

COMPARABILITY OF GRADES OF CANDIDATES WHO WROTE BOTH MAY/JUNE AND NOVEMBER/DECEMBER SENIOR SCHOOL CERTIFICATE EXAMINATIONS IN THE SAME YEAR

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ABSTRACT

There has been an upsurge of sentiments on the comparability of grades in May/June and November/December Senior School Certificate examinations. Many stakeholders of education have expressed the fear that some factors on assessment such as incorporation of continuous assessment scores (CASS) in awarding grades in May/June examination may not make grades comparable in the two examinations.

This study investigated this issue by sampling the scaled scores and grades of candidates who sat for both examinations the same year using the ex-post facto design. A sample of 221 candidates who wrote both examinations the same year (1999) and in the same subjects was randomly selected. Data was analysed using t-test and correlation statistics.

Results of the study showed, among others, that their grades were comparable in nine out of the twelve subjects investigated, while the result in the remaining three were not comparable, and that the factor of Continuous Assessment identified did not put the candidates at an advantage or at a disadvantage in either May/June or November/December examination. The implications of the findings were discussed and recommendations offered.