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MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

FIJI YEAR 8 EXAMINATION

2018

SOCIAL SCIENCE

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
FIJI YEAR 8 EXAMINATION – 2018
EXAMINER'S REPORT
SOCIAL SCIENCE

SECTION A MULTIPLE CHOICE

Question No.	Correct Answer	Students' Responses
1	B	Majority students managed to get the correct answer. 90 % of the children got the correct answer as B. Students understood resources are limited and need to be utilised wisely.
2	A	Very well attempted, 82 % of students got the correct answer as A. Some students did not attempt it at all. B was a major distractor. Students have simple live experience of good ways of savings.
3	A	88% students got the correct answer as A. Students seem to understand that computer technology is making things easier and quicker.
4	B	Well attempted question. 75% got the answer as B. A few did not attempt at all. Students understood that impulse buying is buying without thinking well.
5	C	Average attempted, 52 % circled C as the correct answer. Emphasis should be placed on both advantage and disadvantages of using credit and debit cards so that students are able to better understand.
6	B	This was fairly attempted, 65% got correct answer. Students seem to understand that time is not a resource.
7	A	Satisfactorily attempted, 52% attempted A as the correct answer. Students were confused about the four climatic zones. Need to emphasize that equator, Tropic of Cancer and Capricorn is not climatic zones but latitudes.
8	B	This was averagely attempted, 55% got the correct answer as B. Students seem to understand that as we move to higher grounds the weather becomes colder.
9	B	The question was poorly done, 45% chose option B which is the correct answer. The concept of land pollution needs to be well emphasized. Teachers need to contextualize ways of reducing pollution so children better understand with real life examples.
10	A	This question was well attempted, where 75% of the sample size chose option A. Students knew the definition of drought.

11	C	This question was fairly attempted, where 63% of the sample size chose option C. Students have a fair idea that dengue fever is an epidemic.
12	B	This question was fairly attempted, where 75% of the sample size chose option B. Students do have general knowledge about Commonwealth Games and in which years it did not eventuate.
13	A	It was a general knowledge question, which was quiet well done by the students. According to the analysis, 70% of the children got the question right. The closest answer children gave was Narendra Modi who is the current Prime Minister of India.
14	D	65% of the children got the answer correct, while others had problems understanding the question. The closest answer they gave was satisfaction.
15	C	According to the analysis, only 47% of the students got the answer correct. The question was a bit confusing. The closest answer students came up with was <i>denial</i> . Students also had difficulty understanding the meaning of the choices such as <i>denial</i> and <i>turmoil</i> which are hardly used in their real life.
16	B	30% of the students from the analysis got the question right, it seems as if students did not study about these political parties and leaders in Year 8 that's why they had difficulty in answering questions about the past, also children are well versed with current information so they may have not gone over past activities and opposition leaders.
17	B	It was quite an easy question with basic understanding that food is related to hunger. 70% of the students opted for correct answer B. Option D was major distractor.
18	B	Well attempted 82 % of students answered B correctly as their choice. Students understand the organisation which is responsible for looking after environment. The most closest answer was D.
19	D	Very well attempted 90% students opted for D as the correct answer. Students seem to understand that NZ is much more developed compared to other choices given.
20	A	Average question, 65% of students opted for correct answer A. Students still have a bit of confusion with different groups of people and their characteristics.

PART 2**MATCHING****(10 marks)**

This particular question required candidates to match the definitions in **Column I** with the correct terms from **Column II**. Most of the candidates gave the correct responses and scored good marks. However, a good number of candidates had problems with matching the correct terms due to lack of understanding of social science terms and concepts. General performance on this question was however good.

Marks of children differed according to their knowledge skills and understanding. 50% of the children lost marks from questions 1-5 in matching.

PART 3 TRUE OR FALSE (10 marks)

Most students' marks ranged from 6 – 10. Most of the students followed the instruction and wrote (T) and (F) for True and False while a few students forgot to write the answers for one or two questions in this section. True and false was very well attempted by 85% - 90% of candidates.

Teachers need to emphasise the way students write T and F should be very precise and not confusing to understand whether it's T or F.

SECTION B

PART 1 FILL IN THE BLANKS (10 marks)

This section was attempted according to individual student's intellectual understanding. The question type was clear to understand and was well attempted by 70% of the students. Most of the students scored good marks in this section.

PART 2 TESTING SKILLS (36 marks)

(a) Research (5 marks)

Briefly looking at the research section, it comprises of three questions particularly emphasizing on the aim of the research, the methodology and investigation. Generally this was one of the sections that was poorly attempted, it is suggested if research procedures could be strictly followed and thorough explanation given. Equipping the students with the skill to gather information and increase the momentum of enquiry. To step out into the outside and discover for themselves the reality behind various issues faced in today's world.

