

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

## 153 ACCOUNTANCY

## THE NATIONAL EXAMINATIONS COUNCIL OF TANZANIA



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

## 153 ACCOUNTANCY

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## Table of Contents

FOREWORD ..... iv
1.0 INTRODUCTION ..... 1
2.0 ANALYSIS OF PERFORMANCE OF THE CANDIDATES IN EACH QUESTION ..... 2
2.1 153/1 Accountancy 1 ..... 2
2.1.1 Question 1: Reserves and Provisions ..... 2
2.1.2 Question 2: The Nature and Context of Accounting ..... 6
2.1.3 Question 3: Correction of Accounting Errors and Recognition of Revenue and Expenses ..... 10
2.1.4 Question 4. Depreciation and Disposal of Non-Current Assets and Reserves and Provisions ..... 15
2.1.5 Question 5: The Nature and Context of Accounting. ..... 20
2.1.6 Question 6: Investment Accounts and Preparation of Financial Statements ..... 25
2.1.7 Question 7: Financial Statements Analysis and Interpretation ..... 30
2.2 153/2 Accountancy 2 ..... 33
2.2.1 Question 1: Computerised Accounting ..... 33
2.2.2 Question 2: Hire Purchase Accounting ..... 37
2.2.3 Question 3: Company Accounts ..... 42
2.2.4 Question 4: Partnership Accounting ..... 48
2.1.5 Question 5: Containers Accounts ..... 51
2.2.6 Question 6: Accounting for Royalties ..... 56
2.2.7 Question 7: Cost Accounting and Stock Valuation ..... 60
3.0 ANALYSIS OF CANDIDATES' PERFORMANCE PER TOPIC ..... 63
4.0 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS ..... 64
4.1 Conclusion ..... 64
4.2 Recommendations ..... 64
Appendix A ..... 65
Appendix B ..... 66

## FOREWORD

The National Examinations Council of Tanzania is pleased to issue the Candidates' Items Response Analysis Report (CIRA) of the Advanced Certificate of Secondary Education Examination (ACSEE) 2018.The report provides feedback to students, teachers, parents, policy makers and the public in general on the performance of the candidates.

The Advanced Certificate of Secondary Education Examination (ACSEE) marks the end of two years of Advanced Secondary Education. It is a summative evaluation which among other things shows the effectiveness of the education 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 education system was able or unable to offer to the students in their two years of Advanced Secondary Education.

The feedback is expected to provide an opportunity to prospective candidates and other stakeholders to learn from the previous candidates' strengths and weaknesses in attempting different questions. The report shows the factors for the candidates' good/poor performance in Accountancy by using statistical data on the candidates' scores for individual question, candidates' responses and extracts drawn from the scripts.

The National Examinations Council of Tanzania will highly appreciate remarks, opinions and recommendations from all stakeholders which will facilitate better preparation of Candidates' Items Response Analysis Reports in future.

Finally, the Council would like to thank the examiners and all those who participated in the preparation of this report.


Dr. Charles E. Msonde EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

This report analyses the performance of the candidates who sat for 153 Accountancy for Advanced Certificate of Secondary Education Examination (ACSEE) in May 2018. The Accountancy examination was set in accordance to the 2011 Examinations format, which was prepared based on the 2009 syllabus.

The examination comprised of two (2) papers, 153/1 Accountancy 1 and 153/2 Accountancy 2. Each paper consisted of seven (7) questions which were divided into two sections, A and B . The candidates were required to answer any five (5) questions in each paper by choosing three (3) questions from section A and two (2) questions from section B. Each question carried twenty (20) marks.

A total of 1,529 candidates sat for 153 Accountancy examination, out of which 96.51 percent passed the examination with the following grades: grade A, 2.44 percent; grade $B, 14.36$ percent; grade $C, 25.96$ percent, grade $D$, 31.82 percent, grade $\mathrm{E}, 17.92$ percent, grade $\mathrm{S}, 4.02$ percent and 3.49 percent failed. The comparison of Accountancy examination results for two consecutive years show that, in the year 2018, the results have increased by 4.09 percent compared to the year 2017.The number of candidates passed in this year is $1,465(96.51 \%)$ compared to $1,414(92.42 \%)$ of the last year.

The report will be useful to teachers, candidates and other stakeholders in the process of improving teaching and learning of Accountancy. The presentation examines the requirement of each question and the way the candidates responded. It highlights the strengths and weaknesses observed in the candidates' responses. Selected extracts of candidates' responses are included to enable stakeholders experience the reality of candidates' responses to the questions. The analysis of candidates' performance on individual questions is presented in the next sections.

The performance in each question is rated poor, average or good if the percentage of the candidates who scored 35 percent or above of the total marks allotted to the question falls in the range of $0-34,35-59$ or $60-100$, respectively. Special colours have been used with the following interpretations; green stands for good, yellow for average and red for poor candidates' performance as seen in the graphs and in the Appendices.

### 2.0 ANALYSIS OF PERFORMANCE OF THE CANDIDATES IN EACH QUESTION

### 2.1 153/1 Accountancy 1

### 2.1.1 Question 1: Reserves and Provisions

The question comprised of five items extracted from the topic of Reserves and Provisions. The candidates were required to give brief explanations on Reserve, Reserve fund, Specific reserve, General reserve and Secret reserve. The question intended to measure the candidates' knowledge and comprehension ability on the given accounting terms.

The question was attempted by 50.9 percent of the candidates, of which 31.9 percent scored from 0 to 6.5 marks, 47.8 percent scored from 7 to 11.5 marks and 20.3 percent scored from 12 to 20 marks out of the 20 allotted marks. The candidates' performance in this question was good since the percentage of candidates who scored from 7 to 20 marks ( $68.1 \%$ ) was higher than the percentage of candidates who scored from 0 to 6.5 marks ( $31.9 \%$ ). Figure 1 shows the distribution of candidates' scores in Question 1.


