

The following are the disadvantage of globalization in developing countries such as:

- Destruction of culture: In globalization, people are free to move from one place to another hence due to the movement lead to establishment of new culture. They (people in Africa) bring their western culture which destroy or change the African culture such as weaving style, worship style and also the language spreading.

- Lead to increase in Terrorism activity: Terrorism means attack people with violence or force and make fear to them. Globalization lead to the increase in Terrorism activities due to allow the free movement of people and also development of industry which manufacture weapons. Example the use of Al Shabaab in Somalia, Islamic State and many of them is due to the globalization. Also in illegal wood poaching in animal such elephant and rhino.
Spread of disease; globalization increase the rate of spread of disease due to the free movement of people from place to place example during the rise of Ebola in Sierra Leone many of the surrounding country affected by such disease because people move freely from one area to other area. Also the spread of HIV/AIDS because people allowed to move randomly.

Mass Unemployment; Due to globalization there is development of industrial sector and also use of machine to simplify work example the use of tractor in farming. Due to this many people to stay without job because the work which required ten people are done by machine in the half hour so people stay idle in the society.

Environmental pollution example air pollution. In this case the development of heavy industry which emit the clean smoke or the atmosphere lead to the air pollution. Also sound from this industry cause sound pollution, hence go on and air pollution continue it will lead to ozone layer depletion hence occurrence of global warming.

Maritime exploitation of natural resources (Neo-colonialism); The rise of globalization make the developed country to exploit developing country maritally thus when a developing country want to buy technology from developed country. In this case the developed country put a hard condition is selling their technology and also they sell it expensive hence exploit the natural resource such as minerals from the developing country.

Generally these are the disadvantage of globalization.
Extract 3.1 A sample of a relatively good response from a script of a candidate who was able to point out the disadvantages of globalization in developing countries such as destruction of culture, rise of terrorism, spread of diseases, unemployment and environmental pollution.

Candidates who had marks ranging from 7 to 11.5 marks (62.4%) demonstrated a relatively good knowledge on disadvantages of globalization in developing countries but did not score higher marks because of inadequate elaborations and repetition of some points. For instance, some of the candidates suggested the increase of theft in one paragraph and the increase of crimes in the society in the next paragraph as two different points while are one and the same. Again, some did not exhaust all the required points while others were not able to provide plausible introductions and conclusions.

It has been noted that, candidates whose scores ranged 0 to 6.5 marks (26.5%) in this question failed to interpret the demands of the question correctly. As a result, they supplied a diversity of irrelevant responses. Some candidates for example, associated the disadvantages of globalization with effects of global warming as one candidate for example, defined globalization as the increase of temperature at a particular time or a given area. The same candidate mistakenly embarked on describing the effects of global warming like lack of rainfall, loss of biodiversity, increase of temperature, it lead to poor growth of crops and lead to death of small plants and animal.

Unfortunately, some candidates interpreted the question as the advantages of globalization by explaining points such as improvement of science and technology, easy transfer of technology from one country to another, development of transport and communication and it fasten interaction and relationship among people; similarly, others discussed the environmental problems like; decline of agriculture sector, desertification, change in
climatic condition and death of micro-organism contrary to the demand of this question.

Apart from being wrong, some candidates' responses in this category were featured by poor writing skills, a mixture of relevant and irrelevant points, lack of relevant descriptions to few correct points given and many grammatical errors. This indicates that, the language of communication was also a problem to these candidates. In general, this explains why candidates in this category were not able to attain marks above 6.5 out of 20 allotted marks. Extract 3.2 illustrates such a case in point.

