

Botswana - Primary School Leaving Examination

Botswana Examinations Council - Government

Report generated on: May 15, 2015

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Overview

Identification

Summary

ABSTRACT

The Primary School Leaving Examination (PSLE) has been administered annually since 1967. From 2007 onwards, it has been administered by the Botswana Examinations Council to grade 7 (ISCED 1) students in public and private schools.

The PSLE is a low-stake examination that certifies completion of primary education.

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

The PSLE 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 PSLE serves the following purposes:

- student certification for completion of primary education
- 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

The PSLE 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 PSLE comprises seven mandatory subjects administered in English, except for the Setswana language test. The subjects and duration of each test are listed below:

- English language, 90 minutes for paper 1 and 60 minutes for paper 2
- Setswana language, 90 minutes for paper 1 and 60 minutes for paper 2
- Agriculture, 90 minutes
- Mathematics, 90 minutes
- Religious and moral education, 90 minutes
- Science, 60 minutes
- Social Studies, 60 minutes

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.

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

Coverage

GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE

National

UNIVERSE

Students enrolled in grade 7 (ISCED 1) 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

Name	Abbreviation	Affiliation	Role
UNESCO Institute for Statistics	UIS	United Nations	Questionnaire design, metadata collection, review and publication

DATE OF METADATA PRODUCTION
2014

DDI DOCUMENT ID
BWA-PSLE-2013

Data Collection

Data Collection Dates

Start	End	Cycle
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 in local examination centres.

Other Processing

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

Data Access

Access Authority

Botswana Examinations Council (Government), www.BEC.co.bw

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Access Conditions

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