

KENYA NATIONAL EXAMINATION COUNCIL KCSE, 2014

ARABIC PAPER 1 ANALYSIS

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3.5 ARABIC (503)

The following papers comprised the KCSE Arabic examination of 2014:

- ☐ 503/1: Listening Comprehension and Dictation
- ☐ 503/2: Grammar, Comprehension and Composition
- ☐ 503/3: Orals

3.5.1 CANDIDATES' GENERAL PERFORMANCE

Table 13: Performance of candidates in Arabic(503) for the last four years

Year	Paper	Candidature	Max. Score	Mean Score	Standard Deviation
2011	1	862	20	11.61	5.78
	2		60	33.36	12.49
	3		20	15.87	3.17
	Overall		100	60.84	21.44
2012	1	3,692	20	7.30	5.31
	2		60	25.09	12.91
	3		20	14.30	3.79
	Overall		100	46.52	19.92
2013	1	3,495	20	9.50	5.11
	2		60	31.23	10.94
	3		20	14.73	3.63
	Overall		100	55.37	17.66
2014	1	4,078	20	10.48	4.95
	2		60	28.93	11.40
	3		20	13.43	3.88
	Overall		100	52.75	17.97

The following observations can be made from the above table:

- i) There has been a drop in the means of all the papers.
- ii) Paper 1 and 3 failed to discriminate between the candidates with high facility and those with low facility in the language. This is evidenced by the low standard deviation realized in the two papers. Perhaps this can be attributed to subjectivity, especially in paper 3.
- iii) The overall subject' mean has dropped slightly from **55.37** in 2013 to **52.75** in 2014. However the specific paper means, as well as the subject mean is moving towards normal mean.

The following is a summary of analysis per paper.

3.5.2 Arabic Paper 1 (503/1)

The paper demanded that the candidates listen to recorded comprehension and dictation passages then answer questions.

Weaknesses

It was observed that:

- ☐ Some of the candidates were not able to comprehend the passage.
- ☐ Many candidates could not infer meanings of words from the passage.
- ☐ Many candidates had challenges in questions requiring application skills.
- ☐ Many failed in the dictation; they could not write complete sentences.

Advice to teachers

There is need for students to be given more practice in listening comprehension and dictation.