THE NATIONAL EXAMINATIONS COUNCIL OF TANZANIA

ANALYSIS OF CANDIDATES' RESPONSES TO PRIMARY SCHOOL LEAVING EXAMINATION QUESTIONS FOR THE YEAR 2014

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

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PREFACE

The Primary School Leaving Certificate Examination provides an evaluation of the product of the seven years 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 candidates responses for the questions on the English Language examination of the year 2014 identifies the factors which lead to the students' ability/inability to provide the correct answers according to the requirements of the questions. The analysis of every item was conducted to identify the success/failure in answering the questions. The report also 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 paper. The analysis identifies the factors leading to students' ability/inability to provide correct answers to the examination questions such inabilities were; 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 different stakeholders to take the necessary measures in improving 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 Examination but also in other NECTA examinations at higher levels.

Finally, the Council would like to thank the examiners and all 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
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Primary School Leaving Examination of 2014 was held on 10th and 11th September 2014. A total of **808,085** students were registered for the examination. Among these, **791,912 (97.99%)** of the students sat for the Primary School Leaving Examination and only **307,613 (38.84%)** passed the examination.

The English Language Examination for the Primary School Leaving Examination 2014 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 correct measures to avoid them in their use of English Language.

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: We _____ arrive in Kenya at 10.00pm.

   A. would

   B. has

   C. will

   D. have

   E. had

Response pattern

Option	A	B	C*	D	E	Omitted	Others
No. of candidates	121468	104421	281892	234057	47630	909	1534
% of candidates	15.34	13.19	35.6	29.56	6.01	0.11	0.19

Candidates were required to demonstrate the ability to express future events by using helping verbs. Option C 'will' was the correct answer which shows that something is expected to happen in the future and was chosen by only 35.6 percent of the candidates. The incorrect option D 'have' was chosen by 29.56 percent of candidates. This response indicates that the candidates did not realise that 'have' is the present perfect tense which should be used with the past participle, instead, they used it with the simple present tense 'arrive'. The candidates (15.34%) who chose option A 'would' did not realise that it is normally used with the conditional sentence. There were

also those who opted for B 'has'. These candidates did not realise that the pronoun 'we' indicates plural and therefore it should not be used with the word 'has' which indicates singular.

Question 2: Maria was cooking bananas when her brother _____.

    A.   arrived

    B.   arriving

    C.   comes

    D.   is coming

    E.   arrive

Response pattern

Option	A*	B	C	D	E	Omitted	Others
No. of candidates	246941	111050	138992	237098	54747	1332	1751
% of candidates	31.18	14.02	17.55	29.94	6.91	0.17	0.22

This item was testing the candidates' ability to use the correct tense in the compound sentence. Only 31.18 percent of the candidates were able to choose the correct option A 'arrived'. This response indicates that these candidates realised that they were supposed to complete the second sentence with the simple past tense since the verb in the first sentence was in the past continuous tense. On the other hand, many candidates (29.94%) chose D 'is coming'. These candidates could not realise that the given sentence suggests that the action was going on in the past and has been completed, therefore, the choice of the present continuous tense was incorrect. Candidates who selected option B 'arriving' were not familiar with

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the grammatical rule which suggests that the main verb in the present continuous tense has to be used with the auxiliary verb. Those who opted for C and E did not understand the requirement of the question.

Question 3: The girls _____ their books to the library already.

    A.   has taken
    B.   will take
    C.   shall take
    D.   take
    E.   have taken

Response pattern

Option	A	B	C	D	E*	Omitted	Others
No. of candidates	155805	174045	86953	100602	270379	1712	2415
% of candidates	19.67	21.98	10.98	12.7	34.14	0.22	0.3

Candidates were required to demonstrate the ability to use the present perfect tense. The correct answer in this question was option E 'have taken' which was selected by 34.14 percent of the candidates. These candidates knew that the present perfect tense is composed of the auxiliary verb in the present tense plus the main verb in the past participle. About 19.67 percent of the candidates opted for A 'has taken'. This was an incorrect answer because there is no subject verb agreement between the noun 'girls' which is in plural form and the auxiliary verb 'has' which is in singular form. Those who Opted for B could not realise that it is impossible to use the future time in the given sentence since the adverbial 'already'

shows that the action is completed. Furthermore those who selected option C and D could not manage to meet the requirement of the question as they did not have enough knowledge on the subject matter.

Question 4: Every year, Tanzania _____ a lot of visitors from different countries all over the world.

    A.   receive

    B.   receives

    C.   receiving

    D.   received

    E.   receiver

Response pattern

Option	A	B*	C	D	E	Omitted	Others
No. of candidates	128685	310355	154781	137998	55654	2310	2128
% of candidates	16.25	39.19	19.55	17.43	7.03	0.29	0.27

This item required the candidates to show the ability to use the correct form of the verb when an action is done often. The correct response B was selected by the majority of the candidates (39.19%) who were aware that the correct form of the verb to be used in such a case is the simple present tense 'receives'. On the other hand, 16.25 percent of the candidates opted for A 'receive'. These candidates could not realise that when the subject is in singular then the first form of the verb in the simple present tense should be attached with morpheme '-s'. Only 7.03 percent of the candidates opted for E 'receiver', which implies that the candidates could not realise that the question required

them to use the correct form of the verb as they opted for a noun. Candidates who selected C and D lacked knowledge on the basic rules to be followed when using the simple present tense as they opted for the verbs in continuous and past tense.

Question 5: _____ Halima clean her teeth every day?

        A. Do
        B. Does
        C. Is
        D. Has
        E. Have

Response pattern

Option	A	B*	C	D	E	Omitted	Others
No. of candidates	75383	395468	160917	87661	68299	1932	2251
% of candidates	9.52	49.94	20.32	11.07	8.62	0.24	0.28

In this item, candidates were required to use their knowledge in completing the question with the correct auxiliary verb which indicates that an action is done frequently. The correct response was B 'does' which was selected by the majority of the candidates (49.94%) who knew that the auxiliary verb 'do' is normally attached with a morpheme '-es' when it is used to indicate the simple present tense whenever the subject is in singular form. Those who opted for A (9.52%) could not realise that the auxiliary verb 'do' is usually used when the subject is in plural to indicate the simple present tense. Further analysis shows that candidates who selected option

D and E did not understand that 'has and have' show the present perfect tense and not the simple present tense.

