



EXAMINATIONS COUNCIL OF ESWATINI
Eswatini Primary Certificate Education

Siswati (414)
Examination Report for 2024

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General comments

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 instil 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 of three sections: Sigaba A: Indzaba (Free Composition), Sigaba B: Incwadzi (Letter Writing), and Sigaba C: Kubhala lokucondzisiwe (Practical 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:

- ✓ hand writing
- ✓ 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 makes them score low marks)
- ✓ Reading and understanding of questions
- ✓ Shift from cursive writing to printing

Comments on specific questions

Sigaba A

Composition Writing – 15 marks

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

Umbuto 1

Silwane lengisitsandzako

Most candidates attempted this question. A majority of those who attempted it, answered well, although, a minority chose to narrate rather than describe their favorite animal. Some wrote about animals they had only seen once, either on a vacation or on television. Other candidates described more than one animal.

Umbuto 2

Lengingakwenta nangingaba ngumfuyi

This question was attempted with average success by candidates. Most candidates understood the term 'kufuya' well and answered the question effectively. However, some candidates were disadvantaged because they misunderstood the key terms in the question. They interpreted 'umfuyi' as a farmer and, as a result, wrote about growing vegetables and raising animals. Some even included irrelevant topics, such as building roads, clinics, and electricity projects.

Umbuto 3

Buhle bangcondvomshina

The performance on this question was exceptional with candidates effectively identifying the advantages of computers and technology. Many demonstrated a solid understanding of technological applications, such as communication, banking, and job opportunities. Some candidates went on to describe various technological gadgets and their associated benefits. However, a few candidates resorted to narration which indicated a lack of full comprehension of the question's requirements.

Recommendations for Sicephu A

Teachers are advised to expose candidates to the various types of compositions. There was an improvement as candidates could identify the different types of compositions. Furthermore, teachers must 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. Some have a problem with spelling, e.g. 'mbh' 'tj', 'nj', 'nk'nv'mv'. Lastly, candidates should be reminded about reading questions and instructions with understanding before answering examination.

Sigaba B

Letter Writing – 15 marks

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

Umbuto 1

Esikolweni sakho kutawube kunelilanga lelulwimi lwesiSwati, wonkhe umfundzi kubhekeke kutsi ete avunulile. Bhalela sihlobo sakho usicele kutsi sikutsengele imvunulo lotayivunula ngalolusuku.

Nearly all the candidates who chose this question performed with notable precision. However, it appears that many candidates were unaware that traditional attire is referred to as '*ayigcokwa*' but '*iyavunulwa*' which was used in a different context. While most candidates are familiar with the names of traditional Swazi attire, it is important to recognize the significant impact of cultural days in schools, which have greatly contributed to preserving and promoting this cultural knowledge.

Umbuto 2

Tikolwa titovalwa bese niya emaholidini ekuphela kwemnyaka. Bhalela umngani wakho umeluleke kutsi atiphatse kanjani ekhaya ngalamaholide.

Overall, the performance of candidates on this question was average. There was a notable lack of articulation regarding how the friend should care for themselves. Some candidates, instead, resorted to narrating personal anecdotes about their vacations, and how they would spend their time which was not aligned with the question's requirements

Recommendations for Sicephu B

It is strongly recommended that teachers emphasize the distinction between a business letter and a friendly letter. Additionally, candidates should be encouraged to read questions thoroughly and ensure full comprehension before attempting to answer them during the examination.

Sigaba C

Practical Writing – 15 marks

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

Umbuto 1

Dvweba sikhangiso ngetingubhu tesiSwati letitawube tisetjentiswa ngelilanga lemihambo nemasiko.

A majority of the candidates did not perform well this question. Majority of candidates demonstrated a lack of knowledge regarding Swazi traditional musical instruments (*tingubhu*) and Swazi traditional attire. This was evident from their inclusion of drawings of traditional attire *emahiya* and *emajobo*, and the misinterpretation of *tingubhu* as *tigubhu* (water containers of 25 litres and 50 litres).