Scores

Figure 1: The Candidates' performance in Question 1

The candidates who performed well in this Question (20.3\%) were able to give clear explanations on three, four or all of the five accounting terms. Moreover, the candidates in this category provided relevant examples to support their explanations on Reserve, Reserve fund, Specific reserve and General reserve. These responses could be attributed to the candidates' adequate knowledge of the subject matter and ability to address the requirement of the question. Extract 1.1 is a sample of a good response from one of the candidates.

## Extract 1.1




Extract 1.1is a sample of response from the candidate who provided clear explanations and relevant examples to the given accounting terms in Question 1.

The candidates with average performance in this question (47.8\%) were able to provide reasonable explanations on two or three of the given terms but they could not achieve higher marks because of lack of clarity in their explanations.

The candidates who performed poorly in this question (31.9\%), provided irrelevant explanations and examples on the given accounting terms. Others provided explanations unrelated to the given accounting terms because of poor mastery of the English Language. This could be attributed to poor knowledge on the meaning and implication of the given accounting terms. Extract 1.2 is a sample of poor response from one of the candidate.

Extract: 1.2


Extract 1.2: A sample of a candidate response with irrelevant explanations on Reserve, Reserve fund, Specific reserve, General reserve and Secret reserve.

### 2.1.2 Question 2: The Nature and Context of Accounting

The candidates were required to record the given transactions into the ledger accounts, complete the double entry system and balance off the accounts as at $31^{\text {st }}$ March 2017.

The question was attempted by 98.3 percent of the candidates, out of which 4.9 percent scored from 0 to 6.5 marks, 25 percent scored from 7 to 11.5 marks and 70.1 percent scored from 12 to 20 marks out of the 20 allotted marks. The candidates' performance in this question was good since majority of candidates scored from 7 to 20 marks ( $95.1 \%$ ). Figure 2 is a summary of the candidates' scores in Question 2.


Figure 2:The Candidates' Performance in Question 2.
The candidates who performed well in this Question (70.1\%) were able to adhere to the requirement of the question. Some of them were able to open all the required accounts, compute the required amount for each transaction and made correct entries into the appropriate accounts. Other candidates omitted one or two of the required accounts while others posted some transactions to the wrong side of the required accounts. However, despite their mistakes in their work they were able to score good marks. Extract 2.1 is a sample of a good response from one of the candidates.

Extract.2.1



Extract 2.1: A sample of correct response from the candidate who made correct computation and entries into the relevant accounts.

The candidates who scored moderately in this question (25\%) were able to address the demands of the question. They opened the required accounts and recorded most of the transactions correctly. However, their computation and postings into some of the ledger accounts were not correct such that they could not score good marks.

The candidates who scored from 0 to 6.5 marks ( $4.9 \%$ ) did not have adequate knowledge of the subject matter. Hence, their responses were characterised by a mixture of correct and incorrect responses. Some of them failed to open most of the required accounts. Others opened the required accounts but entered wrong amount. Moreover, a considerable minority of the candidates in this category posted the transactions to the wrong side of the required accounts and others left the accounts unbalanced. Extract 2.2. is a sample of incorrect response from one of the candidates.

## Extract 2.2.



Extract 2.2: A sample of the candidate's response who reversed all the entries in the accounts except capital account and one entry in the cash account.

### 2.1.3 Question 3: Correction of Accounting Errors and Recognition of Revenue and Expenses

The question had two parts, (a) and (b). In part (a), the candidates were required to pass Journal entries to rectify errors and prepare the Suspense Account. In part (b), the candidates were required to prepare Rent Receivable Account.

The question was attempted by 52.4 percent of the candidates, out of which 54.2 percent scored from 0 to 6.5 marks, 25.9 percent scored from 7 to 11.5 marks and 19.9 percent scored from 12 to 19.5 marks out of the 20 allotted marks. The candidates' performance in this question was average ( $45.8 \%$ ). Figure 3 shows a summary of the distribution of the candidates' scores in Question 3.


Figure 3: The Candidates' Performance in Question 3.
Majority of the candidates who performed poorly in this Question ( $54.2 \%$ ) had inadequate knowledge of the subject matter because they scored from 0 to 6.5 marks. Most of the candidates in this category were unable to observe the principle of double entry in rectifying accounting errors. They debited items in the general journal which should have been credited and vice versa. Others could not correct all the given items since they omitted a large number of them in the journal. Also some candidates in this category lacked computational skills because they entered wrong amount in the General journal, Suspense and Rent Receivable accounts. Analysis shows further that, some candidates in this category failed to identify the accounts
affected by the given accounting errors and posted items to wrong accounts. Poor performance of candidates in this Question was attributed by inadequate knowledge of the topics of correction of accounting errors and recognition of revenue and expenses. Extract 3.1 is a sample of incorrect response from one of the candidate.

## Extract 3.1



Extract 3.1: A sample of candidate response whose answers shows omission of most of the accounts affected by the given accounting errors, entered and posted wrong amounts into the suspense account.

The candidates who performed moderately ( $25.9 \%$ ), were able to rectify most of the given accounting errors through journal entries. They posted relevant entries into the appropriate sides of the suspense account. However, majority of them could not compute the amount of rent receivable accurately, since they entered wrong amount into the Rent Receivable account. Other candidates were able to prepare the Rent Receivable account and made correct entries but failed to rectify the accounting errors through journal entries. Consequently, they attained average performance.

The candidates who scored good marks in this Question (19.9\%) were able to address the demands of the question. They prepared the General Journal and passed correct entries, the suspense account and posted appropriate entries on it. Moreover, they constructed the Rent Receivable account and posted the transactions accurately. Extract 3.2 shows a sample of a good response from a candidate.

Extract 3.2



Extract 3.2: A sample of correct response from the candidate who prepared the relevant accounts and made correct entries.

### 2.1.4 Question 4. Depreciation and Disposal of Non-Current Assets and Reserves and Provisions

The question had two parts, (a) and (b). In part (a), the candidates were required to prepare Machine, Provision for Depreciation on Machines and Disposal of Machines Accounts. In part (b), the candidates were required to prepare Journal entries, Debtors, Bad Debts, Provision for Doubtful Debts Accounts, an extract of the Income Statement and Statement of Financial Position.

