

THE NATIONAL EXAMINATIONS COUNCIL OF TANZANIA



**ANALYSIS OF CANDIDATES' RESPONSES TO
PRIMARY SCHOOL LEAVING EXAMINATION
QUESTIONS FOR THE YEAR 2013**

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

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Table of Contents

PREFACE	iv
1.0 INTRODUCTION	1
2.0 ANALYSIS OF THE ITEMS	2
2.1 Section A: Grammar	2
2.2 Section B: Vocabulary	28
2.3 Section C: Composition	34
2.4 Section D: Comprehension	35
3.0 CONCLUSION	45
4.0 RECOMMENDATIONS	46
Appendix A	48

PREFACE

The Primary School Leaving Certificate Examination provides an evaluation of the product of the seven year primary education in Tanzania. The results of this examination are used as a basis for the selection of pupils who join form one in various government and private secondary schools located throughout Tanzania. English Language is one of the five subjects examined at this level.

This report on the analysis of the answers of the examination questions on the English Language 2013 was aimed at giving feedback to students, teachers, policy makers, curriculum developers and other education stakeholders on the students' answers to the examination items. The report identifies the factors which lead to the students' inability to provide the correct answers according to the requirements of the questions. The analysis of every item was conducted to identify the different mistakes/errors which occurred in answering the questions. In addition, the report shows the number and percentage of students who answered the item correctly, those who wrote incorrect answers, those who did not answer the questions and those who wrote more than one answer for each item on the examination papers. The analysis identifies the factors leading to students' inability to provide correct answers to the examination questions such as inability to identify and/or understand the requirements of the item, lack of knowledge and skills on rules of grammar, inappropriate use of tenses, inadequate basic vocabulary for use in different situations and inability to interpret and combine concepts in a comprehension passage to answer the questions provided.

The analysis of the students' answers to the different examination items in the English Language examination paper gives a clear indication of the problems in the teaching and learning process of the subject at the primary school level. The National Examinations Council of Tanzania believes that this feedback will

facilitate the different stakeholders in taking the necessary measures to improve the teaching and learning process which will eventually lead to better performance in the English Language. In addition, the National Examinations Council of Tanzania is of the opinion that if the recommendations made in this report are implemented appropriately, the knowledge and skills which the students will acquire will lead to better performance not only in the primary school leaving examinations but also in other NECTA examinations at higher levels.

Finally, the Council would like to thank the Examination Officers, Subject Teachers and others who participated in preparing and analysing the data used in this report, typesetting of the document and in reviewing the report.



Dr. Charles E. Msonde

ACTING EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Primary School Leaving Examination of 2013 in English Language was held on 11th and 12th September 2013. A total of **867,983** students were registered for the examination. Among these, **844,691 (97.34%)** of the students sat for the Primary School Leaving Examination and only **427,606 (50.61%)** passed the examination by obtaining 100 marks out of the 250 marks.

An analysis of the results of the English Language Examination indicates that among the **844,691** who sat for the English Language paper, only **300,001 candidates (35.52%)** passed the examination which is a very low. Thus the subject contributed in pulling down the overall pass rate.

The English Language Examination for the Primary School Leaving Examination 2013 consisted of four sections A, B, C, and D. All items were objective. Each of the sections comprised of different areas of the subject as follows: Section A, 30 items on Grammar; Section B, six (6) vocabulary items; Section C, four (4) composition items; and Section D, ten (10) comprehension items. The analysis of the items was conducted in order to reveal items that were answered correctly by many candidates and to show mistakes and errors that were made by candidates who could not get the correct answer. It is expected that this analysis will be useful to students and teachers in realising common mistakes made by candidates and taking appropriate measures to avoid them.

2.0 ANALYSIS OF THE ITEMS

2.1 Section A: Grammar

This section tested candidates' ability to use and recognise appropriate grammatical sentence constructions.

Question 1: Mr. Kazi _____ his house in 1947.

- A. builds
- B. was built
- C. is building
- D. built
- E. has built

Response pattern

Option	A	B	C	D*	E	Omitted	Others
No. of candidates	105350	248672	208565	183386	95009	1426	2308
% of candidates	12.47	29.44	24.69	21.71	11.25	0.17	0.27

This item required the candidates to demonstrate the ability to express past events using irregular verbs. Option D 'built' was the correct answer and was chosen by only 21.71 percent of the candidates. Option B 'was built' was chosen by the largest number of candidates (29.44%). This response indicates that the candidates made a common mistake among Tanzanian candidates of using "was built" as a past tense of 'build' instead of using the irregular verb "built". The candidates who selected option E 'has built' knew that the answer needed to show that the action happened in the past but could not identify the correct time frame of the sentence showing that the action was completed at a point in the past. The selection of options A 'builds' and C 'is building' by 12.47 percent and

24.69 percent of the candidates shows the candidates' inability to recognise the adverb of time 'in 1947' in the stem which required them to use past tense.

Question 2: Juayote _____ reading a book now.

- A. have
- B. is
- C. were
- D. had
- E. was

Response pattern

Option	A	B*	C	D	E	Omitted	Others
No. of candidates	148757	437924	104199	49250	100943	1361	2282
% of candidates	17.61	51.84	12.34	5.83	11.95	0.16	0.27

This item required the candidates to demonstrate the ability to express ongoing activities using the third person singular subject. A large number of candidates (51.84%) got the correct answer option B 'is'. This answer suggests that the candidates knew that they were supposed to use the present continuous tense. The candidates who selected option E 'was' (11.95 %) could not realise that the word 'was' is in the simple past tense and it can not be used with 'now' because 'now' shows the continuity of an action at a particular time. The choice of option C 'were' by 12.34 percent of the candidates suggests that they lacked the knowledge on the use of singular and plural with the tenses. The suggested answer indicates that there is no agreement between the subject and the verb.

That is, the subject is in singular while the suggested verb 'were' is in plural.

Question 3: Chanjagaa _____ go to buy water melons yesterday.

- A. didn't
- B. don't
- C. do
- D. doesn't
- E. does

Response pattern

Option	A*	B	C	D	E	Omitted	Others
No. of candidates	290502	163603	108089	129161	148341	2096	2924
% of candidates	34.39	19.37	12.8	15.29	17.56	0.25	0.35

This item tested the candidates' ability to express past events using negative statements, with the contracted forms. Option A 'didn't' was the correct answer and was chosen by 34.39 percent of the candidates. The candidates who chose incorrect responses were almost evenly distributed between the remaining options B, C, D and E. The candidates who selected options B 'don't' and D 'doesn't' knew that the response needed to negate a statement but could not identify the correct choice because they ignored or they had no knowledge of the proper use of the adverb of time 'yesterday' which is used to show that something happened in the past. On the other hand, the selection of option C 'do' by 12.8 percent of the candidates indicates that they did not know that the response needed to negate a statement and they lacked the knowledge on the proper use of the adverb of time 'yesterday'. The trend of responses further indicates that the 17.56 percent of the candidates who selected option E 'does' ignored the adverb of time 'yesterday' and they wrongly concentrated on

establishing the number agreement between the subject 'Chanjagaa' (in singular) and the verb 'does' which is used with a third person singular subject.