Umbuto 2

Dvweba sikhangiso ngetitja tesiSwati lebenitibata esifundveni semakhono.

The overall performance was average. The majority of candidates were able to correctly identify traditional curved utensils. Most learners made a concerted effort to meet the requirements of the question, although, a minority struggled to differentiate between weaving and moulding.

Recommendations for Sicephu C

It is recommended that teachers provide candidates with opportunities to develop their drawing skills ensuring they are well-prepared to make informed choices during the examination. Additionally, learners should be encouraged to fully address all aspects of the question, including the appropriate use of language. Finally, candidates must be reminded to carefully read and comprehend each question before attempting to answer it 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 of vital importance for candidates to write correctly their details (names, surnames and examination numbers) in the answer sheets as they appear in the attendance register.
- It is of paramount importance for candidates to desist from using vulgar or insulting language when they are not sure of the responses.
- It is essential that words are spelt correctly, and sentences are constructed properly.
- It is advisable for candidates to adhere to instructions in using ink only not pencil in giving responses to part responses.
- It is important to strike a balance between reading comprehension, grammar and customs, traditions and language usage in teaching and learning so that the end product reaches maximum standard.
- Comprehension questions necessitate the full demonstration of understanding the passage not tapping into general knowledge.

General Comments

This paper comprised of four components: Sicephu A: Reading Comprehension (Sivisiso Lesifundvwako), Sicephu B: Grammar: (Luhlelo) and Sicephu C: Language Usage: (Kusentjentswa Kwelulwimi) and lastly, Sicephu D: Customs and Traditions (Imihambo neMasiko). All questions in these parts were compulsory and candidates were expected to answer all the sections in full responses.

Comments on Specific Questions

Reading Comprehension Passage (Sivisiso Lesifundvwako)

The examiners' observation was that a majority of candidates had some challenges in giving responses to part questions especially to high order questions in this section. On the other hand, low order questions were fairly attempted by candidates. Again, noteworthy mentioning was that many candidates left blank spaces and never made any attempt to give responses to part questions in the comprehension passage. In addition, quite a number of candidates replicated the part questions in the spaces provided and others picked any paragraph without any coherence with the part question as their responses. In conclusion, it is evident that a few candidates with excellent training demonstrated comprehension understanding of all part questions in Bloom's Taxonomy levels. These candidates gave correct responses to part responses and also gave satisfactory responses to high order questions.

Sigaba A: Sivisiso Lesifundvwako

Umbuto 1

(a) Besihlala kuphi lesalukati?

[1]

Expected responses

- Malawi / eveni laseMalawi / endlini yaso

Common incorrect response

- Malawini

Comment

This part question was well answered by a majority of candidates though some very few candidates misspelt the response as “*Malawini*”.

(b) Yini lokukhomba kutsi lesalukati sase siguge kakhulu?

[1]

Expected response

- besehluleka ngisho kususa lunyawo

Comment

This part question was also well answered by almost all the candidates, and they stated clearly the symptoms of aging of the character.

(c) Logogo bekatipha nini kudla letinkhukhu?

[1]

Expected response

- ekuseni / onkhe malanga

Comment

This part question required only one word or a phrase and a majority of candidates gave the correct response to this part question.

(d) Chaza loku lokulandzelako njengobe kusentjentsiswe endzabeni:

(i) tiselusizini (indzima 3)

[1]

Expected response

- tatisebuhlungwini
- ebumatimeni / kukhatsateka
- kuphatseka kabi emoyeni
- enhluphekweni.

Common incorrect responses

- tatikhala tilambile
- tenta letikufunako tikhala

(ii) watindvonsa ngendlebe (indzima 3)

[1]

Expected responses

- watiyala
- watitjelsisa
- watiyalisisa
- waticwayisa
- watekhuta.

