Summary report for candidates on the 2014 WACE examination in Japanese: Second Language Stage 3

Year | Number who sat all examination components | Number of absentees from all examination components
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2014 | 197 | 1
2013 | 256 | 2
2012 | 309 | 3

Examination score distribution - Practical

Examination score distribution - Written

Summary
Candidates completed a practical (oral) and a written examination, the practical (oral) examination was weighted at 25% and the written examination weighted at 75%.

Practical examination
The practical (oral) examination consisted of two parts, with only Part B: Stimulus item and conversation examinable. The mean for the practical (oral) examination was 63.02%. Candidate scores for the practical (oral) examination ranged from a minimum of 10.00% to a maximum of 100.00%.

Written examination
The written examination consisted of three sections with candidates being required to attempt all questions in Sections One and Two. In Section Three candidates were required to complete one compulsory question and to choose from one of the other two questions. The mean of the written examination paper was 53.98%. Candidate scores for the written examination ranged from a minimum of 8.17% to a maximum of 95.59%. The means for Sections One, Two and Three were 49.84%, 55.68% and 58.07% respectively.

General comments
Practical examination
Candidates were familiar with the format and procedure of the examination. They were also well prepared with a good understanding of the course content. The candidates were all willing to talk and showed a positive attitude.
Advice for candidates

- Try to communicate with the interviewer and have a conversation.
- Make use of the internet and other material, and listen to speeches at a natural pace as much as possible. You don’t need to understand the whole speech, but try to pick up a few familiar words.
- Ask for questions to be repeated or for explanations when you do not understand a question rather than taking time to think about the question as this will disrupt the conversation flow.

Written examination

The examination covered a variety of topics and text types. The texts and questions were designed to examine the candidates’ ability to understand, respond, and communicate in a real-life situation only with the vocabulary and grammar practiced in the course. There were many writings that were not legible or hard to read. Markers commented this problem was more prominent than in previous years.

Advice for candidates

- Answers should be written with a specific audience in mind. Ensure you write carefully and make sure the writing is legible and dark enough.
- Read each text carefully, and use appropriate pronouns when answering in English.
- Pay attention to the tense and particles used in texts.
- Read the instructions carefully.