

United Republic of Tanzania - Zanzibar National Secondary Examination, Mtihani wa taifa wa elimu ya sekondari

Zanzibar Examination Council - Government

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Overview

Identification

Summary

ABSTRACT

The Zanzibar National Secondary Examination has been administered annually since 1992 by the Zanzibar Examination Council to grade 9 (ISCED 2) students in general education programmes in public and private schools. Zanzibar being an autonomous region of the United Republic of Tanzania, it has its own education institutions and administers examinations distinct from those of mainland Tanzania.

To be eligible to sit the Zanzibar National Secondary Examination, a student must have completed the National Primary Examination and two years of secondary education, and have at least a school attendance rate of 75% during the year.

The Zanzibar National Secondary Examination 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), in either general or vocational education programmes.

The Zanzibar National Secondary Examination 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 Zanzibar National Secondary Examination 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
- monitoring education quality levels

The Zanzibar National Secondary Examination accommodates visually impaired students by providing test materials in braille and separate examination rooms with specialist invigilators.

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 geographic location (urban and rural).

Examination results are published in reports that are available in print. The results are also broadcasted on the radio and the achievements of the best students are published in the media.

Scope

NOTES

The Zanzibar National Secondary Examination comprises 10 mandatory subjects administered in English, except for the Arabic and Swahili tests. The Islamic Religion and Civics test has two parts: the Islamic Religion part is administered in Swahili, and the Civics part is administered in English. These subjects are listed below:

- Arabic language

- Biology
- Chemistry
- English language
- Geography
- History
- Islamic Religion and Civics
- Mathematics
- Physics
- Swahili language

Each subject has a duration of 150 minutes, except for the Mathematics test which has a duration of 180 minutes, and equally contributes to the final score. The continuous school-based assessment contributes 30% of the final score.

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

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

Reporting metrics: Student performance is reported by an average score. The minimum requirement to meet the national standard is a score of 30 out of 100, or 30%. The average score also relates to a grade scale defined as follows:

Grade A, 75 to 100 points, Excellent

Grade B+, 60 - 74, Very good

Grade B, 50-59, Good

Grade C, 40-49, Satisfactory

Grade D, 30-39, Pass

Grade E, 20-29, Fail

Grade F, 0-19, Completely fail

Coverage

GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE

National

UNIVERSE

Students enrolled in grade 9 (ISCED 2) in general education programmes in public and private schools.

Producers and Sponsors

PRIMARY INVESTIGATOR(S)

Name	Affiliation
Zanzibar Examination Council	Government

OTHER PRODUCER(S)

Name	Affiliation	Role
Zanzibar Examination Council		Test development and administration; data processing; programme development
Ministry of Education and Vocational Training		Data dissemination; financial support

Metadata Production

METADATA PRODUCED BY

Name	Abbreviation	Affiliation	Role
Zanzibar Examination Council	ZEC	Government	Data collection
UNESCO Institute for Statistics	UIS	United Nations	Questionnaire design, metadata collection, review and publication

DDI DOCUMENT ID

TZA-ZSEC-2013

Data Collection

Data Collection Dates

Start	End	Cycle
2013-10-21	2013-10-29	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

Zanzibar Examination Council (Government of Zanzibar)

Contact(s)

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Access Conditions

To access the data, please send a request to the Zanzibar Examination Council, P.O. Box 3070, Zanzibar.
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