The question was attempted by 97.5 percent of the candidates, out of which 13.1 percent scored from 0 to 6.5 marks, 40.4 percent scored from 7 to 11.5 marks and 46.5 percent scored from 12 to 19 marks. The candidates' performance in this question was good as 86.9 percent of the candidates scored from 7 to 19 marks. The candidates' performance scores is summarised in Figure 4.


Figure 4:The Candidates' Performance in Question 4.
The candidates who scored good marks in this Question (46.5\%), had adequate knowledge of the subject matter. In part (a), most of the candidates in this category prepared the required accounts correctly. Also their entries in the Journal and the accounts in part (b) of the Question were correct. Extract 4.1is one of a correct responses extracted from a candidates' scripts.

Extract 4.1



Extract 4.1: A response from the candidate who prepared the required accounts and made correct entries.

The analysis shows that most of the candidates who performed moderately ( $40.4 \%$ ) were able to prepare the required accounts and recorded correct entries in the accounts in part (a) of the question. However, their computation of the provision for doubtful debts amount were not accurate. As a result, most of the accounts in part (b) together with the Journal entries and the financial statements presented contained incorrect figures. Others who had enough computational skills made accurate computations and appropriate entries in the relevant accounts, Journal and the extracts of the financial statements.

Moreover, the most notable weakness displayed by the candidates who scored from 0 to 6.5 marks ( $13.1 \%$ ) is insufficient knowledge of the subject matter. The analysis of the candidates' performance shows that, some candidates did not know the account recording a newly purchased asset and at which amount. Furthermore, some candidates failed to identify the account which disposed assets can be transferred to and at which amount. As a result, they entered incorrect amounts in wrong accounts.

Likewise, some of the candidates failed to compute accurately the amounts of depreciation of the non- current assets and provision for doubtful debts. They made inaccurate computation of the amounts of depreciation, bad debts and provision for doubtful debts as a result their entries in the Journal and the required accounts contained incorrect figures both, in part A and B of the question.

Also, some candidates scored low marks due to inability to apply the principle of double entry system in recording financial transactions. It was observed that some candidates made single entries in the accounts while others either reversed the entries or posted some entries to the wrong sides of the accounts. Extract 4.2. is a sample of poor response from one of the candidates.

Extract 4.2.



Extract 4.2: A sample of incorrect response from the candidate who recorded inaccurate narrations and amounts in the ledger Accounts and the Financial Statements.

### 2.1.5 Question 5: The Nature and Context of Accounting.

The candidates were required to pass journal entries for adjusting and closing entries for the given adjustments as at $31^{\text {st }}$ December 2016.

The question was attempted by 21.1 percent of the candidates, out of which 73 percent scored from 0 to 6.5 marks; 23.9 percent scored from 7 to 11.5 marks and; 3.1 percent scored from 12 to 16 marks out of the 20 allotted marks. The candidates' performance in this question was poor since the percentage of candidates who scored from 7 to 16 marks was ( $27 \%$ ). Figure 5 shows the distribution of candidates' performance scores in question 5.


Figure 5:TheCandidates' Performance in Question 5.
The analysis of the candidates' responses revealed that the candidates who scored from 0 to 6.5 marks ( $73 \%$ ) were not able to pass Journal entries for the given adjustments. Most of them prepared ledger accounts instead of journal entries. Others could not understand the meaning of the concepts of Adjusting and Closing entries hence failed to record some of the items of adjustments. Further analysis showed that some of the candidates reversed entries in the Journal and others entered some items in the wrong column of the journal. These poor responses to the question indicate that the candidates lacked knowledge on the subject matter and had low comprehension skills of the concepts of adjusting and closing entries. They failed also to apply the principle of double entry system in recording the financial transactions. Extract 5.1 is one of incorrect responses extracted from a candidate's script.

Extract 5.1


Extract 5.1: A sample of incorrect response extracted from one of the candidates who prepared ledger accounts instead of Journal entries.

Furthermore, the candidates who scored from 7 to 11.5 marks ( $23.9 \%$ ) had adequate knowledge on the subject matter, since they were able to pass some correct entries in the Journal. However, omission and reversal of some items of adjustments and entries characterised their work such that they could not score higher marks.

On the other hand there were a few candidates ( $3.1 \%$ ) who scored from 12 to 16 marks. The candidates in this category adhered to the demands of the question and demonstrated adequate knowledge in recording of adjusting and closing entries. Most of them were able to pass correct entries for a good number of the given items of adjustments in the Journal although some candidates reversed some of the entries. Extract 5.2 presents a sample of a good response from one of the candidates.

## Extract 5.2

| FOURNAL ENTRIES |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Sta. | DETAIL | PR | $C R$ |
| 2 | Salaries account | 270,000 |  |
|  | falaries accrued account |  | 270,000 |
|  | Being salanves acind nost recordid now 0 |  |  |
|  | recorded |  |  |
| U | Interecit accocunt | 124,000 |  |
|  | Interest prepaid account |  | 124,000 |
|  | Being coterst prepaid now is |  |  |
|  | rech-fied |  |  |
| in | Preit an lest estounto |  |  |
|  | Fint receivable accourt | 144,000 |  |
|  | Profit or Loss account |  | 144,000 |
|  | Bung anmual vent reaived transiferced to |  |  |
|  | profit or luas |  |  |
| Sua | Cash account | 108,000 |  |
|  | Rent reqivable account |  | 108,000 |
|  | Being rent recived deuing a year |  |  |
| W | Rent received accrued accunt | 36,000 |  |
|  | Rent received a ccourt |  | 36,000 |
|  | Buing rent recuived not reciued during |  |  |
|  | a year |  |  |
| W | Closing sbock | 185,000 |  |
|  | Trading account |  | 185,000 |
|  | Being recording of closing inventuy. |  |  |
| va | Drawinge account | 126,800 |  |
| $\checkmark$ | Stock acount (Purchases) |  | $12.6,800$ |
|  | Being drawings of goode for peotaral ws |  |  |
|  | wew is recorded |  |  |



Extract 5.2: A sample of correct response from the candidate who prepared correct journal entries for adjustments.

