

**THE NATIONAL EXAMINATIONS COUNCIL OF TANZANIA**



**PRIMARY SCHOOL LEAVING EXAMINATION (PSLE)  
ITEMS RESPONSE ANALYSIS BOOKLET FOR THE  
YEAR 2015**

**ENGLISH LANGUAGE**

**THE NATIONAL EXAMINATIONS COUNCIL OF TANZANIA**



**PRIMARY SCHOOL LEAVING EXAMINATION (PSLE)  
ITEMS RESPONSE ANALYSIS BOOKLET FOR THE  
YEAR 2015**

**ENGLISH LANGUAGE**

Published by  
The National Examinations Council of Tanzania,  
P.O. Box 2624,  
Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

© The National Examinations Council of Tanzania, 2015

All rights reserved

## 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.....	42
2.3 Section C: Composition.....	50
2.4 Section D: Comprehension .....	52
3.0 PERFORMANCE OF CANDIDATES IN EACH TOPIC.....	66
4.0 CONCLUSION.....	67
5.0 RECOMMENDATIONS .....	68
Appendix.....	70



## **PREFACE**

The Primary School Leaving Examination provides an evaluation of the seven years of 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. At this level of primary education English Language is one of the five subjects examined.

This item analysis of the candidates' responses for the questions on the English Language examination of the year 2015 identifies the factors which led 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 shows the percentage of students who answered the item correctly, who wrote incorrect answers, who did not answer the questions and who wrote more than one answer for each item as well as who wrote other anomalies on the OMR sheet. Some candidates failed to provide correct answers due to the 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 so as 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 faced during the teaching and learning process of the subject at the primary school level. The National Examinations Council of Tanzania believes that this feedback will be of great assistance to the stakeholders so that they can take necessary measures to improve the teaching and

learning process which will eventually lead to better performance in the subject. In addition, the National Examinations Council of Tanzania hopes that the knowledge and skills which the students will acquire in the analysis 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 those who participated in preparing and analysing the data used in this report, printing of the document and in reviewing the report.



Dr. Charles E. Msonde  
**EXECUTIVE SECRETARY**



## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

The Primary School Leaving Examination of 2015 was held on 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> of September 2015. A total of 808,085 students were registered for the examination. Among these, 791,912 (97.99%) students sat for the Primary School Leaving Examination and only 307,613 (38.84%) passed the examination.

The Primary School Leaving Examination 2015 in English Language consisted of four sections A, B, C and D. All items were objective. Each of the sections comprised of different areas of the subject which are: Section A, thirty (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 has been done in order to reveal items that were answered correctly by candidates as well as the misconceptions that were made by candidates who could not get the correct answers.

It is expected that this item analysis will be useful to students and teachers in taking note of the common mistakes which were made by candidates and so take correct measures to avoid them in their usage of English Language.

## 2.0 ANALYSIS OF THE ITEMS

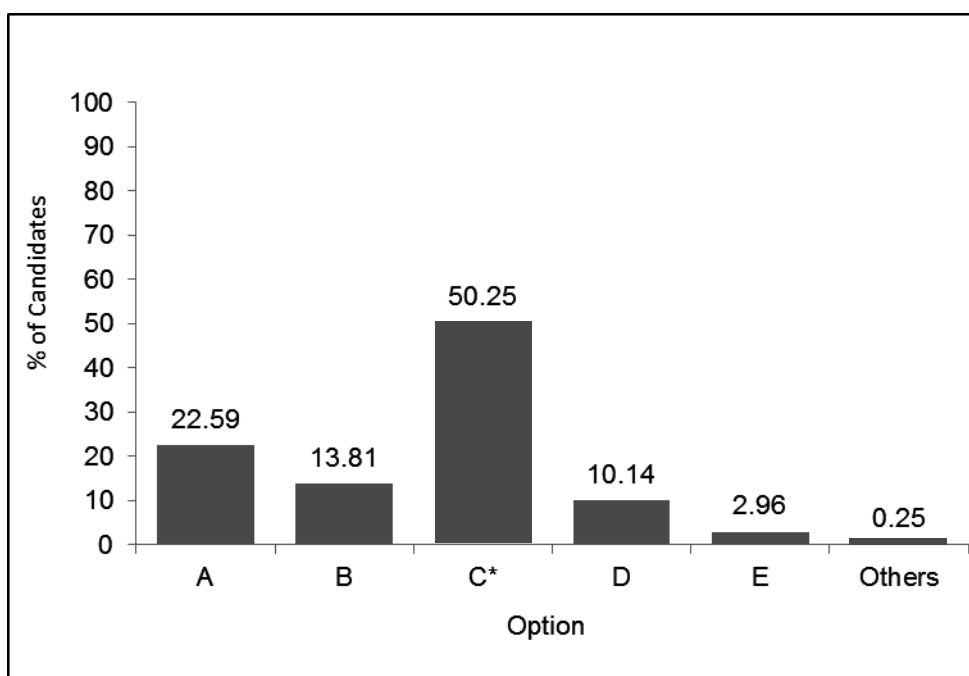
### 2.1 Section A: Grammar

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

**Question 1:** I usually \_\_\_\_\_ my friends on Sunday.

- A visits
- B visited
- C visit
- D visiting
- E visitor

**Figure 1:** Percentage of Candidates in each Response



The data presented in Figure 1 show that this question had an average performance as 50.25 percent of the candidates opted for the correct answer.



This item required a candidate to show the ability to use the simple present tense with first singular pronoun as a subject. In this case the correct response was C 'visit' which was selected by 50.25 percent of the candidates. On the other hand, 22.59 percent of the candidates opted for A 'visits'. These candidates could not realise that the form of the verb 'visits' is used when the subject is the third singular pronoun (he, she or it). Option B 'visited' was selected by 13.81 percent of the candidates who did not realise that the form of the verb 'visited' refers to the past tense while the sentence was in the simple present tense. Candidates who opted for D 'visiting' (10.14) could not realise the difference between simple present and present continuous tense. Only 2.96 percent of the candidates opted for E 'visitor', which implies that the candidates did not realise that the question required them to use the correct form of the verb as they opted for a noun.

**Question 2:** The building over there \_\_\_\_\_ of concrete.

- A     were made
- B     are made
- C     has made
- D     have made
- E     is made

**Figure 2: Percentage of Candidates in each Response**

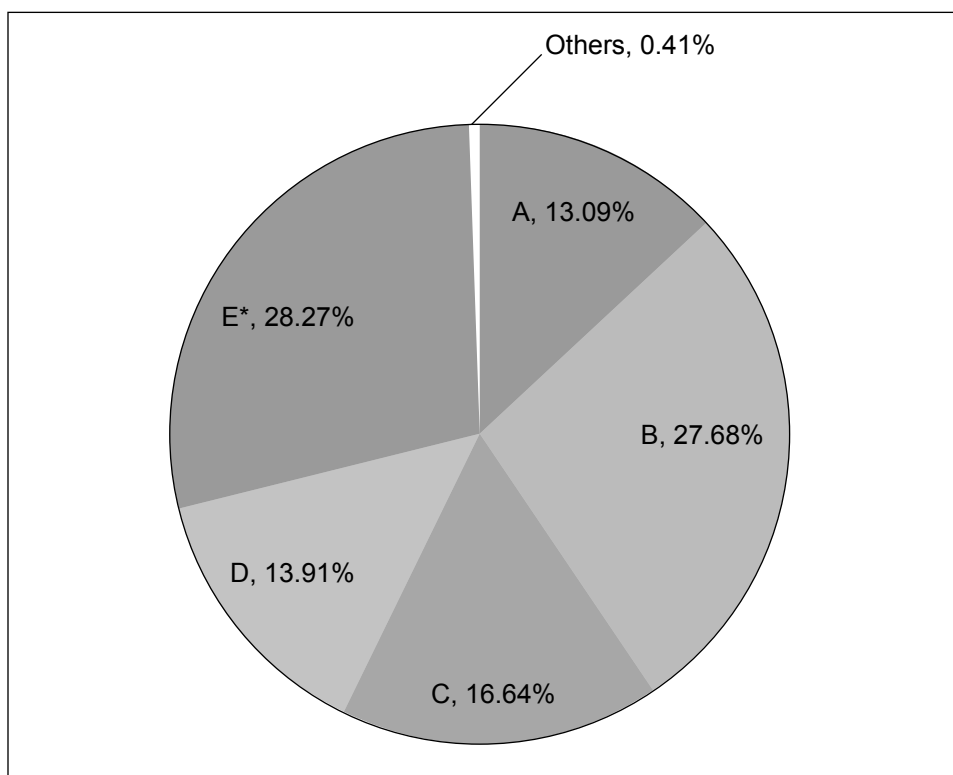


Figure 2 shows that the performance of candidates was weak in this question as only 28.27 percent of the candidates managed to choose the correct answer 'E'.

In this question, a candidate was required to demonstrate the ability to use auxiliary verb to 'be' to form tense in a positive statement. The correct option E 'is made' was selected by 28.27 percent of the candidates. Those candidates were aware that the subject 'the building' is singular and the statement was in passive voice, hence the correct option was 'is made'. However, candidates who opted for option A 'were made' (13.09%) and B 'are made' (27.68%) could not realise that the auxiliary verbs 'are' and 'were' are used when the subject is in plural form unlike 'the building' which is singular. Further analysis shows that some of the candidates opted for C 'has made'

(16.64%) and D 'have made' (13.91%). This reveals that these candidates did not realise that auxiliary verbs 'has' plus a verb and 'have' plus a verb are used to indicate present perfect tense unlike the given statement which is in passive voice.

**Question 3:** She \_\_\_\_\_ the money when the thief robbed her.

- A counts
- B is counting
- C was counting
- D counting
- E counted

**Figure 3:** Percentage of Candidates in each Response

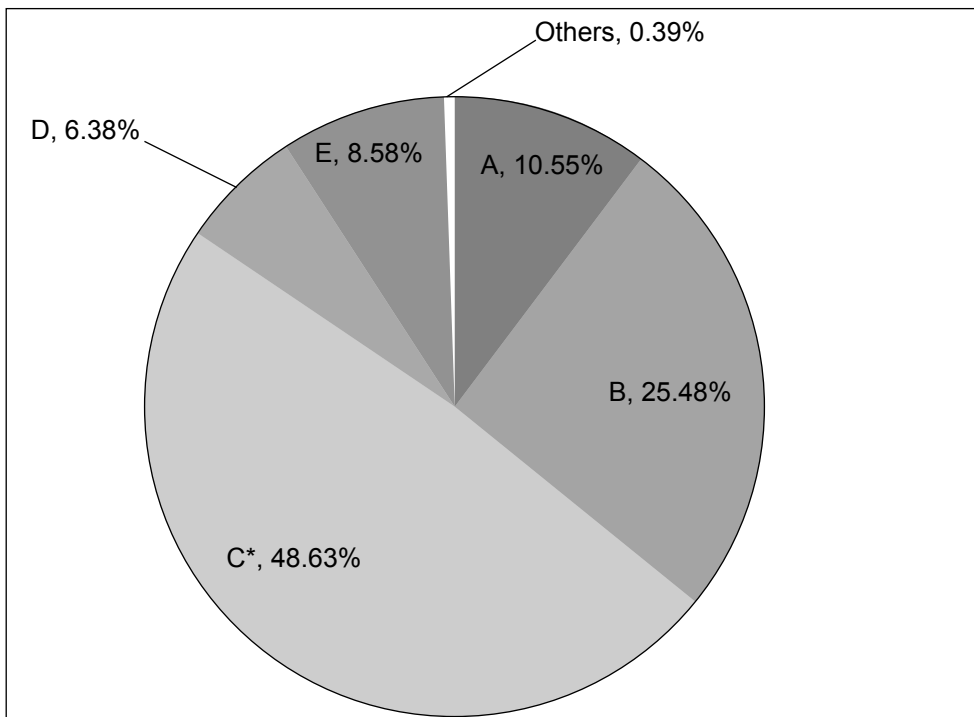


Figure 3 indicates that the performance of candidates in this question was average as 48.63 percent of the candidates chose the correct answer.

This item was testing the candidate's ability to use past continuous tense. The correct answer in this question is option C 'was counting' which was selected by 48.63 percent of the candidates. This response indicates that these candidates were aware that the past continuous tense is composed of the auxiliary verb to 'be' plus the progressive form of that particular verb. On the other hand, 25.48 percent of the candidates opted for B 'is counting'. This reveals that, these candidates could not realise that the action in the given sentence was going on in the past and not in the present. Further analysis shows that some of the candidates opted for A 'counts' (10.55%), D 'counting' (6.38%) and E 'counted' (8.58%). This situation suggests that these candidates did not realise that the statement was in the past continuous tense and that being the case, the verb should be composed of auxiliary verb to 'be' and the main verb should be in a progressive form ending with '-ing'.

**Question 4:** He \_\_\_\_\_ for two days last week.

- A travels
- B travelled
- C travelling
- D travel
- E traveller

**Figure 4:** Percentage of Candidates in each Response

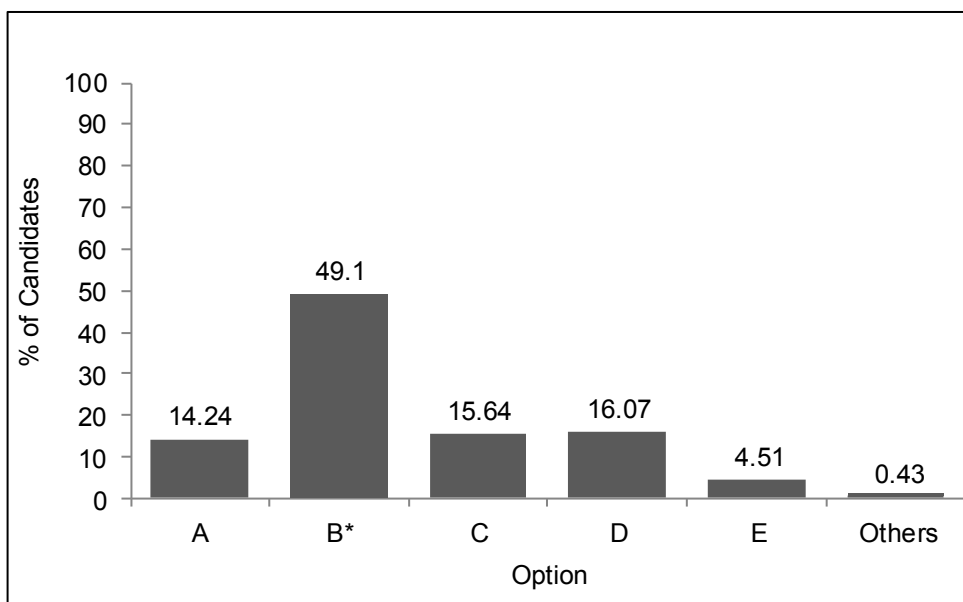


Figure 4 shows that candidates had an average performance in this question since the candidates who opted for the correct answer 'B' were 49.1 percent.

This question required the candidate to show the ability to use the simple past tense to express the past events. The correct response B was selected by the majority of the candidates (49.1%) who were aware that the correct tense to be used in such a case is the simple past tense 'travelled'. On the other hand, 16.07 percent of the candidates opted for D "travel". These candidates could not realise that the presence of the adverb "last week" required a verb in the simple past tense ending with the morpheme "-ed". Only 4.51 percent of the candidates opted for E 'traveller', 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 A (14.24%) 'travels' were not aware that the verb in simple present tense was an incorrect response. However, candidates who



opted for C 'travelling' (15.64%) could not realise that the required verb form is simple past tense and not present continuous tense.