Question 4: They are going to town, _____

- A. are they?
- B. are they.
- C. aren't they.
- D. aren't they?
- E. weren't they?

Response pattern

Option	A	B	C	D*	E	Omitted	Others
No. of candidates	170018	114232	131966	324860	98502	2094	3044
% of candidates	20.13	13.52	15.62	38.46	11.66	0.25	0.36

This item required the candidate to demonstrate the ability to use the correct question tag to complete the sentence. Only 38.46 percent of the candidates were able to use the correct question tag in option D 'aren't they?' to match the tense of the stem. The chosen incorrect option B 'are they.' and C 'aren't they' indicates that the candidates ignored the principle that a question tag must end with a question mark. On the other hand, the choice of option A 'are they?' by 20.13 percent of the candidates suggests that they did not know that if the statement is positive the question tag must be negated.

Question 5: The whole class was excited because _____ had passed the examination.

- A. us
- B. him
- C. they
- D. her
- E. them

Response pattern

Option	A	B	C*	D	E	Omitted	Others
No. of candidates	102857	102713	472340	75294	86164	2462	2886
% of candidates	12.18	12.16	55.92	8.91	10.2	0.29	0.34

This item required the candidates to demonstrate the ability to use the appropriate pronoun to complete the sentence. This was one of the items with a good performance of which 55.92 percent of the candidates chose the correct option C 'they'. This suggests that they were aware that the pronoun 'they' refers back to the subject 'the whole class', that is, all students in that class. Option B 'him' and D 'her' were incorrect answers because the subject did not suggest any sex and it was in plural form. Therefore, it could not be used with the pronoun indicating singular form.

Question 6: This dog is healthy because it _____ good food.

- A. eat
- B. ate
- C. eating
- D. eaten
- E. eats

Response pattern

Option	A	B	C	D	E*	Omitted	Others
No. of candidates	164335	137707	228635	128672	179886	2410	3071
% of candidates	19.45	16.3	27.07	15.23	21.3	0.29	0.36

This item required the candidates to demonstrate their ability to use the simple present tense to express habits with a third person singular subject. Only 21.3 percent of the candidates managed to choose the correct option E 'eats'. The most commonly chosen incorrect response was option C 'eating' with 27.07 percent of the candidates choosing it. This response indicates that the candidates thought they were supposed to use the present continuous tense because of the verb 'is' between the words 'dog' and 'healthy'. That is, they thought that the verb 'is' also combines with the verb 'eating' to form 'is eating'. The selection of option A 'eat' by 19.45 percent of the candidates indicates that they knew that they were supposed to use the simple present tense, third person singular verb form but they did not know how it is formed. These candidates made a common mistake among Tanzanian learners of using the verb 'eat' instead of using the verb 'eats' when dealing with the simple present tense, third person singular. The choice of option B 'ate' by 16.3 percent of the candidates indicates that they thought they were supposed to use the simple past tense because, to them, the dog being healthy is not a result of a habit (i.e. what it always eats), but it is a result of the past action (i.e. what it ate). The trend of responses further indicates that the choice of option D 'eaten' by 15.23 percent of the candidates suggests that they were supposed to use the past perfect tense because, to them, the dog is healthy because it has eaten good food.

Question 7: Mrs. Luka said that she _____ come back the following day.

- A. would
- B. was
- C. had
- D. shall
- E. has

Response pattern

Option	A*	B	C	D	E	Omitted	Others
No. of candidates	199480	322379	83179	142200	92022	2281	3175
% of candidates	23.62	38.16	9.85	16.83	10.89	0.27	0.38

This item required the candidates to demonstrate the ability to report past events using indirect speech. Only 23.62 percent of the candidates got the item correct by choosing option A ‘would’. The distractor option chosen by the largest number of candidates (38.16%) was B ‘was’ indicating lack of knowledge and skills on appropriate tense usage in reported speech. This comment also applies to the distractor options C and E chosen by 9.85 percent and 10.89 percent of the candidates, respectively. The choice of option D ‘shall’ by 16.83 percent of the candidates indicates that they thought they were supposed to use the future tense because of the adverb of time “the following day”.

Question 8: Omi and Mputa _____ while the teacher was teaching.

- A. laugh
- B. was laughing
- C. were laughing
- D. laughs
- E. have laughed

Response pattern

Option	A	B	C*	D	E	Omitted	Others
No. of candidates	109603	189152	302011	87149	150880	2684	3237
% of candidates	12.98	22.39	35.75	10.32	17.86	0.32	0.38

This item required the candidates to express past concurrent events with the subject indicating plural number. Only 35.75 percent of the candidates were able to choose the correct option C 'were laughing'. This response indicates that the candidates realised that the two actions were going on consecutively, hence they selected the right option which was the past continuous tense that indicates plural. On the other hand, the choice of the incorrect option B 'was laughing' by 22.39 percent of the candidates suggests that the candidates could not realise that the subject was in plural form and should be followed by the verb which indicates plural and not singular. The trend of responses further indicates that the choice of option A 'laugh' by 12.98 percent of the candidates suggests that they thought they were supposed to use the simple present tense to suggest a habitual action or rather Omi and Mputa behaviour. This comment also applies to the selection of option E 'have laughed' by 17.86 percent of the candidates. These candidates thought they were supposed to use the simple past tense (i.e. Omi and

Mputa **laughed** while the teacher was teaching), which to them is represented by the Kiswahili verb ‘wamecheka’ (have laughed). These candidates made a common mistake among Tanzanian learners of using the verb ‘wamecheka’ (they have laughed) instead of using the verb ‘walicheka’ (they laughed) when dealing with the simple past tense, third person plural.

Question 9: They _____ to harvest crops next month.

- A. have gone
- B. will go
- C. is going
- D. has gone
- E. are gone

Response pattern

Option	A	B*	C	D	E	Omitted	Others
No. of candidates	136346	427854	129356	51667	94235	2308	2950
% of candidates	16.14	50.65	15.31	6.12	11.16	0.27	0.35

This item tested the candidates’ ability to use future tense correctly. This was one of the items with a good performance of which 50.65 percent of the candidates chose the correct option B ‘will go’. The incorrect responses were evenly distributed among the other three options A, C and E with a few candidates (6.12%) choosing option D ‘has gone’. This pattern of responses indicates that the candidates were not aware that the adverb of time ‘next month’ in the stem required them to use future tense.

Question 10: I found Jane _____ bread at the bakery.