Question 6: The lazy pupils_____ their homework.

    A.   have not did

    B.   has not done

    C.   have not do

    D.   have not done

    E.   have did

Response pattern

Option	A	B	C	D*	E	Omitted	Others
No. of candidates	205758	121349	131025	236017	92969	2404	2389
% of candidates	25.98	15.32	16.55	29.8	11.74	0.3	0.3

This item required the candidates to show their ability to use the negated present perfect tense. The correct option D was selected by 29.8 percent of the candidates. These candidates knew that the subject is in the third person plural therefore the compatible pattern is 'have not done'. Option B 'has not done' was wrongly selected by 15.32 percent of the candidates, these candidates could not realise that there is no subject verb agreement between the third person plural and the auxiliary verb 'has' which is in singular form. Most of the candidates (25.98%) opted for A 'have not did', which implies that the candidates confused the past tense 'did' with the past participle 'done'. Those who opted for C 'have not do', did not understand the structure of the present perfect tense as they just guessed.

Question 7: Ghati_____ her clothes since morning.

    A.   have been washing

    B.   has been washing

    C.   will be washing

    D.   shall be washing

    E.   is been washing

Response pattern

Option	A	B*	C	D	E	Omitted	Others
No. of candidates	174874	311374	120973	70996	109105	2167	2422
% of candidates	22.08	39.32	15.28	8.97	13.78	0.27	0.31

Candidates were required to demonstrate the ability to use the present perfect continuous tense. The correct answer was option B which was selected by a good number of candidates (39.32%). These candidates were aware that 'has been washing' should be used with the third person singular 'Ghati' and they also realised that the preposition of time used in this sentence 'since' means that the action started from morning and was still going on at the time of reporting. A total of 174874 (22.08%) candidates selected A. These did not understand that the third person singular cannot be used with 'have' because it indicates the plural. Option C 'will be washing' and D 'shall be washing' are incorrect answers because they suggest that the action is expected to be done in future which is contrary to the preposition 'since'.

Question 8: The teachers_____ teaching mathematics at the moment.

    A.   is

    B.   were

    C.   have

    D.   are

    E.   shall

Response pattern

Option	A	B	C	D*	E	Omitted	Others
No. of candidates	201843	166519	86479	280197	52756	1720	2397
% of candidates	25.49	21.03	10.92	35.38	6.66	0.22	0.3

This item required the candidates to express the present continuous tense. Only 35.38 percent of the candidates were able to choose the correct option D 'are'. This response indicates that the candidates realised that the subject is indicating plural number hence they selected the right auxiliary verb 'are' which was indicating plural. On the other hand, the choice of the incorrect option B 'were' by 21.03 percent of the candidates suggests that, they could not realise that the phrase 'at the moment' implies that the action is in progress. Candidates who opted for A 'is' did not know that, when the subject is in plural form it should be followed by the verb/auxiliary verb which indicates plural and not singular. Those candidates who opted for C 'have' and E 'shall' could not realise that those choices were making the given sentence to be grammatically incorrect.

Question 9: If he _____ early he would have caught the train.

    A.   had came

    B.   would come

    C.   has come

    D.   will come

    E.   had come

Response pattern

Option	A	B	C	D	E*	Omitted	Others
No. of candidates	128292	158481	126785	272729	100415	2966	2243
% of candidates	16.2	20.01	16.01	34.44	12.68	0.37	0.28

This item required the candidates to show their ability to express past events by using the conditional verb 'if' when it is used with 'would'. Option E 'had come' was the correct answer which was selected by only 12.68 percent of all the candidates who attempted this question. The most commonly chosen incorrect answer was D 'will come' opted for by 34.44 percent of the candidates. This response implies that candidates did not understand the correct use of 'tenses' because 'will' expresses things that are expected to be done in the future and cannot be used with 'would'. Option B 'would come' was selected by 20.01 percent of the candidates who could not realise that 'would come' has been used to show that someone has not arrived and there are other people who are still waiting for him, while another part of the sentence shows that the action has been done and completed in the past. Option A 'had came' was selected by 16.2 percent of the candidates who did not

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understand that 'had' cannot be used with 'came'. Those who opted for C 'has come' were 16.01 percent of the candidates. These did not understand the use of tenses because the sentence suggests that the action has been completed in the past.

Question 10: Maria will_____ to the guest of honour tomorrow.

    A. be talking

    B. are talking

    C. talked

    D. talks

    E. be talked

Response pattern

Option	A*	B	C	D	E	Omitted	Others
No. of candidates	360183	121053	112707	96452	96680	2404	2432
% of candidates	45.48	15.29	14.23	12.18	12.21	0.3	0.31

This item required the candidates to demonstrate their knowledge on the use of future time. A good number of candidates (45.48%) were able to respond correctly by choosing option A 'be talking'. The incorrect responses were evenly distributed among the other four options B 'are talking', C 'talked', D 'talks' and E 'be talked'. This pattern of responses indicates that the candidates were not aware that the adverb of time 'tomorrow' in the stem required them to use the future time.

Question 11: I will either have tea _____ coffee.

   A. and
   B. with
   C. or
   D. for
   E. nor

Response pattern

Option	A	B	C*	D	E	Omitted	Others
No. of candidates	116110	86289	458149	67950	59438	1838	2137
% of candidates	14.66	10.9	57.85	8.58	7.51	0.23	0.27

This item was the second highly performed one in this paper. It required the candidates to show the ability to use 'either……or' to co-ordinate ideas. The correct answer was C 'or', which was selected by a good number of candidates (57.85%). This response shows that candidates knew that 'either' is normally used with 'or' to show the choice between two things. Candidates who opted for E 'nor' were 7.51 percent. These candidates could not realise that the word 'nor' is used with 'neither' and not 'either'. The selection of option A 'and', B 'with' and D 'for' shows that the candidates lacked knowledge on the subject matter.

Question 12: He will not pass his examination _____ he works hard.