**Extract 3.2**

| Globalization is the increase of temperature at particular or at a given area cause by their are. Some of causes that lead to the increase of temperature or a particular place or area value by important thing is the disease of globalization. |
| Lack of rainfall when this is total in a region or temperature at particular area. This can lead to lack of rainfall for a particular period or time in particular state value by their will be occurrence of thought that is occurring at a specific period of time. |
| Death of small plants and animal when temperature increases at a given period. This may lead to these are small aquatic plant may die and even animals due to think that has occurred at a given period and that lead to how growth of plants. |
| Loss of biodiversity is a state where by there is death of plants or the land does not support like of particular or given plant or animals on the surface of the land in particular or given species that are as the way they are required and needed for them. |
| Increase or decrease of temperature on the atmosphere. By globalization it causes the increase of temperature on the atmosphere that lead |
Extract 3.2 A sample of a poor response of a candidate who went astray by describing the effects of global warming like lack of rainfall, loss of biodiversity, increase of temperature and poor growth of crops instead of disadvantages of globalization in developing countries

2.2.2. Question 4: International Affairs

The question demanded the candidates to assess six strategies used by African countries in conflicts resolution. Most candidates opted against this question. It was attempted by only 5,960 (7.8%) of all the candidates. The performance in this question was dismally poor whereby, 89 percent scored 0 to 6.5 marks, 9.6 percent scored 7 to 11.5 marks and 1.4 percent scored 12
to 15 marks out of the 20 allotted marks. The candidates' performance is summarised on Figure 4.

![Bar Chart: The Candidates' Performance in question 4](image)

**Figure 4:** The Candidates' Performance in question 4

The question proved to be very challenging to most candidates who attempted it as 89% scored 0 to 6.5 marks. Such low scores presupposes the superficial knowledge on the strategies to solve conflicts in Africa and perhaps, this could be the major reason which made most candidates get scared to attempt this question. As a result, those candidates came up with a diversity of irrelevant responses. One candidate for example, suggested the promotion of democratic principles among African countries as measures to prevent conflicts in Africa such as; *freedom of worship, free and fair election, Multipartism and rule of Law* while other candidates suggested that, the root causes of conflicts in Africa should be addressed as a measure to prevent occurrence of conflicts in Africa by *stopping tribalism, stopping religionalism, equal sharing of natural resources, stopping the abuse of power and removal of monopoly power.*

Other candidates, interpreted the question as the strategies for economic development such as *to improve agriculture sector, to improve the tourism sector, to improve trading activities, to improve industrial sector and to increase employment opportunities.* Some kept on describing stages in conducting a research which are; *define the problem, obtaining information, formation of hypothesis, testing the hypothesis and checking the decision.* Others went astray by outlining problems facing African counties such as; *terrorism, corruption, dictatorship and poverty.* Similarly, others provided a
mixture of irrelevant responses like; establishment of marriage, signing of treaties among two part, ceremonial parties and use of war method.

In a similar vein, candidates responses were also characterized by mentioning points without clear elaborations, mixing up correct and incorrect responses and ungrammatical sentences. In general, the above limitations prevented candidates in this category to score above 6.5 out of 20 allotted marks. Extract 4.1 illustrates such a case in point.

Extract 4.1

| Promoting freedom of worship. Most of the African countries have been suffering from conflict caused by religion. For example, Nigeria has been by promoting freedom of worship among people in the country, will resolve unending how each and every person is given freedom to worship religion of his/her choice without being forced and there is no any religion which is dominant over the other. | Promoting free and fair election among African countries will greatly help to resolve conflicts because in most of the countries where the election has been conducted unfairly normally results in conflict in the countries. For example, in 2007 Kenya was suffering from |
Extract 4.1 A part of a response from a candidate who went astray by discussing the need to promote the principles of democracy like free and fair elections, multipartyism and rule of law as the strategies used by African countries in conflicts resolution contrary to the demands of the question.

Candidates whose scores ranged from 7 to 11.5 marks identified the requirements of the question and demonstrated knowledge on the strategies of conflict resolution in Africa. However, the quality of their responses had limited points, unnecessarily repetition of points, wrong examples and in most cases their explanations were not exhaustive enough to merit good scores.