- A. boiling
- B. cooking
- C. roasting
- D. frying
- E. baking

Response pattern

Option	A	B	C	D	E*	Omitted	Others
No. of candidates	120557	317495	92545	95913	211635	3322	3249
% of candidates	14.27	37.59	10.96	11.35	25.05	0.39	0.38

This item required the candidates to demonstrate their knowledge on the use of present continuous tense and to identify the verb which correctly describes the process of bread making. Only 25.05 percent of the candidates were able to respond correctly by choosing option E 'baking'. Options B and E were chosen by 37.59 percent and 25.05 percent of the candidates, respectively. Those who chose option B realised that the stem used present tense but could not go beyond by choosing the correct verb that is used to describe bread making. The candidates who chose options A and D had a problem similar to those who chose options B and E.

Question 11: _____ house is this?

- A. Whose
- B. Whom
- C. Who
- D. Why
- E. Where

Response pattern

Option	A*	B	C	D	E	Omitted	Others
No. of candidates	328308	108629	143314	107276	151006	2850	3333
% of candidates	38.87	12.86	16.97	12.7	17.88	0.34	0.39

This item required the candidates to demonstrate the ability to use the appropriate interrogative pronoun showing possession. The correct response was option A 'whose' chosen by 38.87 percent of the candidates. The incorrect responses were evenly distributed among the other four options B, C, D and E. This pattern of responses indicates that the candidates were not familiar with the correct use of all the interrogative pronouns in the item.

Question 12: Is there _____ orange juice left?

- A. a
- B. few
- C. many
- D. any
- E. most

Response pattern

Option	A	B	C	D*	E	Omitted	Others
No. of candidates	191668	99273	184622	254507	108710	2843	3093
% of candidates	22.69	11.75	21.86	30.13	12.87	0.34	0.37

This item was intended to test the candidates' ability to use quantities in a sentence by being able to identify the correct answer. A good number of candidates (30.13%) got it right by choosing option D 'any'. The

candidates (22.69%) who chose A 'a' were wrong because article 'a' is normally followed by a noun that starts with consonant sound. Moreover, the candidates who chose B 'few', C 'many', E 'most' instead of the correct option indicates that they did not know the correct use of those words.

Question 13: The teacher put all his books _____ the table.

- A. in
- B. on
- C. at
- D. to
- E. of

Response pattern

Option	A	B*	C	D	E	Omitted	Others
No. of candidates	163707	382503	87709	105560	99481	2379	3377
% of candidates	19.38	45.28	10.38	12.5	11.78	0.28	0.4

This item tested the candidates' ability to use the preposition of place. The correct answer B 'on' was chosen by 45.28 percent of the candidates. The candidates (12.5%) who opted D 'to' were wrong because the preposition 'to' is used to show direction. The choice of options A 'in', C 'at' and E 'of' implies that the candidates did not know the meaning and the correct use of these prepositions. Therefore, they just guessed the answers.

Question 14: Hey, Anne, what are you looking _____?

- A. to
- B. in
- C. for
- D. on
- E. into

Response pattern

Option	A	B	C*	D	E	Omitted	Others
No. of candidates	125097	97761	337709	71712	205823	3269	3345
% of candidates	14.81	11.57	39.98	8.49	24.37	0.39	0.4

This item was intended to test the candidates' ability to ask and respond to questions on identifying and naming things, especially when using the preposition 'for' after the verb 'look'. The correct option C 'for' was chosen by 39.98 percent of the candidates. The most commonly chosen incorrect response was option E 'into' chosen by 24.37 percent of the candidates. The second commonly chosen incorrect response was option A 'to' chosen by 14.81 percent of the candidates while the third common incorrect choice was option B 'in' with 11.57 percent of the candidates choosing it. These responses indicate that the candidates did not know the meaning and correct use of the preposition 'for', especially when used after the verb 'look' to form 'look for' meaning "try to find something or somebody".

Question 15: This book is yours but the blue one is _____.

- A. mine
- B. your
- C. my
- D. me
- E. their

Response pattern

Option	A*	B	C	D	E	Omitted	Others
No. of candidates	331523	186011	112602	114238	94206	2839	3297
% of candidates	39.25	22.02	13.33	13.52	11.15	0.34	0.39

This item sought to test the candidates' ability to use the possessive pronoun 'mine'. The correct option A 'mine' was chosen by 39.25 percent of the candidates. The option representing the highest number of incorrect responses was option B 'your' with 22.02 percent of the candidates choosing it. This response indicates that the candidates did not know that 'yours' is a possessive pronoun of 'your' and therefore it cannot be used in the context of this question. The remaining incorrect responses were evenly distributed among the other three options C, D and E. This pattern of responses indicates that the candidates did not know the meaning and correct use of all the pronouns. Therefore, they just guessed the answers.

Question 16: She was not familiar _____ the school.

- A. by
- B. with
- C. at
- D. in
- E. on

Response pattern

Option	A	B*	C	D	E	Omitted	Others
No. of candidates	183582	214918	198704	166333	75681	2596	2902
% of candidates	21.73	25.44	23.52	19.69	8.96	0.31	0.34

This item required the candidates to demonstrate the knowledge on the use of prepositions and to identify the preposition which is usually used with the word “familiar”. Only 25.44 percent of the candidates managed to get the correct response by choosing option B ‘with’. The most commonly chosen incorrect response was option C ‘at’ with 23.52 percent of the candidates choosing it. This indicates that the candidates ignored the agreement that exists between the word ‘familiar’ and the preposition ‘with’ and concentrated more on the noun phrase ‘the school’ which can function as an adverb of place when used after the preposition ‘at’, that is, ‘at the school’. The candidates who chose option D ‘in’ had a problem similar to those who chose distractor options C and E. The distractor option A ‘by’ was also chosen by many candidates (21.73%), indicating that they did not know the correct and appropriate use of this preposition.

Question 17: This is my mother’s house _____ she built it herself.

- A. although
- B. who
- C. where
- D. because
- E. even if

Response pattern

Option	A	B	C	D*	E	Omitted	Others
No. of candidates	175878	150541	124960	306223	82137	2280	2697
% of candidates	20.82	17.82	14.79	36.25	9.72	0.27	0.32

This question required the candidates to choose the most appropriate word or group of words to indicate the reason for the action in the second part of the sentence. The correct option D 'because' was the most commonly response chosen by 36.25 percent of the candidates. Option A 'although' was chosen by 20.82 percent of the candidates. This response suggests that the candidates did not realise that the word 'although' is used to show contrast and not reason. The trend of responses further indicates that the candidates who opted B 'who' and C 'where' did not know that these are relative pronouns and they therefore did not meet the requirements of the question.

Question 18: I have been teaching in this school _____ 1970.