**Question 5:** The leaders\_\_\_\_\_ to London tomorrow

- A will fly
- B flew
- C flies
- D had flown
- E have flown

**Figure 5 :** Percentage of Candidates in each Response

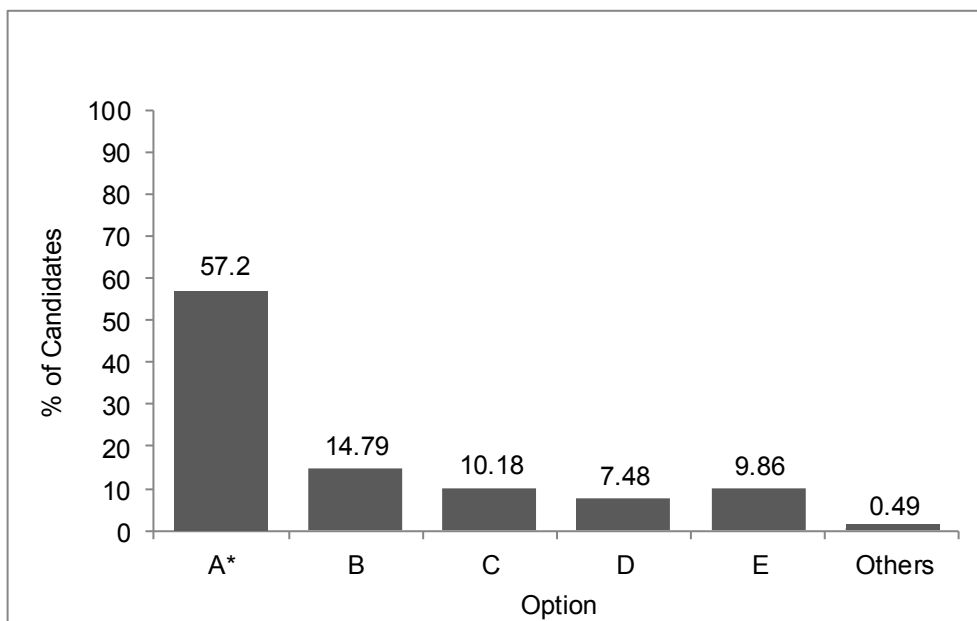


Figure 5 indicates that 57.2 percent of the candidates chose the correct answer 'A'. The general performance for this question was average.

In this item, a candidate was required to demonstrate the ability to express future events. A good number of candidates (57.2%) were able to respond correctly by selecting option A 'will fly' since it had the

auxiliary 'will' and the main verb 'fly'. Those who opted for B 'flew' (14.79%) did not realise that the adverb of time "tomorrow" could not be used with simple past tense to express future events. Candidates who opted for C 'flies' were 10.18 percent. These candidates failed to understand that the verb "flies" shows the simple present tense which expresses habitual events and not future actions. Further analysis shows that candidates who selected options D (7.48%) and E (9.86%) did not understand that "had flown" shows the past perfect tense while "has flown" shows the present perfect tense but not the future time.

**Question 6:** Joseph was reading while his uncle\_\_\_\_\_TV.

- A is watching
- B were watching
- C does watching
- D was watching
- E are watching

**Figure 6 :** Percentage of Candidates in each Response

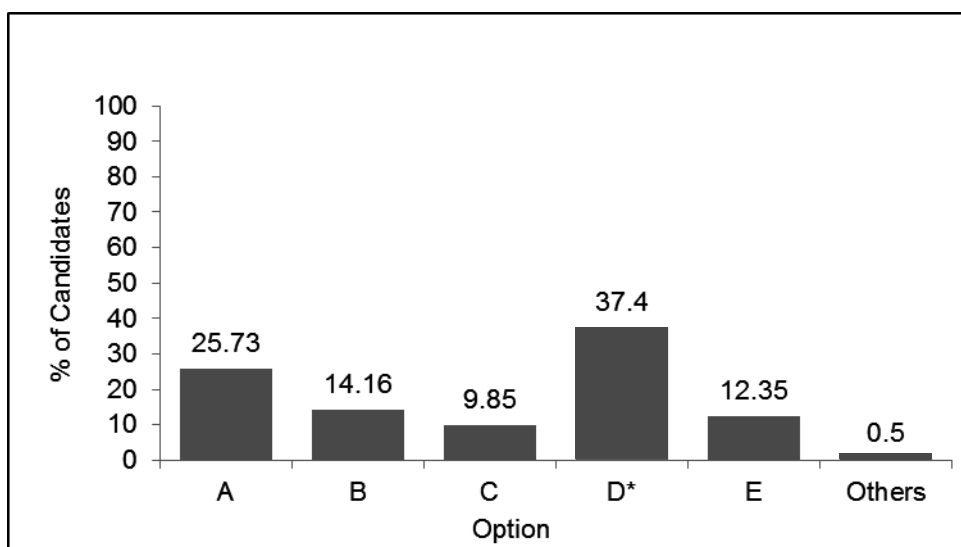


Figure 6 shows that the candidates' performance was weak.

This item required the candidate to show the ability to express concurrent past events. The correct response D ‘was watching’ was selected by 37.4 percent of the candidates. These candidates knew that two actions were taking place at the same time in the past. Therefore the use of past continuous tense “was reading” in the first action automatically required the second action to use the past continuous “was watching”. Candidates (25.73%) who opted for A ‘is watching’ did not know that past continuous tense and present continuous tense cannot be used to express two past events which were occurring simultaneously. Options B ‘were watching’ and E ‘are watching’ which was chosen by 26.51 percent of the candidates could not be correct responses since there is no subject agreement with the third person singular. On the other hand, candidates (9.85%) who selected C ‘does watching’ did not realise that auxiliary “does” is not used to express past continuous tense.

**Question 7:** We\_\_\_\_\_ visiting you next month.

- A      shall be
- B      were been
- C      have been
- D      will be
- E      shall be

**Table 1 :** Number and Percentage of Candidates in each Response

Option	A	B	C	D	E*	Others
No.of Candidates	212359	47418	170406	103348	226324	3047
% of Candidates	27.81	6.21	22.32	13.54	29.64	0.47

The data in Table 1 indicate that this is the poorest performed question as only 29.64 percent of the candidates were able to choose the correct answer ‘E’.

The candidate was required to demonstrate the ability to express future events by using 'shall be' with '-ing'. Option E 'shall be' was the correct answer which shows that something is certain to happen in the future and this was chosen by only 29.64 percent of the candidates. The incorrect answer option C 'have been' was chosen by 22.32 percent of the candidates. This response shows that the candidates did not realise that 'have been' is in the present perfect tense and is used to show the period of time that continues from the past until now. This cannot be used with a specific action to take place in future. The candidates who chose option A 'shall been' were 27.81 percent. These candidates did not realise that 'shall' and 'been' cannot be used together. There were also those who opted for B 'were been' (6.21%). These candidates did not realise that 'were' is used with 'being' to show an on-going activity and not to express future actions. Those who opted for D 'will been' were 13.54 percent. These candidates did not realise that 'will' is usually used with the word 'be' and not 'been'. Therefore the use of 'been' makes it unsuitable to indicate a future action.

**Question 8:** Malima \_\_\_\_\_ to Tanga tomorrow evening.

- A will go
- B have gone
- C was going
- D has gone
- E went

**Figure 7 : Percentage of Candidates in each Response**

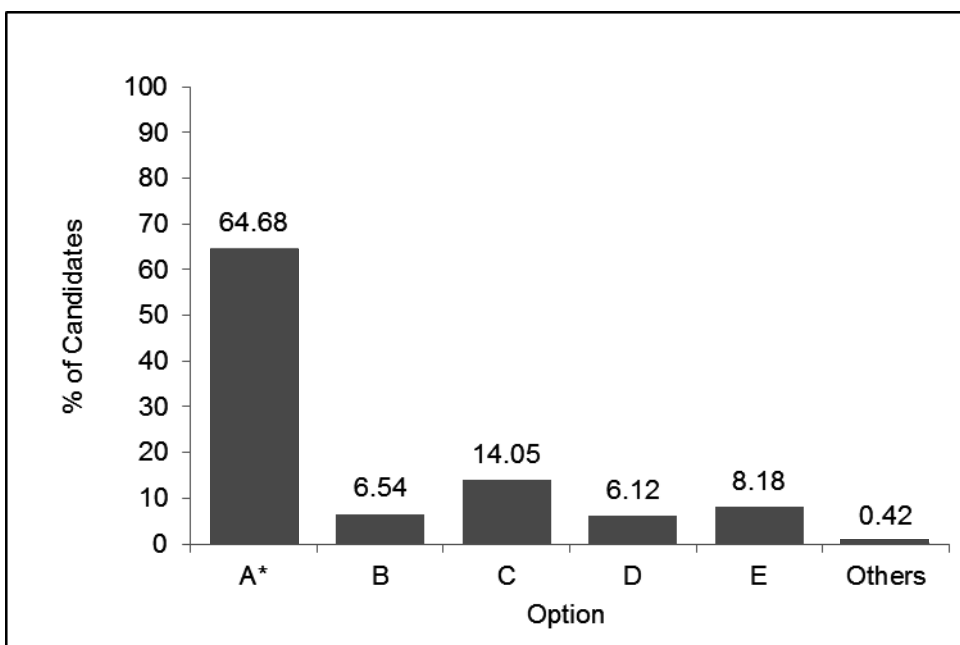


Figure 7 shows that question 8 was among the well performed question as many candidates (64.68%) opted for the correct answer.

This item required the candidate to express an action predicted to happen sometime in future. A good number of the candidates (64.68%) were able to choose the correct option A 'will go'. This response indicates that the candidates realised that they needed to use 'will go' to express an action which will definitely happen sometime in the future hence they selected the right auxiliary verb 'will' to go with the main verb 'go'. On the other hand, the choice of the incorrect option C 'was going' by 14.05 percent of the candidates suggests that, they could not realise that the phrase 'was going' implies that the action took place for some time in the past. Candidates who opted for E 'went' did not know that, this verb is in the past simple which is used to express an action which was done



and completed in the past. Those candidates who opted for B 'have gone' (6.54%) and D 'has gone' (6.12%) could not realise that those choices were making the given sentence to be grammatically incorrect as these are in the present perfect and are used to show that an action has been done and is complete.

**Question 9:** My sister-in-law\_\_\_\_\_ cleaning the house all morning.

- A have being
- B has being
- C has been
- D have been
- E was been

**Table 2 :** Number and Percentage of Candidates in each Response

Option	A	B	C*	D	E	Others
No. of candidates	65,085	107,352	370,351	141,661	75,245	3808
% of candidates	8.52	14.06	48.51	18.55	9.86	0.50

The data in Table 2 show that the performance of candidates in this question was average since 48.51 percent of the candidates chose the correct answer.

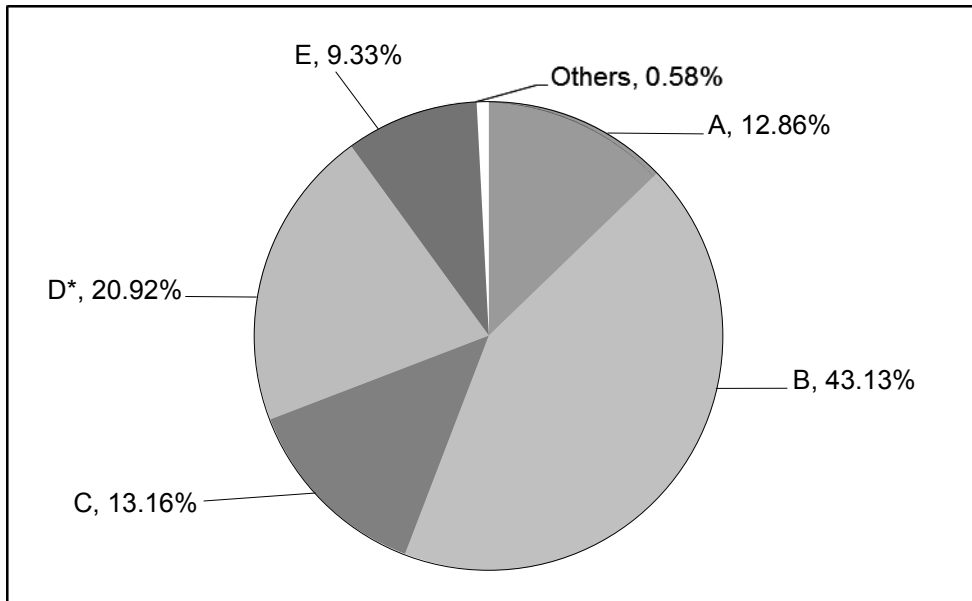
This item required the candidate to show the ability to express events that started in the past and have continued for a specific time by using the present perfect continuous tense. Option C 'has been' was the correct answer which was selected by 48.51 percent of all the candidates who attempted this question. These candidates realised that the third person singular goes with 'has been.' Option D 'have been' was chosen by 18.55 percent of the candidates. This

response implies that candidates did not know that 'have' needs to be used with the subject in plural form. The sister-in-law was alone and so singular form has to be used. Option B 'has being' (14.06%) and A 'have being' (8.52%) are incorrect because these have been used with the '-ing form of the verb 'be' which cannot be used with 'have' or 'has'. Option E 'was been'(9.86%) is wrong because 'been' goes with 'has' or 'have' not with the verb to be 'was'.

**Question 10:** The prisoners have been \_\_\_\_\_ from jail.

- A realize
- B releasing
- C releases
- D released
- E realized

**Figure 8 :** Percentage of Candidates in each Response!!



The data in Figure 8 show that the question was poorly performed as only 20.92 percent of the candidates got it correct.

This item required the candidate to demonstrate the knowledge on the use of 'present perfect tense'. The correct response D 'released' was opted for by 20.92 percent of the candidates. These candidates realised that the main verb in the present perfect tense ends with the '-ed' form of a verb to show that an event took place in the past. Option B 'releasing' was chosen by 43.13 percent of the candidates. This response shows that the candidates used the perfect continuous tense where the main verb ends with '-ing' which is contrary to the requirement of the question. Option C 'releases' was an incorrect answer which was chosen by 13.16 percent of the candidates who could not realise that the particular verb shows the habitual action which is contrary to the requirement of the question. On the other hand, candidates who opted for A 'realize' (12.88%) and E 'realized' (9.33%) did not understand the meaning of those words which is 'to become aware', hence using them in the given context does not convey the intended meaning.

**Question 11:** We always go to school \_\_\_\_\_ foot.

- A by
- B on
- C in
- D with
- E for

**Figure 9 : Percentage of Candidates in each Response**

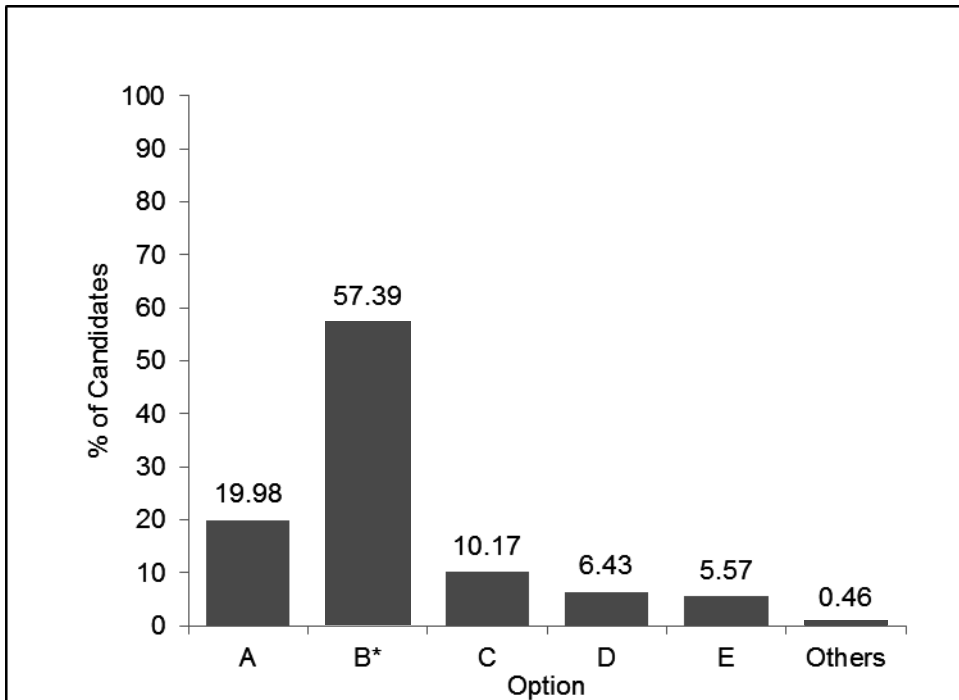


Figure 9 shows that the performance in this question was average as 57.39 percent of the candidates opted for the correct answer 'B'.