    A. but

    B. because

    C. even

    D. unless

    E. and

Response pattern

Option	A	B	C	D*	E	Omitted	Others
No. of candidates	133710	220996	69588	294878	68201	2167	2371
% of candidates	16.88	27.91	8.79	37.24	8.61	0.27	0.3

Candidates were supposed to demonstrate the ability to use the conjunction 'unless' in conditional sentences. The correct option was D 'unless', which was selected by 37.24 percent of the candidates. These candidates knew that 'unless' is used to show that the contrary of the expected could happen. The selection of option B 'because' by 27.91 percent of the candidates was contrary to what is written in the second phrase in the stem 'he works hard' since the one who works hard is expected to pass. Option C 'even' was selected by 8.79 percent of the candidates, who could not realise that the conjunction 'even' is incomplete without 'if' to make the sentence meaningful. Option A 'but' and E 'and' suggest that these candidates did not know that those options make the sentence incorrect grammatically.

Question 13: David and Willy were preparing _____ to go to school.

    A.   themself

    B.   themselves

    C.   theirselves

    D.   yourselves

    E.   ourselves

Response pattern

Option	A	B*	C	D	E	Omitted	Others
No. of candidates	169817	301538	99457	132406	83594	2800	2299
% of candidates	21.44	38.08	12.56	16.72	10.56	0.35	0.29

This item tested the candidates' ability to use the reflexive pronouns. The correct answer B 'themselves' was chosen by 38.08 percent of the candidates. These candidates knew that the word 'themselves' shows that the action of the verb affects the person who performs it. The candidates who opted for A 'themself' (21.44%) could not realise that the morpheme 'them' indicates the plural and it should be attached to the morpheme which indicates the plural 'selves' and not 'self'. Candidates who opted for D 'yourselves' (16.72%) were not aware that the subject was in the third person plural. The choice of options C 'theirselves' and E 'ourselves' implies that, the candidates did not know the meaning and the correct use of reflexive pronouns, therefore, they just guessed the answers.

Question 14: That noise is preventing me _____ working.

    A. in

    B. from

    C. with

    D. to

    E. of

Response pattern

Option	A	B*	C	D	E	Omitted	Others
No. of candidates	104329	317922	112304	181784	70436	2718	0.34
% of candidates	13.17	40.15	14.18	22.96	8.89	2418	0.31

This item was intended to test the candidates' ability to use the preposition 'from'. The correct option B 'from' was chosen by 40.15 percent of the candidates. The commonly chosen incorrect response was option D chosen by 22.96 percent of the candidates. These did not know that the preposition 'to' is used to show direction. Option A 'in' was chosen by 13.17 percent of the candidates. These responses indicate that the candidates were not aware that 'in' is the preposition of place. Those who opted for C 'with' and E 'of' did not know the meaning and correct use of the prepositions.

Question 15: _____ I study hard, I will be a doctor.

    A. Unless

    B. Although

    C. If

    D. Whether

    E. Neither

Response pattern

Option	A	B	C*	D	E	Omitted	Others
No. of candidates	139816	238804	290986	52515	64883	2477	2430
% of candidates	17.66	30.16	36.74	6.63	8.19	0.31	0.31

This item required the candidates to demonstrate the ability to use the conjunction 'if' in conditional sentences. The correct option was C 'if', which was selected by 36.74 percent of the candidates. These candidates realised that 'if' is used to say that one thing can/will happen depending on condition that another thing is happening, that is, there is a condition for something to happen. Candidates who selected option A 'unless' were 17.66 percent, these did not realise that in a conditional sentence where unless has been used, there is one phrase which shows negative, for example, 'You won't get paid, unless you have the document'. The incorrect choice of option B 'although' D 'whether' and E 'Neither' suggests that candidates did not have the required skills and knowledge on the uses of different conjunctions.

Question 16: Yesterday _____6 O'clock, I was watching my favorite film.

    A. in
    B. on
    C. by
    D. at
    E. to

Response pattern

Option	A	B	C	D*	E	Omitted	Others
No. of candidates	94556	116327	112706	374769	89307	1958	2288
% of candidates	11.94	14.69	14.23	47.32	11.28	0.25	0.29

This item required the candidates to demonstrate their knowledge on the use of prepositions and to identify the preposition of time which is used to show the exact time when an event occured. The candidates who wrote the correct response by choosing option D 'at', were 47.32 percent. The candidates who chose options A 'in' (11.94%), B 'on' (14.69%) and C 'by' (14.23%) lacked knowledge on the uses of prepositions as all these are prepositions of place while option E 'to' which was opted by 11.28 percent is a preposition of direction. This shows that these candidates did not know the correct and appropriate use of prepositions.

Question 17:. My brother's daughter is my _____.

      A.   niece

      B.   nephew

      C.   daughter

      D.   cousin

      E.   aunt

Response pattern

Option	A*	B	C	D	E	Omitted	Others
No. of candidates	238705	199142	121189	102605	125865	2275	2130
% of candidates	30.14	25.15	15.3	12.96	15.89	0.29	0.27

This question required the candidates to choose the most appropriate word to express kinship relations. The correct option A 'niece' was the most common response chosen by 30.14 percent of the candidates. The candidates who opted for B 'nephew' were 25.15 percent. This response shows that the candidates did not know that niece goes with girls and nephew with boys. Those who opted for C 'daughter' were 15.3 percent. These failed to realise that parents to children's relationship is the one that produces daughters and sons and not extended relationships. Those who chose D 'cousin' and E 'aunt' displayed lack of knowledge on kinship relations.

Question 18: My sister has bought _____ new dress.

    A.   it
    B.   you
    C.   she
    D.   he
    E.   her

Response pattern

Option	A	B	C	D	E*	Omitted	Others
No. of candidates	85451	182869	233030	47536	240075	1175	1775
% of candidates	10.79	23.09	29.43	6	30.32	0.15	0.22

This item tested the candidates' ability to use the possessive pronoun 'her' to express ownership. The correct option E 'her' was chosen by 30.32 percent of the candidates. The most commonly chosen incorrect response was option C 'she' selected by 29.43 percent of the candidates. These candidates could not realise that 'she' is a subjective case and not objective case. The same applied to those who opted for D 'he' (06%), A 'it' (10.79%). Those who opted for B 'you' ignored the absence of the article 'a' before the word 'new'.

Question 19: He peels the mangoes _____ he eats.

