

Zambia - Junior Secondary School Leaving Examination

Examinations Council of Zambia - Government

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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.

Scope

NOTES

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 Ibibemba, Cinyanja, Silozi, Chitonga, Kikaonde, Luvala 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)

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-JSSLE-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 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

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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.