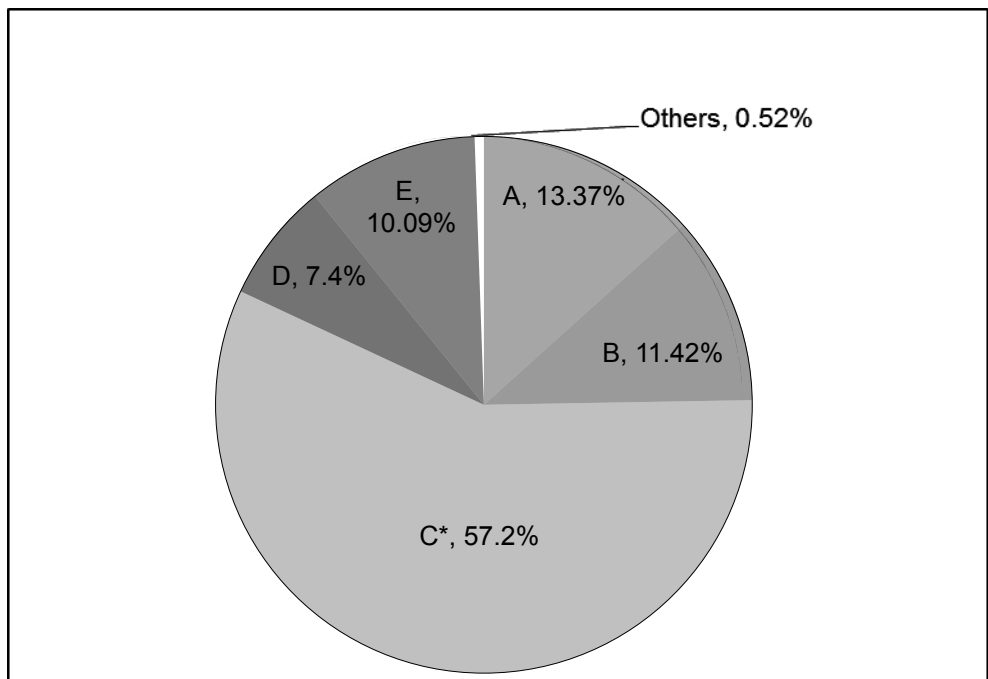
This item required the candidate to show the ability to use prepositions of manner. The correct answer was B 'on' which was selected by a good number of candidates (57.39%). This response shows that candidates knew that 'on' is normally used with manner of movement (how one goes to school). Option A 'by' was the most opted for incorrect choice by 19.98 percent of the candidates. These candidates were not aware that 'by' is used to show the means one uses to travel. The incorrect option C 'in' was selected by 10.17 percent of the candidates. This response indicates that the candidates were not aware that 'in' is a preposition of place which cannot be used with the manner of movement. The option D 'with' which was selected by 6.43 percent of the candidates is wrong

because when one walks, one uses the legs to walk with and not to go side by side as option D implies. The incorrect option E 'for' chosen by 5.57 percent of the candidates is not suitable because it is used to show purpose.

**Question 12:** Doctor Musa has told you about your problem,\_\_\_\_\_

- A hasn't he.
- B has he?
- C hasn't he?
- D has he.
- E haven't he?

**Figure 10 :** Percentage of Candidates in each Response



The data in Figure 10 show that the performance in this question was average as 57.2 percent of the candidates opted for the correct response.



The candidate was supposed to demonstrate the ability to use a question tag in the given statement appropriately. The correct option was C 'hasn't he?' which was selected by 57.2 percent of the candidates. These candidates were able to negate the helping verb 'has' to form the question tag. Option A 'hasn't he.' chosen by 13.37 percent of the candidates is wrong because there is a fullstop after the tag instead of a question mark. Those who opted for B 'has he?' were 11.42 percent and those for D 'has he.' were 7.4 percent. These candidates did not realise that when the statement is positive, the question tag has to be in a negative form. On the other hand, those who opted for E 'haven't he?' (10.09%) showed that they do not know the rule of forming question tags as they used the plural 'have' for one person, Doctor Musa with the third person singular 'he' which makes the tag grammatically wrong.

**Question 13:** The shopkeeper sold \_\_\_\_\_ dozen of eggs.

- A any
- B some
- C a
- D an
- E much

**Table 3 :** Number and Percentage of Candidates in each Response

Option	A	B	C*	D	E	Others
No.of Candidates	107,134	238,249	278,968	67,887	67,443	3821
% of Candidates	14.03	31.2	36.54	8.89	8.83	0.50

The data in Table 3 show that the candidates did not perform well in this question as only 36.54 percent of the candidates chose the correct answer.

This item tested the candidate's ability to use articles in a given statement correctly. The correct answer C 'a' was chosen by 36.54 percent of the candidates. These candidates knew that the article 'a' is used with countable nouns such as showing the specific number of eggs. Option B 'some' was chosen by many candidates (31.2 %). These candidates were not aware that 'some' is used when the specific number is not mentioned, as it is used to show that not all which was there was sold. The incorrect option A 'any' which was chosen by 14.03 percent of the candidates is not correct because 'any' is used in negative statements and questions. Since the statement is in the positive form, 'any' cannot be a suitable option. The candidates who opted for D 'an' (8.89%) could not realise that the article 'an' is used with nouns that start with vowels and so could not be used with those that start with consonants. Option E 'much' was chosen by 8.83 percent of the candidates. These candidates did not know that 'much' is used to show the quantity of something that cannot be counted. In this case, eggs are countable and so 'much' is not a correct option.

**Question 14:** The house belongs to my friends, therefore the house is \_\_\_\_\_.

- A     ours
- B     hers
- C     yours
- D     his
- E     theirs

**Table 4 : Number and Percentage of Candidates in each Response**

Option	A	B	C	D	E*	Others
No.of Candidates	128,408	73,172	212,229	95,054	250,061	4578
% of Candidates	16.82	9.58	27.8	12.45	32.75	0.6

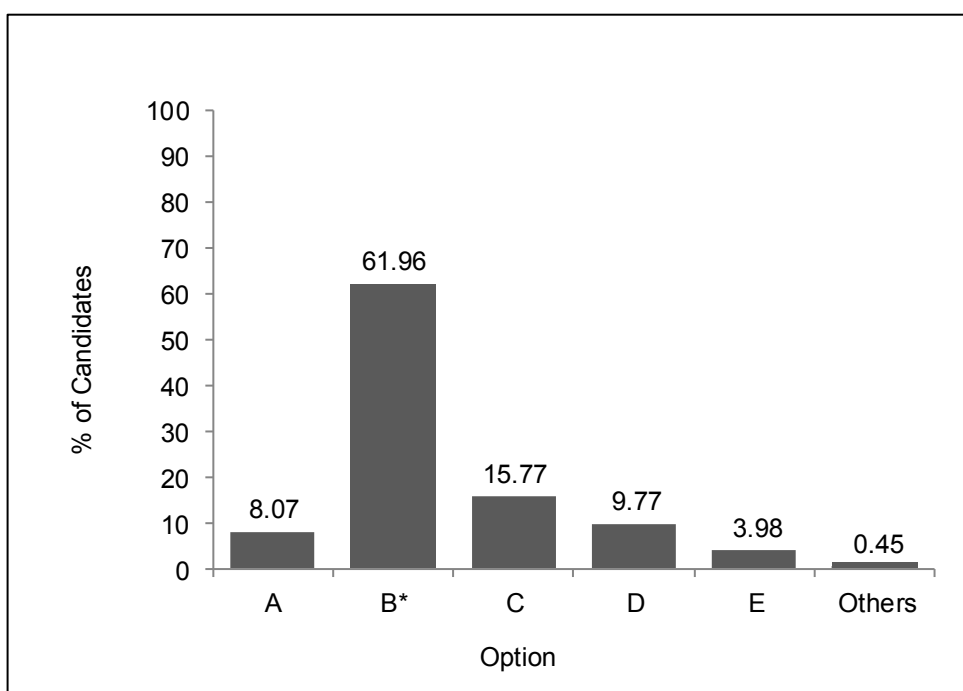
Table 4 shows that the performance of candidates was weak as only 32.75 percent of the candidates were able to choose the correct option 'E'.

This item sought to test the candidate's ability to use possessive pronouns. The correct answer E 'theirs' was chosen by 32.75 percent of the candidates. This response shows that the candidates knew that possessive pronouns are used to show that something belongs to somebody and 'theirs' refers to the third person plural. The option representing the highest number of incorrect responses was option C 'your' with 27.8 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. Option A 'ours' was chosen by 16.82 percent of the candidates. The candidates who chose this option overlooked the phrase 'my friends' which shows that the speaker was not included and so could not include himself. The options B 'hers' (9.58%) and D 'his' (12.45%) are used with the third person singular to show possession. This makes these options wrong as the people concerned were many (my friends).

**Question 15:** Hassan is suffering \_\_\_\_\_ malaria.

- A at
- B from
- C of
- D in
- E on

Figure 11 : Percentage of Candidates in each Response



The data in Figure 11 show that this was among the question which had good performance as 61.96 percent of the candidates opted for the correct response.

This item was one of the well performed questions which intended to test the candidate's ability to use prepositions. The correct option B 'from' was chosen by 61.96 percent of the candidates. This response shows that the candidates were aware that 'from' is used to show the reason for something. The commonly chosen incorrect

response was option C 'of' which was chosen by 15.77 percent of the candidates. These candidates did not know that 'of' is used to mean something belongs to someone. In this case, malaria does not belong to Hassan. The incorrect options D 'in' (9.77%), A 'at' (8.07%) and E 'on' (3.98%) show prepositions of place which are not suitable in this case.

**Question 16:** "Juma is not listening in class," he said. In reported speech the sentence will be; He said that,

- A you were not listening in class.
- B Juma is not listening in class.
- C you are not listening in class.
- D Juma was not listening in class.
- E they were not listening in class.

**Table 5 :** Number and Percentage of Candidates in each Response

Option	A	B	C	D*	E	Others
No.of Candidates	67,164	159,137	106,023	371,013	56,188	3,977
% of Candidates	8.8	20.84	13.89	48.59	7.36	0.53

The data in Table 5 indicate that the performance in this question was average as 48.59 percent of the candidates opted for the correct answer.

This item tested the candidate's ability to use reported speech. The correct option D 'Juma was not listening in class' was opted for by 48.59 percent of the candidates. These candidates realised that in order to change the statement into reported speech, they needed to change the verb 'is' in the present form into the past form 'was.' The

candidates who opted for B 'Juma is not listening in class' (20.84%) could not realise that they had to change the verb in the present to the past because they were reporting on a complete action in the past time. Option C 'you are not listening in class' was chosen by 13.89 percent of the candidates who used the wrong third person 'you' and did not change the verb tense into the past. Options A 'you were not listening in class' (8.8%) and E, 'they were not listening in class' by 7.36 percent of the candidates was wrong because only one person was not listening and not many people as these options imply.

**Question 17:** They were both quick, but he was the \_\_\_\_\_ of all.

- A   quickest
- B   quicker
- C   most quick
- D   quickly
- E   quicken

**Table 6 :** Number and Percentage of Candidates in each Response

Option	A*	B	C	D	E	Others
<b>No.of Candidates</b>	256,082	90,725	237,132	111,826	64,467	3,270
<b>% of Candidates</b>	33.54	11.88	31.06	14.65	8.44	0.43

The data in Table 6 indicate that the correct answer was chosen by 33.54 percent of the candidates which depicts poor performance in this question.

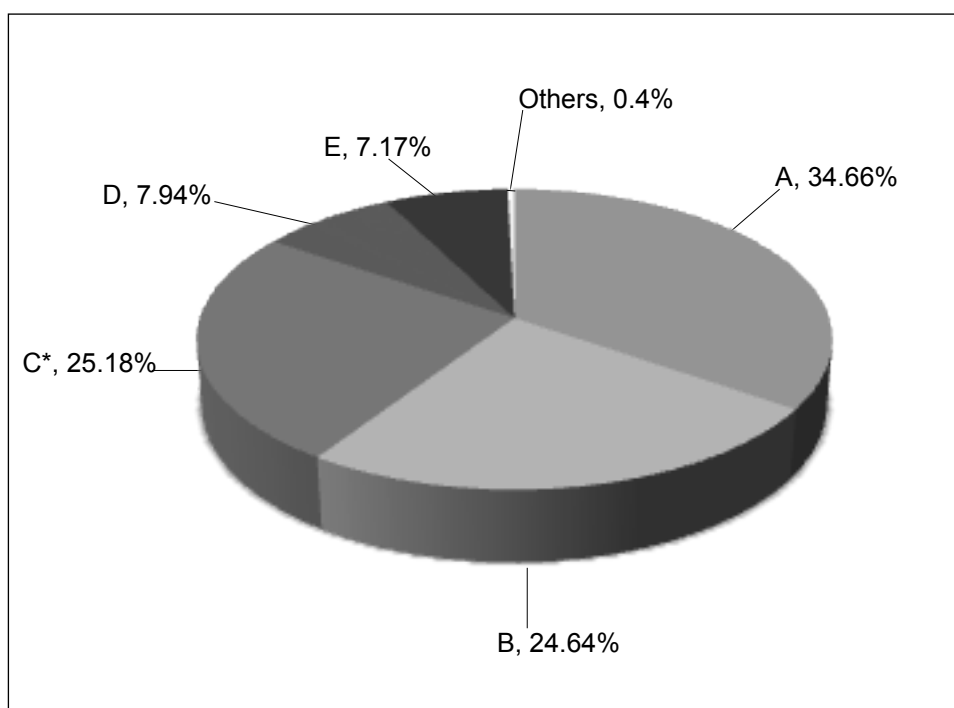
This item tested the candidate's ability to use the superlative form of a word. The correct option A 'quickest' was selected by 33.54

percent of the candidates. These candidates realised that when comparing more than one thing in the superlative, ‘-est’ is added to the base form of the word. The incorrect option C ‘most quick’ attracted many candidates and was chosen by 31.06 percent of the candidates. These candidates were not aware that ‘quick’ cannot be used with ‘most’ since it is an adjective that has one vowel syllable sound /kwik/. Option D ‘quickly’ was selected by 14.65 percent of the candidates. These candidates did not realise that ‘quickly’ is an adverb of manner used to show how something was done. Option B ‘quicker’ was chosen by 11.88 percent of the candidates who did not realise that when a word has ‘-er’, it is supposed to be used with ‘than’ and without ‘the’ before it. Those who chose option E ‘quicken’ did not know that ‘quicken’ is a verb and cannot be applicable in this question.

**Question 18:** They are going to have an accident because the driver is driving \_\_\_\_\_.

- A     carefully
- B     careless
- C     carelessly
- D     carefulness
- E     carelessness

**Figure 12 : Percentage of Candidates in each Response**



The data in figure 12 indicate that the performance in this question was poor as only 25.18 percent of the candidates were able to choose the correct answer.