  A. but
  B. so
  C. before
  D. after
  E. during

Response pattern

Option	A	B	C*	D	E	Omitted	Others
No. of candidates	147490	140406	305986	126068	67607	2491	1863
% of candidates	18.62	17.73	38.64	15.92	8.54	0.31	0.24

This item tested the candidates' ability to express preposition of time. The candidates who managed to choose the correct option C 'before', were 38.64 percent. This option shows that the action of washing was done before the eating of the mangoes. The candidates who chose option A 'but' (18.62%) and B 'so' (17.73%) did not know the prepositions used to express time as they used

conjunctions. The pronoun 'after' in option D chosen by 15.92 percent of the candidates was a wrong choice because mangoes can not be peeled after being eaten. The candidates who opted for this answer may not have comprehended the requirements of the question. Option E 'during' is used to express a continuous action and not with the state of affairs as in 'eats'

Question 20: We travelled _____ train from Kigoma to Dar-es-Salaam.

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

Response pattern

Option	A	B	C*	D	E	Omitted	Others
No. of candidates	63984	133666	444400	63455	81940	2182	2284
% of candidates	8.08	16.88	56.12	8.01	10.35	0.28	0.29

This item tested the candidates' ability to express the uses of prepositions. The correct response was C 'by' which was opted for by 56.12 percent of the candidates and this was among the highly performed questions. These candidates knew that the preposition 'by' is used to show how something is done. Candidates who opted for B 'with' were 16.88 percent. This preposition is used to show how an action on something was done such as 'he cut the

orange with a knife', 'with' meaning 'using'. The candidates who opted for A 'at', D 'on' and E 'in' show that they did not have the skills required to answer the question, since they used the prepositions of place.

Question 21: The bus moved slowly _____ the bus stand.

      A.   towards

      B.   under

      C.   over

      D.   onward

      E.   with

Response pattern

Option	A*	B	C	D	E	Omitted	Others
No. of candidates	249902	165038	173255	89899	107533	3567	2717
% of candidates	31.56	20.84	21.88	11.35	13.58	0.45	0.34

This item tested candidates' ability to use the preposition of direction 'towards' to express movement. The correct option A 'towards' was chosen by 31.56 percent of the candidates. The candidates who opted for option B 'under' were 20.84 percent and these were not aware that 'towards' means 'heading to'. The choice of options C 'over' (21.88%), D 'onward' (11.35%) and E 'with' (13.58%) suggest that candidates did not have the required skills to choose the appropriate preposition of direction.

Question 22: The farmers can_____ plant beans nor maize this year.

    A.   either

    B.   both

    C.   not

    D.   neither

    E.   also

Response pattern

Option	A	B	C	D*	E	Omitted	Others
No. of candidates	79083	86340	111900	460229	49956	2067	2336
% of candidates	9.99	10.9	14.13	58.12	6.31	0.26	0.29

This question tested the candidates' ability to use conjunctions. This was the most highly performed question in this paper as many candidates (58.12%) were able to choose the correct response D 'neither'. This suggests that they had knowledge that the word 'neither' is used with 'nor' and these are used to show that the two things can not be done at the same time. Option C 'not' was chosen by 14.13 percent of the candidates. This choice shows that the candidates were not aware that 'nor is used with 'neither'. Instead, they used the negative word 'not' to show that the farmers could not plant. The candidates who chose B 'both' were 10.9 percent. These chose 'both' to mean 'beans' together with 'maize'. Those who opted for A 'either' (9.99%) and E 'also' (6.31%) had no knowledge on the use of the conjunction 'neither'.

Question 23: An elephant is the _____ animal in Ngorongoro National Park.

    A.   Bigger

    B.   most big

    C.   biggest

    D.   more biggest

    E.   big

Response pattern

Option	A	B	C*	D	E	Omitted	Others
No. of candidates	92462	134121	340696	120190	99675	2252	2515
% of candidates	11.68	16.94	43.02	15.18	12.59	0.28	0.32

This item tested candidates' ability to express superlative comparison using 'the + est'. A good number of candidates (43.02%) were able to choose the most correct option C 'biggest' which is used when comparing more than two things. The candidates who chose option A 'bigger' (11.68%) were not aware that the comparative form 'er' is used when comparing two things and does not come after 'the'. The choice of the incorrect responses in option E 'big' (12.59%), B 'most big' (16.94%) and D 'more biggest' (15.18%) suggests that the candidates were not familiar with the use of comparatives.

Question 24: There were _____ people in the room.

    A.   not

    B.   no

    C.   no any

    D.   none

    E.   no body

Response pattern

Option	A	B*	C	D	E	Omitted	Others
No. of candidates	271075	160442	154928	73627	126165	3191	2483
% of candidates	34.23	20.26	19.56	9.3	15.93	0.4	0.31

This question required the candidates to choose the most appropriate word to be used to complete the sentence. The correct option B 'no' was chosen by 20.26 percent of the candidates. The commonly chosen incorrect response was option A 'not' which was chosen by 34.23 percent of the candidates. These candidates thought that the only word that shows negation to show that there is nothing, is 'not'. Option C 'no any' was chosen by 19.56 percent of the candidates. These mistakenly combined 'no' with 'any' which are supposed to be used independently. 'Any' is usually used in questions and in negative statements such as 'Is there any sick person?' 'No, there isn't any'. These two can not be combined as one. Those who chose the incorrect response E 'nobody' were 15.93 percent. These candidates were not aware that the word 'were' is used with more than one thing/people (many) and therefore 'nobody' is not a

suitable word as it stands for one. The candidates who chose option D 'none' were not aware that this word means 'not one' which should go with 'was' and not 'were'. The candidates who opted for incorrect responses seemed to have guessed the responses because they were not familiar with the use of the given words.

Question 25: : That is _____ shirt.

    A.   James'
    B.   James's
    C.   Jame's
    D.   James
    E.   James is

Response pattern

Option	A*	B	C	D	E	Omitted	Others
No. of candidates	203460	167164	162830	130415	123385	1852	2805
% of candidates	25.69	21.11	20.56	16.47	15.58	0.23	0.35

This question was testing candidates' ability to show ownership/possession using 's'. The correct option A "James' " was the most commonly chosen by 25.69 percent of the candidates. This response indicates that the candidates were aware that when a noun ends with 's', one only adds an apostrophe " ' " to show ownership (possession). The candidates who opted for B 'James's' (21.11%) did not know that when a noun ends with 's', another 's' is not added to show possession. Choice for options C 'Jame's (20.56%), D 'James' (16.47%) and

E 'James is' (15.58%) suggest that these candidates did not have knowledge on the use of possessives using nouns.

