



EXAMINATIONS COUNCIL OF ESWATINI
Eswatini Primary Certificate Education

SISWATI (414)
Examination Report for 2023

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Key messages

- Emphasis must be put on the issue of **relevancy, content and language** and their inter connectedness.
- It is also of paramount importance to instill the idea of planning to assist learners in developing their ideas.
- It is essential that candidates should read and understand questions before answering. This will help them to adhere to the demands of the question.
- It is essential that candidates are exposed to the various types of compositions to enable them a fair choice in the examination.
- It should be noted that continuous writing is practical, thus candidates need more time to practice in order to improve their writing skills.

General comments

This paper comprised three sections: Section A: composition, Section B: letter writing and Section C: directed writing. The candidates demonstrated a good understanding of the questions. The candidates' performance was generally average in all the three (3) sections although the performance in some centres was below average.

❖ There was great improvement in the following:

- Handwriting
- presentation layout
- adhering to stipulated instructions

❖ There is room for improvement on the following:

- Relevant introductions and conclusions
- Choosing a topic which they understand better
- Spelling mistakes
- language usage
- use of punctuation marks
- Repetition when developing their points (which results to redundancy and makes them score low marks)
- Reading and understanding of questions
- Shifting from cursive writing to printing

Comments on specific questions

Section A

Composition Writing-15 marks

There were four questions in this section, based on the four theoretical models of composition writing namely: narrative, imaginative, factual and argumentative. Candidates were required to choose only one topic.

Umbuto 1

Bumcoka bekuhlanyela tibhidvo ekhaya

This question was well attempted. Most candidates who scored high marks demonstrated the concept of a garden and vegetables.

- Students stated the economic importance of the garden at home
- Nutritional value of a garden
- Acquisition of gardening skills

Umbuto 2

Lengingakwenta kutfutukisa lidolobha nangingaba ngumphatsi walo

The performance of candidates in this question was below average. Those who attempted to this question had difficulty differentiating a town from other various communities. A majority of candidates wrote about areas to improve in their communities instead of what they could possibly do as leaders of a town. Moreover, there was repetition of points from some candidates.

Umbuto 3

Mhla ngitfolo imali

The performance in this question was average. A majority of candidates managed to narrate scenarios leading them to their lack of getting lost money. However, there was no clear articulation of how the money was spent in relation to the amount which was found.

Umbuto 4

Bafundzi belibanga lesikhombisa abachubeke balubhale luhlolo ekupheleni kwemnyaka. Vumela noma uphikise lombono.

The performance of candidates in this question was below average. The main weaknesses in candidates' response included failing to make a distinction between summative and formative assessment as well internal and external examination. For that reason candidates failed to support their points well.

Recommendations for the Section

Teachers are advised to expose candidates to the various types of compositions to enable candidates a fair choice in the examination. Further, teachers are encouraged to reinforce the concept of formulating topic sentences and developing content with proper language to come out with sound paragraphs. Moreover, candidates need sufficient practice in continuous writing in order to improve their writing skills. Lastly, candidates should be reminded about reading questions and instructions with understanding before answering examination.

SECTION B

Letter-15 marks

This section comprised two questions both drawn from an informal/ friendly letter. Most candidates did well in this section as they demonstrated understanding of the format of informal letter writing.

Comments on Specific Question

Umbuto 1

Endzaweni yakini kwakhiwe sikolwa semabanga laphakeme. Bhalela umngani wakho umcocele ngaso.

Most candidate used relevant language to express the importance of a school and its proximity. However, a minority couldn't elaborate much thus made them to lose a lot of marks.

Umbuto 2

Ebangeni lokulo nitabe nineluvakasho lokuyofundza ngemasiko nemhambo weSiSwati. Bhalela sihlobo sakho ucele sikubhalele kuloluvakosho.

Generally, this question was well performed because most candidates displayed a great deal of mastery. Candidates were able to substantiate their requests in trying to prove how desperate they were to their relatives. A majority demonstrated the concept of culture and the importance of an educational tour.