- A. for
- B. since
- C. unless
- D. about
- E. on

Response pattern

Option	A	B*	C	D	E	Omitted	Others
No. of candidates	100995	558445	81773	60329	39799	1080	2295
% of candidates	11.96	66.11	9.68	7.14	4.71	0.13	0.27

This item tested the candidates' ability to use the preposition 'since' to express duration. This item was one of the best performances with 66.11 percent of the candidates choosing the correct option B 'since'. The most commonly chosen incorrect response was option A 'for' chosen by 11.96 percent of the candidates. This answer would have been correct if the number of years rather than the exact year was given. In spite of the good performance demonstrated in this item, a total of 1080 (0.13%) candidates did not answer the item and 2295 (0.27) wrote multiple answers. The candidates providing multiple answers did not realise that their answers would be automatically disqualified.

Question 19: Peter and Paul are good friends. They always sit _____ each other.

- A. besides
- B. between
- C. beside
- D. before
- E. behind

Response pattern

Option	A	B	C*	D	E	Omitted	Others
No. of candidates	154842	271137	189002	142393	82003	2824	2515
% of candidates	18.33	32.1	22.37	16.86	9.71	0.33	0.3

This item tested the candidates' ability to expressing location using prepositions and to identify the preposition which agrees with the reciprocal pronoun 'each other' as the object of the verb 'sit'. Only 22.37 percent of the candidates managed to choose the correct option C

'beside', which means "next to". The most commonly chosen incorrect response was option B 'between' with 32.1 percent of the candidates choosing it. This indicates that the candidates did not know the proper use of the pronoun 'each other'. The reciprocal 'each other' is used after a verb or preposition to show that each member of a group does something to or for the other members. This pronoun cannot therefore be used with the preposition 'between', which is used to mean "in or into the space separating two or more people or objects". This comment also applies to the distractor options D and E. The choice of the distractor option A 'besides' by 18.33 percent of the candidates indicates that they confused it with the preposition 'beside' or they did not know that it is used to mean "in addition to" or "apart from".

Question 20: He neither cooked his food _____ cleaned his room.

- A. also
- B. only
- C. but
- D. or
- E. nor

Response pattern

Option	A	B	C	D	E*	Omitted	Others
No. of candidates	105622	110014	133180	88566	401018	2728	3588
% of candidates	12.5	13.02	15.77	10.48	47.47	0.32	0.42

This item tested the candidates' ability to identify the appropriate conjunction. A substantial number of candidates (47.47%) were able to choose the correct option E 'nor'. The most commonly chosen incorrect

response was option C ‘but’ with 15.77 percent of the candidates choosing it. This response indicates that the candidates thought they were supposed to choose a conjunction that joins two contrasting ideas. The choice of option B ‘only’ by 13.02 percent of the candidates indicates that they confused ‘neither.....nor’ with the adverb ‘not only.....but also’. This comment also applies to the distractor option A ‘also’ chosen by 12.5 percent of the candidates. The analysis further indicates that the choice of option D ‘or’ by 10.48 percent of the candidates indicates that they thought they were supposed to use the conjunction ‘either.....or’.

Question 21: To _____ does this dictionary belong?

- A. what
- B. that
- C. who
- D. whom
- E. whose

Response pattern

Option	A	B	C	D*	E	Omitted	Others
No. of candidates	150488	232547	114745	196826	143362	3406	3342
% of candidates	17.82	27.53	13.58	23.3	16.97	0.4	0.4

This item tested candidates’ ability to use the objective pronoun ‘whom’ to express possession, especially in asking questions. Only 23.3 percent of the candidates managed to choose the correct option D ‘whom’. The most commonly chosen incorrect response was option B ‘that’ with 27.53 percent of the candidates choosing it. This response indicates that the candidates did not know that the pronoun ‘that’ cannot be used after the

preposition 'to' in order to ask the intended question in the stem. The second commonly chosen incorrect response was option A 'what' chosen by 17.82 percent of the candidates while the third common incorrect choice was option E 'whose' with 16.97 percent of the candidates choosing it. This response indicates that the candidates did not know that 'whose' is a possessive pronoun of 'who' and it cannot therefore be used in the context of this question. Similarly, the 13.58 percent of the candidates who chose option C 'who' did not know that the pronoun used after the preposition 'to' must be in objective case.

Question 22: I have talked to my teachers _____ one hour.

- A. since
- B. for
- C. by
- D. on
- E. at

Response pattern

Option	A	B*	C	D	E	Omitted	Others
No. of candidates	167450	412743	135392	54159	68959	2789	3224
% of candidates	19.82	48.86	16.03	6.41	8.16	0.33	0.38

This item tested the candidates' ability to use the preposition 'for' to express duration. A large number of candidates (48.86%) chose the correct option B 'for'. This answer suggest that according to the context of this question, the candidates were aware that the preposon of time 'for' is used with the specified length of time. Those who opted A 'since' (19.82%) could have forgotten that this preposition is used with exact point of time

which was not the case in this question. The choice of the incorrect option C 'by', D 'on' and E 'at', indicates that candidates did not know the meaning and use of these prepositions. Therefore, they just guessed the answers.

Question 23: John's behavior is different _____ his father.

- A. from
- B. with
- C. than
- D. as
- E. to

Response pattern

Option	A*	B	C	D	E	Omitted	Others
No. of candidates	379777	134656	140272	71020	112587	2871	3533
% of candidates	44.96	15.94	16.61	8.41	13.33	0.34	0.42

This item tested candidates' ability to express comparison using 'different form'. A substantial number of candidates (44.96%) were able to choose the most correct option A 'from'. The incorrect responses were evenly distributed among the other three options B, C and E with a few candidates (8.41%) choosing option D 'as'. This pattern of responses indicates that the candidates were not aware of the meaning and appropriate use of preposition 'from', especially when used after the word 'different'.

Question 24: _____ Jitihada is always late for class, he is going to pass the examination.

- A. In spite
- B. But
- C. Despite
- D. Even
- E. Although

Response pattern

Option	A	B	C	D	E*	Omitted	Others
No. of candidates	137109	108834	159092	76987	355456	3516	3722
% of candidates	16.23	12.88	18.83	9.11	42.08	0.42	0.44

This question required the candidate to choose the most appropriate conjunction to indicate the contrast for the action in the second part of the sentence. The correct option E 'Although' was chosen by 42.08 percent of the candidates. The most commonly chosen incorrect response was option C 'Despite' chosen by 18.83 percent of the candidates. The second most commonly chosen incorrect item was option A 'In spite' chosen by 16.23 percent of the candidates while the third most common incorrect choice was option B 'But' with 12.88 percent of the candidates choosing it. This spread of choices indicates that the candidates realised the item required the joining of two clauses with the second one contrasting the first. However, they could not choose the correct response because they were not familiar with the meaning and use of the five conjunctions in the item.

Question 25: : Masanja is _____ than Mayala.