Common incorrect responses

- watihlebela watitjela
- wativa tikhala wase uyatiyekela

Comment

In this part question the candidates were expected to give the morpheme/phrase that means precisely as in (i) and (ii). Quite a number of candidates could not give the precise meaning of (On the other hand, a few candidates gave the precise meaning of (i) and (ii) and got full marks.

(e) Chaza lokwentiwa tinkhukhu nakuphela ummbila lobewushiywe ngumniyo wato.

[1]

Expected responses

- Kuphandza
- Kucala kuyofuna ummbila emasimini

Comment

A majority of candidates gave correct responses to this part question and mentioned the action taken by the chickens after they had finished the maize in the yard.

(f) Yini lebangela tinkhukhu kutsi tihlale tichwandza emataleni, emasimini nalapho kugcitjetelwe khona? Chaza ususele kulokufundze endzabeni.

[2]

Expected response

- tisuke tifuna lizembe lalohheya lelalahleka.

Common incorrect responses

- kufuna / kuchinga
- lelalahleka / lilahlekile

Comment

This part question was fairly done by most candidates. Some candidates did not get the two full marks because they mentioned one of the key words in their responses instead of two. Candidates were expected to mention the two key words in their responses to get two (2) full marks.

(g) Ngekubuka kwakho kwaba sento lesihle yini kutsi lohheya adle lintjwele?

Chaza ngemaphuzu lamabili ususela kulendzatjana.

[4]

Expected responses

- **Chake, wenta kabi lohheya kutsi adle lelintjwele ngobe:**

- Kubuhlungu kutsi utale umntwana bese uyabulawa embikwakho.
- Lelizembe lakhe atililahlanga mabomu letinkhukhu.
- Ngabe lohheya watinika sikhatsi letinkhukhu tafuna lelizembe.
- Lamantjwele akusiwo lalahla lizembe kodvwa ngulabonina.
- Lohheya bekumele bakhulumisane netinkhukhu kuphume sisombululo lesikahle.
- Lohheya wakhombisa kutikhobosa letinkhukhu ngekudla lintjwele ngobe umtali walelintjwele weva buhlungu kakhulu ngekuhamba kwemntwanakhe embikwakhe.

Common incorrect response

- Wenta kahle lohheya. Mine bengingadla lamantjwele onkhe phindze ngidle nabonina ngobe bengibatjelile kutsi lizembe lami bangalilahli bona base bayalilahla / yebo bekaphila ngalo lelizembe futsi lohheya abesafile yindlala ngobe intfo lebekaphila ngayo, lizembe lakhe.

Comment

Candidates who used polite and positive language were awarded full marks for their responses. However, most candidates in this part question were not awarded marks because their responses exposed violence, anger and vengeance or settling of scores. Their responses demonstrated inhuman, cruel or callous behaviour and even if the hawk used this axe to get food it could have endeavoured other avenues to get source of food not killing the innocent chicks.

The candidates were supposed to take a stand and support it with two points in reference to the passage from the above thus scoring full four (4) marks. The stand was two points and a point each for the two supporting statements

(h) Kube bekunguwe lohheya wawungenta njani ngemuva kwekutsi tinkhukhu tilahle lizembe lakho?

[3]

Expected responses

- Kube bengingulohheya bengingaticwandzisa lapho tihambe khona natifuna kudla kukhombisa lutsandvo neluvelo njenge kubaboleka kwami lizembe.
- Bengingaticolela, ngibe nglbona kutsi letinkhukhu tiselusizizini ngekuhanjelwa ngumniyo wato futsi atilicelanga nalelizembe.

- Bengingaticolela ngobe bese vele lilahlekile futsi Nkulunkulu utsi colela bonkhe labakonako.
- Bengingingabanika sikhatsi lesanele kulifuna, naml ngibukisise ngobe ngiyakhona kuhamba etulu ngindize ngibuke phansi, bese ngiyaticolela nasingalitfoli.
- Bengingeke ngitidle letinkhukhu nemantjwele ato, bengingaticolela ngoba utsi Nkulunkulu asibacolele labasonile sitsandze tisa tetfu, singaphindziseli ngalokubi.