This item intended to test the candidate's ability to use the adverb of manner. Those who chose option C 'carelessly' were only 25.18 percent. These candidates realised that for one to have an accident, the driver must not have been driving in a good way, therefore the correct option is 'carelessly.' The most attractive incorrect option which was selected by 34.66 percent of candidates was option A 'carefully.' These candidates did not realise that driving carefully is positive and would mean a safe trip. Option B 'careless' which was chosen by 24.64 percent of the candidates was not the correct answer because it is an adjective showing the attitude of how someone may be. This Option E 'carelessness' which was chosen by 7.17 percent of the candidates was wrong because it is used as a



noun contrary to the requirement of the question.’ Option D ‘carefulness’ (7.94%) is a positive noun which cannot be suitable for the negative statement.

**Question 19:** The house \_\_\_\_\_ is white in color is ours.

- A    which
- B    whose
- C    who
- D    whom
- E    what

**Table 7 :** Number and Percentage of Candidates in each Response

Option	A*	B	C	D	E	Others
<b>No.of Candidates</b>	362,442	148,285	124,060	64,766	60,792	3,157
<b>% of Candidates</b>	47.47	19.42	16.25	8.48	7.96	0.41

The data in the Table 7 show that the performance of this question was average because 47.47 percent of the candidates managed to choose the correct answer.

This item tested candidate’s ability to use relative pronouns. The correct option A ‘which’ was chosen by 47.47 percent of candidates. These candidates displayed their ability in using the correct relative pronoun in the clause to define something. Option B ‘whose’ was selected by 19.42 percent of the candidates. This option is wrong because it is used to show possession. Options C ‘who’ (16.25%) and D ‘whom’ (8.48%) are used with people and not with things. Option E ‘what’ was opted for by 7.96 percent of the candidates. This is not correct because it is used in questions and cannot be applicable in this case.

**Question 20:** Which of the following questions is the most appropriate one for this answer; “She is the captain.”

- A What is she?
- B Whom is she?
- C Where is she?
- D Who is she?
- E Whose is she?

**Figure 13 :** Percentage of Candidates in each Response

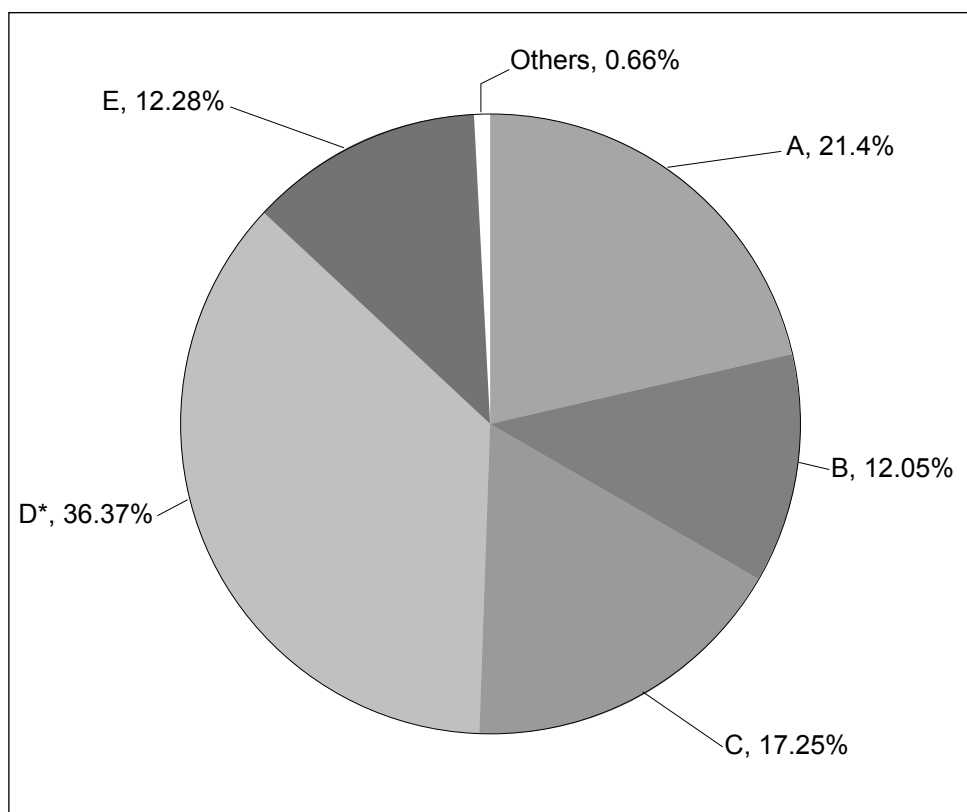


Figure 13 shows that the performance of candidates in this question was weak as only 36.37 percent of the candidates were able to choose the correct answer.

This item required the candidate to demonstrate the ability to form questions. The correct option D ‘Who is she?’ was opted for by

36.37 percent of the candidates who had the ability to form simple questions from simple statements. The most opted incorrect answer is A 'What is she?' which was selected by 21.4 percent of the candidates. These candidates did not realise that 'wh-' questions which start with 'what' are supposed to be accompanied with job such as 'what is her job?' 'What is she?' is incomplete grammatically. Option C 'Where is she?' was chosen by 17.25 percent of the candidates. These candidates were not aware that 'where' is used to express location. Option E 'whose is she?' was selected by 12.28 percent of the candidates. These candidates showed lack of knowledge that 'whose' is used to show that something belongs to someone. Option B 'Whom is she?' (12.05%) is grammatically wrong as 'whom' is used after a preposition.

**Question 21:** Catherine is sitting on my left and Mariam is sitting on my right. I am sitting \_\_\_\_\_ Catherine and Mariam.

- A     beside
- B     between
- C     next
- D     behind
- E     in front

**Figure 14 : Percentage of Candidates in each Response**

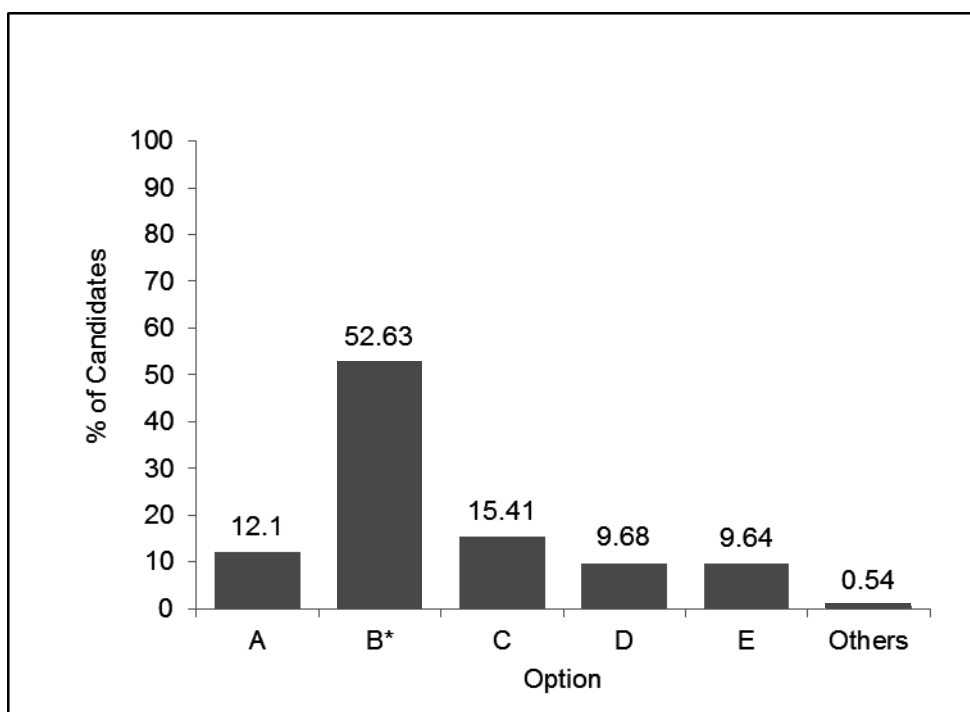


Figure 14 shows that the performance of candidates in this question was average as the data reveal that 52.63 percent of the candidates opted for the correct response.

This item tested candidate's ability to use the prepositions of place correctly. The correct option B 'between' was chosen by 52.63 percent of the candidates. These candidates knew that the preposition 'between' is used in the space separating two or more objects, things or people. The candidates who opted for C 'next' were 15.41 percent. These candidates were not aware that 'next' means 'coming straight after something'. Option A 'beside' was chosen by 12.1 percent of the candidates who did not know that 'beside' means "next to". Candidates who opted for D 'behind' were 9.68 percent. These candidates could not realise that a preposition 'behind' is used to show a thing/person which/who is at or towards the back of

something/somebody. The Candidates who opted for E 'in front' were 9.64 percent. This choice suggests that candidates did not have an idea that the preposition 'in front' is used to mean that something is in a position that is further forward than something.

**Question 22:** He hurried home \_\_\_\_\_ he could meet his friend.

- A in order to
- B because
- C so that
- D so as to
- E for that

**Table 8 :** Number and Percentage of Candidates in each Response

Option	A	B	C*	D	E	Others
No.of Candidates	155,043	258,277	256,056	45,675	44,480	3971
% of Candidates	20.31	33.83	33.54	5.98	5.83	0.52

Table 8 shows that the performance of candidates in this question was weak as only 33.83 percent of the candidates managed to choose the correct answer.

This question tested the candidate's ability to use conjunctions. The correct answer C 'so that' was chosen by 33.54 percent of the candidates. These candidates understood that the given conjunction is used to show purpose. The incorrect option B 'because' attracted most of the candidates (33.83%). These candidates failed to realise that the word 'because' is used to show reason. There were candidates who opted for A 'in order to' (20.31%) and D 'so as to' (5.98%). These answers suggest that candidates had knowledge that those clauses are used to show purpose, however they did

not know that, the clauses should be followed by the verb in its base form. Option E 'for that' was chosen by 5.83 percent of the candidates. This choice shows that the candidates did not know that using the clause would make the sentence be grammatically wrong.

**Question 23:** Schola is a beautiful girl. The word “Schola” has been used as \_\_\_\_\_.

- A an adjective
- B a pronoun
- C an adverb
- D a preposition
- E a noun

**Figure 15 :** Percentage of Candidates in each Response

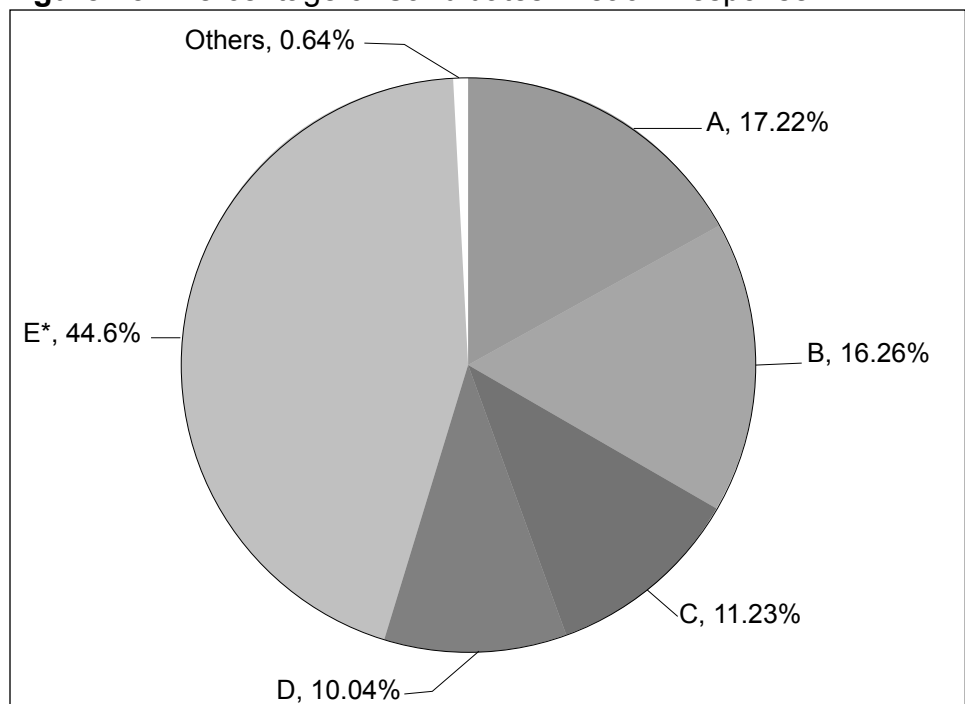


Figure 15 shows that the performance of candidates in this question was average as the data reveal that 44.6 percent of the candidates opted for the correct response 'E'.

This item tested candidate's ability to recognize different types of word classes. A good number of candidates (43.6%) were able to choose the most correct option E 'a noun'. These candidates had the knowledge that nouns are used to refer to a person or place or thing and it can be used as a subject. Option A 'an adjective' was chosen by 17.22 percent of the candidates. This answer implies that the candidates did not understand that adjective is used to describe noun and therefore, a noun cannot be an adjective. The candidates who chose option B 'a pronoun' (16.26%) were not aware that the pronoun is used instead of a noun. The choice of the incorrect response in option C 'an adverb' (11.23%) suggests that the candidates were not aware that adverbs are used to say how something happens, where or when something happens. Option D 'preposition' (10.04%) as choice of the candidates shows that the candidates were not familiar with the use of prepositions.

**Question 24:** A man was walking \_\_\_\_\_ his friend last Thursday.

- A     beside
- B     besides
- C     before
- D     beneath
- E     in front

**Figure 16 : Percentage of Candidates in each Response**

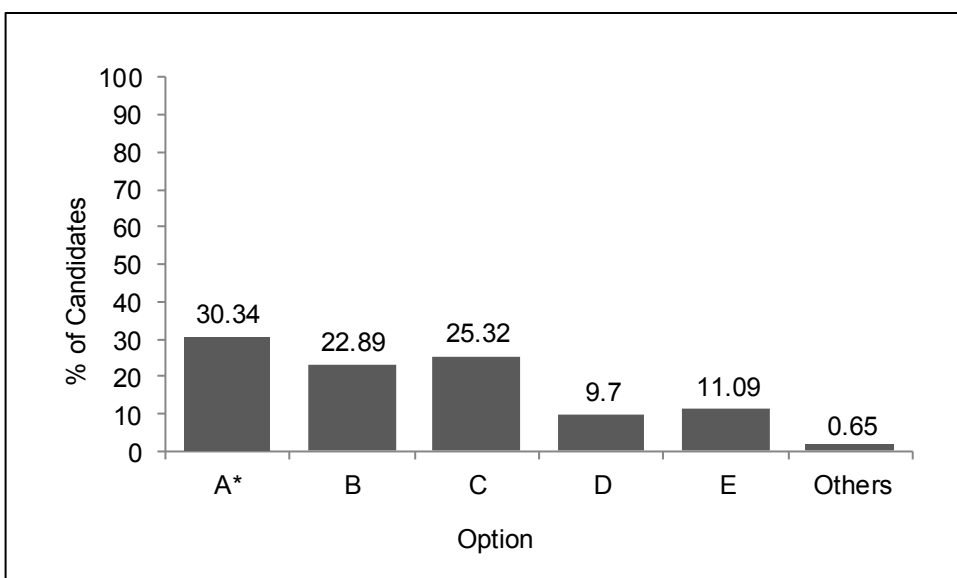


Figure 16 shows that the performance of candidates in this question was weak as only 30.34 percent of the candidates managed to choose the correct answer.

This item tested the candidate's ability to express location using prepositions. About 30.34 percent of the candidates managed to choose the correct option A 'beside', which means "next to". The choice of the option B 'besides' by 22.89 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'. Candidates who opted for C 'before' were 25.32 percent, these candidates could not realise that a preposition 'before' is used to show time and not place. Only 9.7 percent of the candidates opted for D 'beneath', these candidates could not realise that someone cannot walk 'beneath' somebody else as this preposition is used to mean 'under'. Candidates who opted for E 'in front' were 11.09



percent. This choice suggests that these candidates confused this word with 'in front of'.

