

Zambia - Grade 7 Composite Examination

Examinations Council of Zambia - Government

Report generated on: Apr 10, 2015

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Overview

Identification

Summary

ABSTRACT

The Grade 7 Composite Examination is administered annually by the Examinations Council of Zambia to grade 7 (ISCED 1) students in public, private, grant-aided and community schools.

The Grade 7 Composite Examination is a high-stake and mandatory examination that certifies completion of primary education. It is a requirement for students wishing to pursue lower-secondary education (ISCED 2).

The Grade 7 Composite Examination is a written examination, administered face-to-face and delivered through paper-pencil tests.

The Grade 7 Composite Examination serves the following purposes:

- student certification for completion of primary education
- student selection to higher education programmes or admission into specific courses or tracks
- 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 Grade 7 Composite Examination 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.

Scope

NOTES

The Grade 7 Composite Examination comprises eight mandatory subjects administered in English, except for the local language test. The subjects and the duration of each test are listed below:

- Mathematics, 90 minutes
- Creative and technology studies, 75 minutes
- English language, 60 minutes
- Integrated science, 60 minutes
- Verbal reasoning, 60 minutes
- Non-verbal reasoning, 60 minutes
- Social and development studies, 60 minutes
- Local language, 60 minutes

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 Ibibemba, Cinyanja, Silozi, Chitonga, Kikaonde, Luvale and Lunda.

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

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

Reporting metrics: Student performance is reported by average score, and as a composite of subjects tested.

Coverage

GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE

National

UNIVERSE

Students enrolled in grade 7 (ISCED 1) in public, private, grant-aided and community schools.

Producers and Sponsors

PRIMARY INVESTIGATOR(S)

Name	Affiliation
Examinations Council of Zambia	Government

OTHER PRODUCER(S)

Name	Affiliation	Role
Examinations Council of Zambia	Government	Test development and administration; data processing and dissemination; programme development
Ministry of Education, Science, Vocational Training and Early Education	Government	Test development and administration; data dissemination; programme development; financial support through ministerial budget
Teachers unions	N/A	Test administration
Parents associations	N/A	Data dissemination

Metadata Production

METADATA PRODUCED BY

Name	Abbreviation	Affiliation	Role
Examinations Council of Zambia	ECZ	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
ZMB-GRADE7-2013

Sampling

Sampling Procedure

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 through automatic controls. The data editing process is performed at headquarters.

Other Processing

Data entry is performed by scanning score sheets. The data capture operations are performed at headquarters.

Data Access

Access Authority

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

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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.