Recommendations for the Section

Teachers are encouraged to put more emphasis on the language demanded by these two types of letters. Lastly, candidates should be reminded about reading questions with understanding before answering the question in the examination.

Section C- 10 marks

This section had two questions, both practical skills in a form of posters. Most candidates did exceptionally well in this section and they were able to follow the guide.

Umbuto 1

Lifomu Lekungena Nekuphuma Eveni

The performance of candidates in this question was average. Those who chose this question managed to show knowledge in filling in the personal information. However, candidates had difficulty in writing their PIN and the use of the SiSwati language particularly when writing their age numbers.

Umbuto 2

Lifomu Lekucela Indzawo Yekufundza

The performance of candidates in this question was impressive because most candidates were able to give correct information. A majority of candidates tried to meet the requirement of the question even though a minority had a difficulty in the writing of numbers in words.

Recommendations for the Section

Teachers are encouraged to expose candidates to the various types of form filling to enable them a fair choice in the examination. Additionally, candidates must be advised to meet both ends of the requirements of this section i.e. the required language. Lastly, candidates should be reminded about reading questions with understanding before answering the question in the examination.

Key messages

- It is very important for candidates to stick to one type of handwriting instead of mixing cursive with printing or vice versa.
- It is essential that words are spelt correctly, and sentences are constructed properly.
- It is not proper for some candidates to use vulgar language in giving responses to part questions.
- It is of vital importance to adhere to instructions in using ink only not pencil in giving responses to the part questions.
- It is essential to strike a balance between reading comprehension, grammar and customs, traditions and language usage in teaching and learning so that the final product reaches maximum standard.
- Comprehension questions require candidates to demonstrate their understanding of the passage not their general knowledge.

General Comments

This paper comprised three components: Section A: Reading Comprehension (Sivisiso Lesifundwako), Section B: Grammar (Luhlelo) and Section C: Customs, Traditions and Language usage (Emasiko, Umhambo nemasiko kanye neKusentjentiswa Kwelulwimi).

Comments on Specific Questions

Section A: Reading Comprehension Passage (Sivisiso Lesifundwako)

The examiners' observation on this section was that a majority of candidates demonstrated understanding of the comprehension passage. The candidates' performance in this section was good. A majority of them gave correct responses to the part questions and also gave satisfactory responses in the higher order questions. Candidates with excellent training demonstrated comprehension understanding of all part questions in Bloom's Taxonomy levels. Worth noting, is that some of these candidates managed to score full marks in this section although a fewer number of candidates scored very low marks.

Question 1 - Reading Comprehension Part questions

Questions (a) – (j)

The overall performance in this section was satisfactory although some candidates performed below average. The recommendation is that more practice be given to candidates in reading comprehension passages across the continuum from low order to high order questions.

(a) Bewukuphi lomchudzelwano lomkhulu weSiswati?

This part question was well answered by almost all the candidates except for those few candidates who randomly picked any sentence from the passage and wrote it as is. For example, “**Kwaphindze kwamenyetelwa emagama abo bonkhe lebese bayocudzelana**”.

The correct responses were;

KaManzini, ehholeni, eMfanyana / ehholeni laseMfanyana.

(b) Wabanjwa ngayiphi inyanga lomchudzelwano?

This part question was also well answered by almost all the candidates and they stated clearly the month in which the event was held although some mentioned the date only.

The correct response was;

NgeNgc.

(c) Wentiwa yini Thobekile kutsi asheshe ahambe kuya esikolweni ngemuva kwesimemetelo?

This part question was well answered by a majority of candidates.

The correct response was;

Thobekile washesha kuya esikoleni ngobe abejake kuva kutsi bobani labanye labaphumelele.

(d) Wentiwa yini Thobekile kutsi ashaywe luvalo nakahalaliselwa nguthishela lomkhulu?

This part question was fairly attempted by most candidates. Quite a number of candidates mentioned that she had stage phobia, yet she had been meditating about the oncoming Siswati competition.

The correct response was;

Bekacabanga umchudzelwano eveni lonkhe.

(e) Bewuwani vele lomchudzelwano?

