

# Botswana - Standard Four Attainment Test

**Botswana Examinations Council - Government**

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# Overview

## Identification

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### Summary

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#### ABSTRACT

The Standard Four Attainment Test has been administered annually since 1995 to grade 4 (ISCED 1) students in public schools. The Botswana Examinations Council (BEC) prepares the tests, and schools administer and mark them. Test administration and scoring are not standardised across schools, therefore the test does not provide a national picture of the students' performance.

In 2007, the Botswana Examinations Council used the Standard Four Attainment Test as a study to provide a national picture of grade 4 students' performance. Tests were administered at school level and assessment booklets from 103 schools were selected using a stratified random sampling method and marked by the BEC, following standardised conditions.

The Standard Four Attainment Test is generally a high-stake and mandatory school-based assessment. Schools use the assessment results to decide whether a student can be promoted to grade 5 or not.

The Standard Four Attainment Test is a written assessment, 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 Standard Four Attainment Test generally serves to decide whether a student can be promoted to grade 5. However, in 2007, it also served for:

- sub-national level monitoring of learning outcomes
- monitoring education quality levels
- diagnosing student abilities

The Standard Four Attainment Test 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 and school levels.

## Scope

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#### NOTES

The Standard Four Attainment Test comprises three mandatory subjects administered in English, except for the Setswana

language test. The subjects and the duration of each test are listed below:

- English language, 80 minutes
- Setswana language, 80 minutes
- Mathematics, 75 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 and essay writing.

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

Reporting metrics: Student performance scores are reported by subject tested. The minimum requirement to meet the national standard is a score of 50%.

## Coverage

### GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE

National

### UNIVERSE

Students enrolled in grade 4 (ISCED 1) in public 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
Ministry of Education and Skills Development	Government	Financial support through ministerial budget
Public schools	N/A	Test administration and data processing

## 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-S4AT-2013

# Sampling

## **Sampling Procedure**

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In 2007, assessment booklets from 103 schools were selected using a stratified random sampling method, and marked by the Botswana Examinations Council.

## Data Collection

### Data Collection Dates

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

### Data Collection Mode

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Face-to-face [f2f]

## Data Processing

### **Data Editing**

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Generally, test booklets are scored by the teachers. The data editing process is performed in schools. However, in 2007, the Botswana Examinations Council scored a sample of assessment booklets for the purpose of diagnosing student performance at the national level.

## Data Access

### **Access Authority**

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

### **Contact(s)**

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