### 2.1.6 Question 6: Investment Accounts and Preparation of Financial Statements

The question had two parts, (a) and (b). In part (a), the candidates were required to prepare the $15 \%$ Preference Shares Investment Account in Tehama Ltd's books and to record the given transactions. In part (b), the candidates were required to prepare Tambo Wambugu's Income Statement for the year ended $30^{\text {th }}$ June 2017.

The question was attempted by 95.1 percent of the candidates, out of which 14.6 percent scored from 0 to 6.5 marks, 55.8 percent scored from 7 to 11.5 marks and 29.6 percent scored from 12 to 20 marks out of the 20 allotted marks. The candidates' performance in this question was good. Figure 6 shows the distribution of the candidates' performance scores in Question 6.


Figure 6:The Candidates' Performance in Question 6
The candidates who performed well in this Question (29.6\%), were able to prepare the $15 \%$ Preference Shares Investment Account and the Tambo Wambugu's Income Statement as required in the question. The candidates' scores varied from one candidate to another because of the differences in the level of accuracy, errors and omissions. The good performance of these candidates is an indication that they had adequate knowledge and skills in the preparation of Investment Accounts and Financial Statements, particularly on Income Statement. Extract 6.1 is a sample of correct response from the candidate.

Extract 6.1



Extract 6.1: A sample of a response from the candidate who prepared the Investment Account and Income Statement accurately.

The analysis also showed that, the candidates who had an average performance in this question (55.8\%) had satisfactory knowledge of the subject matter. They were able to identify the formulas used in the computation of dividend income from investments, accrued dividend, purchases and sales value of investments. They were also able to open the Investment Account and pass a good number of the transactions into the account accurately. Nevertheless, they presented the income statement in its proper format though some of them included items of assets and liabilities on it.

The candidates who performed poorly in this question (14.6\%), failed to identify the appropriate formulas useful in the computation of dividend income, accrued dividend, capital and sales proceeds of investments. Others could not manage to draw the investment account properly and therefore recorded wrong amounts into the wrong columns of the account. Analysis further showed that, some candidates in this category omitted most of the items and presented the income statement in horizontal format contrary to International Accounting Standard 1 (IAS 1) while others included items of assets and liabilities on the income statement. Extract 6.2 is a sample of incorrect response from a candidate's script.

## Extract 6.2



Extract 6.2: A sample of incorrect response from the candidate who entered wrong amounts in the Investment Account and omitted most of the items in the Income Statement.

### 2.1.7 Question 7: Financial Statements Analysis and Interpretation

The candidates were required to compute acid test ratio, current ratio, gross margin ratio, net profit ratio, total assets turnover ratio, return on total assets, rate of stock turnover and average debtors collection period.

The question was attempted by 81.2 percent of the candidates, out of which 20.8 percent scored from 0 to 6.5 marks, 38.1 percent scored from 7 to 11.5 marks and 41.1 percent scored from 12 to 20 marks out of the 20 allotted marks. The candidates' performance in this question was good since large percentage of candidates ( $79.2 \%$ ) scored from 7 to 20 marks. Figure 7.shows the candidates' performance scores in Question 7.


Figure 7:The Candidates' Performance in Question 7
The candidates who had good performance in this question (41.1\%), were able to compute the required accounting ratios. They used correct formulas and given data to compute accounting ratios accurately. These correct responses to the question is an indication that the candidates had adequate knowledge on the subject matter. Extract 7.1 is a sample of correct response from a candidate.

## Extract 7.1



Extract 7.1: A response from the candidate who calculated the accounting ratios accurately.

The analysis also showed that, the candidates who had an average performance in this question $(38.1 \%)$ managed to identify the formulas used in the computation of accounting ratios and computed some of the required accounting ratios accurately. However, inability to extract the required data from the financial statements and limited computational skills led them to compute wrong accounting ratios. The average performance of the candidates could be attributed to the candidates satisfactory knowledge and computational skills on the topic of Financial Statements Analysis and Interpretation.

The candidates who performed poorly in this question (20.8\%) had various weaknesses. Some failed to identify appropriate formulas used to compute accounting ratios and others failed to extract the relevant data from the financial statements. It was also observed that some candidates applied wrong data in wrong formulas, as a consequent they computed wrong accounting ratios. Moreover, other candidates confused the formulas for different accounting ratios and made inaccurate computations of the required accounting ratios. Extract 7.2 shows an incorrect response.

## Extract.7.2

|  |  | 2016 | 2017 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 7 | (a) Alid tast ration | = ccurent Abst-stors | curet Asset-stork |
|  |  | cunertirabilitis | cureit uzslitiog |
|  |  |  | $\mathrm{F}^{\text {c }}$ |
|  |  | $=28480-7200$ | $=300 \times 0-13120$ |
|  |  | 5,60 | 11360 |
|  |  |  |  |
|  | $\therefore$ Acid test ratro | $\therefore=3 \cdot 8: 1$ | $\therefore 1.5: 1$ |
|  |  |  |  |
|  | (b) curvent yatio | - Cumel Assef | - curent asset |
|  |  | cunerl Lisbilite | comert crabilits |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  | 二428480 | $=30080$ |
|  |  | 5600 | 11360 |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  | $=5.1: 1$ | $=2.6: 1$ |
|  |  |  |  |
|  | (c) Grub margin ratio | $=$ Grospostit | = Groce pustit |
|  |  | Sales | Sales |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  | $=51520$ | $=60800$ |
|  |  | (0),600 | 118,400 |
|  |  | $=50.51: 1$ | $=51.3 \mathrm{i}$ |

Extract 7.2: A sample of response from the candidate who computed wrong accounting ratios.