Common incorrect responses

- Ngangingakwata kakhulu nangiva kwekutsi tinkhukhu tilahle lelizembe bengingavele ngidle kwasani.
- Mine bengingadla onkhe lamantjwele bese kulandzela netinkhukhu letindzala letinelicala futsi lengitidvonse ngendlebe kutsi tingalilahli lizembe lami.
- Bengingatsatsa lokunye kwato letinkhukhu.
- Ngingafuna kutsi tingisebentele.

Again, in this part question candidates' responses which depicted violence, vengeance and settling of scores were not awarded marks because violence breeds violence. On the other hand, a quite number of candidates gave polite and positive responses to this part question and got three (3) full marks.

The candidates were expected to give one of the above responses which demonstrated acceptable moral values and, in that way, full three (3) marks were awarded.

General comment

The overall performance in this section was not satisfactory and the candidates' performance was 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.

Sigaba B: 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 or no marks at all.

Umbuto 1

(a) Bhala bunye balelibito:

ematje

[1]

Expected response

- Litje

Common incorrect responses

- Itje
- Intjana

Comment

A majority of candidates did well in this part question.

(b) Bhala naku lokulandzelako:

(i) Sicalo salelibito – inkhomo

[1]

Expected response

- /in-/

Common incorrect response

(ii) Sicu salelibito – bantfu

[1]

Expected response

- /-ntfu/

Comment

A majority of candidates had difficulty in giving the prefix for '*inkhomo*' and the suffix for '*bantfu*'. Again, some candidates wrote the prefix and the suffix correctly but failed to place the hyphen in the right position thus losing valuable marks.

(c)

(i) Yakha sikhuliso ngalelibito:

Indlu

[1]

Expected response

- Indlukati

Common incorrect responses

- Indlwana

(ii) Bhala umusho ngalesikhuliso losakhe ngenhla.

[1]

- Malume wakhe **indlukati** esigodzini sakubo.

(Example of a well-constructed sentence using the augmentative as expected).

Comment

The candidates who did not write correctly the augmentative could not formulate a sentence using the augmentative, '*indlukati*'.

Umbuto 2

(a) Bhala kutsi luhlobo luni lwesabito lolucindzetelwe kulemisho lelandzelako:

(i) Tona tidla tjani entsabeni.

[1]

Expected response

- Sabito selucobo

Common incorrect response

- Sabito mbamba

(ii) Ngibakhandze babanga umsindvo bonkhe.

Expected responses

- Sabito lesibalako

Common incorrect response

- Sabito sekubala

Comment

This part question was a challenge to most candidates. Instead of writing the absolute pronoun and the quantitative pronoun respectively they wrote other responses such as verb derivatives and personal pronouns not required by the part question. Worth noting was that quite a number of candidates wrote '*Sabito Sekubala*' instead of '*Sabito Lesibalako*' as quantitative pronoun. Very few candidates wrote correct responses to this part question.

(b)

(i) Bhala sento lesibolekiwe.

[1]

Expected response

- ayina
- washa
- rivesa
- kolobha

Common incorrect responses

- lihembe
- litafula

(ii) Sebentisa lesento 'bhala' emshweni sikhombe sikhatsi lesengca.

[2]

Expected response

- Bafundzi **babhale / babhala** / sivivinyo sesiSwati.
- (Example of a well-constructed sentence using the past tense as expected).

Comment

This part question which instructed candidates to write the borrowed verb was done well though some candidates gave borrowed noun responses instead. The second part of the question instructed candidates to write a sentence in the remote past tense using the verb '*bhala*' was also done well by a majority of candidates. They wrote sentences in the remote past tense and got two (2) full marks.

