Overview

Identification

Summary

ABSTRACT
The Junior Secondary School Leaving Examination (JSSLE) is administered annually by the Examinations Council of Zambia to grade 9 (ISCED 2) students in general education programmes in public, private, grant-aided and community schools.

The JSSLE is a high-stake and mandatory examination that certifies completion of lower secondary general education programmes. It is a requirement for students wishing to pursue an upper secondary education (ISCED 3).

The JSSLE is administered face-to-face. It comprises a written component, delivered through paper-pencil tests, an oral component, and the production of a portfolio.

The JSSLE serves the following purposes:

- student certification for completion of lower secondary general education programmes
- student selection to higher education programmes or admission into specific courses or tracks
- promoting competition among schools
- school or educator accountability
- sub-national level monitoring of learning outcomes
- monitoring education quality levels
- planning education policy reforms

The JSSLE accommodates students with special needs, by providing the following arrangements:

- Hearing impairment: sign language interpreters
- Visual impairment: test materials with large fonts and in braille
- Physical disability: additional time
- Emotional disturbance: additional time

KIND OF DATA
Census (all students at the given grades or ages)

UNITS OF ANALYSIS
Results are reported at the student, school, sub-national and national levels. Data are disaggregated by sex, geographic location (urban and rural), major cities and type of schools (public, private, grant-aided and community).

Results are published in reports, which are available in print and online. Examination results are broadcasted on the radio and on television, and published in the media.
The Junior Secondary School Leaving Examination comprises six mandatory subjects administered in English. The subjects are listed below, each for a duration of 90 minutes:

- Civics
- English language
- Environmental science
- Geography
- History
- Mathematics

Candidates also take two or three optional subjects. The optional subjects are:

- Agricultural Science
- Art
- Bookkeeping
- Home economics
- Music
- Office practices
- Religious Education
- Technical drawing
- Woodwork
- Local language

The local language test is administered for one of the seven official Zambian languages designated for use in education; the official languages vary across provinces. These languages are Icibemba, Cinyanja, Silozi, Chitonga, Kikaonde, Luvale and Lunda.

Description of test items: Test items consist of multiple choice questions with two, three or more response options, open-ended questions requiring short constructed responses, essay writing and individual project.

Description of stimuli: Test stimuli consist of continuous, non-continuous, mixed and multiple texts.

Reporting metrics: Student performance is reported by percentage of points scored out of the maximum possible score, and by proficiency levels based on this percentage. The minimum requirement to meet the national standard is 40%.

The score range and meaning of the proficiency levels are defined as follows:

- Grade 1: 75% and above, Distinction
- Grade 2: 60 to 74%, Credit
- Grade 3: 50 to 59%, Clear Pass
- Grade 4: 40 to 49%, Pass
- Grade F: 0 to 39%, Fail
Coverage

GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE
National

UNIVERSE
Students enrolled in grade 9 (ISCED 2) in general education programmes in public, private, grant-aided and community schools.

Producers and Sponsors

PRIMARY INVESTIGATOR(S)

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OTHER PRODUCER(S)

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Metadata Production

METADATA PRODUCED BY

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<td>Government</td>
<td>Data collection</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNESCO Institute for Statistics</td>
<td>UIS</td>
<td>United Nations</td>
<td>Questionnaire design, metadata collection, review and publication</td>
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DATE OF METADATA PRODUCTION
2014

DDI DOCUMENT ID
ZMB-JSSLE-2013
Sampling

Sampling Procedure
Data Collection

Data Collection Dates

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<td>2013</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>Every year</td>
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Data Collection Mode

Face-to-face [f2f]
Data Processing

Data Editing

Test booklets are scored and verified manually and through automatic controls. The data editing process is performed in the regions.

Other Processing

Data entry is performed manually and by scanning score sheets. The data capture operations are performed in the regions.
Data Access

Access Authority

Examinations Council of Zambia (Government), www.exams-council.org.zm

Contact(s)

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Access Conditions

To access the data, please send a request to the Examinations Council of Zambia, mchilala@exams-council.org.zm.

Citation Requirements

Written permission from the Director of the Examinations Council of Zambia.