**Question 25:** John \_\_\_\_\_ the teachers were in the office.

- A with
- B together
- C also
- D and
- E both

**Figure 17 :** Percentage of Candidates in each Response

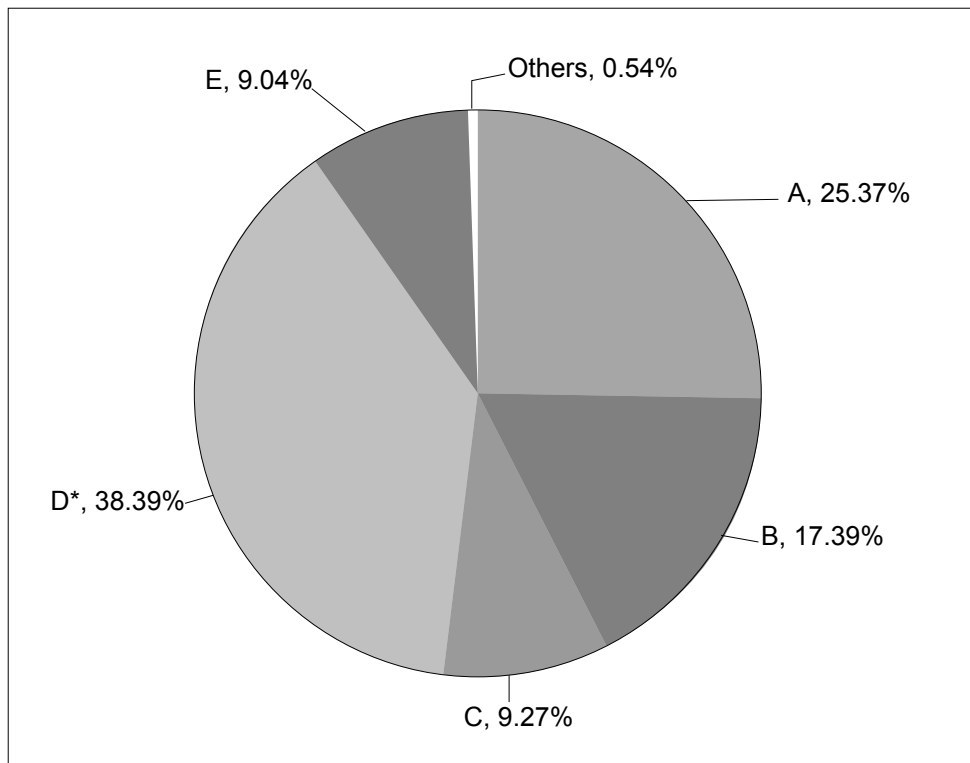


Figure 17 shows that the performance of candidates in this question was weak as only 38.39 percent of the candidates managed to choose the correct answer.

This item intended to test the candidate's ability to use the conjunctions appropriately. The correct option D 'and' was the most commonly chosen by 38.39 percent of the candidates. This response indicates that the candidates knew that the particular conjunction is used to connect words or parts of the sentences. The candidates who opted for A 'with' (25.37%) did not know that 'with' is used to indicate means and sometimes is used to describe something and cannot be used as a conjunction. Option B 'together' was selected by 17.39 percent of the candidates. These candidates did not know that 'together' can be used as an adverbial or adjective which is contrary to the requirement of the question.

**Question 26:** The river flows \_\_\_\_\_ the two mountains.

- A along
- B among
- C between
- D in
- E by

**Figure 18 : Percentage of Candidates in each Response**

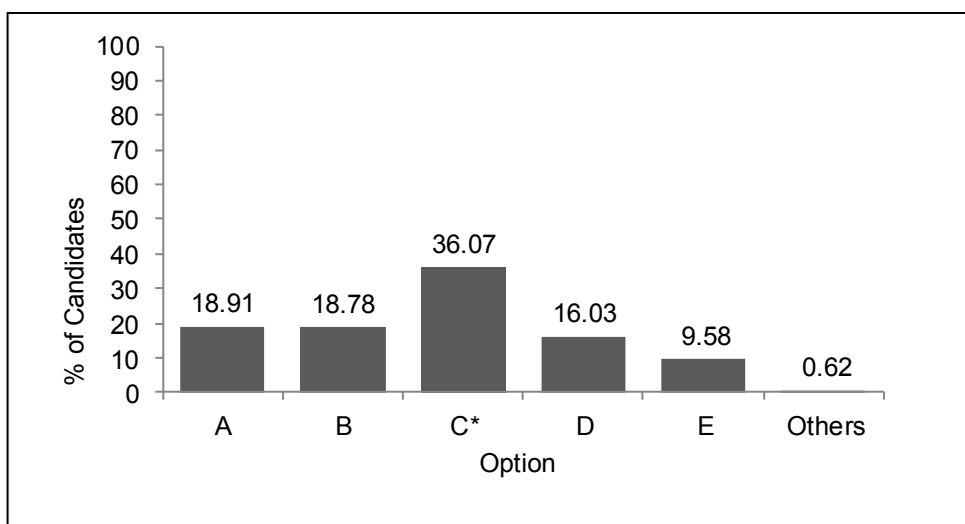


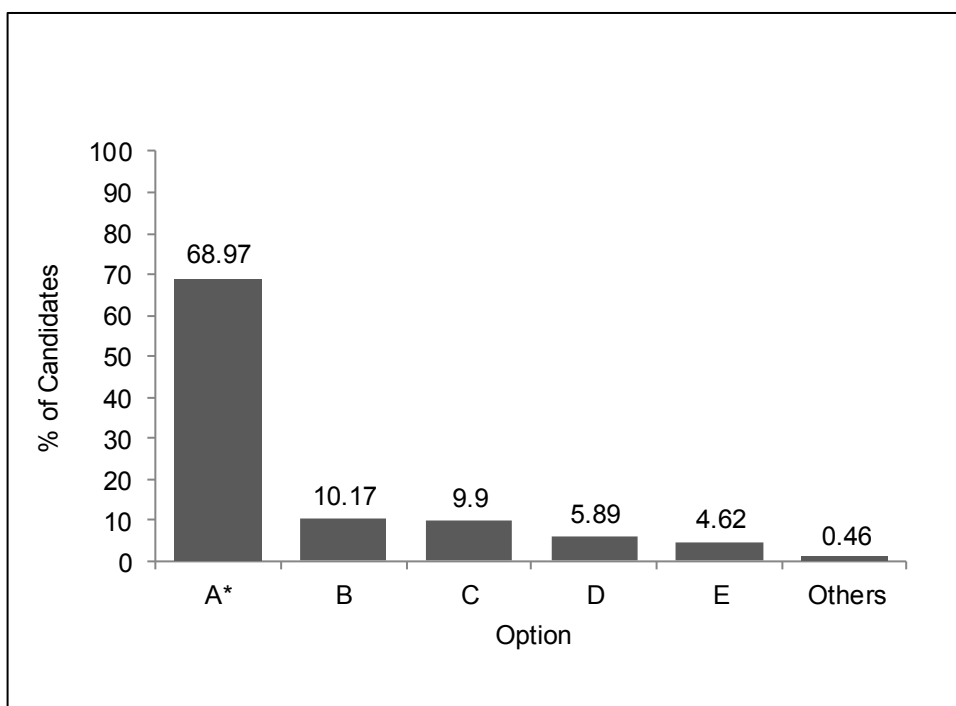
Figure 18 shows that the performance of candidates in this question was weak as only 36.07 percent of the candidates managed to choose the correct answer.

This item required the candidate to demonstrate the ability to use the appropriate preposition of place. The correct option C 'between' was chosen by 36.07 percent of the candidates. These candidates knew that the preposition 'between' is used in the space separating two or more objects, things or people. Option A 'along' was chosen by 18.91 percent of the candidates. These candidates did not realise that 'along' can be used as a preposition to show movement. Moreover, option B 'among' was chosen by 18.78 percent of the candidates who did not understand that 'among' is used as a preposition to mean 'surrounded by something'. The choice of option D 'in' by 16.03 percent of the candidates suggests that the candidates could not realise that a river cannot pass within the mountain. Those who opted for E 'by' (9.58%) were not aware that 'by' is a preposition which is used to show means.

**Question 27:** These children are \_\_\_\_\_ eating nor drinking.

- A neither
- B so
- C either
- D both
- E never

**Figure 19 :** Percentage of Candidates in each Response



The data in Figure 19 show that this was among the questions which had good performance as 68.97 percent of the candidates opted for the correct response.

This question tested the candidate's ability to use conjunctions. This was among the highly performed question in this paper as many candidates (68.97%) were able to choose the correct response A '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 cannot be done at the same time. The incorrect response option B 'so' was chosen by 10.17 percent of the candidates who did not know that 'so' is the conjunction which is used to show results and it cannot be followed by a verb. On the other hand, the choice of incorrect response C 'either' by 9.9 percent of the candidates indicates that they did not know that 'either' goes with 'or' and it is used to show a choice of two things. Candidates who chose option D 'both' by 5.89 percent, did not realise that the particular determiner is used with plural nouns to mean 'the two'. The choice of the incorrect response E 'never' by 4.62 percent, made the sentence be grammatically wrong because 'never' is used to show negative.

**Question 28:** Freddy put \_\_\_\_\_ pepper in his food.

- A many
- B a little
- C a few
- D any
- E small

**Table 9 :** Number and Percentage of Candidates in each Response

Option	A	B*	C	D	E	Others
<b>No.of Candidates</b>	193,388	216,022	135,577	103,089	109,703	5,723
<b>% of Candidates</b>	25.33	28.29	17.76	13.5	14.37	0.75

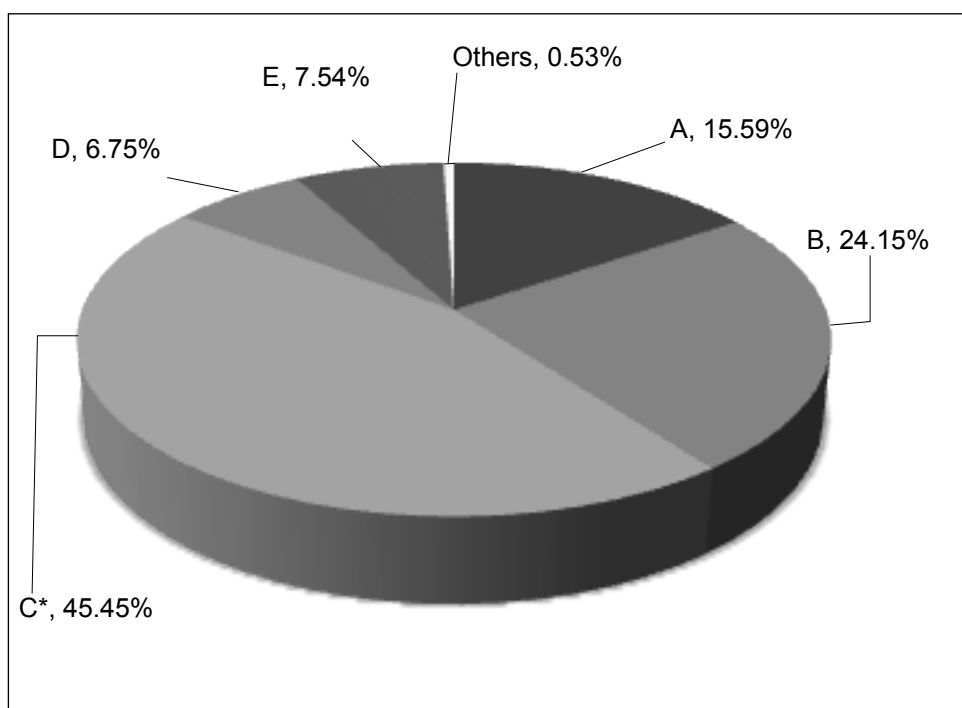
Table 9 shows that the performance of candidates in this question was weak as only 28.29 percent of the candidates managed to choose the correct answer.

This item tested the candidate's ability to use quantifiers. Candidates who chose the correct option B 'a little' were 28.29 percent of the candidates. These candidates realised that the quantifier 'a little' is used before uncountable nouns. Options A 'many' and C 'a few' were chosen by 25.33 and 17.76 percent of the candidates. These options were wrong because 'many' and 'a few' are always used with countable nouns in this case the object 'pepper' is an uncountable noun. The candidates who opted for D 'any' (13.5%) were wrong because they could not realise that 'any' is used with uncountable or plural nouns in negative sentences and questions. Moreover, the choice of option E 'small' by 14.37 percent of the candidates was wrong because the candidates were not aware that 'small' can be used as an adjective and using it in this sentence would make the sentence grammatically wrong.

**Question 29:** Mary is going to the stadium \_\_\_\_\_ her friend.

- A by
- B and
- C with
- D or
- E at

**Figure 20 : Percentage of Candidates in each Response**



The performance of candidates in this question was average as the data in Figure 20 reveal that 45.45 percent of the candidates opted for the correct response 'C'.

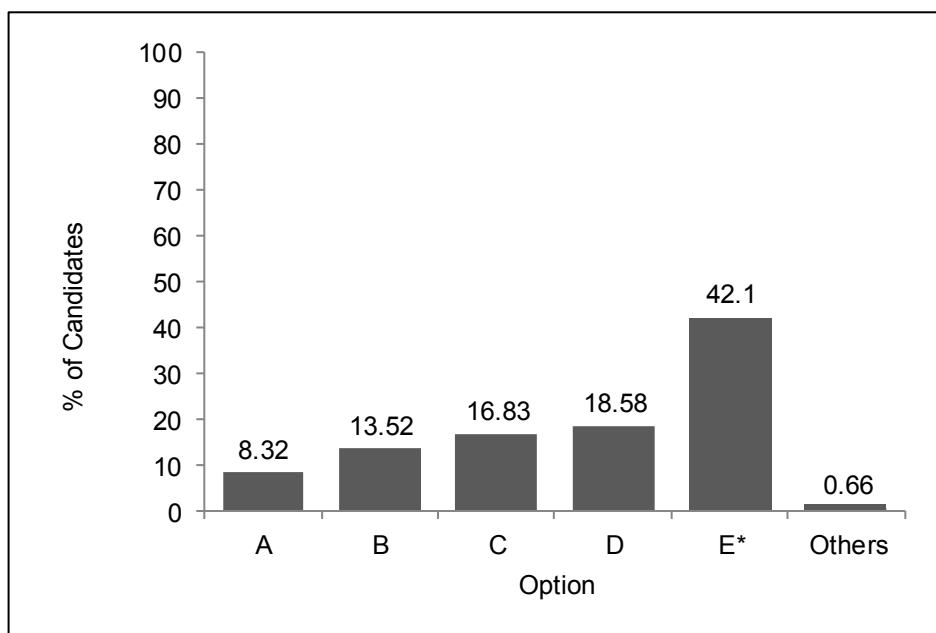
This question tested the candidate's ability to use the preposition. The correct option C 'with' was chosen by most of the candidates (45.45%). These candidates had the knowledge that 'with' is a preposition and it is used to mean 'in the company of somebody'. However, there were candidates who had wrong choices. Those who opted for A 'by' (15.59%) could not realise that it is used as the preposition to show the means of doing something. Option E 'at' (7.54%) was wrong because, it is a preposition of time or place when/where something happens. On the other hand, the choice of option B 'and' by 15.59 percent of the candidates suggests that the candidates were not aware that 'and' is a conjunction and it is used

to connect words or parts of the sentences. The candidates who chose option D 'or' (6.75%) did not understand that 'or' is the conjunction which is used to introduce another possibility and it could not be applicable to the context used in the given sentence.

**Question 30:** I am not talking to you, \_\_\_\_\_.

- A do I
- B am I
- C was I?
- D do I?
- E am I?

**Figure 21 :** Percentage of Candidates in each Response



The performance of candidates in this question was average as the data in Figure 21 reveal that 42.1 percent of the candidates opted for the correct response 'E'.



