

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

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Highlights of Students' Performance in the 2013 Caribbean Secondary Certificate and the Caribbean Advanced Proficiency Examinations

INTRODUCTION

Members are being asked to note the highlights of the performance of Jamaican students in the Caribbean Secondary Examination Certificate (CSEC) and the Caribbean Advanced Proficiency Examinations (CAPE).

BACKGROUND

The Ministry of Education has been making concerted efforts, through various interventions, to improve the performance of Jamaican students in Secondary Level Exit Examinations of the Caribbean Examination Council that is, CSEC and CAPE. In 2013, for CSEC, there was a two percent increase in the number of entries sat when compared to 2012, with the overall average pass rate increasing from **66.7** percent in 2012 to **70.9** percent. The pass rate for CAPE Unit 1 increased slightly, moving from **89.6** percent in 2012 to **90.8** in 2013, while the proportion of subject entries that were sat increased by 1.4 percentage points, moving from **95.7** percent in 2012 to **97.1** percent in 2013. Similarly, CAPE Unit 2 saw an increase in overall performance moving from **89.5** percent to **92.1** percent, while the percentage of entries that were sat increased from **96.9** percent in 2012 to **97.4** percent in 2013.

ACHIEVEMENTS

PERFORMANCE IN CSEC

In 2013, performance of public schools showed an improvement in **25** of the **35** subjects offered at the CSEC Examinations. Performance in core subjects, English Language and Mathematics showed an increase of **11.7** and **4.7** percent respectively when compared to that in 2012. Forty per cent (40 %) and twenty three percent (23%) of the Grade 11 cohort obtained the required grades in English and Mathematics, respectively.

Some 26.7 per cent of the Grade 11 cohort received five (5) or more passes in CSEC subjects, inclusive of English and or Mathematics.

Members should note that Jamaican students featured prominently in the top ten performances regionally in **34** of the **35** subjects offered by the Caribbean Examination Council at the CSEC Level. Of particular note, Jamaican students obtained first and second places in core subject areas of **English Language** and **Mathematics**. Jamaica was also awarded First place in ten other subject areas namely:

- Agricultural Science

- Clothing and Textile
- Geography
- Home Economics
- Principles of Accounts
- Principles of Business
- Religious Education
- Visual Arts
- Human and Social Biology
- Building Technology (Construction)

The first six places for Building Technology (Construction) were awarded to Jamaican students. Several second through tenth places were awarded for various other subjects such as Social Studies, Spanish and Technical Drawing. It should also be noted that Jamaican students featured prominently in the technical and vocational areas. Nine (9) of the upgraded high schools had students in the top ten performances of seven technical and vocational subjects. These are:

- Black River High (Second and eighth place in Agricultural Science - Double Award and seventh place in Human and Social Biology)
- Guy's Hill High (Eighth place in Agricultural Science - Double Award)
- Anchovy High (Tenth place in Clothing and Textile)
- Mona High (First place in Visual Arts; second place in Food and Nutrition)
- Foga Road High (Second place in Physical Education)
- Denbigh High (Ninth place in Physical Education)
- Bellefield High (Eighth place in Building Technology Construction)
- Alston High (Second place in Mechanical Engineering Technology)
- Bridgeport High (Seventh place in Mechanical Engineering Technology)

Overall, the new and upgraded schools had pass rates of over 70 per cent in eleven (11) technical vocational subjects. (See **Appendix I** for information on performance in the Technical and Vocational subjects by category of schools). **Appendix II** shows the performance of students in all the areas.

Jamaica continues to show improvement in the sciences with a 3.6 percent increase in this category when compared to 2012. In the area of Mechanical Engineering, there was an 8.8 percent increase over 2012. One upgraded high school (Black River High) was among the top ten performances in Human and Social Biology.

PERFORMANCE IN CAPE

Jamaica received the top overall award in the region in the Caribbean Advanced Proficiency Examination, in addition to placing first in 15 units in the 2013 sitting of the examination. The country also placed in the top ten ranking for 42 of the 46 subjects in both units. Jamaican

students were awarded the top ten positions in Food and Nutrition Unit One as well as gaining nine places in the Computer Science top ten results. Seven of the top ten places in Electrical and Electronic Technology Units One and Two as well as six of the top ten positions in History Unit One were awarded to Jamaican students. Jamaica achieved eight first places in Unit One and seven first places in Unit Two. Three upgraded high schools were among the top ten performances in three CAPE subjects: Electrical and Electronic Technology (Old Harbour High, Food and Nutrition (Little London High) and Literatures in English (Denbigh High).