- A. tall
- B. the tallest
- C. taller
- D. tallest
- E. most taller

Response pattern

Option	A	B	C*	D	E	Omitted	Others
No. of candidates	171430	158620	252124	126033	130245	2834	3430
% of candidates	20.29	18.78	29.85	14.92	15.42	0.34	0.41

This question was testing candidates ability to use comparative forms of the word. The correct option C ‘taller’ was the most commonly chosen by 29.85 percent of the candidates. This response indicates that they were aware that the comparative form of the word ‘tall’ is ‘taller’ and that it is used when there is the comparison of two things/people/animals and it is also used with a word ‘than’. The candidates who opted A ‘tall’ could not realise that the word ‘tall’ is a simple adjective and can not be used to make comparison. Option B ‘the tallest’ was chosen by 18.78 percent of the candidates indicating that they did not know that the superlative form ‘the tallest’ is used to compare three or more things. The choice of responses D ‘tallest’ and E ‘most taller’ by 14.92 percent and 15.42 percent of the candidates, respectively also suggest that these candidates did not have a knowledge on the use of comparative and superlative forms.

Question 26: You can _____ read or write on the blackboard.

- A. neither
- B. either
- C. and
- D. nor
- E. or

Response pattern

Option	A	B*	C	D	E	Omitted	Others
No. of candidates	138341	443148	145893	66528	44897	2937	2972
% of candidates	16.38	52.46	17.27	7.88	5.32	0.35	0.35

This question was testing the candidates' ability to use conjunctions . A good number of candidates (52.46%) was able to choose the correct option B 'either'. This response suggests that the candidates were aware that 'either' goes with 'or' and it is used to show a choice of two things. The candidates who chose option A 'neither' could not realise that it is used with 'nor' and not 'or'. The choice of options C 'and', D 'nor' and E 'or' suggest that the candidates did not have the required skills to answer the question.

Question 27: Dar es Salaam is _____ far from Nairobi as it is from Singida.

- A. to
- B. this
- C. in
- D. as
- E. from

Response pattern

Option	A	B	C	D*	E	Omitted	Others
No. of candidates	216566	142390	116486	255079	107847	2761	3587
% of candidates	25.64	16.86	13.79	30.2	12.77	0.33	0.42

This item tested the candidates' ability to use the comparative 'as.....as'. The correct option D 'as' was chosen by 30.2 percent of the candidates. The most commonly chosen incorrect response was option A 'to' chosen by 25.64 percent of the candidates. This response indicates that these candidates confused it with an adverb 'too'. On the other hand, response B 'this' which was chosen by 16.86 percent of the candidates indicates that they did not have the required knowledge and skills to respond correctly as required. This comment also applies to the choice of options B, C and E.

Question 28: Jane was told to do the work by _____.

- A. ourselves
- B. himself
- C. herself
- D. her own
- E. themselves

Response pattern

Option	A	B	C*	D	E	Omitted	Others
No. of candidates	88727	228132	333968	82238	104948	3195	3508
% of candidates	10.5	27.01	39.54	9.74	12.42	0.38	0.42

This item tested the candidates' ability to use the reflexive pronoun 'herself' which is used to mean "without help". The correct option C 'herself' was chosen by 39.54 percent of the candidates. The most commonly chosen incorrect response was option B 'himself' chosen by 27.01 of the candidates. The remaining incorrect responses were evenly distributed between options A, D and E. These responses suggest that the candidates did not have the required skills and knowledge to answer the question.

Question 29: Juma was so tired _____ he had to go for a rest.

- A. that
- B. such
- C. for
- D. although
- E. enough

Response pattern

Option	A*	B	C	D	E	Omitted	Others
No. of candidates	390826	110015	118868	118801	99720	3177	3309
% of candidates	46.27	13.02	14.07	14.06	11.81	0.38	0.39

This item tested the candidates' ability to use the conjunction 'so.....that'. The correct option A 'that' was chosen by 46.27 percent of the candidates. The incorrect chosen responses were evenly distributed between the four options B, C, D and E as shown in the table above. These responses suggest that the candidates did not have the skills and knowledge on the topic.

Question 30: Samson is not only intelligent _____ obedient to his teacher.

- A. but
- B. but also
- C. and also
- D. and
- E. also

Response pattern

Option	A	B*	C	D	E	Omitted	Others
No. of candidates	93623	467885	101311	116456	59285	2918	3238
% of candidates	11.08	55.39	11.99	13.79	7.02	0.35	0.38

This item intended to test the candidates' ability to use the conjunction 'not only.....but also' appropriately. The correct option B 'but also' was chosen by 55.39 percent of the candidates. The most commonly chosen incorrect response was option D 'and' chosen by 13.79 percent of the candidates. This response suggests that the candidates did not have the required skills and knowledge to respond correctly. The choice of option C 'and also' by 11.99 percent of the candidates indicates that they were aware that the response needed a conjunction with the meaning "in addition" but they failed to choose the correct response probably because they thought 'and also' represented the intended meaning.

2.2 Section B: Vocabulary

This section, tested the candidates' mastery of vocabulary. It had a performance ranging from 15.38 percent in question 36 to 42.21 percent in question 31 indicating that the candidates found this section difficult.

Question 31: Your uncle's wife is your _____.

- A. nephew
- B. aunt
- C. cousin
- D. niece
- E. mother

Response pattern

Option	A	B*	C	D	E	Omitted	Others
No. of candidates	128681	356588	120884	97117	134550	2988	3908
% of candidates	15.23	42.21	14.31	11.5	15.93	0.35	0.46

This item tested the candidates' knowledge of the terms used to describe different members of a family. The correct option B 'aunt' was chosen by 42.21 percent of the candidates. The most commonly chosen incorrect response was option E 'mother' chosen by 15.93 percent of the candidates. This response suggests that the candidates were influenced by English and their mother tongue or Kiswahili. That is, they knew that uncle is the brother of one's father, but they failed to know that his wife is aunt. Therefore, influenced by their mother tongue or Kiswahili, candidates came up with the word mother. On the other hand, the choice of the remaining three options indicates that the candidates were not familiar with the correct English terms used to describe family relations.

Question 32: A building along the roadside where motorists pay to stay in and have meals is a _____.

- A. motel
- B. restaurant

- C. hotelier
- D. canteen
- E. hotel

Response pattern

Option	A*	B	C	D	E	Omitted	Others
No. of candidates	130834	196687	143016	115244	250464	4470	4001
% of candidates	15.49	23.28	16.93	13.64	29.65	0.53	0.47

The correct option A ‘motel’ was chosen by only 15.49 percent of the candidates. The most commonly chosen option was option E ‘hotel’ by 29.65 percent of the candidates. This term may be more familiar to the candidates since meals are also provided in the hotel but they did not realise that the building referred to in the question was specifically for the motorist. The candidates who opted B ‘restaurant’ and D ‘canteen’ did not know the specific location for each even though they both provide meals. For example, a canteen must be in a company, factory, institution and other work places. The analysis further indicates that the choice of option C ‘hotelier’ by 16.93 percent of the candidates indicates that they could not differentiate a thing and a person as the question was referring to a thing.