A majority of candidates gave correct responses to this part question and mentioned the theme of the function or event, but some gave wrong responses such as ‘**webantfwabesikolo**’ thus losing two valuable marks.

The correct responses were;

Bumcoka beSiSwati / SiSwati / Welulwimi lweSiSwati.

(f) Ngekuva kwako kulenzaba kusho kutsini kulala benyoni?

This part question was a challenge to most candidates as they could not comprehend well the meaning of the SiSwati idiom, '**kulala benyoni**'. A majority of candidates gave incomplete responses such as, '**kulala**', '**kulala kancane**' but not mentioning the interruption during the sleep.

The correct responses were;

Kulala kancane uhle wetfuka / kulala uhle uphaphama /uphatamiseka.

(g) Ulusito ngani lomchudzelwano kubafundzi?

This part question was well answered by a majority of candidates. They mentioned vividly the importance of the SiSwati competition to the learners.

The correct responses were;

Bafundzi batfola imali, umfundzate, lwati lweSiSwati / lwemasiko nemhambo , bafundza lulwimi lweSiSwati.

(h) Kube bekunguwe lowabehlula bonkhe kulomchudzelwano wawungenta njani?

This part question was well answered by a majority of candidates although very few cited that they could do absolutely nothing after winning the competition which was not the requirement from the question.

The correct responses were;

Beningajabula kakhulu, beningapha lesikolo sami imali phindze ngitjele labafundzi kutsi bangene nabo kulomncintiswano , beningasita labanye kutsi nabo batimisele njengami, ngangingajabula ngiphindze ngibonge thishela ngekungifundzisa ngebumcoka beSiswati.

(i) Ngekuva kwakho kulenzaba kusho kutsini kubuyela emuva nendvuku yembangandlala?

A majority of candidates gave correct responses to this part question but some could not score full marks because they did not give full explanations as demanded by the part question, thus losing marks. For example, they responded; '**kujika ubuyele emuva**' without mentioning not having a prize or an award.

The correct responses were;

Kubuya lite, kubuyela emuva ungakaphatsi lufu, kungawini, kubuya ulambatsa, kungaphumeleli.

(j) Ngekubuka kwakho kuphumelela kwaThobekile kwaba lusito yini kuye? Sekela imphendvulo yakho ngemaphuzu lamabili ususela kulenzatjana.

This part question was a challenge to most candidates as they could not take a stand before giving two points why winning the competition was a benefit to Thobekile.

The correct responses were;

Yebo, kwaba lusito kuye ngoba watfola imal /imali letinkhulungwane letisihlanu teMalangeni. Watfola umfundzate, waba lijaji, watfola lwati.

Section B Grammar (Luhlelo)

Generally, the performance of candidates in this section was average. It was fairly done by a majority of candidates and very few candidates scored the maximum marks. However, there were some candidates whose performance was not satisfactory in this section. Such candidates scored very low marks.

Question 1

(a) Write the singular form of these nouns.

- (i) Bafati
- (ii) Tinwele

A majority of candidates did well in this part question especially (a) (i) but some could not give the singular form of the word **'tinwele'**. Many responded by giving prefixes of these nouns as well as augmentatives for example, **'bafatikati and tinwelekati'** and as well as **'linwele'** as a singular noun.

The correct responses were:

- (i) Bafati umfati
- (ii) Tinwele lunwele

(b) Write the compound noun using the noun and the verb, (tintfombi – noun; tenele – verb).

This part question was fairly done by many candidates although some left a gap between **'ntfombi** and **tenele'** thus, the end result not being a compound noun for example, **'Ntfombi tenele'**.

The correct response was;

Ntfombitenele

(c) Pick a collective noun from the sentence below.

Ngibona umhlambi wetinkhomo letimnyama entsabeni

This part question was well answered by a majority of candidates who were able to pick correctly the collective noun from the sentence.

The correct response was;

Umhlambi

(d) Write the diminutive or apply the reduction suffix to the word 'litsambo'.

This part question was a challenge to quite a number of candidates as they gave the following wrong responses; **'litsanjanyana , intsanjanyana , intsanjana'** and some wrote the augmentatives.