The quality of the candidates' responses with marks ranging from 12 to 15, had sufficient knowledge on the subject matter and grasped the demands of
the question by elaborating such points as reconciliation, mediation and arbitration, peace enforcement, peace keeping, peace education, imposition of sanctions, and establishment of African Court of Justice. They were also able to provide relevant introductions, clear elaborations of point in the main body and conclusions, Apart from that, slight grammatical problems like spelling mistakes, and variation in clarity of their elaborations to points, limited them from scoring all the allocated 20 marks. Extract 4.2 is a sample of a relatively good responses from the script of a sampled candidate.

**Extract 4.2**

| 4. | Conflicts: This is the misunderstanding between two sides either individual, group or country and this may be due to poor implementation of democratic ideas, poverty and unemployment! In African countries they face a lot of conflicts; the following are the strategies used by African countries in conflicts resolution:-
|  | Negotiation among two parties: This is where by two parties in conflict stay together and discuss their misunderstanding as well solve it without been interrupted by anything. e.g: President Kikweta of tanzania and President Joyce Banda solved their conflict over lake Nyasa.
|  | Mediation: This is where by a person or group of a country act as a Mediator of two parties in conflict so as to end up their misunderstanding e.g: Kofi Annan mediated Mwai Kibaki and Raila Odinga.
|  | Arbitration and adjudication: This is where by two parties want to solve a conflict and hence decide to take the case to the high court so as it can be solved according to the laws and the solution given by the court is the best way and respected by both parties.
|  | Militairy intervention: This happen when both negotiation and mediation fails in solving a conflict hence decide to use Militairy means e.g: in congo.

| 4. | M-23 group and the government were by lanzapih has also add his soldie
|  | rs in order to fight over M-23. |
Extract 4.2: A sample of a relatively good response as a candidate was able to assess the strategies used by African countries in conflicts resolution such as negotiation, mediation, arbitration, military intervention and peace keeping mission.

2.3 SECTION C
2.3.1. Question 5: Democratic Processes and Practices

The question required the candidates to explain why do people vote for their leaders by giving six points. The question was opted for by fewer candidates and it was poorly performed. A total of 17,895 (23.3%) candidates attempted this question and the performance was as follows: 65.4 percent scored 0 to 6.5 marks, 32.7 percent scored 7 to 11.5 marks and only 1.9 percent were able to score 12 to 16 marks out of the 20 allocated marks. The candidates' performance is summarised in Figure 5.

Figure 5: The Candidates' Performance in question 5
The analysis of the candidates' responses show that, marks ranging from 0 to 6.5 were scored by candidates who mentioned points without giving explanations or explained a fewer relevant points and those who fragmented the point into several sub points. The notable ones were those who scored zero mark which proved both their inability to address the demands of this question and insufficient knowledge on the subject matter. Some candidates for example, deviated by pointing out the principles of democracy such as; equality, transparency, accountability and freedom among people. Other candidates stipulated the roles of Non-governmental Organizations like; help people to proper utilize the resources, help in infrastructure development, accelerate agriculture development and enforce employment opportunities while some embarked on the role of leaders such as; helps to solve people’s conflicts, helps to make sure there is security to citizens, they promote justice and promote security. At another instance, one candidate outlined the qualities of a good leader which are; he/she should not be tribalism, not be selfish, must have equality, follow rules of law, honest person, political tolerance and educated person to mean the reasons for people to vote for their leaders. In summing, no candidate in this category was able to excel above 6.5 marks. Extract 5.1 is the sample which illustrate those who performed poorly in this question.
Extract 5.1 A part of a poor response from a candidate who responded on the steps involved in the election processes in Tanzania like voters registration, selection of candidates, campaigns', voting, counting of votes and announcing the results instead of giving the reasons for people to vote for their leaders.