### 2.2 153/2 Accountancy 2

### 2.2.1 Question 1: Computerised Accounting

The question comprised of two parts (a) and (b). In part (a), the candidates were required to give brief explanations on Website, Intranet, Extranet and Wide Area Network (WAN). In part (b), they were required to mention four benefits of using a computerised accounting system.

The question was attempted by 54.7 percent of the candidates, out of which 46.2 percent scored from 0 to 6.5 marks, 34.1 percent scored from 7 to 11.5 marks and 19.7 percent scored from 12 to 20 marks out of 20 allotted marks. The candidates' performance in this question was average since 53.8 percent of the candidates scored 35 percent and above of the allotted marks. Figure 8 shows the distribution of the candidates' performance scores in Question 1.


Figure 8:The Candidates' Performance in Question 1.
The candidates who scored good marks in this question (19.7\%) comprehended well on the concepts of computerised accounting system. They were able to provide clear explanations on website, intranet, extranet and WAN. Furthermore, the candidates demonstrated adequate knowledge of the benefits of using a computerised accounting system. For example, one candidate mentioned speed, accuracy, easy error detection and enhanced reporting flexibility as benefits of using a computerised accounting
system. Extract 8.1 is a sample of a good response from a candidate's script.

Extract 8.1

(iv) mile trea Nefuork. (WAN)

Thos refers is a netwale Connechion that coven a large (inde) area. vanions compuler $s$ canaccess (tis) untemet (nefuric) by use of wificornection. If cambe around a specic area that os large, examplénitels, and orzanizations. Reople can easily acess the mbornet though ithis.
(b) the fillowing are the bencefts of using a computerieed aecounting system.

Inevease Accurney andspeed while neending transcapions. with the Anl of Comp ule progruns the proless of vecerding is made accusté and fast companeeet Alysial reundog.

Proper sterage of infermation and douments. Various Aciounting informalōn can be easily strued $f$ and Kept on varions domments. This enhanees seerecy and confrdentialify.

Inerease in effiwency and smouth running of the business. All matten of sales, purhasins and Remuneration canbe easily processed by a computer program.

Imponement in the Inlernal contro? syitem. The intarnal confrol system can be improneel by a Compulenized aewuting Systan Heree, fands, errors and mistakes can be easily avoided.
Extract 8.1: A sample of response from the candidate who provided clear explanations and mentioned appropriate benefits of using a computerised accounting system.

The candidates who scored averagely in this question (34.1\%), were able to provide reasonable explanations of the given terms and mentioned two or three of the benefits of using a computerised accounting system. However, because of poor mastery of the English Language their explanations on the terms used in computerised accounting system were not very clear.

Moreover, the candidates who scored low marks (46.2\%), lacked knowledge and comprehension skills on the topic of Computerised Accounting system. They provided irrelevant explanations and wrong examples to the given terms. Extract 8.2 is a sample of incorrect response from a candidate's script.

## Extract 8.2



Extract 8.2: A sample of an incorrect response from the candidate who provided irrelevant explanations to the given terms.

### 2.2.2 Question 2:Hire Purchase Accounting

In this question, the candidates were required to prepare Sales, Hire Purchase Debtors, HP Interest Suspense Accounts, an extract of the Income Statement in the Vendor's records, Motor Vehicles, Hire Purchase Vendor, HP Interest Suspense Accounts and an extract of the Income Statement in the purchaser's records.

The question was attempted by 61 percent of the candidates, out of which 31.7 percent scored from 0 to 6.5 marks; 17.8 percent scored from 7 to 11.5 marks and; 50.5 percent scored from 12 to 20 marks out of the 20 allotted marks. The candidates' performance in this question was good since 68.3 percent of the candidates scored 35 percent and above. Figure 9 shows distribution of the candidates' performance scores in Question 2.


Figure 9:The Candidates' Performance in Question 2.
The candidates who had good performance in this question (50.5\%), were able to prepare the required accounts accurately. This indicates that, the candidates had adequate knowledge of the subject matter. They are also competent in the application of the principle of double entry system in recording transactions. Extract 9.1 is a sample of correct response from a candidate.

Extract 9.1




Extract 9.1: A sample of correct response from the candidate who prepared the required ledger accounts and the extracts of the Income Statement accurately.

The candidates who scored average marks in this question (17.8\%), were able to open the required accounts, but their entries in the accounts had wrong posting, omission and unbalanced ledger accounts.

Furthermore, the candidates who performed poorly in this question ( $31.7 \%$ ), failed to adhere to the requirements of the question as they omitted some of the required accounts. Others opened the required accounts but their entries contained either wrong amounts or incorrect narrations. It was also observed that, some candidates reversed the entries in the ledger accounts while others posted some entries to the wrong side of the ledger accounts. Extract 9.2 is a sample of incorrect response from a candidate.

## Extract 9.2



Extract 9.2: A sample of incorrect response from the candidate who entered wrong amounts in the Ledger Accounts except two entries in the HP Vendor Account.

### 2.2.3 Question 3: Company Accounts

The candidates were required to record the given transactions in the Bank, Share Application, Share Allotment, First and Final call, Ordinary Share Capital, Calls in Arrears, Forfeited Shares, Re-issued Shares, Share Premium Accounts and an extract of the Balance Sheet of the Company.

The question was attempted by 80.1 percent of the candidates, out of which 29.9 percent scored from 0 to 6.5 marks, 26.3 percent scored from 7 to 11.5 marks and 43.8 percent scored from 12 to 19.5 marks out of the 20 allotted marks. The candidates' performance in this question was average since 70.1 percent of the candidates scored 35 percent and above. Figure 10 shows the distribution of the candidates' performance scores in Question 3.


## Scores

Figure 10:The Candidates' Performance in Question 3.
The candidates who scored good marks (43.8\%), had adequate knowledge of the subject matter. Most of them were able to record the given transactions as required while others omitted one or two entries of the given transactions. Moreover, they managed to present the Balance Sheet of the Company in accordance to International Accounting Standards 1 (IAS1). Extract 10.1 is a sample of correct response from a candidate.