The correct response was;

Litsanjana

Question 2

(a) Choose an adverb from the following sentences and state its type.

- (i) Nomcebo uhlala kaManzini.
- (ii) NgeMgcibelo siyahamba.

This part question was a challenge to a majority of candidates as they could not pick correctly the adverb and state its type. Some were able to pick the adverbs but converted them to proper nouns for example, **'Manzini'** and **'Mgcibelo'** thus losing 2 valuable marks.

The correct responses were;

Sandziso (adverb)

luhlobo (type of adverb)

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| (i) KaManzini | sendzawo (adverb of place) |
| (ii) NgeMgcibelo | sesikhatsi (adverb of time) |

(b) Write an adverb of manner

This part question was well done by a majority of candidates though some did not start with the prefix **'ka/** when forming the adverb of manner.

The correct response was;

Kamatima, kabuhlungu, kamnandzi, kamelula, kalusizi, ka...

Question 3

(a) Write the type of qualificative bolded in the sentences below;

- (i) Inkhukhu **yagogo** idla ummbila ebaleni.
- (ii) Babe **lomkhulu** uyagula, unesifo sematsambo.

This was a challenging part question to a majority of candidates as most of them wrote the qualificative adjective in place of the possessive adjective and vice versa.

The correct responses were;

Sichasiso (qualificative) **luhlobo (type of qualificative)**

- (i) Yagogo **buniyo** (possessive)
- (ii) Lomkhulu **siphawulo** (qualificative)

(b) Write the verb tense bolded in the following sentences.

- (i) Tintfombi betitfwele inyandza yetinkhuni.
- (ii) Umnaketfu lomdzala uyasenga.
- (iii) Make utawuvuna onkhe emasimu akitsi.

This part question was fairly done by most candidates because they correctly mentioned the verb tenses demanded by the part question. However, some candidates wrote ‘**sikhatsi samanje**’ when giving response to the present continuous tense.

The correct responses were;

Ligama (noun)

- (i) **Betitfwele**
- (ii) **Uyasenga**
- (iii) **Utawuvuna**

luhlobo lwesikhatsi (type of verb tense).

- lesengcile** Past (immediate) tense
- sanyalo** Present continuous tense.
- lesitako** Future (immediate future) tense.

Umbuto 4

(a) Write the absolute pronoun in place of the bolded noun in the following sentences.

- (i) Sifo sibacedzile bantfu emhlabeni.
- (ii) Imitsi iyasitana uma ugula.
- (iii) Umfana unematubane lamakhulu.

This part question was well answered by a majority of candidates. However, some candidates gave demonstrative pronouns, for example, 'sifo – lesi' instead of the absolute pronoun.

The correct responses were;

Libito (noun)

sabito selucobo (absolute pronoun)

- | | |
|--------------|--------------------|
| (i) Sifo | <u>sona</u> |
| (ii) Imitsi | <u>yona</u> |
| (iii) Umfana | <u>yena</u> |

(b) Use the verb 'shaya' to write the verb derivatives /verb extension of the following sentences.

- (i) Imphambosi yekwentiwa (passive)
- (ii) Imphambosi yekwenteka (neuter)

This part question was fairly done by a majority of candidates although some in (b) (i) wrote 'shayiwa'.

The correct responses were;

- | | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|------------|
| (i) Imphambosi yekwentiwa | <u>shaywa</u> | (passive). |
| (ii) Imphambosi yekwenteka | <u>shayeka</u> | (neuter). |

Section C: Customs, Traditions and Language usage (Emasiko ,Imihambo neKusentjentswa Kwelulwimi).

(a) Give one word that shows euphemism in the following.

- (i) Emanga
- (ii) Kungwatjwa

This part question was well answered by a majority of candidates.

The correct responses were;

- | | |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------------|
| (i) Emanga | <u>emaphosiso</u> |
| (ii) Kungwatjwa | <u>kufihlwa, kubekwa ,kulahlwa .</u> |

(b) Complete the following table.