Candidates whose scores ranged from 07 to 11.5 marks, faced a number of inadequacies which prevented them from scoring higher marks. Such limitations were mainly the lack of reasonable elaborations and vivid examples, some based on presumptions as their responses and examples were randomly mixed with incorrect points. Lastly, was the inability to present the required number of points.
Marks ranging from 12 to 16 were scored by candidates who showed competence in explaining the reasons for voting leaders. These candidates provided their arguments basing on such points as it help to give people’s choice, it promote accountability, help to get good governance, promote social and political development, help people to choose the government of their choice, place competent people into power and maintaining democracy. They also had grammatical English sentences accompanied with logical flow of ideas and valid examples where necessary. The variation in their scores was due to exhaustiveness of the points and explanations, repetition of major points and plausibility of their introductions and conclusions. Extract 5.2 is a sample of a relevant response from the script of a candidate.

**Extract 5.2**

| 05 | Voting is the process of choosing a leader from a group of people who tend to wish to rule. Leader is a person who rule and serve for the benefit of the people and the society at a particular place. Example in Tanzania people tend to vote for leaders after every five years. |
| 05 | And every time a person is above 18 eighteen years is allowed to vote. Below are the reasons why people vote for their leaders. To provide accountability and transparency with people voting for the leaders, leaders become accountable to the responsible and also leaders tend to do what is needed. And accountable for their action. This due to the reason that they will one need to return into power so people won’t see them accountable or transparent they won’t be again elected. So voting provides accountability. To remove bad leaders from the government. Also voting is the only way of removing the leaders in the government who are not responsible and who are not accountable to their actions with all that voting gives a person or people ability to remove any leader who is not worthy of his or her position in the government. |
To promote democracy, also voting is a way of promoting democracy to people since democracy refers to government of the people, for the people, and by the people. By the people, refer to the state where people are elected to rule and serve for others. Hence voting promotes democracy to the society as a principle of democracy.

To promote development, also people vote so as to promote development in a given place. This due to the work that people do with voting for the leaders, leaders when in power work to as to promoting social, economic and political development. This is by doing several things, like construction of infrastructures such as roads, also building of schools and promoting health services such as hospitals and medicine. Hence voting promote development to the society.

To provide legitimate government, also with voting it enable people to get legitimate government and the government will be in power will be a legal government and people have the approve with government and that all leaders in government are properly elected by the people. And that no one came in force in the government.

To sum up the end, voting promote human right and democracy at large into it give as autonomy a person choose a leader in his choice and also enable to provide
2.3.2. Question 6: Democratic Processes and Practices

The question demanded the candidates to examine six principles of democracy which are practiced in Tanzania. The data shows that, it was one of the popular questions as 70,453 (91.8%) candidates attempted it. The question was well performed whereby, 91.9% were able to score from 7 to 18 marks out of 20 allotted marks. The scores in this question were as follows: 8.1 percent scored 0 to 6.5 marks, 59.1 percent scored 7 to 11.5 marks and 32.8 percent scored from 12 to 18 marks. The candidates' performance is summarised on Figure 6.

![Scores](image-url)

**Figure 6:** The Candidates' Performance in question 6

The analysis of candidates' responses has revealed that, the candidates whose scores ranged from 12 to 18, precisely focused on examining the principles of democracy which are practised in Tanzania like: Accountability, rule of law, political tolerance, free and fair election, multipartism, equality, transparency, separation of power, observance of human rights, majority rule and minority rights and citizen participation. They also demonstrated good and logical organizational skills, and provided both soundful and relevant introductions and conclusions. One candidate for example, provided the following introduction:

*Democracy refers to the government of the people by the people for the people where by government of the people means that the people are the source of the authority of the government, by the people means that people are the one who choose leaders on their behalf and for the people means that the government is there to serve the interest of the people.*

Despite of such a colourful performance, the divergence of the candidates' scores was due to slight grammatical errors, lack of vivid examples in some
cases and the weight of their arguments as well. Extract 6.1 is a sample of a relevant response from the script of a candidate.