Question 33: The opposite of the word “expensive” is _____.

- A. cheep
- B. sheep
- C. cheap
- D. chip
- E. ship

Response pattern

Option	A	B	C*	D	E	Omitted	Others
No. of candidates	126373	284141	236249	83864	108055	2837	3197
% of candidates	14.96	33.64	27.97	9.93	12.79	0.34	0.38

This item tested the candidates' ability to use opposite meaning correctly. The correct option C 'cheap' was chosen by only 27.97 percent of the candidates. The choice of options B 'sheep' and E 'ship' by 33.64 percent and 12.79 percent of the candidates, respectively indicates that they did not have the required knowledge and skills to respond correctly as required. On the other hand, the choice of options A 'cheep' and D 'chip' by 14.96 percent and 9.93 percent of the candidates, respectively indicates that they did not know the correct spelling of the word 'cheap'.

Question 34: A person who mends shoes is a _____.

- A. cobra
- B. barber
- C. cobber
- D. cobbler
- E. shoe shiner

Response pattern

Option	A	B	C	D*	E	Omitted	Others
No. of candidates	163381	138272	131394	141136	264841	2673	3019
% of candidates	19.34	16.37	15.55	16.71	31.35	0.32	0.36

The correct option D was chosen by 16.71 percent of the candidates who attempted this question. The most commonly chosen incorrect response was option E 'shoe shiner' chosen by 31.35 percent of the candidates. This answer suggests that the candidates were familiar with the word 'shoe shiner' since it is commonly incorrectly used in their society. The candidates who opted A 'cobra', B 'barber' and C 'cobber' indicate that they did not know the meaning of those words. This item was among the items which had few candidates omitting (0.32%) or giving multiple answers (0.36%).

Question 35: A group of buffaloes or cattle is called _____.

- A. a flock
- B. a horde
- C. a gang
- D. a hedge
- E. a herd

Response pattern

Option	A	B	C	D	E*	Omitted	Others
No. of candidates	234960	162636	172816	112328	156331	3045	2600
% of candidates	27.82	19.25	20.46	13.3	18.51	0.36	0.31

The correct option E 'a herd' was chosen by 18.51 percent of the candidates. More than a quarter of the candidates (27.82%) chose option A 'a flock' which goes with sheep, goat or birds. The choice of this option may have been due to the candidates' lack of knowledge on collocation. Option B 'a horde' which is used with people was chosen by 19.25 percent of the candidates. The candidates who opted C 'a gang' which goes with criminals were 20.46 percent. The candidates

who opted options A, B, and C may also have thought that these were the correct answers since they all associate with **groups** of animals/people. Those who chose option D ‘a hedge’ did not know the meaning of the word. Despite this trend of responses, this item was omitted by 0.36 percent of the candidates.

Question 36: Another meaning for the word “purchase” is _____.

- A. sell
- B. buy
- C. selling
- D. exchange
- E. export

Response pattern

Option	A	B*	C	D	E	Omitted	Others
No. of candidates	129919	206332	208332	210206	82409	4794	2724
% of candidates	15.38	24.43	24.66	24.88	9.76	0.57	0.32

This item tested the candidates’ ability to use words which have the same or nearly the same meaning. Only 24.43 percent of the candidates managed to choose the correct response B ‘buy’. The most commonly chosen incorrect response was option D ‘exchange’ with 24.88 percent of the candidates choosing it, the second commonly chosen incorrect response was option C ‘selling’ with 24.66 percent of the candidates choosing it, while the third commonly chosen incorrect response was option A ‘sell’ with 15.38 percent of the candidates choosing it. This pattern of responses indicates that the candidates were not sure of the correct response. Therefore, they chose these words without knowing

their meaning. It also indicates that the candidates were not familiar with the meaning of the term 'purchase' in the stem.

2.3 Section C: Composition

This section has four mixed sentences. The candidates were required to arrange the sentences so as to make a good composition by giving them letters A-D. The sentences were as follows:

Question 37: When Mrs. Daudi came back from work, she did not find the meat.

Question 38: One day, Mrs. Daudi put some meat in the cupboard and left for work.

Question 39: From that day the cat was chased away.

Question 40: Her cat opened the cupboard and ate the meat.

This question required the candidates to arrange the sentences in a logical sequence. The proper arrangement with the percent of candidates who got the item correct is shown in the following table:

Item number	Correct option	No. of candidates	% of candidates	% of items omitted	% with multiple choices	% who chose E
37	C	260406	30.83	0.43	0.34	2.99
38	A	463010	54.81	0.32	0.4	2.95
39	D	330369	39.11	0.4	0.39	4.13
40	B	251784	29.81	0.34	0.4	4.12

A total of 463010 which is 54.81 percent of the candidates were able to identify the first sentence of the composition. However, few candidates were able to arrange the rest of the sentences in their appropriate positions. The second sentence presented the greatest problem with only 29.81% of the candidates being able to locate it appropriately. Some of the candidates chose option E although the instructions asked them to arrange the sentences by using letters A to D. This implies that these candidates did not read the instructions when they were attempting this question. A substantial number of candidates omitted the item (between 0.32 to 0.43 percent) and others (between 0.34 and 0.4 percent) gave multiple answers.

2.4 Section D: Comprehension

This section presented candidates with questions to test their comprehension skills. The candidates were required to read a passage and answer ten questions based on the passage.

This section had some of the items with relatively good performance such as question 42 with 48.03 percent of correct answers, question 47 with 46.97 percent of correct answers, 48 with 45.03 percent of correct answers and question 49 with 48.46 percent of correct answers. The performance was however, not as good as would have been expected since all the answers could be extracted directly from the passage. The presence of a high number of candidates who did not provide any answer for the question in this section was difficult to explain. For example, item number 43 was omitted by the largest number of candidates (7,654) in the whole paper.

The passage is presented below after which the response pattern of each question is presented and discussed separately.

Tourism is a type of business. Both developed and undeveloped countries use this business as a source of income. These countries have tourist attractions such as wild animals, high mountains, attractive beaches, rivers and lakes. Tourists spend money on food, accommodation, transport and many other things. In this way a country which is visited by many tourists can make a lot of money.

Tanzania is one of those countries which are visited by tourists every year. She gets a lot of money from attracting tourists. The tourists pay visits to National parks such as Ngorongoro, Serengeti, Manyara and Mikumi. Some wild animals found in those parks are lions, elephants, tigers, antelopes, hippopotamus, buffaloes, zebras, and baboons. The tourists can also take photos and buy books containing information about wild life.

Apart from visiting National parks, tourists also climb Mount Kilimanjaro which is a snow-capped mountain. This is the highest mountain in Africa with a height of over five thousand meters above sea level. Mountain climbers are helped by guides and porters. Tourists pay the guides and porters. Most tourists enjoy staying in Tanzania because of the tourist attractions which she has.

Question 41: What is the source of income in many countries?