Question 26: My uncle has been a teacher _____ a year now.

    A. at
    B. in
    C. on
    D. since
    E. for

Response pattern

Option	A	B	C	D	E*	Omitted	Others
No. of candidates	62648	98654	69746	221323	334216	2600	2724
% of candidates	7.91	12.46	8.81	27.95	42.2	0.33	0.34

This question tested the candidates' ability to show a period of time. A good number of candidates (42.2%) was able to choose the correct option E 'for'. This response suggests that the candidates were aware that 'for' is used when talking of a period of time. The candidates who opted for D 'since' (27.95%) could not realise that it is used when talking of a point in time. The choice of options C 'on' (8.81%), B 'in' (12.46%) and A 'at' (7.91%) suggest that the candidates confused the preposition of time with the prepositions of place.

Question 27: The problem depends on who you are dealing
_____.

    A. at

    B. to

    C. without

    D. with

    E. in

Response pattern

Option	A	B	C	D*	E	Omitted	Others
No. of candidates	51344	126723	320346	237001	51291	3015	2191
% of candidates	6.48	16	40.45	29.93	6.48	0.38	0.28

This item tested the candidates' ability to use the phrasal verbs. The correct option D 'with' was chosen by 29.93 percent of the candidates. The most commonly chosen incorrect response was option C 'without' chosen by 40.45 percent of the candidates. This response indicates that these candidates confused 'without' with the preposition 'with' because one can only 'deal with' something/someone and not with nothing. On the other hand, the choice of incorrect responses B 'to' (16%), A 'at' (6.48%) and E 'in' (6.48%) of the candidates indicates that they did not have the required knowledge and skills to respond to the question correctly.

Question 28: She managed to build a new house _____ her weakness.

    A. despite

    B. inspite

    C. although

    D. because of

    E. despite of

Response pattern

Option	A*	B	C	D	E	Omitted	Others
No. of candidates	139878	118982	187673	167493	171792	3538	2555
% of candidates	17.66	15.02	23.7	21.15	21.69	0.45	0.32

This item tested the candidates' ability to use conjunctions. The correct option A 'despite' was chosen by 17.66 percent of the candidates. Option B 'inspite' was chosen by 15.02 percent of the candidates. This option is wrong because inspite is always used with the word 'of'. Option E 'despite of' (21.69%) was wrong because the word 'despite' is not used with 'of'. Choosing the incorrect response C 'although' (23.7%) shows that the candidates were not aware that 'although' is used to show contrast between two things. Option D 'because of' (21.15%) is a contradiction to the statement 'her weakness' and therefore this suggests that the candidates did not have the required skills and knowledge to answer the question.

Question 29: It is known that the cow died _____ hunger.

    A. by

    B. of

    C. for

    D. at

    E. on

Response pattern

Option	A	B*	C	D	E	Omitted	Others
No. of candidates	141383	242465	268362	72659	62057	2704	2281
% of candidates	17.85	30.62	33.89	9.18	7.84	0.34	0.29

This item tested the candidates' ability to use the preposition of manner 'of'. The correct option B 'of' used to mean 'the cause' was chosen by 30.62 percent of the candidates. The most commonly chosen incorrect response was C 'for' opted for by 33.89 percent of the candidates. Options A, 'by' (17.85%), D 'at' (9.18%) and E 'on' (7.84%) suggest that the candidates were not aware of the proper use of the preposition 'of'.

Question 30: The policemen chased the thieves away _____ they could not arrest them.

    A. even

    B. but

    C. because

    D. when

    E. also

Response pattern

Option	A	B*	C	D	E	Omitted	Others
No. of candidates	77401	242736	273834	103794	88592	2782	2772
% of candidates	9.77	30.65	34.58	13.11	11.19	0.35	0.35

This item intended to test the candidates' ability to use the conjunction 'but' appropriately to show contrast. The correct option B 'but' was chosen by 30.65 percent of the candidates. The most commonly chosen incorrect response was option C 'because' chosen by 34.58 percent of the candidates. The choice of option A 'even' by 9.77 percent of the candidates and E 'also' (11.19%) indicate that the candidates thought that the conjunction needed should mean 'in addition' instead of contrast. Option D 'when' (13.11%) suggests that the candidates thought that the conjunction to be used should mean 'at the time' and so showed that they did not have the required skills and knowledge to respond correctly.

2.2   Section B: Vocabulary

This section was testing the candidates' knowledge on vocabulary and had the performance ranging from 13.32 percent to 38.06 percent. The analysis of each question has been done as follows:

Question 31: A person who can draw well is _____.

    A. a drawer

    B. an art

    C. a teacher

    D. an artist

    E. a painter

Response pattern

Option	A	B	C	D*	E	Omitted	Others
No. of candidates	197696	91911	195954	198912	101262	3482	2694
% of candidates	24.96	11.61	24.74	25.12	12.79	0.44	0.34

This item tested the candidates knowledge on the terms used to describe different occupations. The correct option D 'an artist' was chosen by 25.12 percent of the candidates. The most commonly chosen incorrect response was option A 'a drawer' chosen by 24.96 percent of the candidates. This response suggests that, the candidates were influenced by a verb 'draw' and converted it into a noun to get 'drawer' without considering the meaning of the word 'draw' which is a part of a piece of furniture such as desk used to keep things, hence this response was contrary to the requirement of the question. Candidates who opted for C 'a teacher' might have considered their experience of seeing teachers drawing well on the board. The choices of option B 'an art' and E 'a painter' suggest that the candidates did not know the meaning of those words.

Question 32: The plural form of the word sheep is _____.

A. sheeps

B. ships

C. sheep

D. ship

E. sheepy

Response pattern

Option	A	B	C*	D	E	Omitted	Others
No. of candidates	254202	94834	254399	114480	68632	2538	2826
% of candidates	32.1	11.98	32.12	14.46	8.67	0.32	0.36

In this item, candidates were required to show their knowledge on countable and uncountable nouns. The correct option C 'sheep' was chosen by 32.12 percent of the candidates. These candidates knew that the word 'sheep' is an irregular uncountable noun therefore the basic form remains the same in plural form. The most commonly chosen incorrect option was A 'sheeps' by 32.1 percent of the candidates. These candidates knew the vocabulary but they could not realise that in plural form morpheme '-s' is not added to uncountable nouns and that it can only be added to countable nouns like 'books'. Likewise, candidates who opted for D and B were aware that the word 'ship' and 'sheep' are pronounced in the same way but they could not realise that they mean two different things.