The Most Outstanding Overall Candidate in the region in CAPE, was awarded to Dea Thomas of Ardenne High School while Tasanique Henry of Hampton High School was awarded the Most Outstanding Candidate in Humanities. The average pass rates in CAPE Units One and Two for Jamaican candidates from public schools are 91 and 92 percent respectively. The highest average pass rate of 100 percent in Unit One was noted for Art and Design while in Unit Two the highest average pass rate was 100 percent for Food and Nutrition, and Art and Design.

Details of students' performance in all areas are captured in **Appendix 111**.

CONCLUSION

The Ministry of Education will continue to intervene, especially in schools that are not performing at an acceptable standard. The Ministry aims not only to improve the number of passes but also to improve the quality passes. Jamaica hopes to continue dominating the Technical and Vocational areas and to improve or feature more prominently in the areas of Sciences, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM).



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Appendix 1

CSEC Performance in Technical and Vocational Subjects, 2013

Subject	Upgraded			Traditional			Technical		
	Sat	Pass	Pass rate	Sat	Pass	Pass rate	Sat	Pass	Pass rate
AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE DOUBLE AWARD *	181	179	98.9	175	162	92.6	82	77	93.9
AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE SINGLE AWARD	1859	1719	92.5	686	666	97.1	319	288	90.3
BUILDING TECHNOLOGY (CONST)	308	231	75.0	374	341	91.2	137	122	89.1
BUILDING TECHNOLOGY (WOODS)	679	510	75.1	215	190	88.4	84	69	82.1
CLOTHING AND TEXTILES	899	608	67.6	430	361	84.0	282	216	76.6
ELECTRICAL & ELECTRONIC TECHNOLOGY	1187	620	52.2	548	412	75.2	272	182	66.9
ELECTRONIC DOCUMENT PREPARATION AND MANAGEMENT	2563	2082	81.2	1469	1304	88.8	507	427	84.2
FOOD AND NUTRITION	2716	2388	87.9	1786	1743	97.6	604	556	92.1
HOME ECONOMICS MANAGEMENT	2531	2060	81.4	729	698	95.7	495	423	85.5
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	4635	3045	65.7	5509	5045	91.6	1006	753	74.9
MECHANICAL ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY	686	435	63.4	430	378	87.9	231	183	79.2
MUSIC	78	41	52.6	65	48	73.8	13	8	61.5
PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND SPORT	2061	1937	94.0	785	778	99.1	408	396	97.1
TECHNICAL DRAWING	1486	1041	70.1	1378	1194	86.6	569	396	69.6
THEATRE ARTS	400	325	81.3	200	188	94.0	60	51	85.0
VISUAL ARTS	912	644	70.6	826	672	81.4	167	149	89.2

N.B. Upgraded includes the new schools

Appendix II: Performance of Public Secondary School Students by Subjects (CSEC)

Subjects	Number Sitting					Percentage Attaining Grades I-III				
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Arts										
Caribbean History	4976	5358	5124	5688	5357	63.6	67.8	77.3	73.9	75.2
English Language	23214	24324	24592	27626	26489	62.8	70.8	68.5	52.0	63.7
English Literature	6692	7084	7018	7075	7430	59.1	82.0	78.6	74.2	80.1
French	721	653	691	723	822	68.7	68.6	77.4	81.6	83.2
Geography	3841	3907	4112	4377	4298	60.5	68.7	67.7	67.1	72.1
Music	139	135	149	139	156	15.8	43.7	57.0	53.2	62.2
Religious Education	2962	3136	2990	3223	2820	78.6	86.8	84.9	82.0	75.6
Social Studies	14250	14420	15304	16774	16487	75.7	77.6	69.9	70.2	68.5
Spanish	3970	3848	3663	3896	3839	73.0	66.3	74.2	72.3	76.1
Sciences										
Additional Mathematics	-	-	-	306	572	-	-	-	45.1	66.6
Biology	4557	5080	5327	5598	5510	78.4	76.4	78.4	75.4	77.1
Chemistry	4175	4633	5031	5073	5198	76.9	70.5	66.0	63.3	66.7
Human & Social Biology	7789	8427	9041	10126	9866	74.9	68.2	65.2	59.8	67.1
Integrated Science	6363	6842	6766	7344	6992	82.9	78.1	69.5	72.6	74.1
Mathematics	19990	20742	20850	23729	22870	40.9	44.7	39.9	37.5	42.2
Physics	4041	4403	4340	4589	4714	75.2	72.8	73.9	76.5	68.7
Technical/Vocational										
Agri. Science (AS)	2079	2412	2472	2795	2864	87.3	89.5	90.9	90.9	93.3
Agri. Science (CS)	-	-	-			-	-	-		
Agri. Science (DA)	336	435	420	551	452	91.1	91.3	94.0	92.7	95.4
Building Technology Construction	692	665	782	776	819	79.0	82.9	81.6	73.2	84.7
Building Technology Woods	830	887	928	1116	978	66.4	74.3	68.0	57.1	78.6
Clothing & Textiles	1380	1320	1354	1428	1625	80.6	82.0	79.1	85.9	73.2
Electrical Technology	1966	2001	1982	2124	2007	46.1	58.0	43.6	62.3	60.5
Electronic Document Prep. & Mgmt.	2931	4099	4355	4646	4539	87.6	89.3	82.7	88.5	84
Food & Nutrition	4471	4880	4883	5063	5121	86.9	92.1	92.6	89.4	91.7
Home Management	3309	3521	3516	3759	3769	85.4	84.7	88.8	84	84.6
Information Technology	9923	9279	10515	11204	11160	85.4	81.4	75.1	80.5	79.2
Mech. Eng. Technology	1038	1109	1078	1229	1347	57.6	60.5	54.1	65.1	73.9
Phys. Ed. & Sports	1377	2012	2442	3004	3254	92.3	96.7	94.8	96.7	95.6
Technical Drawing	2998	3158	3221	3379	3433	67.8	71.5	68.7	60.7	76.6
Theatre Arts	335	499	485	599	660	77.0	75.8	72.4	85.8	85.5
Visual Arts	1952	2077	1700	1957	1905	73.4	67.9	65.8	67	76.9
Business										
Economics	605	630	722	914	902	63.8	68.9	78.8	67.6	89.7
Office Administration	4576	4908	4556	4686	4226	81.6	81.2	88.8	80.3	84.2
Principles of Accounts	6905	6957	6682	6693	6141	63.4	67.9	73.2	60.3	80.5