## Extract 10.1

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Extract 10.1: A sample of a response from the candidate who made correct entries in the ledger Accounts and proper presentation of the Company's Balance Sheet.

The candidates who performed averagely in this question (26.3\%), were able to record most of the given transactions in the required accounts correctly. However, their entries in the ledger accounts were characterised by omission, wrong posting, wrong amounts and reversal of entries. Other candidates failed to prepare the Company's Balance Sheet. Despite these weaknesses in their responses, the candidates managed to score average marks. The average performance of the candidates in this category suggests that they had adequate knowledge and competence in preparing company accounts.

Furthermore, the candidates who performed poorly in this question (29.9\%), failed to adhere to the requirement of the question. They failed to open most of the required accounts; they made inaccurate computations of the answers; and, they recorded wrong entries and narrations in the accounts. These poor responses to the question suggest that the candidates lacked sufficient knowledge and competence in the topic of Company Accounts. Extract 10.2 shows one of the candidate's incorrect response.

Extract 10.2



Extract 10.2: A sample of incorrect response from the candidate who omitted the Company's Balance Sheet and entered wrong amount in the Ledger Accounts.

### 2.2.4 Question 4: Partnership Accounting

The candidates were required to prepare Realisation, Partner's Capital and Bank Accounts to record the given transactions. The question was attempted by 97.4 percent of the candidates, out of which 22.7 percent scored from 0 to 6.5 marks, 75.3 percent scored from 7 to 11.5 marks and 2 percent scored from 12 to 19 marks out of the 20 allotted marks. The candidates' performance in this question was good. Figure 11 shows the distribution of the candidates' performance scores in Question 4.


Figure 11:The Candidates' Performance in Question 4.
The candidates who performed well in this question (2\%), were able to open all the required accounts, computed the answers accurately and made correct entries and postings into the relevant accounts. Despite their good answers, the candidates in this category made errors, omitted and wrongly posted some entries which caused their scores to vary from 12 to 19 marks. These candidates had adequate knowledge on the subject matter and competence on the application of the double entry system in recording the financial transactions. Extract.11.1 is a good response from one of the candidates.

## Extract.11.1



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|  | Balance b/d | 15,000 | Realization:-Creditors | 575000 |
|  | Realiation; - Debtos | 300,003 | - Unrecordad | 5,000 |
|  | - Stride | 450,000 | Capital AIC: - Allan | 147,744 |
|  | - Furriture | 50,20.2 | - Bella | 137260 |
|  | - Gooduill | 20,000 |  |  |
|  | Cutherine's capital a/c | 30,000 |  |  |
|  |  | 865,000 |  | 865000 |
|  |  |  |  |  |

Extract 11.1: A sample of response from the candidate who prepared the required accounts correctly.

On the other hand, the candidates who performed averagely ( $75.3 \%$ ), were able to open the required accounts, made accurate computation but their entries in the relevant accounts contained inappropriate narrations, wrong posting and reversed entries. This indicates that the candidates had satisfactory knowledge and competence in Partnership Accounts.

However, the candidates who performed poorly in this question ( $22.7 \%$ ), did not have adequate knowledge of the subject matter. Hence, their responses were characterised by a mixture of correct and incorrect responses. Some of them could not open all of the required accounts while others computed inaccurate amounts. Moreover, their accounts contained inappropriate narrations, omissions and reversed entries. Extract 11.2 is a sample of incorrect response from a candidate.

## Extract 11.2



Extract 11.2: A sample of response from the candidate who entered inappropriate narrations and wrong amounts in the Accounts.

### 2.1.5 Question 5: Containers Accounts

The candidates were required to prepare the Cases Stock, Cases Suspense Accounts and Statement of Profit or Loss on Cases Usage for the year ended $31^{\text {st }}$ December 2017. The question was attempted by 96.2 percent of the candidates, out of which 5.2 percent scored from 0 to 6.5 marks, 14.7 percent scored from 7 to 11.5 marks and 80.1 percent scored from 12 to 20 marks out of the 20 allotted marks. The candidates' performance in this question was good. Figure 12 shows the distribution of the candidates' performance scores in Question 5.


Figure 12:The Candidates' Performance in Question 5.

The candidates who had good performance in this question (80.1\%), demonstrated sufficient knowledge and mastery of the subject matter. They opened all the required accounts and computed the required amounts of the transactions accurately. Most of them managed to record and post the transactions from the Cases stock account to the Cases suspense account. They also prepared the statement of profit or loss on cases usage and reported the accurate profit on cases usage of TZS $14,210,000$. A few candidates had their accounts containing wrong narrations, posting and omission of some transactions. Nevertheless, they managed to score from 12 to 20 marks out of the 20 allotted marks. Extract 12.1 is a sample of a correct response from a candidate.

## Extract 12.1




Extract 12.1: A sample of correct response from the candidate who prepared correct ledger Accounts and Statement of Profit or Loss on cases usage.

The candidates who had average performance in this question ( $14.7 \%$ ), demonstrated adequate mastery of the subject matter and computational skills. They were able to open the required ledger accounts and managed to record a large number of the transactions correctly. However, some of them omitted some entries in the accounts, others reversed one or two of the entries in one or two of the accounts.

The candidates who performed poorly in this question (5.2\%), lacked sufficient knowledge on the subject matter. Most of them could not draw the ledger accounts properly. Others failed to compute the amounts of hiring profit, profit on sale of scrapped cases and profit on retained cases. Analysis revealed further that some candidates in this category failed to apply the principle of double entry system to record the given transactions. They also recorded some items once, reversed some entries or posted some items on the wrong side of the account. In addition, other candidates recorded wrong amounts in the ledger accounts and in the statement of profit or loss on cases usage. Hence their profit on cases usage was incorrect. Extract.12.2.is a sample of incorrect response from a candidate.