**Extract 6.1**

| 6. | Democracy is a system of governance in which supreme power belongs to the citizens or people. Abraham Lincoln, a late president of the United States, defined democracy as a government of the people, by the people, and for the people. Countries which practice democracy are known as democratic countries, Tanzania being an example. Tanzania being a democratic country it uphold and fellow all the principle of democracy. Among the principle of democracy that are practised in Tanzania include the following:

- Free and fair elections: elections that are done in Tanzania are democratic and are considered to be free and fair. Every individual with correct qualifications is allowed to participate and every political party is free to campaign in all areas of the country. Example: The Tanzania's General election which was done in 2015, the elections were done in free and fair ground and good leaders were chosen to represent the citizens.

- Multipartyism: this implies having different political parties within the country. In Tanzania, there are various political parties such as CCM, CHADEMA, NCCR MAGEUZI, CHI and many others. The existence of these parties shows that democracy is practised in Tanzania since a system of many parties encourages the leaders to work more and better in order to gain public trust.

- Human Rights adherence: In a democratic country, like Tanzania, human rights are greatly adhered to and respected. All the issues cultural, political and economical countries that every Tanzanians
Extract 6.1 A sample of a good response of a candidate who examined principles of democracy which are practiced in Tanzania like free and fair election, multipartism, human right adherence, rule of law and accountability.
Candidates with scores ranging from 7 to 11.5 would have done better if they had paid attention precisely to spelling mistakes and focus of the question. Some of the candidates mixed up the principles of democracy and advantages of democracy. In a fewer cases, some candidates' good works were spoiled by a lack of detailed elaborations and repetition of fewer points. Their responses based on general knowledge and lacking vivid examples.

The candidates who scored 0 to 6.5 marks, demonstrated inability to identify the requirement of this question as they responded to a number of deviations. For example, some explained the importance of democracy such as; it encourage equality, it promote unity and peace, promote trade activities and it eliminate exploitation. Others discussed the principles of Tanzanian philosophy like; work, peace, unity and love while others explained the importance of Democracy such as; promotion of national peace, it promotes good friendship among different country, promote unity and solidarity and fight against poverty. Moreover, other candidates' responses were affected by mentioning of points without elaborations, poor grammar and repetition of points which, in the end made them not to score beyond 6.5. Extract 6.2 is a sample of a poor response given by a sampled candidate.

Extract 6.2

| Reward the following are the principles of democracy which are practiced in Tanzania: |
| work, this involves caring out different activity development, thereby in a democratic country like Tanzania most of the people are allowed to engage themselves in different activities such as agricultural activities or even to be employed and to employ through this has led to the development of the country. |
| Peace, through democracy there is existence of peace with the country, there is no any roar or conflict with a... |
Extract 6.2 A part of poor response from a script of a candidate who examined the principles of Tanzanian philosophy such as work, peace, unity and love instead of principles of democracy which are practised in Tanzania.

2.4 SECTION D
2.4.1. Question 7: Science and Technology in Development

The question instructed the candidates to demonstrate six ways through which science and technology can be employed to improve agriculture in Tanzania. It was attempted by 27,422 (35.7%) and the performance was good as 65.9% of those who attempted it managed to score from 7 to 17.5. The candidates' scores were as follows: 34.1 percent scored 0 to 6.5 marks, 58.4 percent scored 7 to 11.5 marks and 7.5 percent scored 12 to 17.5 marks
out of the 20 allocated marks. The candidates' performance is summarised on Figure 7.