Bulilidvuna (Masculine)	Bulilisikati (Feminine)
(i) Lichegu
(ii)	Intfombi
(iii) Inkhaba

This part question was satisfactorily done by most of the candidates although some gave augmentatives which changed completely the meaning of the words for example, 'lichegukati', 'inkhabikati'. The responses in (b) (iii) 'inkhaba litfokati and 'umfana ----- intfombi ' were not correct because these are not at the same levels /ranks.

The correct responses were;

Bulilidvuna (Masculine)	Bulilisikati (Feminine)
(i) Lichegu	<u>Salukati</u>
(ii) <u>Lijaha</u>	Intfombi
(iii) Inkhaba	<u>Inkhomati</u>

Question 2

(a) Give one word that describes the following.

(i) Intsambo yesikhumba leshwiliwe yekufasa inkhaba ejokweni

This part question was a challenge to quite a number of candidates. Many candidates could not give the name of the leather intertwined string attaching an ox to a yoke.

The correct response was;

Sitilobho.

(ii) Lithulusi lelifakwa emlonyeni wenkhomo kuvikela kutsi ingadli ummbila nakukolofelwa.

This part question was also a challenge to most candidates. Most of them gave wrong responses such as; 'imaski , sisefo'.

The correct response was;

Sifonyo

(iii) Sisu lesikhulu,

This part question was well done by a majority of candidates

The correct responses were;

Umkhaba, umdvudvudla.

(iv) Indzawo lapho kubabelwe khona kwashishwa tjani base bucala kuhluma.

This part question was also done well by a majority of candidates but some gave the response which is for repelling snakes, 'sihlungu'.

The correct response was;

Lihlungu

(v) Umbila loluhlata losakhula losengakashakati

This part question was a challenge to most candidates. Many candidates wrote incorrect responses such as, 'lifutfo, tibhuluja, emanchejeta'.

The correct response was;

Likhaba

Question 3

(a) Write one word that explains the following.

- (i)** Umuntfu lomdvuna wekhabo make wakho.
- (ii)** Umuntfu lomsikati lotala make nobe babe wakho.
- (iii)** Umntwana wakini lomdvuna.

This part question was done well by a majority of candidates. Many candidates did give the relationships related to family member structures.

The correct responses were;

- (i)** Umuntfu lomdvuna wekhabo make wakho - **malume**
- (ii)** Umuntfu lomsikati lotala make nobe babe wakho - **gogo**
- (iii)** Umntwana wakini lomdvuna - **bhuti / mnaketfu**

Question 4

(a) Give the meaning for the proverb below.

This part question was fairly done by many candidates even though some candidates gave literal responses to this proverb instead of approaching it figuratively. Some incorrect responses were; **'kuvula sigodzi lesingumsele lesikahle nalesihlantekile, kuzama kusita kantsi kutawuphindze ku affecta wena, kutidvonsela emanti ngemsele, kusho kutsi utilandzela emanti emseleni phindze kusho kutsi awukhuteki ufuna baze bakudvonse njengemanti emsele'**.

The correct responses were;

Kutsi usita umuntfu kantsi utifaka enkingeni / enhluphekweni / ebumatimeni.

(b) Write two sentences that show the ambiguity of the following.

Inyoni

This part question was done well by a majority of candidates. However, some did not show the ambiguity of the two sentences for example; **'Babe ubuye nenyoni , Make lomncane uphetse inyoni'**. In these sentences it is hard to tell which **'inyoni'** --- the animal one or the one used for watering.

The correct responses were;

- (i) Babe ushaye inyoni emini itolo.**
- (ii) Make usebentisa inyoni makanisela.**

(c) Write the antonym of the bolded word in the sentence below.

Onkhe emabombo abheke **enyakatfo** lapho kunemcimbi lomkhulu khona.

This part question was done well by a majority of candidates. The commonly wrong response was; **'enshonalanga'**. Again some candidates mentioned **'nyatfako'** as a place in Hhohho region thus came with a response **'Ebhleni or Hhhohho'**.which was wrong.

The correct response was;

Eningizimu