This item required the candidate to demonstrate the ability to use the correct question tag to complete the sentence. Many candidates (42.1%) managed to opt for the correct response E 'am I?' because they knew that a negative statement is followed by a positive tag. The candidates who opted for A 'do I' and B 'am I' by 8.32 and 13.52 percent did not realise that a question tag must end with a question mark. The choice of option C 'was I?' and D 'do I?' by 16.83 and 18.58 percent of the candidates suggests that they did not know that the question tag should match with the tense of the stem.

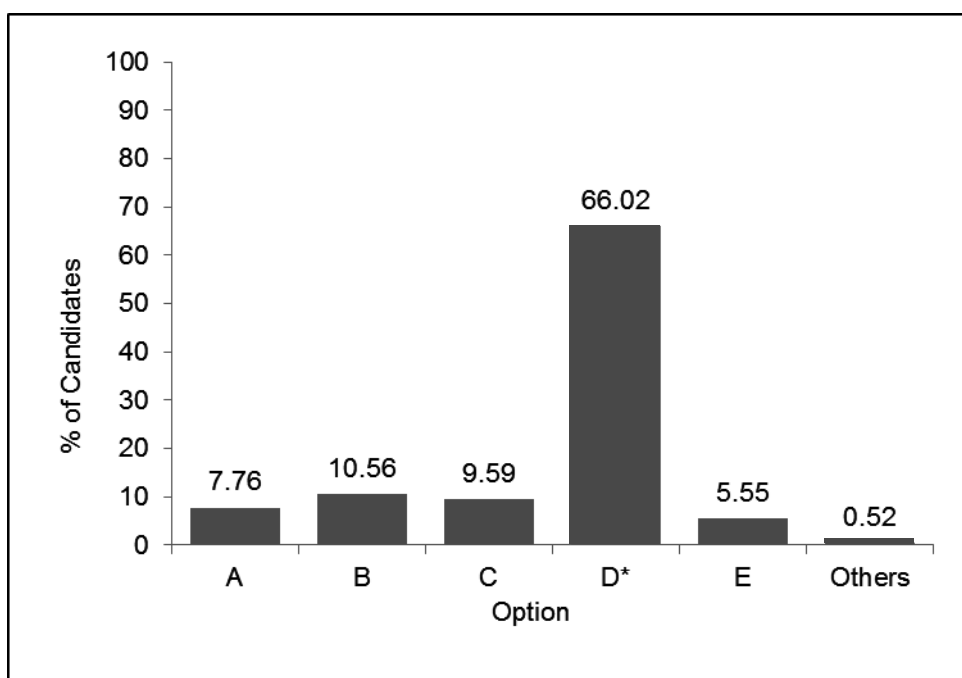
## **2.2 Section B: Vocabulary**

This section was testing the candidates' knowledge on vocabulary and had the performance ranging from 16.45 percent to 67.85 percent. The analysis of each question has been done as follows:

**Question 31:** The father to your father is called \_\_\_\_\_.

- A father of father
- B big father
- C grandfatherly
- D grandfather
- E father's father

**Figure 22 : Percentage of Candidates in each Response**



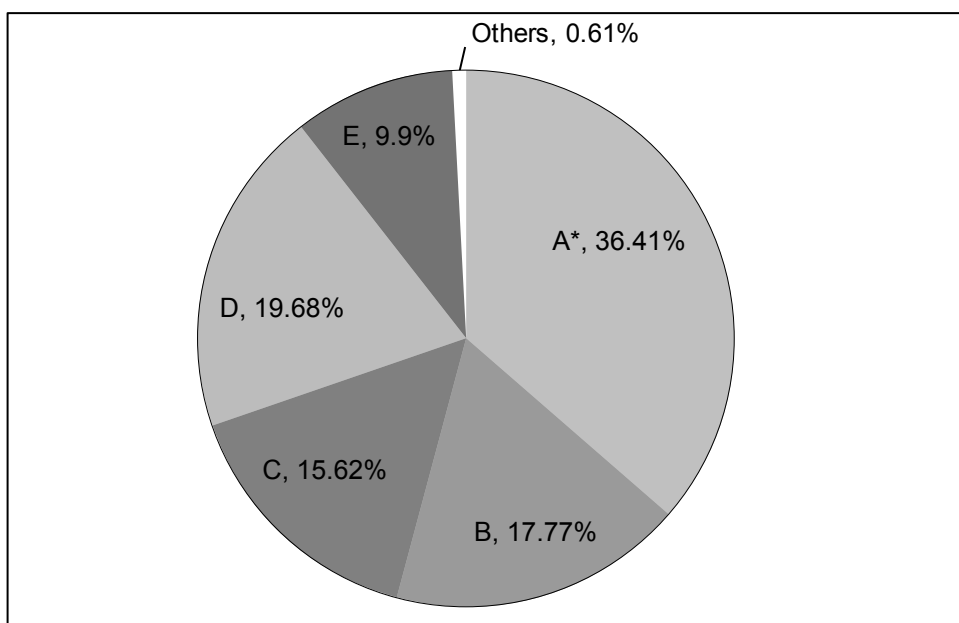
The data in Figure 22 show that this was among the questions which had good performance as 66.02 percent of the candidates opted for the correct response 'D'.

This item tested the candidate's knowledge in explaining kinship relations. The correct option D 'grandfather' was chosen by 66.02 percent of the candidates. This response indicates that these candidates realised the fact that the father of your father is known as grandfather. On the other hand, candidates who opted for A 'father of father' (7.76%) and E 'father's father' (5.55%) had an idea of the answer but they could not opt for a correct term which is used to refer to such a family relationship. Also, the choice of incorrect responses B 'big father' (10.56%) and C 'grand fatherly' (9.59%) shows that these candidates were not aware of the correct terms used in expressing kinship relations especially in English Language.

**Question 32:** My mother sold a \_\_\_\_\_ of banana.

- A bunch
- B bunches
- C heap
- D branch
- E group

**Figure 23 :** Percentage of Candidates in each Response



The performance of candidates in this question was weak as the data in Figure 23 reveal that only 36.41 percent of the candidates opted for the correct response 'A'.

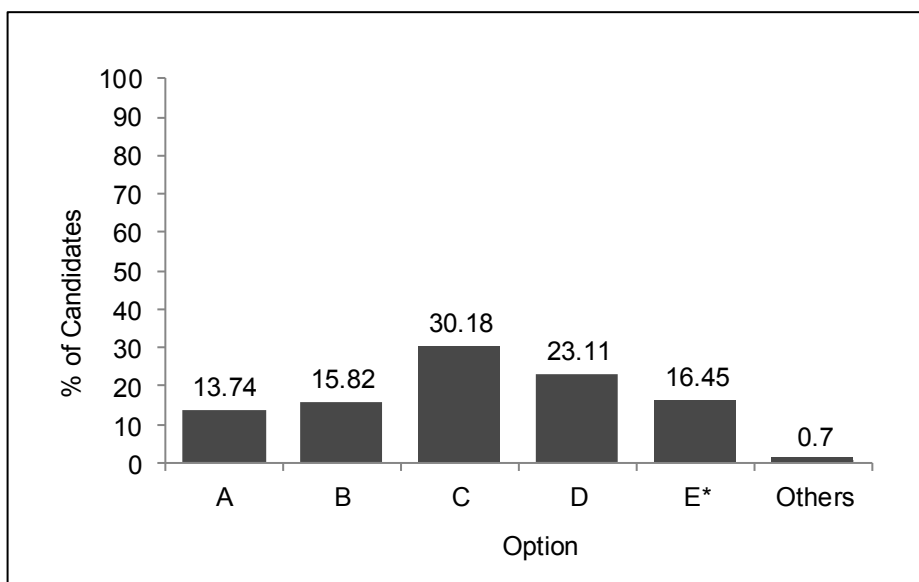
In this item, a candidate was required to show the knowledge on collective nouns. The correct option A 'bunch' was selected by 36.41 percent of candidates. These candidates knew that the word 'bunch' collocates with banana in order to show that, usually, bananas are fastened together. Option B 'bunches' was chosen by 17.77 percent of the candidates. These candidates did not realise that the

statement was in singular form and therefore the noun which could be used to fill in the blank must be in singular form, in this case a 'bunch' and not 'bunches'. On the other hand, candidates who opted for C 'heap' (15.62%), D 'branch' (19.68%) and E 'group' (9.9%) did not have knowledge on collocation meaning in the sense that they did not know the word to be used with banana.

**Question 33:** The noise in the club house was too loud to hear the police\_\_\_\_\_ outside.

- A bells
- B horns
- C alarm
- D bang
- E sirens

**Figure 24 :** Percentage of Candidates in each Response



The general performance of candidates in this question was very poor as the data reveal that only 16.45 percent of the candidates opted for the correct response 'E'.

This item required the candidate to complete the given sentence by using the correct vocabulary. The correct option E 'sirens' was chosen by 16.45 percent of the candidates. These candidates were aware that 'sirens' means loud warning sounds used on police cars, fire engines or ambulance. The most commonly chosen incorrect response was option C 'alarm' opted for by 30.18 percent of the candidates. The option 'alarm' attracted most of candidates because alarm is an equipment that makes a loud noise to warn people of danger for example a burglar alarm, a fire/smoke alarm and a car alarm. It means that, both 'sirens' and 'alarm' produce loud noise used for warning although they differ in usage. On the other hand, the choice of incorrect responses A 'bells' (13.74%), B 'horns' (15.82%) suggests that the candidates did not realise the correct use of 'bells' and 'horns' as bells are commonly used in schools and churches while horns are used by motor vehicles, motor cycles, ship, trains for the purpose of warning or signaling. Further analysis reveals that the candidates who opted for D 'bang' (23.11) could not realise the meaning of the word 'bang' which means a sudden loud noise caused by something such as a gun or an object hitting a hard surface.

**Question 34:** A word twice means \_\_\_\_\_.

- A too times
- B two
- C two times
- D three times
- E second

**Figure 25 : Percentage of Candidates in each Response**

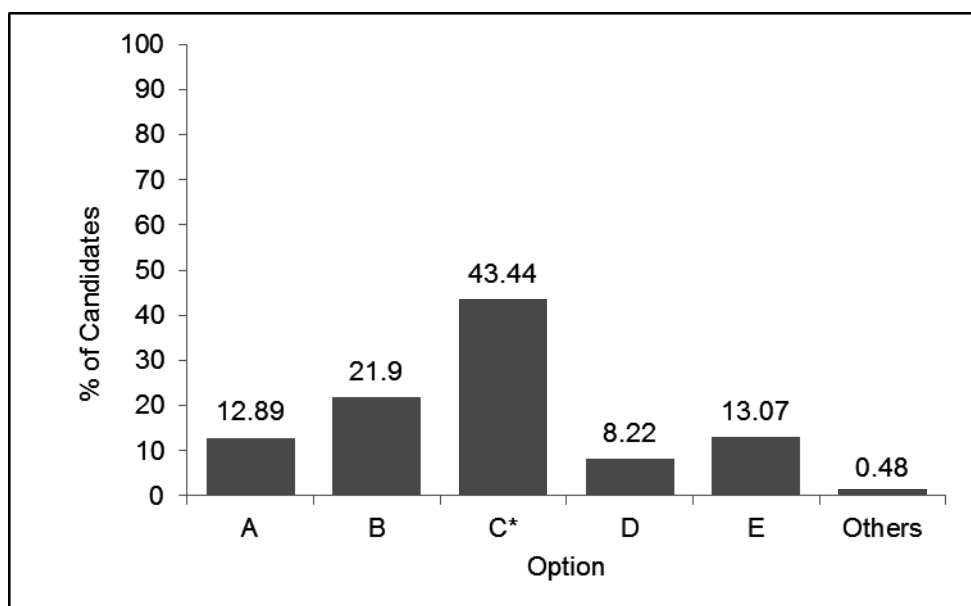


Figure 25 shows that the performance of candidates in this question was average as the data reveal that 43.44 percent of the candidates opted for the correct response 'C'.

The candidate was required to give meaning of the word 'twice' as a means of expressing frequency by using numbers. The correct option C 'two times' was selected by 43.44 percent of the candidates who attempted this question. These candidates were able to identify the correct meaning of the word 'twice'. On the other hand, 21.9 percent of the candidates opted for B 'two'. These candidates were not able to realise that 'twice' means 'two times' and not two. Candidates who selected for A 'too times' (12.89%) and D 'three times' (8.22%) were just guessing the meaning because the phrase 'too times' is meaningless while 'three times' means thrice. Those who opted for E 'second' (13.07%) could not realise that "second" is mainly used in sequencing ideas rather than expressing frequency.

**Question 35:** The evening meal is called \_\_\_\_\_.

- A food
- B lunch
- C breakfast
- D dinner
- E dish

**Table 10:** Number and Percentage of Candidates in each Response

Option	A	B	C	D*	E	Others
No. of candidates	146,726	118,979	161,948	294,170	38,430	3249
% of candidates	19.22	15.58	21.21	38.53	5.03	0.43

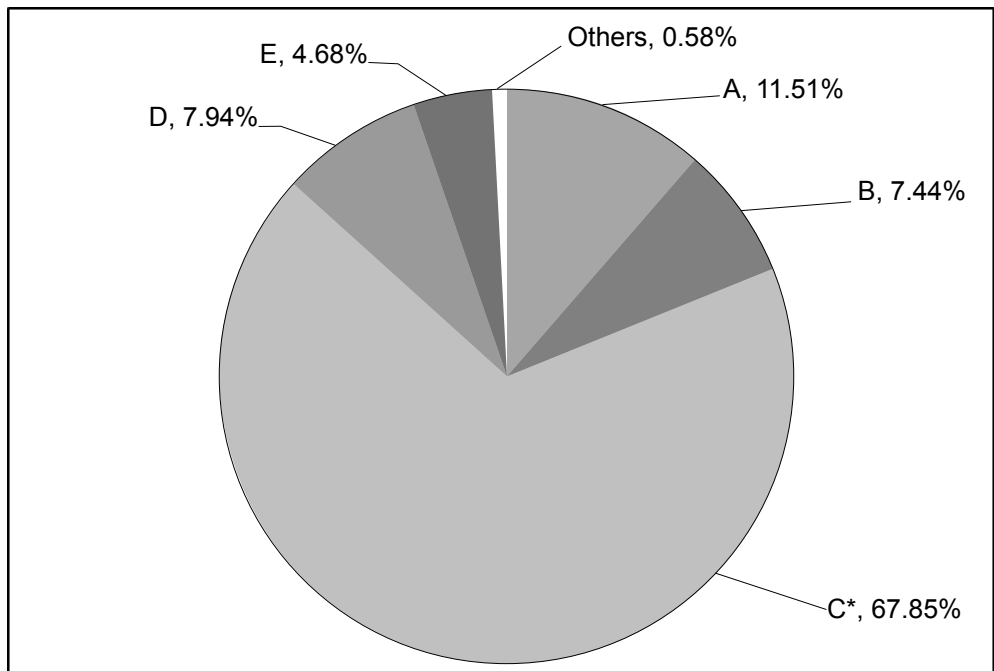
Table 10 shows that the performance of candidates in this question was weak as only 38.53 percent of the candidates opted for the correct response 'D'.

This item tested the candidate's ability to identify correct vocabulary in naming the meals of the day. The correct option D 'dinner' was chosen by 38.53 percent of the candidates. These candidates were aware that dinner is a meal which is eaten in the evening. However, candidates who opted for B 'lunch' (15.58%) and C 'breakfast' (21.21%) could not realise that lunch is a meal eaten in the middle of the day while breakfast is the first meal of the day taken in the morning. The choice of options A 'food' (19.22%) and E 'dish' (5.03%) suggests that candidates were not aware of different kinds of meals eaten in different periods of time and that is why they chose 'food' which is a general term to mean things that people eat and 'dish' which is a particular kind of food prepared for eating.

