

# Botswana - Junior Certificate Examination

**Botswana Examinations Council - Government**

Report generated on: May 15, 2015

Visit our data catalogue at:

<http://www.uis.unesco.org/nada/en/index.php/catalogue/central/about>

# Overview

## Identification

---

## Summary

---

### ABSTRACT

The Junior Certificate Examination (JCE) has been administered annually since 1967. From 2017 onwards, it has been administered by the Botswana Examinations Council to grade 10 (ISCED 2) students in general education programmes in public and private schools.

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

Passing the JCE allows reintegration of out-of-school children and youth into the school system at the next appropriate grade.

The JCE is a written examination, administered face-to-face and delivered through paper-pencil tests. All test-takers are presented with the same cognitive booklets or tests, which are aligned with the national curriculum.

The JCE serves the following purposes:

- student certification for completion of lower secondary education
- student selection to higher education programmes or admission into specific courses or tracks
- designing individualised instructional plans
- supporting teachers (training, relevant materials, etc.)
- school or educator accountability
- sub-national level monitoring of learning outcomes
- monitoring education quality levels
- planning education policy reforms
- diagnosing student abilities

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

- Hearing impairment: sign language; interpretation of questions; modification of language on papers; additional time
- Physical disability: accommodating facilities; rest breaks; additional time
- Emotional disturbance: use of prompters; separate rooms
- Visual impairment: braille; large font; additional time
- Speech language impairment: provision of readers; provision of scribes
- Environmental effect: preferential seats (e.g. students with albinism are not seated directly in direct sunlight)

### 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 school (public and private).

Results are published in reports, which are available in print and online. A database is also accessible online.

## Scope

---

**NOTES**

The JCE comprises core, practical and general subjects, which are different for enrolled students and independent candidates.

Subjects assessed for students enrolled in grade 10:

- Core subjects: Agriculture, English language, Integrated science, Mathematics, Moral education, Setswana language, Social studies
- Practical subjects: Arts, Commerce and Bookkeeping/Accounting, Commerce and Office Procedures, Design and Technology, Home Economics
- General subjects: French language, Music, Physical Education, Religious Education

Subjects assessed for independent candidates:

- Core subjects: English language, General Sciences, Mathematics, Moral Education, Private Agriculture, Setswana language, Social Studies
- Practical subjects: Bookkeeping/Accounting, Commerce, Office Procedures
- General subjects: French, Religious Education

Note: Design and Technology will become a core subject in the future (see reference 1).

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

Description of stimuli: Test stimuli consist of continuous, non-continuous and mixed texts. As well, some stimuli are presented in audio format.

Reporting metrics: Student performance scores are reported by subject tested. There are four proficiency levels A, B, C and D. The minimum requirement to meet the national standard is level C.

References:

1. <http://www.bec.co.bw/jce/general-information>
2. Examination syllabus by subject is available at <http://www.bec.co.bw/jce/subject-info>

## Coverage

---

**GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE**

National

**UNIVERSE**

Students enrolled in grade 10 (ISCED 2) in general education programmes in public and private schools.

## Producers and Sponsors

---

## PRIMARY INVESTIGATOR(S)

Name	Affiliation
Botswana Examinations Council	Government

## OTHER PRODUCER(S)

Name	Affiliation	Role
Botswana Examinations Council	Government	Test development and administration; data processing
Ministry of Education and Skills Development	Government	Financial support through ministerial budget

## Metadata Production

## METADATA PRODUCED BY

Name	Abbreviation	Affiliation	Role
Botswana Examinations Council	BEC	Government	Data collection
UNESCO Institute for Statistics	UIS	United Nations	Questionnaire design, metadata collection, review and publication

## DATE OF METADATA PRODUCTION

2014

## DDI DOCUMENT ID

BWA-JCE-2013

## Data Collection

### Data Collection Dates

---

<b>Start</b>	<b>End</b>	<b>Cycle</b>
2013	2013	Every year

### 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 at headquarters and in local examination centres.

### **Other Processing**

---

Data entry is performed manually and by scanning score sheets. The data capture operations are performed at headquarters and in local examination centres.

## Data Access

### Access Authority

---

Botswana Examinations Council (Government), [www.BEC.co.bw](http://www.BEC.co.bw)

### Contact(s)

---

Motshabi Kgosi Willard (Botswana Examinations Council ) , [kmotshabi@bec.co.bw](mailto:kmotshabi@bec.co.bw)

### Access Conditions

---

To access the data, please send a request to the Botswana Examinations Council.