Umbuto 3

(a) Yakha sandziso sesikhatsi kulamagama:

(i) Lesibili

[1]

Expected response

- ngaLesibili

(ii) lihlobo

[1]

- ehlobo

Comment

This part question was a challenge to a majority of candidates. It was not done well by many of them. A majority of responses given by candidates did not meet the requirements of the part question of formulating the adverb of time and the consequence was the loss of marks. Quite a number of candidates wrote the adverb of time required by the part question.

(b) Gcwalisa etikhaleni ngesentakutsi lesifanelee:

(i) Tinwele takhe timnyama.....

[1]

Expected response

- khwishi
- bhuce
- tsu

Common incorrect response

- thu
- buce

(ii) Sitofu sakubo sishisa.....

[1]

Expected response

- bhe

Common incorrect responses

- be

(iii) Ubindze watsi Nabamtsetsisa.

[1]

Expected response

- dvu
- gudvu

Common incorrect responses

- du

- thu

Comment

This part of the question was well performed by most candidates but there were too many spelling errors in writing the idiophones.

Sigaba C: Kusetjentiswa Kwelulwimi

Umbuto 1

(a) Bhala sikhatsi ngesiSwati saloku lokulandzelako:

- (i) Sikhatsi lapho lilanga lishisa kakhulu khona.**

[1]

Expected response

- ehlobo
- emini

- (ii) Lilanga lelilandzelwa layitolo.**

[1]

Expected response

- Kutsanti

Comment

This part question was fairly done by most candidates because they correctly mentioned the season or time of the day demanded by the part question.

(b) Bhala umbala ngesiSwati:

Ingati

[1]

Expected response

- bovu

Comment

This part question was done well by a majority of candidates. They did give the colour of blood in siSwati.

(c) Bhala letinombolo ngesiSwati.

- (i) 10**

[1]

Expected response

- lishumi

Common incorrect responses

- emashumi
- theni

- (ii) 44**

[1]

Expected response

- emashumi lamane nakune

Common incorrect response

- foti-fo
- emashumi lakune nakune

Comment

This part question was also well performed by a majority of candidates though some candidates could not write the two-digit numbers above in siSwati.

Umbuto 2**(a) Write the synonyms for the following words:****(i) gijima****[1]****Expected response**

- subatsa
- vitsika

Common incorrect response

- vaya

(ii) yengca**[1]**

- juba
- yendlula

Common incorrect responses

- zwipha
- jampa
- galuja
- zuba

Comment

This part question was satisfactorily done by most of the candidates although some had a challenge in giving the synonym for 'yengca.' But in overall, most candidates got full marks in this part question for the two (2) synonyms.

(b) Bhala ligama lelihloniphisa leli lelilandzelako:**Emanti****[1]****Expected responses**

- emampokoya

Common incorrect responses

- emavati
- sinatfo
- water

This part question was a challenge for a majority of candidates. Seemingly most candidates were not familiar with the euphemism. Some candidates opted to use the English translation for the given word.

(c) Gcwalisa ngeligama lelikhomba bantfwana baletilwane:

(i) Imbuti

[1]

Expected response

- lizinyane

Common incorrect response

- lizimu

(ii) Inyoni

[1]

Expected response

- lizini

Common incorrect response

- lizimu

Comment

This part question was fairly done by most candidates expect.

Umbuto 3

(a) Nika inchazelo yaletiphicwaphicwano:

(i) Ngikuphica ngababe wami lotsi nakefika ekhaya bantfwana bajayive.

Expected responses

- ngumoya

Common incorrect responses

- manyovu
- umsila wenja
- inyoni uma ipha emazini

(ii) Ngikuphica ngebantfu bami labewela umfula ugcwele.

Expected responses

- ngemehlo

Comment

This part question was well answered by a majority of candidates in giving correct responses to the above riddles. Some of the candidates' responses were closer to interpreting the riddles but could not relate perfectly.