![Figure 7: The Candidates' Performance in question 7](image)

Relatively, fewer candidates (7.5%) who scored 12 to 17 marks were able to demonstrate clearly the ways through which science and technology can be applied to improve agriculture in Tanzania like the use of hybrid seeds, agro-machine, transport and communication, agro-chemical, construction of modern irrigation systems, modern storage facilities, weather forecasting, role of agriculture research centres and industrial fertilizers. Indeed, candidates' works show the ability on essays writing with well conceptualized introductions and conclusions but they could not score all the 20 marks due to some grammatical errors, repetition of some points and inadequate elaboration to some of the points. Extract 7:1 is an example of a good response in this question.
Science is a knowledge of observed facts and tested truths arranged in an orderly manner. Technology, on the other hand, is the use of science in designing and making various tools. Science and technology together have got many advantages especially in developing countries like Tanzania. It has improved various economic sectors such as the agricultural sector. There are many ways through which science and technology can be employed to improve agriculture in Tanzania. Some of these ways include:

- The use of modern agricultural tools: agriculture in Tanzania can be improved by employing the use of modern tools such as tractors, contour plough, and many others. These tools help to simplify the whole process of farming and brings about an improvement in production in the agricultural sector. Example: Industries such as TPC, which is located in Kilimanjaro Region have very big sugar cane plantations and it's employ the use of scientific tools in farming, they would produce greater yields and hence improve agriculture in Tanzania.
7. Use of modern irrigation schemes; irrigation is a process of watering vegetation. Since water is an essential pre-requisite for plant activities such as germination and synthesis of food it should be available to plants in correct proportions. Using modern irrigation systems will help improve agriculture in Tanzania since enough water would lead to a great produce.

Construction of better storage facilities; in order to improve agriculture in Tanzania, the building and construction of storage facilities that are advanced is required. Agriculturalists should abandon indigenous ways of storage of food produced such as using sacks and buckets but rather large granaries should be constructed to ensure maximum storage of food at large quantities without damage. By doing so the agriculture in Tanzania will greatly be improved.

The use of artificial fertilizers; the use of industrial made fertilizers may be employed to improve agriculture in Tanzania since these fertilizers help to increase soil fertility and also produce a suitable pH for soil activity. This will help increase the yield and productivity in agricultural sector. Example; the use of fertilizers such as Ammonium Sulphate derivatives, (NH4)2SO4.

Improving infrastructure; this mostly bases on the transport network. Improving and developing transport network would help in easy transportation of agricultural raw materials to its area of production as well as markets for sale. Example; the government of Tanzania can build
A candidate was able to demonstrate six ways through which science and technology can be employed to improve agriculture in Tanzania such as the use of modern agricultural tools, irrigation schemes, artificial fertilizers and improvement of infrastructures.

The candidates who scored 7 to 11.5, showed a reasonable competence in demonstrating the ways in which Science and Technology can be used to improve agriculture in Tanzania. However, in a number of instances, could not exhaust all the points demanded by the question and in most cases their discussions were not exhaustive. Some wrote irrelevant introductions and conclusions.

The candidates who scored 0 to 6.5 marks provided mismatched responses contrary to the demands of the question and had knowledge deficiency in the subject matter. For example, points given by majority candidates based on the methods of transferring science and technology such as: training people abroad, import expertise, foreign investors, through privatization policy, through invitation and licensing of technology and agreement. Some candidates came up with suggestions on why we should apply science and technology in Agriculture while others, wrote a mixture of irrelevant responses like; reduce dependence on foreign services and goods, increase motivation, encourage of local technology and ensure enough funds contrary
to the demands of this question. Alongside, some gave out a fewer correct points accompanied with poor and incoherent sentences. The notable ones were those who failed to communicate in English as a result, opted to write their response in Kiswahili. In the whole, these candidates could not merit good scores above 6.5. Extract 7.2 is a sample of an irrelevant response.