Appendix III

Public Schools' Performance in CAPE Unit 1

SUBJECT	ENTERED	SAT	PASSED	% PASSED
ACCOUNTING UNIT 1	960	918	873	95.1
APPLIED MATHEMATICS	127	127	105	82.7
ART AND DESIGN	102	95	95	100
BIOLOGY	1897	1840	1676	91.1
CARIBBEAN STUDIES	4729	4624	4355	94.2
CHEMISTRY	1609	1579	1391	88.1
COMMUNICATION STUDIES	6004	5873	5726	97.5
COMPUTER SCIENCE	510	489	455	93
ECONOMICS	951	909	761	83.7
ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC TECHNOLOGY	64	61	48	78.7
ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE	675	642	601	93.6
FOOD AND NUTRITION	362	341	335	98.2
FRENCH	65	63	60	95.2
GEOGRAPHY	433	424	416	98.1
GEOMETRICAL & MECHANICAL ENGINEERING DRAWING	230	215	179	83.3
HISTORY	969	939	727	77.4
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	589	571	522	91.4
LAW	572	552	481	87.1
LITERATURES IN ENGLISH	925	898	859	95.7
MANAGEMENT OF BUSINESS	1794	1753	1525	87
PHYSICS	1222	1184	1072	90.5
PURE MATHEMATICS	1649	1593	1124	70.6
SOCIOLOGY	2631	2529	2212	87.5
SPANISH	217	209	203	97.1
Total	29286	28428	25801	90.8

Public Schools' Performance in CAPE Unit 2

SUBJECT	ENTERED	SAT	PASSED	% PASSED
ACCOUNTING UNIT 2	793	780	641	82.2
APPLIED MATHEMATICS UNIT	30	29	26	89.7
ART AND DESIGN	93	85	85	100
BIOLOGY	1441	1418	1383	97.5
CHEMISTRY	1252	1232	1161	94.2
COMPUTER SCIENCE	306	293	276	94.2
ECONOMICS	737	717	645	90
ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC TECHNOLOGY	33	31	23	74.2
ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE	416	400	353	88.3
FOOD AND NUTRITION	325	302	302	100
FRENCH	46	45	43	95.6
GEOGRAPHY	234	229	219	95.6
GEOMETRICAL & MECHANICAL ENGINEERING DRAWING	176	165	126	76.4
HISTORY	608	597	514	86.1
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	295	279	266	95.3
LAW	499	482	428	88.8
LITERATURES IN ENGLISH	819	801	773	96.5
MANAGEMENT OF BUSINESS	1251	1206	1155	95.8
PHYSICS	1098	1072	979	91.3
PURE MATHEMATICS	846	826	666	80.6
SOCIOLOGY	1601	1572	1511	96.1
SPANISH	150	149	137	91.9
Total	13049	12710	11712	92.1