



THE MALAWI NATIONAL EXAMINATIONS BOARD

2024 PRIMARY SCHOOL LEAVING CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION

CHIEF EXAMINER'S REPORT

ARTS AND LIFE SKILLS (P017)

General Comments on:

A. Quality of the paper

The 2024 Arts and Life Skills paper was fair and comparable to previous papers. The questions came from a wide range of topics of the syllabus. The questions tested all the skills ranged from low order to high order. The paper was at appropriate level of difficulty for PSLCE candidates.

B. Candidates' performance

Generally, the performance was average. Some candidates were able to give clear and correct answers which clearly indicated that they mastered the content. Others failed to express themselves in English in Section B. They also failed to answer questions that demanded application of knowledge.

C. Comments on Performance of Candidates on Individual Questions

Section A

Expressive Arts

Question 1

The question demanded candidates to choose the material that can be used to decorate clay pots. Most candidates failed because they were unable to differentiate between materials and tools. They ended up choosing option A “piece of cloth” instead of C “coloured chalk”.

Question 2

The question required candidates to choose a way in which class monitor can avoid facing challenges in class. Most candidates failed as they were choosing option A 'beating learners who misbehave' instead of correct option B exercising good leadership skill.

Question 3

The question demanded candidates to choose the official who assists starters in athletics. The majority chose option D a referee instead of option C 'track judge'.

Question 4

The question asked the candidates to choose a material that acts as a mordant. Most candidates got it right except very few who failed to differentiate iodine and salt and chose option C instead of B.

Question 5

The question demanded candidates to choose factors that affect personal space. Most candidates chose the correct option B except a few who were confused with size of the room and size of the person.

Question 6

The question was based on the figure and demanded the candidates to identify the sporting activity. The majority got it right. The correct option was C.

Question 7

The question demanded candidates to choose a skill in the sporting activity. Most candidates failed as they were choosing the skill of heading which was option D instead of correct option C 'spiking'.

Question 8

The question demanded candidates to give a reason for not drying clay items in a shed. The majority performed very well. The correct option was C.

Questions 9 and 10

The questions were based on the diagram showing an artwork and demanded candidates to identify the material used to produce the artwork and the skills used to produce the item. Most candidates were able to choose the right options A and C respectively.

Life Skills

Question 11

The question demanded candidates to choose ways of preventing sexual harassment in schools. Most candidates performed well. The correct response was D.

Question 12

The question asked candidates to choose ways of assisting the elderly. The candidates demonstrated the understanding of the topic 'social and moral development' because the majority got it right. The correct option was D.

Question 13

The question demanded candidates to choose a skill that could be used in financial management. The correct option was B and most candidates got it right.

Question 14

The question required candidates to choose the situation that can change one's plans unexpectedly. Most candidates chose option A 'poverty' which was wrong instead of correct option C.

Question 15

The question demanded candidates to choose ways of rebuilding high self esteem. Most candidates got it right. The correct option was A.

Question 16

The question required candidates to choose ways of overcoming barriers to HIV testing and counselling. The majority of the candidates got it right. They were able to choose option A.

Questions 17 and 18

The questions were based on a case study on Social development. They asked the candidates to identify the source of the conflict between the parents and ways of settling it. Most candidates failed them they chose options C and D instead of the correct options B and C respectively. This showed that teachers did not include case studies when teaching and assessing learners. It also showed that they did not also link the skills to the real situation when teaching.

Question 19

The question demanded candidates to choose an option which was not a danger of obtaining ARVs from fellow patients. Most candidates performed very well. They chose option C as the correct answer.

Question 20

The question demanded candidates to choose problems associated with home based care and support. Most candidates got it right as they chose option D.

Question 21

The question asked the candidates to select the type of interpersonal relationship that exist when people of the same age group are related to each other. Most candidates got it right except very few who chose option C 'classmate' as the answer instead of option B 'peer'.

Question 22

The question demanded candidates to choose the characteristic of people with high self-esteem. Majority of the candidates got it right which showed that they understood the topic. They chose option A as the correct answer.

Question 23

The question demanded candidates to choose a stage in planning. Most candidates got it right. The correct answer was B.

Question 24

The question demanded candidates to choose how sexuality could negatively affect adolescents' sexuality. Most candidates failed this question. They chose options like B 'development of more

self confidence’ and C ‘growing taller and heavier which are characteristics of physical and social development’ instead of correct option A “development of special interests in the opposite sex”.

Question 25 and 26

The questions were based on the case study on the topic of sex and sexuality. The questions demanded candidates to identify the cause of sexual relationship for Mayamiko and its impact. Most candidates performed well. They were able to relate the questions to the case study and they chose correct answers A and D respectively.

Question 27

The question demanded candidates to choose factors to be considered when organising peer guidance and counselling groups. Most candidates chose the correct option C.