Question 33: Not everything that_____ is gold.

    A. dims

    B. darkens

    C. shone

    D. lights

    E. glitters

Response pattern

Option	A	B	C	D	E*	Omitted	Others
No. of candidates	90508	200541	215627	174347	105505	2871	2512
% of candidates	11.43	25.32	27.23	22.02	13.32	0.36	0.32

This item required the candidates to demonstrate the ability to use the right word to complete the given sentence. The correct answer was option E 'glitters' because 'gold' shines brightly. Many candidates (27.23%) chose option C 'shone'. They were not correct because the word 'shone' shows the past event while the demand of the question required the word which shows that something is always done (the simple present tense). Candidates who opted for B 'darkens' were 25.32 percent and those who opted for A 'dims' were 11.43 percent. These candidates selected words which were contrary to the correct answer. Candidates who selected option D 'lights' confused this word with the right word 'glitters'.

Question 34: Genuine products are those that are _____.

    A. shiny

    B. original

    C. nice

    D. perishable

    E. fancy

Response pattern

Option	A	B*	C	D	E	Omitted	Others
No. of candidates	94433	301418	174295	142259	74594	2954	1958
% of candidates	11.92	38.06	22.01	17.96	9.42	0.37	0.25

Candidates were required to identify the word that shows the characteristics of genuine products among the five given alternatives. The correct option B 'original' was chosen by 38.06 percent of the candidates who attempted this question. Candidates who chose option D could not realise that perishable means a type of food/object that decay or go bad quickly, hence something genuine cannot go bad quickly. Option A 'shiny', C 'nice' and E 'fancy' choice, imply that the candidates did not know the meaning of those words.

Question 35: A child whose parents have died is _____.

    A.   a bachelor

    B.   single

    C.   fatherless

    D.   a spinster

    E.   an orphan

Response pattern

Option	A	B	C	D	E*	Omitted	Others
No. of candidates	127629	156892	176380	96937	230299	1979	1795
% of candidates	16.12	19.81	22.27	12.24	29.08	0.25	0.23

This item was testing the candidates' knowledge on the right vocabulary to be used for a child whose parents are deceased. The correct option E 'an orphan' was chosen by 29.08 percent of the candidates. About 22.27 percent of the candidates selected option C 'fatherless' which means without a father, because he has either died or he does not live with his children. This option implies that, the children could be living with a mother which is contrary to the demand of the question. The demand of the question was referring to the absence of both parents due to death. Option A was selected by 16.12 percent of the candidates, who could not realise that 'a bachelor' is a man who has never been married. The same applied to those who opted for D, who were not aware that the word 'a spinster' means a woman who is not married, especially an elderly woman who is not likely to marry.

Question 36: Pupils were _____ for winning their match against their opponents.

    A. congratulated
    B. celebrate
    C. praise
    D. confirmed
    E. concurred

Response pattern

Option	A*	B	C	D	E	Omitted	Others
No. of candidates	272846	183118	158778	109876	61251	4030	2012
% of candidates	34.45	23.12	20.05	13.87	7.73	0.51	0.25

Candidates were required to complete the given sentence by using the right verb in the past tense. Option A 'congratulated' was selected by 34.45 percent of the candidates. These candidates had knowledge on the correct use of tenses. Those who opted for C 'praise' ignored the presence of the auxiliary verb 'were' which required them to use the main verb in its simple past form. Option B 'celebrate' a selection made by 23.12 percent of the candidates suggests that they did not realise the fact that for the sentence to be grammatically correct, it was supposed to be completed by using the past continuous tense 'were celebrating' and not 'were celebrate'. The choice of option D 'confirmed' and E 'concurred' imply that candidates did not know the meaning of those words.

2.3   Section C: Composition

This section has four jumbled 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: She was attacked by a crocodile and died immediately.

Question 38: She jumped into the pool without reading the caution sign written, "crocodiles inside."

Question 39: It was a hot sunny day and what Mary wanted was some water to cool her body.

Question 40: She then saw a pool of water across the road.

Response pattern

Item number	Correct option	No. of candidates	% of candidates	% of items omitted	% with multiple choices	% with the choice of E
37	D*	118756	15	0.36	0.26	3.08
38	C*	299029	37.76	0.28	0.3	2.85
39	A*	408602	51.6	0.32	0.3	3.29
40	B*	324271	40.95	0.28	0.33	3.47

This question required the candidates to arrange the sentences in a logical sequence to make a meaningful passage. The proper arrangement with the percent of candidates who got the item correct is shown in the table above. Many candidates (51.6%) were able to identify the first sentence while the second sentence was identified by 40.95 percent of the candidates and 37.76 percent of the candidates managed to identify the third sentence. However, many candidates were not able to identify the last sentence hence only few (15%) managed to get this item right. Some of the candidates selected option E which was not among the given alternatives, this implies that candidates neither read the

given instructions nor did they understand the jumbled sentences hence guessed the answers.

2.4 Section D: Comprehension

This section tested the candidates' comprehension skills. The candidates were required to read the passage and then answer the ten questions that followed based on the passage.

This section had some of the items with relatively good performance such as question 50 with 43.91 percent of correct answers and question 43 with 40.99 percent of correct answers. The performance was however, not as good as would have been expected since all the answers were to be extracted from the passage. The presence of a big number of candidates who did not provide any answer for the questions in this section was difficult to explain. Item number 43 for example was the third question which was omitted by the largest number of candidates (2,770) in the whole paper.

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

> Lilato had a dream. He dreamt that someone gave him an egg. He was very happy and started wondering what to do with it. He thought of either eating it or keeping it in his pocket so that it would be warm and finally hatch and become a chick.
>
> He thought of how this chick would grow into a hen and lay more eggs which will also hatch into more chickens. He would then sell some of these chickens and become a rich man. After getting a lot of money, Lilato thought of building an iron roofed house with glass windows. It would be a beautiful and big house.

While dreaming, Lilato walked excitedly. He jumped and the egg fell from his pocket and broke. He cried, saying that he will never be a rich man. Suddenly, he woke up and thanked God that it was only a dream.

Question 41: Lilato decided to _____ the egg.