(b) Cedzela letisho/taga ngeligama lelifanele:

(i) Kubeka phansi.

[1]

Expected response

- Umoya

Common incorrect responses

- sibunu
- lunyawo

(ii) Kuphatsana**[1]****Expected responses**

- ngensila
- ngetandla

Common incorrect responses

- kahle
- kabi

(iii) Lishisa likhipha emantini.**[1]****Expected response**

- Inhlanti

Common incorrect responses

- umkhovu

General comment

A majority of candidates performed exceptionally well in this part question although some inserted incorrect words thus changing the meaning of the idiom /sayings. In the last idiom the candidates did not take notice of the word '*emantini*' before writing '*umkhovu*'.

Sigaba D: Imihambo Nemasiko**Umbuto 1****(a) Bhala tibongo tanati tinanatelo:****(i) Mtimandze****[1]****Expected responses**

- Kunene
- Shongwe
- Gamedze
- Sikhondze
- Seyama
- Makhubu

(ii) Ngcamane**[1]****Expected responses**

- Maseko
- Malaza

Comment

A majority of candidates did well in the part question and were able to give the surnames for these two praise names.

(b) Itekwa ngubani inganekwane ekhaya?

[1]

Expected response

- Ngugogo

Comment

This part question was done exceptionally well by a majority of candidates and they did mention the person responsible for telling folktales in a Swazi traditional home.
The correct response was;

(c) Bhala ligama lesakhiwo lesitfolakala emtini wesiSwati lapho:

(i) Kutekelwa khona tindzaba telikhaya

[1]

Expected response

- kagogo
- endlini kagogo

(ii) Kulala khona tinkhomo

[1]

- Esibayeni

Expected response

Comment

This part question was also done well by a majority of candidates. Many candidates mentioned the place where family matters are dealt with in a Swazi traditional homestead as well as a place where livestock is kept.

Umbuto 2

(a) Bhala ligama lelikhomba buhlobo kulamagama labhalwe ngekucindzetelwa.

(i) Umnakabo make uye edolobheni.

Expected response

- Malume

(ii) Hha! Uyashayana babe wababe.

Expected response

- Mkhulu

This part question was also done well by a majority of candidates. Many candidates well able to mention the words denoting kinship.

(b) Nika ligama linye leliso lokudla lokuchazwe ngentasi.

(i) Litsanga nobe lijoti leliphakwe lase libondzelwa ngemphuphu.

[1]

Expected response

- sidvudvu
- sijeza

(ii) Emanti laphuma enguleni nasekuvutwe lubisi.

[1]

Expected response

- umlaza

(iii) Tindlumbu letiphakwe tabondvwa todvwa.

[1]

Expected response

- sishwala

Common incorrect responses

- siphuphe

Comment

This part question was done well by a majority of candidates. They were able to give the type of traditional food except for **(b) (iii)**.

Umbuto 3

(a) Bhala ligama linye leliphakwe letintfo letisetjentiswa ekhaya.

(i) Kwekucamela lokwakhiwe ngesigodvo lesilula.

[1]

Expected response

- sicamelo

Common incorrect responses

- umcamelo

(ii) Litje lelincane lekuhhudla umtimba nawugeza.

[1]

Expected responses

- licopho
- sicopho

(iii) Indlwana leyakhiwe ngetjani lakutalela khona tinkhukhu.

[1]

Expected response

- Silulu

Common incorrect response

- Lihhoko

Comment

This part question was done well by many candidates except for a few candidates who gave responses so close to the responses yet not precise.

(b) Nika emagama alokuvunulwa ngulaba labalandzelako:**(i) luswane****[1]****Expected response**

- lucotfo

Common incorrect response

- liphamphasi
- lihhiya

(ii) sidzadzane**[1]****Expected response**

- luvadla

Common incorrect response

- umgaco
- indlamu

Comment

This part question was fairly done by most candidates though some wrote incorrect responses.