Question 28 and 29

The questions were based on the case study on “personal development”. They demanded candidates to identify the skills used by Zion to overcome her uncle’s demand and a way of assisting Zion’s uncle on his behaviour. The majority of the candidates performed well as they were able to relate the case study with the questions and chose correct options B and A respectively.

Question 30

The question demanded candidates to choose the importance of entrepreneurship. Most candidates got it right. The correct response was C.

Section B

Expressive Arts

Question 31a

The question demanded candidates to mention two the factors to consider when designing an item for carving. Most candidates failed as they were giving factors to consider when costing carved items like ‘demand’ instead of correct responses like size of an item.

Question 31b

The question asked candidates to explain any one way in which giving practical experience in learners to career development is important. Most candidates got it right as they were able to give responses like ‘are able to compare the expectations and realities of the job’. Those who failed were giving responses like ‘on site activities, pre experience activities which are ways of choosing a career’.

Question 31c (i)

The question was based on the figure showing a person doing an artistic activity. Candidates were asked to name the given artistic activity. Most candidates failed to identify the artistic activity. They gave answers like drum beater instead of correct response ‘tinsmithing’.

Question 31c (ii)

The question demanded candidates to explain any one way of preventing risks when doing the artistic activity. Most candidates got it right as they were able to give correct responses like ‘wearing gloves to protect the hands and wearing shoes to avoid being pierced by sharp objects’ although a few gave answers like ‘running away, going to the hospital and others’.

Question 31d

The question demanded candidates to give any one artistic item which depicts culture. Most candidates failed this question as they were giving answers like ‘weaving’ which is an activity instead of ‘woven items’.

Question 31e

The question demanded candidates to mention any two visual aspects found in a play. The majority failed this question as they were giving answers like ‘coughs, sneezes’ which are sound effects instead of correct answers like the ‘scenery and costumes’.

Question 32a

The question required candidates to state any two effects of cross cutting issues. Most candidates got it right. Those who failed were giving examples of cross cutting issues like ‘HIV and AIDS, Gender’ instead of effects like ‘environmental degradation, wide range of poverty and loss of property’.

Question 32b

The candidates were asked to describe the movement of the body when making clay pots. Most candidates failed as they were giving answers like ‘moving arms’ instead of ‘slow movement’.

Question 32c

The question demanded candidates to state any two characteristics of a successful leader. Most candidates failed as they gave responses on successes of a leader like solving conflicts amicably instead of correct responses like ‘be honest, able to dialogue’.

Question 32d

The question asked the candidates to give any one way of caring for learning resources. Most candidates got it right as they were able to give responses like ‘dusting them, putting them in dry cartons’ Those who failed were giving responses like ‘local environment’ which are places where learning materials could be sourced.

Question 32e

The question asked candidates to explain any one way in which making musical instruments using local materials is important. Most candidates failed because they were giving importance of making musical instruments locally such as ‘they are cheap’ instead of ‘they demand little expertise to make them’.

Question 32f

The question demanded candidates to explain any one way in which developing marketing skills on learners could be important in entrepreneurship. Most candidates got it right. Those who failed were giving responses like ‘to find profit’ instead ‘of helping the seller to attract more customers’.

Question 33a (i)

The question required candidates to mention any two tools used for recording songs. Most candidates got it right they were able to give answers like ‘cassette recorder, cell phones and blank CDs’. Those who failed gave answers like ‘studio which is a place where songs can be recorded’.

Question 33 a (ii)

The question demanded candidates to mention any two procedures to be followed when recording songs. Most candidates failed as they were giving answers on factors to consider when composing a song like ‘theme’ instead of ‘choosing a room free from noise’.

Question 33b

The question asked candidates to state any two ways in which the rhythmic patterns when doing mirroring activities is important. Most candidates got it right. Those who failed were giving responses on the importance of mirroring activities like ‘to learn the skill easily’ instead of ‘assisting in setting uniformity’.

Question 33c

The question demanded candidates to mention any one way of decorating wall hangings. The majority got it right as they were able to give responses like ‘painting, applying appliqué’.

Question 33 d

The question demanded candidates to state any one importance of rhythmic patterns in a dance. Most candidates got it right. Those who failed were giving responses on importance of rhythmic patterns like ‘to learn the skill’ instead of ‘to achieve uniformity’.

Question 33e

The question demanded candidates to explain one way in which performing traditional dances that conveys cultural messages in the community is important. Most candidates failed this question as they were just stating the importance of traditional dances like ‘to preserve culture’ instead of ‘dancing bring people together so that they live in unity’.

Question 34a

The question required candidates to state any two reasons for carrying out a market research for artistic items. Most candidates failed the question as they were mentioning the marketing skills such as displaying instead of discovering what people’s likes are.

Question 34b

The question demanded candidates to explain any one way in which role playing is important in communicating messages. Most candidates failed as they were giving responses like source of entertainment instead of 'they act real and in meaningful way'.