## Extract 12.2



Extract 12.2: A sample of response from the candidate who made inaccurate entries in the ledger accounts and the statement of profit or loss on cases usage.

### 2.2.6 Question 6: Accounting for Royalties

The candidates were required to prepare the Royalties Payable, Land Lord, and Short Workings Accounts for the five years ended $31^{\text {st }}$ March 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018.The question was attempted by 99 percent of the candidates, out of which 3.8 percent scored from 0 to 6.5 marks, 4.7 percent scored from 7 to 11.5 marks and 91.5 percent scored from 12 to 20 marks out of the 20 allotted marks. The candidates' performance in this question was good. Figure 13 shows the distribution of the candidates' performance scores in Question 6.


Figure 13:The Candidates' Performance in Question 6.
The candidates who scored from 12 to 20 marks ( $91.5 \%$ ), were able to prepare the Royalties Payable, Land Lord, and Short Workings Accounts. They accurately computed the amounts of actual royalties payable to Land lord, short workings and short working recovered. Most of them made correct entries in the relevant accounts. However, a few candidates made some errors in recording the transactions in the required accounts; such as omission of some entries in the accounts and entries of wrong narrations. Moreover, other candidates posted some entries to the wrong side of an account. These variations in the candidates' responses led their scores to vary from 12 to 20 marks. The good performance was attributed by the candidates' adequate knowledge and competence in the topic of Accounting for Royalties. Extract 13.1 is a sample of a good response from one of the candidates.

## Extract 13.1




Extract 13.1: A sample of response from the candidate who prepared Royalties Payable, Land Lord and Short Workings Accounts correctly.

The candidates who had an average performance in this question ( $4.7 \%$ ), were able to adhere to the demands of the question. They managed to open the Royalties Payable, Land Lord, and Short Workings Accounts. However, they made wrong computation of the amount of actual royalties, short workings and short working recovered. Others posted some entries to the wrong side of the accounts and reported wrong profit on cases usage for the year. The candidates in this category had satisfactory knowledge and competence as they managed to score from 7 to 11.5 marks.

The candidates who scored poor marks ( $3.8 \%$ ), lacked knowledge of the subject matter. Most of them made incorrect computation of the amounts of actual royalties, short workings and short workings recoupable. Others opened the required accounts but entered wrong amounts and failed to apply the principle of double entry system in recording and posting the entries in the required accounts. Moreover other candidates in this category did not prepare the statement of profit or loss on cases usage. A few candidates reported wrong profit or loss on cases usage for the year. Extract 13.2 is a sample of incorrect response from a candidate.

## Extract 13.2



Extract 13.2: A sample of incorrect response from the candidate who entered inaccurate amounts and narrations in the ledger Accounts.

### 2.2.7 Question 7: Cost Accounting and Stock Valuation

The question had two parts, (a) and (b). In part (a), the candidates were required to prepare a cost statement showing marginal cost and profit or loss for the month of January 2018. They were also required to calculate the break even point in revenue and number of bottles and thereafter to show that at breakeven point, the total revenue is equal to the total cost. In part (b), the candidates were required to compute the value of stock of Mwambao Ltd on $30^{\text {th }}$ April 2018.

The question was attempted by 3.4 percent of the candidates, out of which 65.4 percent scored from 0 to 6.5 marks, 30.8 percent scored from 7 to 11.5 marks and 3.8 percent scored from 12 to 20 marks out of the 20 allotted marks. The candidates' performance in this question was average. Figure 14 shows the distribution of the candidates' performance scores in Question 7.


Figure 14:The Candidates' Performance in Question 7.
The candidates who performed poorly (65.4\%), lacked sufficient knowledge and competence on Cost Accounting and Stock Valuation. In part $A$, most of the candidates in this category failed to draw the cost statement. They did not classify the items of cost into marginal and fixed costs. Other candidates failed to determine the amount of total cost and marginal cost. Moreover, the candidates in this category failed to compute the correct amount of total cost and profit for the month of January 2018. These candidates also computed a wrong break even point in sales revenue and number of bottles. None of them under this category was able to prove that at break even point the total revenue is equal to the total cost. In part (b), most of the candidates who scored below 7 marks skipped the question while others computed inaccurate value of stock for the Mwambao Ltd on
$30^{\text {th }}$ April 2018. Extract 14.1 is a sample of incorrect response from one of the candidates.

## Extract 14.1



Extract 14.1: A sample of incorrect response from the candidate who skipped part (a) of the question and used inaccurate amounts to calculate the wrong value of Stock in part (b).

The candidates who scored from 7 to 11.5 marks ( $30.8 \%$ ), were able to classify the items of cost into marginal and fixed costs. Some of them managed to prepare the cost statement and show the marginal cost and the profit for the month of January 2018, but they failed to compute the correct break even point in sales revenue and number of bottles. Others managed to compute some of the adjustments required in the calculation of the value of stock but failed to get the accurate value of stock for Mwambao Ltd on $30^{\text {th }}$ April 2018.

Analysis of the responses of a few candidates who had good performance in this question (3.8\%) showed that, they had adequate knowledge and sufficient computational skills. They were able to make a clear classification of costs and compute accurately the break even point in sales revenue and number of bottles although they failed to prove that at break even point total revenue equals total cost. This failure has been attributed by the candidates' limited skills in using the equation method in Cost - Volume - Profit (CVP) analysis.

### 3.0 ANALYSIS OF CANDIDATES' PERFORMANCE PER TOPIC

This section presents the analysis of the candidates' performance in various topics. The performance is categorised as good, average or poor if the percentage of the candidates who scored 35 percent or above lies in the interval of ( 60 to $100 \%$ ), ( 35 to $59 \%$ ) or ( 0 to $34 \%$ ), respectively. The analysis shows that, the candidates had good performance in the topics of Accounting for Royalties, Containers Accounts, Depreciation and Disposal of Non - Current Assets, Investment Accounts, Preparation of Financial Statements, Financial Statements Analysis and Interpretation, Partnership accounting, Company Accounts, Hire Purchase accounting, Reserves and Provisions. The reasons for good performance on these topics is attributed by adequate knowledge, competence, computational skills and ability of the candidates to apply the principle of double entry in recording of the financial transactions.