**Extract 7.2**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The following were the ways through which science and technology can be employed to improve agriculture in Tanzania as follows:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Through imitation, among the ways through which science and technology can be employed to improve agriculture is through imitation where by it provide tools for production of agriculture like tractor so science and technology improved due to the production of agriculture. Through imitation in improve.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Through privatization policy, where by the ways through which science and technology can be employed to improve agriculture in Tanzania is through privatization policy the policy which concerned about agriculture due to the use of modern farming like crop rotation so through privatization policy it improve agriculture in Tanzania.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Through importing experts or inventors, also is among the way through which science and technology employed to improve agriculture where by when government leaders importing inventors to our country through the use of science and technology with the knowledge they have agriculture in Tanzania will improve.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Extract 7.2 A part of a poor response from a candidate who discussed methods of transfer of science and technology like through imitation, importing experts and espionage instead of ways through which science and technology can be employed to improve agriculture in Tanzania.

2.4.2. Question 8: Contemporary Issues

The question instructed the candidates to explain six effects of drug abuse to the youths in Tanzania. The question was opted for by 95% (72,913) of all the candidates of which 13 percent scored 0 to 6.5 marks, 70.4 percent scored 7 to 11.5 marks and 16.6 percent scored 12 to 17 marks. In general, It
was a well done question as 87% were in the scores ranging from 7 to 17. The candidates' performance is summarised on Figure 8.

![Figure 8](image_url)

**Figure 8: The Candidates' Performance in question 8**

A group of candidates whose scores ranged from 12 to 17, provided relevant responses which were in line with the focus of the question. With minimal variation in the degree of their arguments they were able to explain clearly the effects of drug abuse to the youths in Tanzania. One candidate for example, defined drug abuse as ‘excessive use of illicit substance or chemicals for the purpose of personal pleasure. In the main body, they provided points like *it cause school dropout, mental disorders, it may lead to a risk of bad sexual behaviours, loss of manpower or productivity, increase of crimes, spread of diseases, death, maternal problems and increase of government expenditure*. Finally, they had relevant conclusions. Their responses portray that, the candidate were knowledgeable with the subject matter, perhaps because it is a topical issue in their daily life experiences and it was well covered at school. With such comprehensive responses they got good scores as depicted on extract 8.1 hereunder.
8. A drug refers to any substance taken into the body and cause changes of the body either temporarily or permanently. Drug abuse refers to the misuse of drugs. This can either be taking drugs in excess or not finishing drugs as prescribed by a professional doctor. Youth normally misuse the drugs due to different reasons such as influence of peer pressure, taking drugs for curiosity, as a stress reliever, in order to forget about something or sometimes they take it without a good reason.

The following are the effects of drug abuse to the youths in Tanzania:

The risk of bad sexual behaviours: Drug abuse in Tanzania may result into poor sexual behaviours such as rape, prostitution, and also drug trafficking as a result women are being exploited due to rape. The common drugs which are known in Tanzania are such as Marijuana, Cocaine and other dangerous drugs.

Eruption of diseases: Such diseases may be due to sexual intercourse with an infected person as a result of HIV/AIDS victim in the society. Other diseases may include lung cancer as a result of smoking cigarettes and using other drugs. This later on may result into death of large number of youths.

Over dependence of the youths: Drug abuse may also result into increase in large number of dependant people in the society. This may affect the saving capacity of an individual as a result of economic retardation in the country. Also some people end up depending on the drugs.
Extract 8.1 A sample of a good candidate’s response who was able to explain six effects of drug abuse to the youths in Tanzania like the risk of bad sexual behaviours, diseases, over dependence of the youths, mental disorders, drop out from school and increase in crime rate.

Majority (70.4 %) were able to score 7 to 11.5 marks. Their works show that, they had relative adequate knowledge on the effects of drug abuse to the youths and identified the requirements of this question. However, the quality of their responses were affected by variation in the strength of their
points and arguments put forward, and in most cases with some points repeated.

About 13 percent of all candidates who opted for this question scored 0 to 6.5 marks. A zero mark was inevitable to 34 (0.05%) candidates who provided misconcepted works and candidates who could not attempt anything except writing the number of the question and few irrelevant words as their responses to this question. Other candidates' responses in this category, were characterized by the lack of focus on the demands of the question and superficial elaborations of the few correct points. In addition to that, gross repetition of points was another defining feature of the candidates responses, as one of the candidate for example, pointed out; drug abuse leads to spread of diseases and drug abuse lead to unhealthy problems as independent points while are one and the same. Additionally, they also lacked adequate language skills and inability to observe essay writing rules. Extract 8.2 is an illustration of an irrelevant response given by one of the candidate.