Question 34c

The question asked candidates to describe levels in components of general space. Most candidates were giving responses like floor pathways instead of how close or far from the floor as one move on the floor.

Question 34d

The question demanded candidates to mention any one way of increasing tension to the skin of a drum. Most candidates were confused with the word tension and were giving answers like beating instead of heating over the fire or putting on the sun for some time.

Question 34e

The question demanded candidates to describe a mould in modelling. Most candidates were describing papier mache instead of an object used as a support when pasting pieces of paper.

Question 34f

The question demanded candidates to state any one multicultural artistic item. Most candidates got it right by giving correct answers such as clay pots and wooden cooking stick.

Life Skills**Question 35a**

The question demanded candidates to state any two characteristics of positive awareness. Most candidates got it right as they were able to give answers like they are ambitious. Those who failed gave answers like 'they are shy' which are characteristics of negative self esteem.

Question 35b

The question demanded candidates to explain any one way in which migration can affect sexuality. Most candidates failed as they were giving effects of migration in a country like over population instead of when people move from one place to another their behaviour change.

Question 35c (i)

The question demanded candidates to give any two factors that influence decision making and problem solving. Most candidates got it right as they were able to give responses such as choosing a career. A few gave responses like seeking guidance and counselling, peer pressure resistance which were wrong answers.

Question 35c (ii)

The question demanded candidates to explain any one way in which decision making could help the youth to deal with teenage pregnancy. The majority failed as they were not able to apply. The correct answer was 'help the youth to abstain from sexual intercourse hence preventing teenage pregnancies'

Question 35d

The question asked the candidates to mention any two ways in which drug and substance abuse could expose the youth to HIV and AIDS. Most candidates failed as they were giving responses on general effects of drug and substances abuse such as mental confusion instead of linking to HIV and AIDS like they engage themselves in unprotected sexual intercourse due to loss of self control.

Question 36a

The question demanded candidates to give any two stages in human development. The majority got it right as they were able to give responses like early childhood or late childhood. Those who failed were giving responses like late adolescence which are stages of adolescence.

Question 36b

The question required candidates to explain any one way in which effective communication in entrepreneurship is important. Most candidates failed as they were stating the importance of

entrepreneurship like it improves one's health instead of promotes good relationship with customers.

Question 36c (i)

The question was based on illustration and asked candidates to identify the activity. Most candidates got it right as they were able to mention 'physical exercise or playing football'. A few gave responses like "running, racing".

Question 36c (ii)

The question demanded candidates to explain any one way in which activity in the illustration could help to manage stress and anxiety. Most candidates were giving ways of managing stress in general like praying football; singing instead of correct responses like one will focus on the activity hence forgetting worries.

Question 36d

The question demanded candidates to state any two ways of dealing with HIV and AIDS in relation to gender. Most candidates failed as they were giving responses like abstinence which are ways of preventing HIV and AIDS instead of empowering women economically etc.

Question 36e

The question demanded candidates to mention any two ways of promoting rights of people living with HIV and AIDS. Most candidates got it right. Those who failed were giving ways of caring for people living with HIV and AIDS like giving them food, shelter instead of forming association of people living with HIV and AIDS.

Question 37a

The question demanded candidates to state any two ways in which morals are important. The majority got it right as they were able to give responses like promote unity and cooperation. Those who failed gave answers like 'community and church' which are sources of morals.

Question 37b

The question asked candidates to explain any one way in which illiteracy can affect effective communication on HIV and AIDS messages. Most candidates were confused with the word

illiteracy. They were giving answers like ‘using drugs and substance’ instead of ‘uneducated people fail to understand issues faster’.

Question 37c

The question asked candidates to explain one way in which entrepreneurship could help in improving one’s life. Most candidates got it right as they were able to give responses like reduces poverty since everyone has money. A few gave answers like source of income to the government as they pay taxes which is the importance of entrepreneurship to the country.

Question 37d

The question demanded the candidates to mention any one consequences of failing to obey norms and rules of the groups. Most candidates failed as they were giving answers like death of loved ones instead of suspension from the group.

Question 37e

The question demanded candidates to explain any one way in which good planning would help to avoid contracting HIV and AIDS. Most candidates failed. They were giving answers like ‘abstinence and using condoms’ instead of ‘helps one to follow and determine set goals therefore avoiding in engaging in risky behaviour that could facilitate contracting HIV and AIDS’.

D. Recommendations to:

(i) Schools

- Teachers should cover the syllabus adequately and thoroughly.
- Conduct CPDs on teaching of Expressive Arts and Life Skills.
- Practical lessons should be emphasized.

(ii) Ministry of Education

- Refresher courses to be conducted to Arts and Life Skills teachers.
- Ministry should provide adequate teaching and learning materials to schools.