        A. keep

        B. sell

        C. hide

        D. eat

        E. throw

Response pattern

Option	A*	B	C	D	E	Omitted	Others
No. of candidates	309972	183738	89532	142310	59966	3764	2629
% of candidates	39.14	23.2	11.31	17.97	7.57	0.48	0.33

The item required the candidates to identify information which was available in the passage. Those who opted for the correct response A 'keep' were 39.14 percent of the candidates. The candidates who chose option B 'sell' (23.2%), C 'hide' (11.31%), D 'eat' (17.97%) and E 'throw' (7.57%) suggest that, they did not read the passage but just guessed. The analysis further indicates that 0.48 percent of the candidates did not attempt the item, implying that they did not have comprehension skills and therefore decided not to guess.

Question 42: People usually dream when they are _____.

    A.   walking

    B.   sleeping

    C.   sitting

    D.   resting

    E.   wondering

Response pattern

Option	A	B*	C	D	E	Omitted	Others
No. of candidates	139631	290626	119019	63158	172535	4172	2770
% of candidates	17.63	36.7	15.03	7.98	21.79	0.53	0.35

This item tested the candidates' ability to comprehend information from the passage. The correct option B 'sleeping' was selected by most of the candidates (36.7%), showing that they understood what was written in the passage. The candidates' choice of the incorrect options A 'walking' (17.63%), C 'sitting' (15.03%), D 'resting' (7.98%) and E 'wondering' (21.79%) may indicate that they neither read the passage nor did they refer back to the passage for the answer.

Question 43: Lilato was happy because he was given_____.

    A. a big house

    B. iron sheets

    C. a chicken

    D. an egg

    E. a chick

Response pattern

Option	A	B	C	D*	E	Omitted	Others
No. of candidates	139631	84928	125848	324583	115553	3743	2621
% of candidates	17	10.72	15.89	40.99	14.59	0.47	0.33

Option 'D' which was the correct answer was chosen by 40.99 percent of the candidates. This response suggests that, they were able to comprehend the information written in the passage. The choice of the incorrect answers A 'a big house' (17%), B 'iron sheets' (10.72%) C ' a chicken' (15.89%) and E 'a chick' (14.59%) suggest that the candidates did not have the required comprehension skills to do this task. The 0.47 percent of the candidates who omitted this question shows that they did not have the relevant comprehension skills required.

Question 44: Lilato thought he could get a lot of money by _____.

    A. selling eggs and chickens
    B. building a big house
    C. selling a big house
    D. keeping a big house
    E. keeping eggs

Response pattern

Option	A*	B	C	D	E	Omitted	Others
No. of candidates	261844	233662	90175	96695	103476	3443	2616
% of candidates	33.06	29.51	11.39	12.21	13.07	0.43	0.33

The correct option A 'selling eggs and chickens' was opted for by 33.06 percent of the candidates. The most commonly chosen incorrect response was option B 'building a big house' with 29.51 percent of the candidates choosing it. This response indicates that, the candidates did not understand how Lilato could get a lot of money. It also suggests that candidates did not understand the requirement of the question. Other candidates chose options C 'selling a big house' (11.39%), D 'keeping a big house' (12.21%) and E 'keeping eggs' (13.07%). This pattern of responses also shows that the candidates were not sure of the correct response.

Question 45: Lilato's thought about the chick was that, it would grow and _____.

    A.   become an egg
    B.   become a hen
    C.   be killed
    D.   build a big house
    E.   be sold

Response pattern

Option	A	B*	C	D	E	Omitted	Others
No. of candidates	221811	238715	91505	166219	67326	3789	2546
% of candidates	28.01	30.14	11.55	20.99	8.5	0.48	0.32

The correct answer for this question was option B 'become a hen' which was chosen by 30.14 percent of the candidates. The most selected incorrect answer was A 'become an egg' chosen by 28.01 percent of the candidates. This choice suggests that, candidates

mistook the chicken laying eggs to mean 'become an egg'. The choice of C 'be killed' by 11.55 percent of the candidates was incorrect because Lilato dreamt of keeping the egg so that it could multiply. Candidates who opted for D 'build a house' (20.99%) indicate that, they did not understand the question as the one to build the house was Lilato and not the chick. Option E 'be sold' was incorrect because what was to be sold were the chickens and eggs and not the chick. The choice of the incorrect answers imply that the candidates did not know the requirements of the question.

Question 46: To hatch as used in the passage is to _____.

    A.   become rich by keeping chickens
    B.   build a big house with iron sheets
    C.   put the egg into the pocket
    D.   break and open for the chick to come out
    E.   become a big chicken

Response pattern

Option	A	B	C	D*	E	Omitted	Others
No. of candidates	199948	129463	160867	187215	107585	4164	2669
% of candidates	25.25	16.35	20.31	23.64	13.59	0.53	0.34

Only 23.64 percent chose the correct option D. The most commonly chosen incorrect response was option A with 25.25 percent of the candidates choosing it. This answer suggests that candidates did not comprehend the passage well. About 20.31 percent of the candidates chose option C which was an incorrect answer because what Lilato did by putting the egg in the pocket

was to 'brood'. This could have been due to the candidates' misunderstanding of the question. Other options which were incorrect were B, and E.

Question 47: Lilato cried that he would _____.

    A. be a rich man

    B. get a lot of money

    C. never be rich

    D. get a lot of eggs

    E. have many chickens

Response pattern

Option	A	B	C*	D	E	Omitted	Others
No. of candidates	188869	147635	225315	132161	91914	3385	2632
% of candidates	23.85	18.64	28.45	16.69	11.61	0.43	0.33

The correct response to this question was option C 'never be rich' which was chosen by 28.45 percent of the candidates. The choice of options B 'get a lot of money' by 18.64 percent of the candidates, A 'be a rich man' (23.85%), D 'get a lot of eggs' (16.69%) and E 'have many chickens' show that the candidates did not understand the requirement of the question as one cries when something negative/bad happens while all the other answers imply something good/positive happening which would not make Lilato cry.

Question 48: What happened to the egg which Lilato was given?