**Extract 8.2**
Extract 8.2 A part of irrelevant response given by a candidate who explained the causes of drug abuse such as peer group, poor parental care, globalization, ignorance and week government support instead of its effects to the youth in Tanzania.

3.0 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS
3.1 CONCLUSION

The overall performance of candidates in ACSEE 2018 in General Studies was good as 94.45% of all candidates passed. The candidates were able to identify the demands of the questions and had adequate knowledge and skills in respective topics from which the questions were derived. Evidence from the analysis of the candidates' responses in various questions shows that most candidates were able to score an average of 35% and above. The analysis indicates that, many topics were well performed by most candidates namely; Contemporary/Cross Cutting Issues (87%), Science and Technology in Development (65.9%), Democratic Process and Practices (63.25%), and Life Skills (62.75%). On the other hand, questions from International Affairs topic were averagely performed by 42.25%. This suggests that, the topic was not well comprehended by majority of the candidates who opted those questions (see Appendix).

It was also noted that, despite such a good overall performance the analysis of individual questions reveals that question 2 derived from the sub topic of Moral Values (Life Skills), question 4 International peace and understanding (International Affairs) and question 5 which featured a sub topic on the role and responsibilities of individual citizens and Civil Society Organizations in democratic society (Democratic Process and Practices) were not satisfactorily tackled by most candidates. Good performance in these subtopics will be realized in future examinations if the mechanisms recommended are taken into considerations.
3.2 RECOMMENDATIONS

In order to improve the performance of the prospective candidates in this subject, the following suggestions should be considered:

(a) Teachers should pay more attention to teaching and learning strategies suggested in the syllabus such as; inviting guest speakers, think-pair share and study visits to promote students interest in the subject. particularly for the sub topics in which the candidates performance was not satisfactory.

(b) Teachers should encourage students to read extensively a variety of textbooks, journals and newspapers instead of memorizing notes provided in the classroom Teachers in order to improve their knowledge on the subject matter.

(c) A special English language improvement program has to be initiated by the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology and Educational Stakeholders to improve English language competence among students.

(d) Teachers should administer regular tests and examinations of acceptable standard in line with the syllabus and the National Examination Format so as to reinforce students’ understanding especially on the sub topics which the candidates performance were poor such as International peace and understanding.

(e) The Ministry of Education, Science and Technology and other Educational Stakeholders should organize seminars and workshops for General Studies Teachers in order to improve their skills and knowledge on the subject matter and methodology at large.

(f) Ministry of Education, Science and Technology or the concerned institutions should supply schools with relevant teaching and learning materials such as; books, academic videos and films so as to improve the quality of teaching and learning General Studies.

(g) Prospective candidates are advised to attempt all the required number of questions as instructed in the instructions of the examination paper in order to attain desirable scores.
# Appendix

## COMPARISON OF CANDIDATES' PERFORMANCE IN EACH TOPIC

FOR ACSEE 2017 AND ACSEE 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S/N</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Number of questions</th>
<th>The percentage of candidates who scored an average of 35 and above</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
<th>Number of questions</th>
<th>The percentage of candidates who scored an average of 35 and above</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Science and Technology in Development</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>69.3</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>65.9</td>
<td>Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Contemporary/Cross Cutting Issues</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>65.8</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>International Affairs</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>36.95</td>
<td>Average</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>42.25</td>
<td>Average</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Life Skills</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>32.1</td>
<td>weak</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>62.75</td>
<td>Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Democratic Process and Practices</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>15.8</td>
<td>weak</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>63.25</td>
<td>Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Philosphy</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6.6</td>
<td>weak</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>