**Question 36:** When people are sick, they should see the \_\_\_\_\_ for treatment.

- A teacher
- B actor
- C doctor
- D guardian
- E preacher

**Figure 26 :** Percentage of Candidates in each Response



The data in Figure 26 show that this was among the questions which had good performance as 67.85 percent of the candidates opted for the correct response 'C'.

This question tested the candidate's ability to describe different types of occupations. Most of candidates (67.85%) were able to choose the correct option C 'doctor'. This response suggests that



these candidates understood that a 'doctor' is a person who offer treatment for sick people. On the other hand, the candidates who selected incorrect options A 'teacher' (11.51%) did not realise that a teacher is someone who teaches in a school. Option B 'actor' was chosen by 7.44 percent of the candidates. This choice shows that, the candidates were not aware that an 'actor' is someone who performs in a play or film. The candidates who chose option D 'guardian' were 7.94 percent. This response implies that these candidates did not understand that a guardian is someone who is legally responsible for looking after someone else's child, especially after the child's parents death. Moreover, the choice of incorrect response E 'preacher' (4.68%) indicates that the candidates were not aware that a 'preacher' is someone who talks about a religious subject in a public place especially in a church or mosque.

## **2.3 Section C: Composition**

This section had 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:** I quickly have breakfast.

**Question 38:** I wake up early in the morning at 06:00 am.

**Question 39:** I run to school ready for class.

**Question 40:** I then brush my teeth and wash my face.

**Table 11: Number and Percentage of Candidates in each Response**

<b>Item number</b>	<b>Correct option</b>	<b>No. of candidates</b>	<b>% of candidates</b>	<b>Others</b>	<b>% with choice E</b>
<b>37</b>	<b>C*</b>	440,399	57.68	0.48	2.2
<b>38</b>	<b>A*</b>	491,368	64.36	0.46	1.96
<b>39</b>	<b>D*</b>	398,051	52.13	0.5	2.64
<b>40</b>	<b>B*</b>	429,044	56.19	0.48	2.86

The data in Table 11 show that candidates had average performance in this question.

This section required the candidate to arrange the sentences in a logical sequence so as to make a meaningful passage. The proper arrangement with the percentage of candidates who got the item correctly is shown in the table. Many candidates (57.68%) were able to identify the first sentence while the second sentence was recognized by 64.36 percent of the candidates and 52.13 percent of the candidates managed to identify the third sentence. Furthermore, many candidates (56.19%) were able to discover the last sentence. Generally, the performance of candidates in this section was good because more than 50 percent of the candidates were able to identify the first sentence easily as the jumbled sentences were referring to activities which happen in a sequence when a person especially a student wakes up in the morning. For instance, a person first wakes up before brushing and washing his/her face. However, there were candidates who chose 'E' which was not in the question. It is evident that these candidates did not read the given instructions which required them to arrange the sentences sequentially by giving them letter A-D and not E.

## **2.4 Section D: Comprehension**

This section tested the candidate's ability to interpret the information from the passage. 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 41 with 75.42 percent of correct answers and question 44 with 65.69 percent of correct answers. The performance in this section was however, average 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 42 for example was one of the questions which were omitted by the largest number of candidates (5,803) in the whole paper.

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

Some time ago, there was a man and his wife called Mr and Mrs Mkombozi who lived an ordinary life at Kunoga village. They had three children, Juma, Musa and Jamila. Juma worked very hard at school and managed to go to secondary school. He was finally employed as a teacher at a neighbouring primary school.

One day Juma talked to his father on the phone and told him that he would send them a Tsh.100,000 for their up keep. When Mr Mkombozi heard that, he was excited about the money and started planning how to spend it. He decided to share this with

his family. He told them of his plans to build a poultry house for keeping layers (chickens which lay egg).

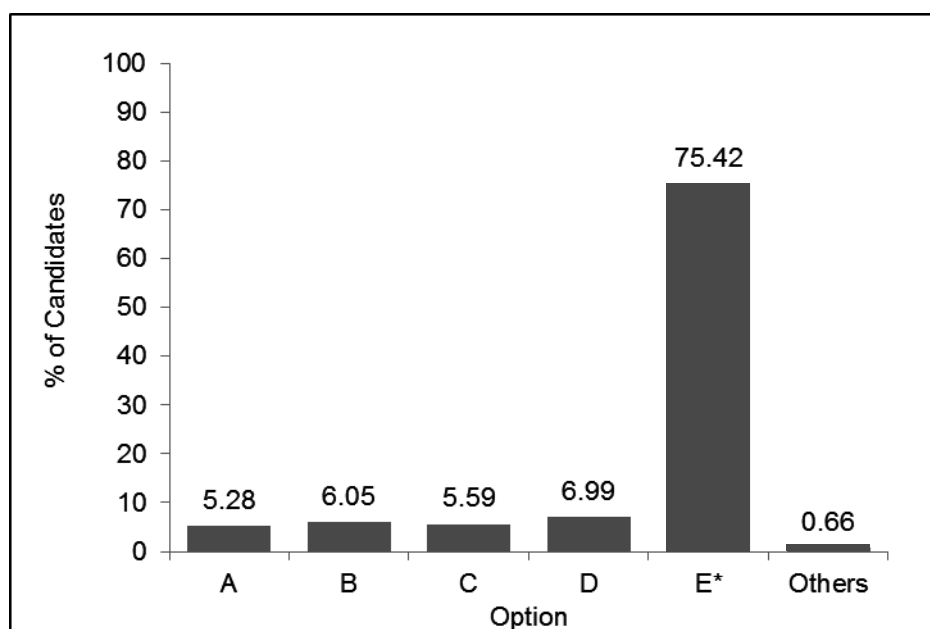
His son Musa said that he would be the one to collect the eggs while Jamila would do the cleaning. Jamila was annoyed and said she would be the one to collect the eggs and Musa would do the cleaning. This quarrel went on until they started fighting.

When their mother saw them fighting she went over to stop them. She was surprised to hear that they were fighting over the collection of eggs while the chickens had not yet been bought. Even the money for buying the chickens was not yet sent by their brother Juma.

**Question 41:** Where was Mr Mkombozi's family residing?

- A Namanga
- B Mazigo
- C Kaone
- D Songambele
- E Kunoga.

**Figure 27 : Percentage of Candidates in each Response**



The data in Figure 27 show that this was among the questions which had good performance as 75.42 percent of the candidates opted for the correct response 'E'.

The item aimed at assessing the candidate's comprehension skills on the passage read. Option E 'Kunoga' a correct response which tells the village where Mkombozi's family is living, was chosen by 75.42% of all candidates. The good performance in this question indicates that candidates understood the passage well. On the other hand, other candidates selected A 'Namanga' (5.28%), B 'Mazigo' (6.05%), C 'Kaone' (5.59%) and D 'Songambe' (6.99%). These incorrect responses show that, candidates failed to understand the passage, hence guessing for answers, since the names of villages in distractors A, B, C and D have not been mentioned in the passage.

**Question 42:** What made Juma go to secondary school?

- A His hardworking spirit
- B His primary education
- C His teachers' help
- D His parents' force
- E His sister's advice.

**Figure 28 :** Percentage of Candidates in each Response

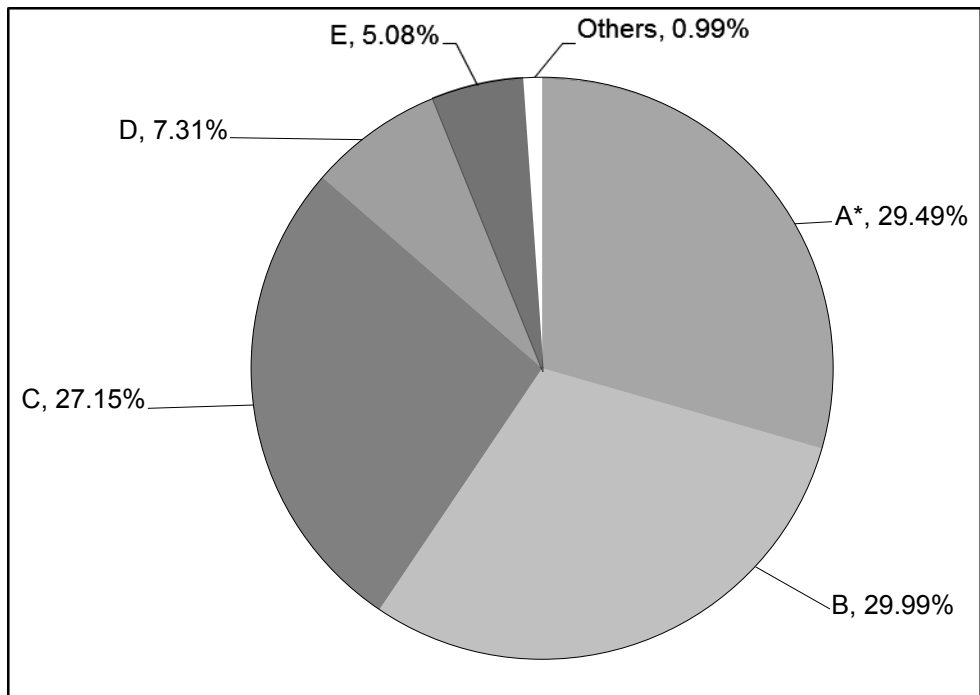


Figure 28 shows that the performance of candidates in this question was weak as only 29.49 percent of the candidates opted for the correct response 'A'.

This item tested the candidate's ability to comprehend information from the passage. The correct response in this question was option A 'His hardworking spirit' which was chosen by 29.49 percent of all candidates, showing that they understood and interpreted well the message carried by text. Candidates who opted for a wrong answer

B 'His primary education' (29.99%) were of the idea that, one should go to secondary school after the completion of primary education. The incorrect options C 'His teachers' help' (27.15%) and D 'His parents force' (7.31%), were chosen due to the misconception that the pupils have to be pushed by parents to go to school or getting remedial classes from teachers. The choice of option E 'His sister's advice' by 5.08 percent of all candidates could be attributed by the lack of comprehension skills.

**Question 43:** How many sons did Mr Mkombozi have?

- A One
- B Two
- C Four
- D Three
- E Five.

**Table 12:** Number and Percentage of Candidates in each Response

Option	A	B*	C	D	E	Others
No. of candidates	163,226	175,680	63,216	321,435	35,127	4818
% of candidates	21.38	23.01	8.28	42.1	4.6	0.63

Table 12 shows that the performance of candidates in this question was weak as only 23.01 percent of the candidates opted for the correct response 'B'.

This item was intended to measure candidate's ability to use the information from the passage to answer the questions. Option B 'Two' which was the correct answer was chosen by 23.01 percent of the candidates. This response suggests that, they were able to interpret the information from text hence realising that the names of Juma and Musa denoted the male sex. The most commonly chosen

incorrect response was D 'Three' which was selected by 42.1 percent of the candidates who did not understand the demand of the question which asked the number of sons and not a total number of children that Mr Mkombozi have. The selection of incorrect options A 'One' (21.38%), C 'Four' (8.28%) and E 'Five' (4.6%) indicates that the candidates did not have the required comprehension skills to do the task hence failing to meet the requirements of the question.

**Question 44:** What did Juma tell his father?

- A He would buy him 100,000 chickens
- B He would give him chickens
- C He would buy him a phone
- D He would send him Tsh. 100,000
- E He would send them eggs.

**Figure 29 :** Percentage of Candidates in each Response!!

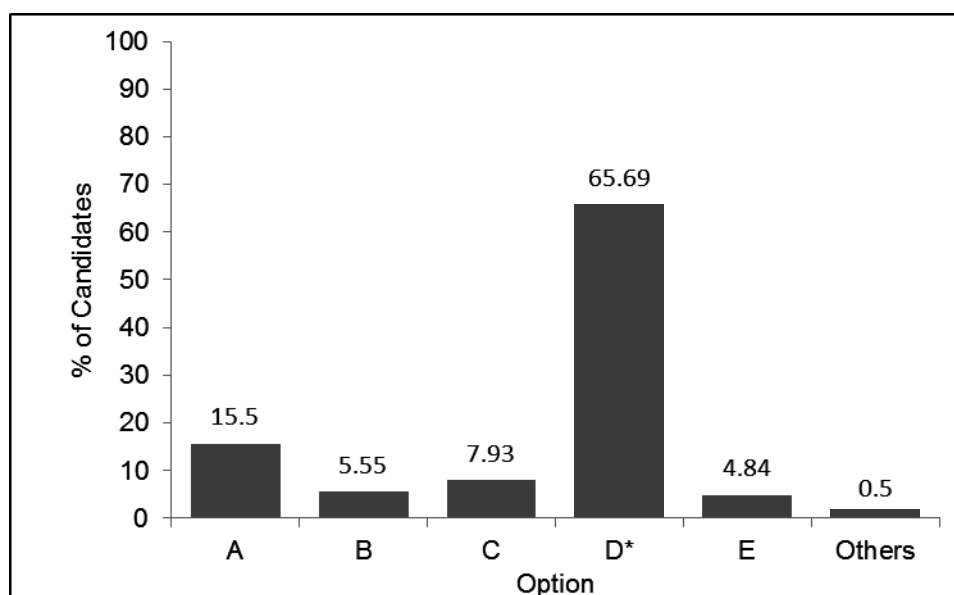


Figure 29 shows that the performance of the candidates in this question was good as 65.69 percent of the candidates opted for the correct response 'D'.

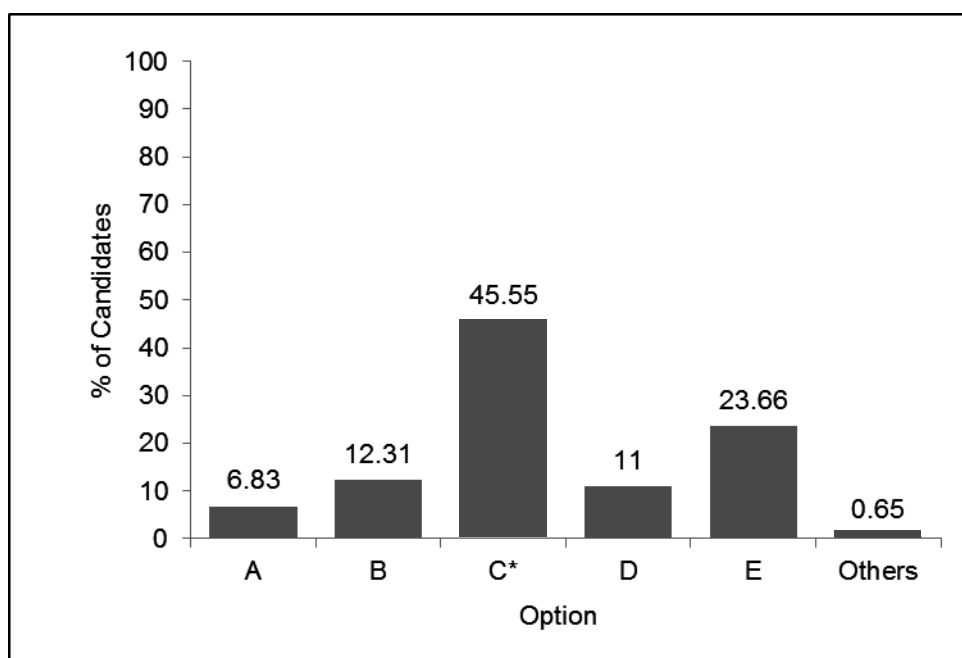


The item assessed the candidate's ability to read and understand the passage. Only 65.69 percent of all candidates selected alternative D 'He would send him Tsh. 100,000' as the correct response showing that these candidates managed to identify specific information from the passage. On the other hand, candidates who chose the wrong option A 'He would buy him 100,000 chickens' (15.5%) were attracted by the figure '100,000' without realising that this alternative was talking of 'buying chickens' and not sending money. Other candidates chose options B 'He would give him chickens' (5.55%), C 'He would buy him a phone' (7.93%) and E 'He would send them eggs' (4.84%). This pattern of responses also shows that the candidates did not understand the text.