Furthermore, the candidates had an average performance in the topics of Computerized Accounting, Correction of Accounting Errors, Recognition of Revenue and Expenses, Cost Accounting and Stock Valuation. The average performance in these topics has been due to the candidates' poor comprehension, analysis and evaluation skills.

Moreover, the candidates performed poorly in the topic of The Nature and Context of Accounting. The poor performance on this topic was caused by; misconception and misinterpretation of the requirement of the question by the candidates; inability to apply the principle of double entry in recording and posting the financial transactions; and lack of sufficient knowledge and comprehension skills on some of the concepts used in the topic.

Further analysis in Appendix B shows that in 2018, there has been a noticeable improvement in the candidates' performance on the topics of Accounting for Royalties, Financial Statements Analysis and Interpretation, Containers Accounts and Partnership Accounting compared to 2017. As like 2017, the candidates continued to perform poorly in the topic of The Nature and Context of Accounting.

The comparison of the candidates' performance in each topic for the year 2018 is presented in Appendix A while Appendix B shows the comparison of performance in each topic tested across the years 2017 and 2018.

### 4.0 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### 4.1 Conclusion

The performance of candidates in ACSEE 2018 Accountancy was good as 96.51 percent of the candidates passed. Comparison of the candidates' performance in Accountancy subject across 2017 and 2018 indicates that, there is an increase of 4.09 percent in the general performance of the candidates from 92.42 percent in the year 2017 to 96.51 percent in the year 2018. This shows that a good number of the candidates had adequate knowledge and skills in the respective topics from which the questions were set.

However, it is evident from the analysis of the candidates' responses in various questions that, many candidates face multiple of challenges in answering the questions. Among these challenges are the candidates' inability to identify the task of the questions, low proficiency in the English Language and limited application skills of the principle of double entry system in recording the financial transactions.

### 4.2 Recommendations

In order to improve the candidates' performance in Accountancy subject in upcoming examinations, the following are recommended:
(a) Students should be taught how to identify demands of the questions and how to approach questions as they answer.
(b) Students should spend enough time practising English Language. They should be assigned a lot of tasks which will improve their writing, speaking, reading and listening skills.
(c) Students should develop a habit of reading extensively and doing a lot of practice on various topics of Accountancy to improve their computational skills and application of the principle of double entry system in recording financial transactions.
(d) Teachers should exhaustively teach the topic of The Nature and Context of Accounting in order to reinforce students' knowledge, comprehension and competences of the students in the learned sub topics.

Appendix $A$
The summary showing the candidates' performance topic wise for the year 2018

| $\begin{aligned} & \mathrm{S} \\ & \mathrm{n} \end{aligned}$ | Topic | ACSEE2018 |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | Number of questions | Percentage of the candidates who scored 35 \% or above | Remarks |
| 1 | Accounting for Royalties | 1 | 96.2 | Good |
| 2 | Containers accounts | 1 | 94.8 | Good |
| 3 | Depreciation and Disposal of Non Current Assets and Reserves and Provision | 1 | 86.9 | Good |
| 4 | Investment Accounts and Preparation of Financial Statements | 1 | 85.4 | Good |
| 5 | Financial Statements <br> Analysis and <br> Interpretation  | 1 | 79.2 | Good |
| 6 | Partnership Accounting | 1 | 77.3 | Good |
| 7 | Company Accounts | 1 | 70.1 | Good |
| 8 | Hire Purchase Accounting | 1 | 68.3 | Good |
| 9 | Reserves and Provisions | 1 | 68.1 | Good |
| 0 | Computerized Accounting | 1 | 53.8 | Average |
| 1 1 | Correction of Accounting Errors and Recognition of Revenue and Expenses | 1 | 45.8 | Average |
| $\begin{aligned} & \hline 1 \\ & 2 \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | Cost Accounting and Stock Valuation | 1 | 35 | Average |
| 1 3 | The Nature and Context of Accounting | 2 | 27 | Poor |

Performance per topic for ACSEE across the years 2017 and 2018

| Sn | Topic | 2018 |  |  | 2017 |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | Numbe r of questio ns | Percentage of the candidates who scored $35 \%$ or above | Remarks | $\begin{array}{\|c} \text { Number } \\ \text { of } \\ \text { questions } \end{array}$ | Percentage of the candidates who scored 35 \% or above | Remarks |
| 1 | Accounting for Royalties | 1 | 96.2 | Good | 1 | 29.2 | Poor |
| 2 | Containers accounts | 1 | 94.8 | Good | 1 | 85.3 | Good |
| 3 | Depreciation and Disposal of Non Current Assets and Reserves and Provisions | 1 | 86.9 | Good |  |  |  |
| 4 | Investment Accounts and Preparation of Financial Statements | 1 | 85.4 | Good |  |  |  |
| 5 | Financial Statements <br> Analysis and <br> Interpretation  | 1 | 79.2 | Good | 1 | 46.3 | Average |
| 6 | Partnership Accounting | 1 | 77.3 | Good | 2 | 69.1 | Good |
| 7 | Company Accounts | 1 | 70.1 | Good |  |  |  |
| 8 | Hire Purchase Accounting | 1 | 68.3 | Good | 1 | 75.9 | Good |
| 9 | Reserves and Provisions | 1 | 68.1 | Good |  |  |  |
| 10 | Computerized Accounting | 1 | 53.8 | Average |  |  |  |
| 11 | Correction of <br> Accounting Errors <br> and Recognition of  <br> Revenue and <br> Expenses  | 1 | 45.8 | Average |  |  |  |
| 12 | Cost Accounting and Stock Valuation | 1 | 35 | Average |  |  |  |
| 13 | The Nature and Context Accounting | 2 | 27 | Poor | 1 | 33.1 | Poor |