- A. Animals
- B. Accommodation
- C. Transport
- D. Photos
- E. Tourism.

Response pattern

Option	A	B	C	D	E*	Omitted	Others
No. of candidates	261232	165157	98124	76141	236457	3580	4025
% of candidates	30.93	19.55	11.62	9.01	27.99	0.42	0.48

The item required the candidates to identify information which was available directly in the passage, but only 27.99 percent of the candidates were able to answer the question correctly. The candidates who chose option A 'animals', B 'accommodation', C 'transport' and D 'photos' indicate that, they did not read the passage but just picked words which were in the passage. The analysis further indicates that 0.42 percent of the candidates did not attempt the item, implying that they did not have comprehension skills and therefore decided not to do the guess work.

Question 42: A person who travels for the purpose of visiting another place for pleasure is a _____.

- A. potter
- B. tourist
- C. guide
- D. guard
- E. native

Response pattern

Option	A	B*	C	D	E	Omitted	Others
No. of candidates	141729	405678	140829	75119	73403	4584	3374
% of candidates	16.78	48.03	16.67	8.89	8.69	0.54	0.4

The correct answer was to be drawn from the passage as the question tested the candidates' ability to comprehend information from the passage. The correct option B 'tourist' was selected by most of the candidates (48.03%), indicating that they understood what was written in the passage. The candidates' choice of the incorrect options A 'potter', C 'guide', D 'guard' and E 'native' may indicate that they did not read the passage carefully or did not refer back to the passage for the answer.

Question 43: According to the passage, where is tourism conducted?

- A. Developed countries
- B. Developing countries
- C. Developing and developed countries
- D. Many countries
- E. Tropical countries.

Response pattern

Option	A	B	C*	D	E	Omitted	Others
No. of candidates	154689	119732	315248	173429	70731	7654	3233
% of candidates	18.31	14.17	37.32	20.53	8.37	0.91	0.38

Option 'C' which was the correct answer was chosen by 37.32 percent of the candidates. This response suggests that, they were able to comprehend all the information written in the passage. The choice of the incorrect answers indicates that they did not have the required skills to do this comprehension task. Also, the fact that 0.91 percent of the candidates did not answer this question indicates that they did not have the relevant comprehension skills to do this task.

Question 44: Who pays the potters?

- A. Tanzania
- B. Tourism
- C. Animals
- D. Tourists
- E. Guides.

Response pattern

Option	A	B	C	D*	E	Omitted	Others
No. of candidates	339880	93137	96336	218123	89989	3454	3797
% of candidates	40.24	11.03	11.4	25.82	10.65	0.41	0.45

Only 25.82 percent of the candidates chose the correct option D 'Tourists'. The most commonly chosen incorrect response was option A 'Tanzania' with 40.24 percent of the candidates choosing it. This response indicates that the candidates did not understand what was written in the passage. It also indicates that the candidates were not familiar with the meaning of the term 'potters' used in the stem. Therefore, they chose this response without knowing the requirements of the question. Other candidates chose options B (11.03%), C (11.40%) and E (10.65%). This pattern of responses also indicates that the candidates were not sure of the correct response. They thus responded without knowing the requirements of the question.

Question 45: The opposite of the word "income" is _____.

- A. expensive
- B. experience
- C. outcome
- D. expense

E. expenditure

Response pattern

Option	A	B	C	D	E*	Omitted	Others
No. of candidates	167494	145255	327521	91360	103682	6190	3214
% of candidates	19.83	17.2	38.77	10.82	12.27	0.73	0.38

The correct answer for this question was option E 'expenditure' whereas only 12.27 percent of the candidates got it right. Most of the candidates (38.77%) chose C 'outcome'. This answer suggest that candidates just looked at the form of a word (morphology) instead of looking at the meaning. This implies that the candidates concluded that the opposite of the word 'in' is 'out' which was the wrong assumption as they could have treated 'in' and 'come' as two separate words. Candidates who opted A 'expensive', B 'experience' and D 'expense' indicates that they could have treated those words as 'expenditure' simply because they start with the same letters (syllable) 'ex'. It also implies that they did not know the spelling of the correct word intended.

Question 46: What else do tourists do apart from visiting National parks in Tanzania?

- A. Buy clothes
- B. Climb the mountain
- C. Stay in Tanzania
- D. Open business
- E. Visit lakes.

Response pattern

Option	A	B*	C	D	E	Omitted	Others
No. of candidates	67277	365952	230738	87920	85484	4004	3341
% of candidates	7.96	43.32	27.32	10.41	10.12	0.47	0.4

The most commonly chosen answer was option B where 43.32 percent of the candidates got it right. About 27.32 percent of the candidates chose option C which was the incorrect answer. This could have been due to the candidates' misconception on the question and the information in the passage which reads, '*Most tourists enjoy staying in Tanzania*'. That is, the candidates could not realise that the task of the question was on the other activity done by the tourist in Tanzania. Other options which were incorrectly opted by candidates were A, D and E.

Question 47: Tourists' money is spent on which of the following items?

- A. Food, accommodation and transport
- B. Food, clothes and photos
- C. Transport and shopping
- D. Accommodation and clothes
- E. Buying animals.

Response pattern

Option	A*	B	C	D	E	Omitted	Others
No. of candidates	396755	131900	106324	109009	93213	3811	3704
% of candidates	46.97	15.61	12.59	12.9	11.03	0.45	0.44

This item tested the candidates' ability to identify specific details about the passage. The correct response to this question was option A 'Food, accommodation and transport' which was chosen by 46.97 percent of the candidates. The choice of option B 'Food, clothes and photos' by 15.61 percent of the candidates indicates that they did not understand well what was written in the passage (first paragraph) to realise that the word 'photos' was not among the things on which tourists spend money. This comment also applies to the choice of options C 'Transport and shopping' and D 'Accommodation and clothes' by 12.59 percent and 12.9 percent of the candidates, respectively. In these responses too, the words 'shopping' and 'clothes' were not directly stated in the passage. The trend of responses further indicates that the choice of option E 'Buying animals' by 11.03 percent of the candidates indicates that their choice was motivated by the word 'pay visit' in the second paragraph, where also different animals found in the National parks were mentioned.

Question 48: According to the passage, which are the animals found in the national parks?

- A. Lions, elephants and hyena
- B. Tigers, buffaloes and peacocks
- C. Lions, impala and antelopes
- D. Lions, elephants and baboons
- E. Zebras, tigers and wild pigs.