Particularly looking at each question and the response from students depicts a need to dig deeper into the research section. For question 1, most students wrote the topic of the research rather than the aim of the research. In question 2 the methodology of carrying out research was well attempted by many of the students whereas question 3 created a bit of confusion as majority are unaware of what the question was trying to ask. The question reads as if you were to do the investigation again what would you do differently and why. Students seem to be confused with the term research and investigation which basically means the same thing.

(b) Table Study

(7 marks)

Most candidates had their marks ranging from 4-5.

Part 1: was well attempted by most candidates and most scored full marks.

Part 2: was well attempted by most candidates and most scored full marks.

Part 3: quite a number of candidates scored full marks.

Part 4: was poorly answered. Most candidates were not aware that they had to show the difference in resident departures (subtraction problem). Some ended up finding difference in arrival.

Part 5: fairly attempted as this question was not well grasped by the candidates. Most of the candidates could not explain the reasons as to why there was an increase in the resident departures. Most of the candidates had misconceptions of terms like resident and departures.

(c) Picture Study

(7 marks)

Picture study was well attempted by students. Many students were able to study the picture and understood well. The picture was clear to their understanding level. Most of the students got their marks above 4 in this section.

(d) Mapping

(7 marks)

Mapping - students need a lot of practice in this area as few students scored full marks. More work need to be done in order to improve mapping skills of the students. More activities will ensure that students score good marks in this section.

(e) Creativity

(7 marks)

This section was well attempted but some failed to understand the question of why the resources are wisely managed in their community. Many students just described their drawings of how the resources are wisely managed and left the second part of the question unanswered to explain why resources are managed wisely. Some wrongly understood the question and either put time or money as natural resources. Teachers still need to emphasize the use of colours, the need for labeling and stating the title as norms of picture study.

PART 3**SHORT ANSWERS****(14 marks)**

1. (a) Fairly attempted by students. Some students were not able to understand the question properly. They needed to emphasize the advantages of being famous *with* examples for better understanding.

 (b) Was poorly answered by most of the students. Most of the children got this question wrong. Few students managed to state the reason why Winston Churchill became famous. Some students were however confused of what his actual achievement was, for instance they remembered he was part of World War II but forgot the country he represented or in some cases were confused about whether he was Prime Minister or President.
2. Well attempted by most of the children. Students were able to define the term with examples. However some wrote non-renewable energy last forever and gave examples as water, wind etc.
3. Most of the students attempted this question well and gained full marks in this question. Few students had misconception of the words *developing* and *developed countries*.
4. Most of the students attempted the question. Few students managed to explain the human activity and its effects. Most of the students stated the human activity only.
5. Excellent attempted by most of the students. Students were able to list ways in which family can save money.
6. (a) Fairly attempted by the candidates. Students were not able to list the moral values which they learnt from community.

 (b) Fairly attempted by the students. Students were not able to state how the values written in (a) will help them in their lives.

GENERAL REMARKS

Some of the ongoing concerns:

- Majority of the scripts marked had indicated correct index numbers in the boxes provided however some had indicated both, index numbers *with* their names.
- Instructions not followed e.g. where space is provided – writing two answers separately, students end up writing in one space only.
- Students still lack basic understanding of Social Science concepts and ideas.
- Common spelling errors being committed especially in short answers.

CANDIDATES' STRENGTHS

- Majority of the candidates presented their answers in very good and legible handwriting.
- A good number of the candidates displayed satisfactory knowledge of the topics they attempted.
- Some candidates expressed themselves comprehensively and organized their answers very well in the creativity section.

CANDIDATES' WEAKNESSES

- There were numerous grammatical errors in candidates' answers.
- Some of the candidates gave one word or two word answers to points that demanded an explanation. They could not explain the points.
- Some candidates organized their answers poorly due to lack of adequate preparation for the examination.

RECOMMENDATION

- School Head should ensure that the paper print should be of quality standard.
- Pictures used should be clear (if possible colour picture prints).
- Supervisors should thoroughly check before collecting as few students just left the paper in Section B of the Social Science paper.
- Teachers must encourage students to engage in reading many books to overcome the difficulties in their spelling and grammar.
- Candidates need to offer simple explanation to the points they raise as required by the questions.
- Candidates must ensure they read and understand the questions very well. They must provide only the required responses.
- The teaching of Social Science concepts and strategies is fundamental
- All schools should have a standard printout of papers. For example, all to print out from Windows 1997-2010 version ensuring quality print out as well.
- All papers should be secured by pin and not left tied on one string through the punched paper as they can be torn or lost while handling.
- Supervisors should thoroughly check that candidates attempt all questions in all sections and not leave it blank.

THE END