**Question 45:** Who stopped the fighting?

- A A friend
- B A teacher
- C The mother
- D The father
- E Juma.

**Figure 30 : Percentage of Candidates in each Response**



The data in Figure 30 show that the performance of the candidates was average as 45.55 percent of the candidates opted for the correct response 'C'.

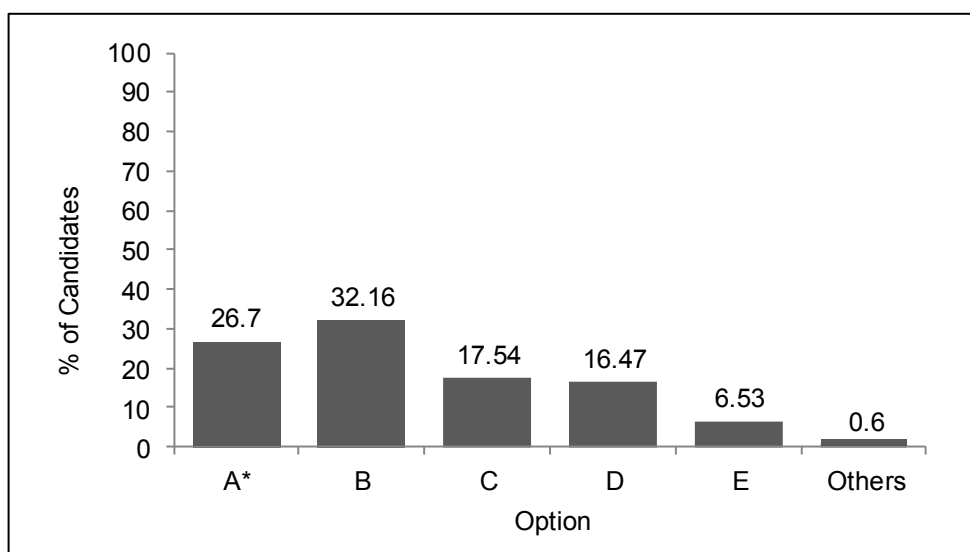
This question intended to test the candidate's comprehension skills. Only 45.55 percent of all candidates chose option C 'The mother' as the correct answer because they were able to extract the correct information from the passage. Candidates who opted for E 'Juma' (23.66%) did not realise that this was an incorrect alternative because when the fighting was going on, Juma was not living with his family as he was working at a neighbouring school as a teacher. However, candidates who selected option A 'A friend' (6.83%) as a wrong response guessed the answer because the word 'A friend' is not mentioned anywhere in the passage showing that they did not understand the passage. The choice of B 'A teacher' by 12.31 percent of the candidates was incorrect because the quarrel and

fighting took place at home and not at school. Those who selected option D 'The father' (11%) were unable to interpret the information from the passage as the father was not there during the fight.

**Question 46:** What did Mr Mkombozi decide to do with the money?

- A To buy layers
- B To collect eggs
- C To clean the house
- D To buy eggs
- E To pay the workers.

**Figure 31 :** Percentage of Candidates in each Response



The data show that the performance of this question was weak as only 26.7 percent of the candidates opted for the correct response 'A'.

This item tested the candidate's ability to comprehend information from the passage. The choice of the alternative A 'To buy layers' by 26.7 percent of all candidates, shows that these candidates

managed to interpret the information from the passage hence leading them to identify the correct answer. Option B 'To collect eggs' was selected by 32.16 percent of the candidates implying that these candidates did not understand the requirement of the question. The candidates' choice of the wrong responses C 'To clean the house' (17.54%) and D 'To buy eggs' (16.47%) was due to the fact that these candidates did not comprehend the text. The selection of the incorrect option E 'To pay workers' by 6.53 percent of all candidates indicates that these candidates guessed the answer as words 'To pay workers' are not written in the passage.

**Question 47:** The word "quarrel" means \_\_\_\_\_.

- A to agree with each other
- B to fight with each other
- C to accept each other
- D to disagree with each other
- E to respect each other.

**Table 13:** Number and Percentage of Candidates in each Response

Option	A	B	C	D*	E	Others
<b>No. of candidates</b>	117,186	224,877	140,959	204,610	69,729	6141
<b>% of candidates</b>	15.35	29.45	18.46	26.8	9.13	0.81

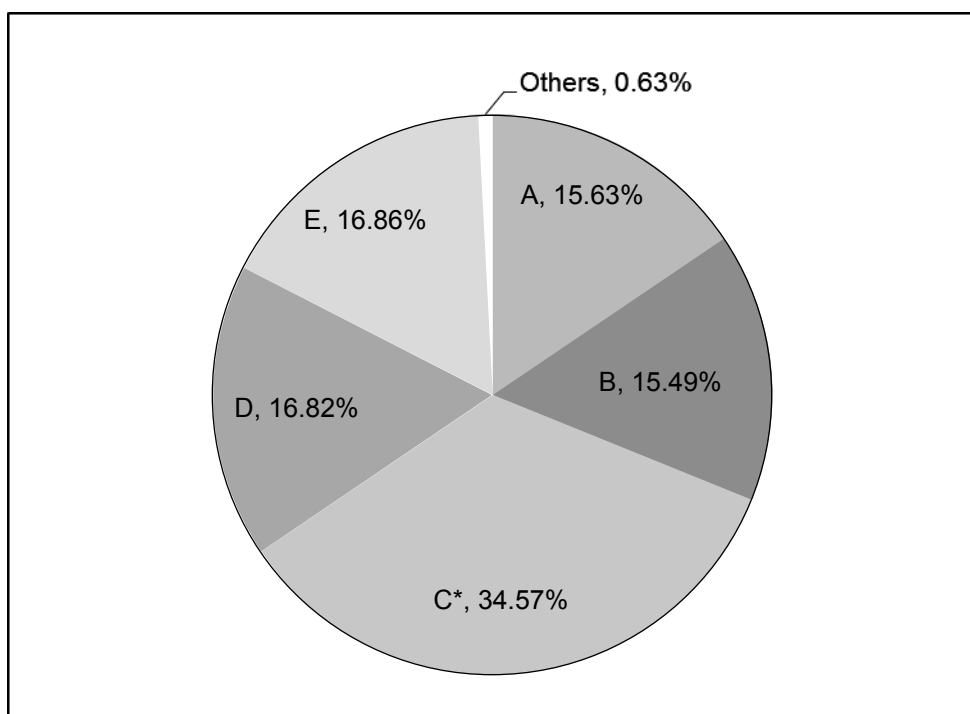
The performance of candidates in this question was weak as the data reveal that 26.8 percent of the candidates opted for the correct response 'D'.

The item required the candidate to identify information which was available directly in the passage, but only 26.8 percent of the candidates were able to answer the question correctly by selecting option D 'to disagree with each other'. This correct response suggests that they read the passage and referred to it for the answer. The choice of the incorrect option B 'to fight with each other' by 29.45 percent of all candidates indicates that they lacked knowledge on the meaning of the terms 'quarrel' and 'fight'. Candidates who opted for the wrong answers A 'to agree with each other' (15.35%), C 'to accept each other' (18.46%) and E 'to respect each other' (9.13%) did not realise that the correct response was the one carrying the negative meaning.

**Question 48:** Why was Mr Mkombozi excited?

- A His daughter promised to give him some money
- B His mother promised to give him some money
- C His son promised to give him some money
- D His son sent him some money
- E He was collecting eggs.

**Figure 32 : Percentage of Candidates in each Response**



The performance of candidates in this question was weak as the data in Figure 32 reveal that only 34.57 percent of the candidates opted for the correct response 'C'.

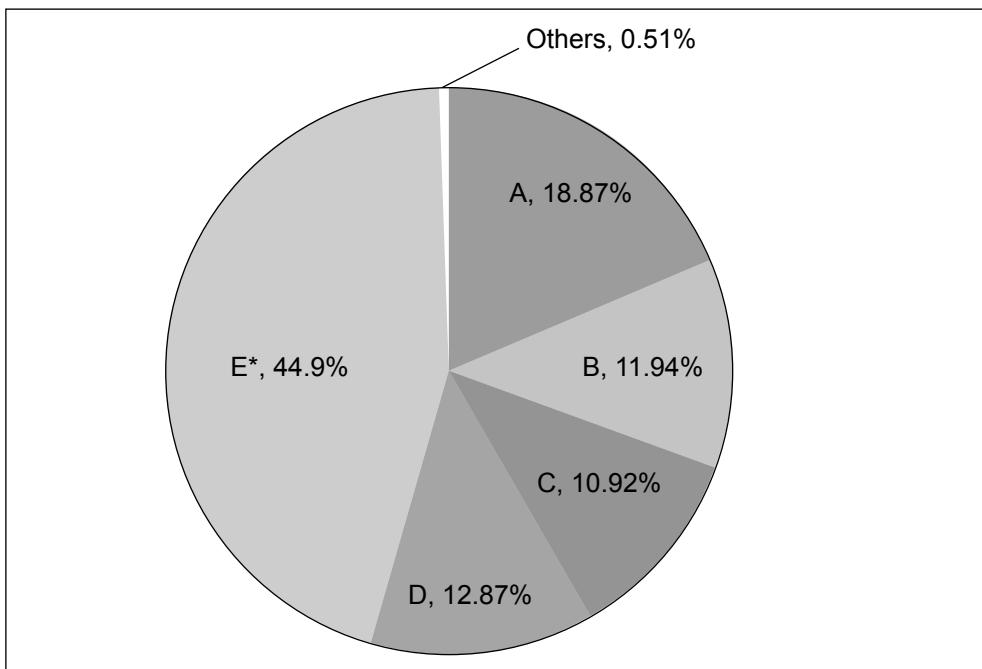
The item tested the candidate's ability to draw information from the passage. The correct response in this question was option C 'His son promised to give him some money' which was chosen by 34.57 percent of all candidates. This response suggests that these candidates managed to interpret well the information written in the passage. The incorrect response E 'He was collecting eggs' was chosen by 16.86 percent of the candidates, showing that these candidates were not aware that the project (of keeping layers) was at the planning stage, it was not yet started to operate. The choice of incorrect options A 'His daughter promised to give him some money' (15.63%), B 'His mother promised to give him some money'

(15.49%) and D 'His son sent him some money (16.82%) could be associated to misconception of the passage.

**Question 49:** Who wanted to collect the eggs?

- A Mr Mkombozi
- B Mrs Mkombozi
- C Musa and Juma
- D Jamila and Juma
- E Musa and Jamila.

**Figure 33 :** Percentage of Candidates in each Response



The performance of candidates in this question was average as the data in Figure 33 reveal that 44.9 percent of the candidates opted for the correct response 'E'

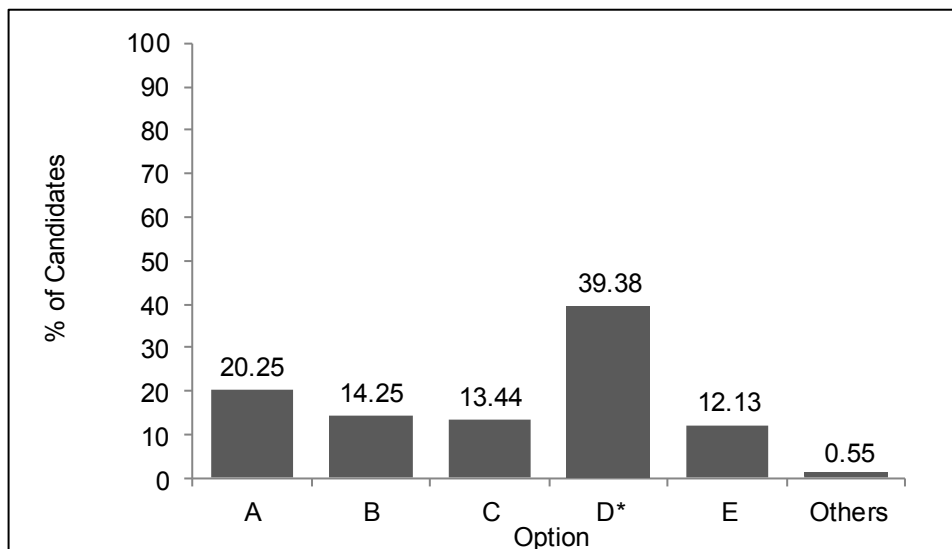
This item assessed the candidate's ability to identify the required information from the given passage. The correct response to this question was option E 'Musa and Jamila' which was chosen by 44.9 percent of the candidates due the fact that the two were in dispute of

who was going to collect the eggs that making easy for candidates to identify the answer from the passage. The choice of the incorrect responses A 'Mr Mkombozi' (18.87%), B 'Mrs Mkombozi' (11.94%), C 'Musa and Juma' (10.92%) and D 'Jamila and Juma' (12.87%) shows that the candidates did not understand the information or refer back to the information from passage leading to randomly selecting the answers.

**Question 50:** Why were Juma and Jamila fighting?

- A For the chickens
- B For the money
- C For the poultry house
- D For the eggs
- E For the cleanliness.

**Figure 34 :** Percentage of Candidates in each Response



The performance of candidates in this question was weak as the data in Figure 34 reveal that 39.38 percent of the candidates opted for the correct response 'D'.



The question tested the candidate's ability to use the information from the passage correctly. Option D 'For the eggs' which was the correct answer was chosen by 39.38 percent of the candidates. This response indicates that candidates were able to identify the information which was required by the question. Candidates who chose the incorrect option B 'For the money' (14.25%) were wrong because the fighting was on who should collect the eggs and do the cleaning. On the other hand, candidates who chose the wrong alternatives A 'For the chickens' (20.25%), C 'For the poultry house' (13.44%) and E 'For the cleanliness' (12.13%) indicates that they did not read the passage carefully hence guessing the answers.

### **3.0 PERFORMANCE OF CANDIDATES IN EACH TOPIC**

The item analysis of Primary School Leaving Examination (2015) has shown that, the performance of candidates in all topics was average. The analysis of questions in each topic was done by looking at 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 performance of candidates in tenses has increased by 8.19 percent when compared to 2014 where the performance was 35.27 percent while in 2015 it is 43.46 percent. Moreover, in other forms of grammar the performance of candidates has increased by 6.75 percent when compared to 2014 where the performance was 36.12 percent while in 2015 it is 42.87 percent. Furthermore, there has been an increase in the performance of the candidates by 16.09 percent in vocabulary when compared to 2014 where the performance of the candidates was 28.69 percent while in 2015 it is

44.78 percent. In addition to that, the performance of candidates in composition has increased by 13.79 percent when compared to 2014 where the performance was 43.80 while in 2015 it is 57.59 percent. Moreover, the performance of candidates has increased by 7.41 percent in comprehension when compared to 2014 where the performance was 33.74 percent while in 2015 it is 41.15 percent. The performance of candidates per question and topic in the examination has been shown in the appendix.

#### **4.0 CONCLUSION**

The general performance of the candidates in English Language subject in Primary School Leaving Examination (PSLE) 2015 was average. The analysis shows that the candidates had an average performance in all the topics namely: Tenses (43.46%), Grammar (42.87%), Vocabulary (44.78%), Composition (57.59%) and Comprehension (41.15%).

It is also evident from the report that, some of the candidates had poor performance due to lack of knowledge in using proper grammar, tenses and proper vocabularies. 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 have a better improvement in candidates' performance in English Language, the following are recommended:

- (a) Teachers should ensure complete and thorough coverage of all the topics which are stipulated in the syllabus so that the pupils will be familiar with all questions asked.
- (b) Teachers should give students enough exercises related to all topics taught and give them feedback on their performance so that they can improve in all areas.

- (c) Students should be encouraged to use English Language in their day to day conversations so that they can improve their vocabulary. Furthermore, they should be encouraged to read short story books to improve their grammar.
- (d) Students should be prepared well for the examination so as to be able to identify the requirements of the questions in order to improve future performance in the examination.