Response pattern

Option	A	B	C	D*	E	Omitted	Others
No. of candidates	102848	126948	102294	384541	121334	3088	3663
% of candidates	12.18	15.03	12.11	45.52	14.36	0.37	0.43

This item tested the candidates' ability to identify specific details about the passage. The correct response to this question was option D 'Lions, elephants and baboons' which was chosen by 45.52 percent of the candidates. The choice of option A 'Lions, elephants and hyena' by 12.18 percent of the candidates indicates that they did not understand well what was written in the passage to realise that the word 'hyena' was not among the animals mentioned in the second paragraph. This also applies to the choice of options B 'Tigers, buffaloes and peacocks', C 'Lions, impala and antelopes' and E 'Zebras, tigers and wild pig' by 15.03 percent, 12.11 percent and 14.36 percent of the candidates, respectively. In these responses too, the animals 'peacocks', 'impala' and 'wild pigs' were not directly stated in the second paragraph of the passage. The trend of responses further indicates that the 14.36 percent of the candidates who chose options E 'Zebras, tigers and wild pigs' were attracted by the word 'wild life' in the second paragraph, which to them looked like 'wild pigs'.

Question 49: How high is the highest mountain in Africa?

- A. Over five hundred kilometers
- B. About five thousand meters
- C. Over five thousand meters
- D. Over five thousand kilometers
- E. About five thousand centimeter.

Response pattern

Option	A	B	C*	D	E	Omitted	Others
No. of candidates	87136	145063	409315	115488	81997	2893	2824
% of candidates	10.32	17.17	48.46	13.67	9.71	0.34	0.33

This item tested the candidates' ability to identify specific details about the passage. The correct response to this question was option C 'Over five thousand meters' which was chosen by 48.46 percent of the candidates. The most commonly chosen incorrect response was option B 'About five thousand meters' with 17.17 percent of the candidates choosing it. This indicates that the candidates never paid attention to the wrong word 'About'. This comment also applies to the choice of option D 'Over five thousand kilometers' by 13.67 percent of the candidates. In choosing this responses, the candidates never paid attention to the wrong word 'kilometers'. The trend of responses further indicates that 10.32 percent of the candidates who chose option A 'Over five hundred kilometers' were attracted by the words 'Over five', while the choice of option E 'About five thousand centimeter' by 9.71 percent of the candidates were attracted by the words 'five thousand'. This trend of responses indicates that the candidates rushed to answer the questions, thus failing to identify the wrong words in the distractor options.

Question 50: What does the pronoun "She" stands for in this passage?

- A. A girl
- B. A woman
- C. A mountain
- D. A tourist
- E. A country.

Response pattern

Option	A	B	C	D	E*	Omitted	Others
No. of candidates	212486	148698	204274	135291	138384	2742	2841
% of candidates	25.15	17.6	24.18	16.02	16.38	0.32	0.34

This item tested the candidates' ability to identify specific details about the passage. Only 16.38 percent of the candidates managed to choose the correct option E 'A country'. These candidates got this question right because they were able to associate the the noun 'Tanzania' in the first sentence, second paragraph with the pronoun 'She' in the second sentence, second paragraph. The choice of options A 'A girl' and option B 'A woman' by 25.15 percent and 17.6 percent of the candidates that they only knew that the pronoun 'She' is used to mean "a female person". The trend of responses further indicates that 16.02 percent of the candidates who chose option D 'A tourist' intended to link the word 'She' to the word 'tourists' in the first sentence, second paragraph and to the words 'tourist attractions which **she** has' in the last sentence, third paragraph.

3.0 CONCLUSION

The item analysis in English Language has indicated the challenges faced by candidates in attempting the questions. Most of the candidates showed lack of knowledge in using proper grammar, tenses and proper vocabularies. It is also evident from the report that students lack composition skills as well as basic comprehension skills. Those shortcomings have been reflected in their performance in different topics tested in the examination. It can therefore be concluded that most students who are completing primary education do not have a basic understanding of English Language.

Teachers should take initiatives in making sure that students master all the topics properly as stipulated in the Primary School English Language Syllabus. Taking into account the fact that English Language is the medium of instruction for secondary education, it is high time that teachers and all other education stakeholders take appropriate measures to address the challenges that make candidates unable to acquire the basic skills that are necessary for understanding English Language. **Appendix A** show the analysis of performance of candidates in each topic.

It is necessary to ensure that all primary school pupils in Tanzania are taught English and are given opportunity to practice the language through various exercises so that they can be able to use it efficiently in their day to day life. This is because it is easy for them to master the language since they are still young. The most important thing is to ensure that they have competent teachers who teach the subject effectively. By so doing, primary school leavers will be in a good position to proceed smoothly with secondary and higher education. They will also be equipped to participate in global activities taking into account the fact that English language is a language used in most international forums.

4.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

In order to improve candidates' knowledge and skills in English Language and eventually improve their performance the following are recommended:

- (a) The Ministry of Education and Vocational Training should make sure that all schools in Tanzania are well equipped with enough books for English Language.
- (b) Teachers should ensure complete and thorough coverage of the topics which are stipulated in the syllabus.
- (c) Teachers should give students enough exercises in vocabulary and exercises related to all the topics taught and give them feedback on their performance.
- (d) Students should be encouraged to use English Language in their day to day conversation so that they can improve their vocabulary. Furthermore they should be encouraged to read short story books to improve their grammar.
- (e) Students should prepare themselves well for the examinations so as to be able to answer the questions as required. In the examination room, they should read the questions carefully so as to be able to identify the demand or requirement of the questions. Students should also be equipped with question answering skills to improve future performance in examinations.

ANALYSIS OF THE CANDIDATES' PERFORMANCE IN EACH TOPIC IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE

S/N	TOPIC	NO. OF QUESTIONS	PERFORMANCE (%)	AVERAGE (%)	RECOMMENDATIONS
1.	Tenses	1	21.71	33.64	Poor Performance
		2	51.84		
		3	34.39		
		4	38.46		
		6	21.3		
		7	23.62		
		8	35.75		
		9	50.65		
		10	25.05		
		2.	Other Forms of Grammar		
11	38.87				
12	30.13				
13	45.28				
14	39.98				
15	39.25				
16	25.44				
17	36.25				
18	66.11				
19	22.37				
20	47.47				
21	23.3				
22	48.86				

S/N	TOPIC	NO. OF QUESTIONS	PERFORMANCE (%)	AVERAGE (%)	RECOMMENDATIONS
		23	44.96		
		24	42.08		
		25	29.85		
		26	52.46		
		27	30.2		
		28	39.54		
		29	46.27		
		30	55.39		
3.	Vocabulary	31	42.21	24.22	Poor Performance
		32	15.49		
		33	27.97		
		34	16.71		
		35	18.51		
		36	24.43		
4.	Composition	37	30.83	38.64	Poor Performance
		38	54.81		
		39	39.11		
		40	29.81		
5.	Comprehension	41	27.99	35.21	Poor Performance
		42	48.03		
		43	37.32		
		44	25.82		
		45	12.27		
		46	43.32		
		47	46.97		

S/N	TOPIC	NO. OF QUESTIONS	PERFORMANCE (%)	AVERAGE (%)	RECOMMENDATIONS
		48	45.52		
		49	48.46		
		50	16.38		