    A.   It got broken

    B.   It became a chicken

    C.   It became a chick

    D.   It was eaten

    E.   It was sold.

Response pattern

Option	A*	B	C	D	E	Omitted	Others
No. of candidates	208984	211797	193491	98224	73567	3248	2600
% of candidates	26.39	26.75	24.43	12.4	9.29	0.41	0.33

This item tested the candidates' ability to recall details from the passage. The correct response to this question was option A 'It got broken' which was chosen by 26.39 percent of the candidates. The most popular incorrect response B 'It became a chicken' was chosen by 26.75 percent of the candidates. All the incorrect options including C 'it became a chick' (24.43%), D 'It was eaten' (12.4%) and E 'it was sold (9.29%) suggest that the candidates did not understand that Lilato only had the egg and all other things were just thoughts on what would happen later.

Question 49: After waking up, Lilato _____.

    A. had become a rich man

    B. was sad for the egg

    C. had many chickens

    D. had built a big house

    E. was happy that it was a dream

Response pattern

Option	A	B	C	D	E*	Omitted	Others
No. of candidates	141812	141867	112442	113806	276850	2904	2230
% of candidates	17.91	17.91	14.2	14.37	34.96	0.37	0.28

This item tested the candidates' ability to identify the required details from the passage. The correct response to this question was option E 'was happy that it was a dream' which was chosen by 34.96 percent of the candidates. The choice of the incorrect responses A 'had become a rich man' (17.91%), B 'was sad for the egg' (17.91%), C 'had many chickens' (14.2%), and D 'had built a big house' (14.37%) shows that the candidates did not realise that all these were Lilato's thoughts in his dream. This trend of responses further reveals that the candidates failed to comprehend the passage and so just randomly chose the answers without referring back to the passage.

Question 50: What is the best title for this passage?

      A.   Eggs and chickens

      B.   Lilato's chickens

      C.   Lilato's dream

      D.   Lilato's hen

      E.   Lilato's house.

Response pattern

Option	A	B	C*	D	E	Omitted	Others
No. of candidates	147629	128199	347718	68674	95774	2046	1871
% of candidates	18.64	16.19	43.91	8.67	12.09	0.26	0.24

The correct answer for this question was option C 'Lilato's dream' which was opted for by 43.91 percent of the candidates. This item tested the candidates' ability to interpret the information read in the passage. The choice of incorrect options A 'Eggs and chickens' (18.64%), option B 'Lilato's chickens' by 16.19 percent, D 'Lilato's hen' (8.67%) and E 'Lilato's house' (12.09%) by the candidates gives an indication that the candidates were not aware that all the events in the story were as a result of the dream that Lilato had. So all the events in the story revolve around 'Lilato's dream'.

3.0 PERFORMANCE OF CANDIDATES IN EACH TOPIC

The analysis in each topic was done by considering the following criteria: 0 - 40 marks - Poor performance (Red colour); 41 – 60 marks – Average performance (Yellow colour); and 61 – 100 – Good performance (Green colour).

The topic wise analysis in comparison to 2013 results, shows that in tenses, the performance has increased by 1.63 percent; in other forms of grammar, the performance has decreased by 4.83 percent; in vocabulary, the performance has increase by 4.47 percent; in composition, the performance has also increased by 5.16 percent. This topic was the only one with the average performance of 43.80 percent. In comprehension, the performance has decrease by 1.47 percent in 2014 results. The Appendix show the analysis of performance of candidates per question and topic in the examination.

4.0 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. Therefore 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.

It is essential 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.

5.0   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.

A COMPARISON OF CANDIDATES PERFORMANCE FOR EACH TOPIC IN PSLE 2013 AND

S/N	TOPIC	NO. OF QUESTIONS 2013	PERFORMANCE (%) 2013	AVERAGE (%) 2013	REMARKS 2013	NO. OF QUESTIONS 2014	PERFORMANCE (%) 2014	AVERAGE (%) 2014	REMARKS 2014
1	Tenses	1	21.71	33.64	Poor performance	1	35.6	35.27	Poor Performance
		2	51.84			2	31.18		
		3	34.39			3	34.14		
		4	38.46			4	39.19		
		6	21.3			6	29.8		
		7	23.62			5	49.94		
		8	35.75			7	39.32		
		9	50.65			8	35.38		
		10	25.05			9	12.68		
						10	45.48		
2	Other Forms of Grammar	5	55.92	40.95	Average Performance	11	57.87	36.12	Poor Performance
		11	38.87			12	37.24		
		12	30.13			13	38.08		
		13	45.28			14	40.15		
		14	39.98			15	36.74		
		15	39.25			16	47.32		
		16	25.44			17	30.14		
		17	36.25			18	30.32		
		18	66.11			19	38.64		

S/N	TOPIC	NO. OF QUESTIONS 2013	PERFORMANCE (%) 2013	AVERAGE (%) 2013	REMARKS 2013	NO. OF QUESTIONS 2014	PERFORMANCE (%) 2014	AVERAGE (%) 2014	REMARKS 2014
		19	22.37			20	56.12		
		20	47.47			21	31.56		
		21	23.3			22	58.12		
		22	48.86			23	43.02		
		23	44.96			24	20.26		
		24	42.08			25	25.69		
		25	29.85			26	42.2		
		26	52.46			27	29.93		
		27	30.2			28	17.66		
		28	39.54			29	30.62		
		29	46.27			30	30.65		
		30	55.39						
3	Vocabulary	31	42.21	24.22	Poor performance	31	25.12	28.69	Poor Performance
		32	15.49			32	32.12		
		33	27.97			33	13.32		
		34	16.71			34	38.06		
		35	18.51			35	29.08		
		36	24.43			36	34.45		
4	Composition	37	30.83	38.64	Poor performance	37	44.91	43.80	Average performance
		38	54.81			38	37.76		
		39	39.11			39	51.6		
		40	29.81			40	40.95		
5	Compre	41	27.99	35.21	Poor	41	39.14	33.74	Poor

S/N	TOPIC	NO. OF QUESTIONS 2013	PERFORMANCE (%) 2013	AVERAGE (%) 2013	REMARKS 2013	NO. OF QUESTIONS 2014	PERFORMANCE (%) 2014	AVERAGE (%) 2014	REMARKS 2014
	hension	42	48.03		performance	42	36.7		Performance
		43	37.32			43	40.99		
		44	25.82			44	33.06		
		45	12.27			45	30.14		
		46	43.32			46	23.64		
		47	46.97			47	28.45		
		48	45.52			48	26.39		
		49	48.46			49	34.96		
		50	16.38			50	43.91		