



THE MALAWI NATIONAL EXAMINATIONS BOARD

2024 PRIMARY SCHOOL LEAVING CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION

CHIEF EXAMINER'S REPORT

SOCIAL AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES (P199)

General Comments on:

A. Quality of the paper

The paper was fair and well set. The questions adequately covered the syllabus, were clear and of the difficulty level of PSLCE candidates.

B. Candidates' Performance

The general performance of the candidates was good. Most candidates performed well. Nevertheless, some candidates faced challenges on specific topics from the syllabus which they did not probably adequately cover in the course of learning. For example: family, soil erosion and judges.

C. Comments on Performance of Candidates on Individual Questions

Social and Environmental Sciences

Section A

Question 1

The question required candidates to identify the factors that led to the decline of the Ngoni Kingdom. Most candidates gave the correct response **C** (death of a strong leader).

Question 2

The question demanded candidates to identify the term that describes the number of people living per unit area. Most candidates gave the correct response **A** (population density).

Question 3

Candidates were asked to identify the factor that led Nyasaland to become a British protectorate. Most candidates failed because they chose **D** (educated leadership) as a response. The correct response was **C** (partition of Africa).

Question 4

The question demanded candidates to choose the planet which was closest to the sun. Most candidates chose the correct response **A** (Mercury).

Question 5

The question required candidates to identify the type of trade which is done among countries. Most candidates failed the question because they chose **A** (international) instead of **B** (multilateral).

Question 6

Candidates were asked to identify the mineral which is used for making cutting instruments. Most candidates performed well on this question. The correct answer was **C** (diamond).

Question 7

The question demanded the candidates to choose the national symbol which is used on government owned property. Most candidates failed because they chose **A** (public seal) instead of **D** (national coat of arms).

Question 8

Candidates were asked to choose the factor that hinders the development of tourism in Malawi. Most candidates got it right. The correct response was **C** (inadequate accommodation).

Question 9

The question demanded candidates to identify the first mission station of Livingstonia. Most candidates got it right. The correct response was **C** (Cape Maclear).

Question 10

The question demanded candidates to identify the weather instrument used for measuring temperature. Most candidates gave the correct response **A** (thermometer).

Question 11

Candidates were asked to identify the type of climate which has no summer. Most candidates gave the correct answer **C** (tundra).

Question 12

The question asked candidates to choose the effect of the revolution of the earth. Most candidates performed well on this question. The correct response was **C** (causes seasons).

Question 13

Candidates were required to identify sustainable ways of using minerals and their products. Most candidates gave the correct response **B** (1- *recycling them* and 3 – *controlling extraction*).

Question 14

The question demanded candidates to identify the natural disaster which has a continuous period of dry weather. Most candidates got it right. The correct response was **B** (droughts).

Question 15

The question asked candidates to choose the system of government which controls all the wealth in the country. Most candidates gave the correct response. They chose option **D** (socialist).

Question 16

The question required candidates to choose the group of people in Africa with short, flat nose, thick lips and brown short hair. Most candidates got it right. They chose option **C** (bantu).

Question 17

The question demanded candidates to identify the factor that influences farming in Malawi. Most candidates gave the correct response. They chose **D** (capital).

Question 18

Candidates were asked to choose the problem that affects fishing in Malawi. Most candidates gave the correct response. They chose option **C** (2 - *overfishing* and 4 – *water pollution*).

Question 19

Candidates were asked to choose the method of catching fish that uses a motor boat. Most candidates performed well on this question. The correct response was **C** (trawl net).

Question 20

The question asked candidates to identify the importance of road signs. Most candidates gave the correct response. They chose option **C** (showing distances between places).

Question 21

Candidates were asked to identify the administrative body of the United Nations. Most candidates got it right. The correct response was **D** (Secretariat).

Question 22

The question demanded candidates to identify the common feature to all types of constitutions. Most candidates gave the correct response. They chose option **B** (1- *legal protection* and 3- *authority*).

Question 23

Candidates were required to choose the risky behavior associated with HIV and AIDS. Most candidates gave the correct response. They chose option **A** (prostitution).

Question 24

The question demanded candidates to identify the term that describes the way of life for a given group of people. Most candidates gave the correct response. They chose **C** (culture).

Question 25

Candidates were asked to choose the challenges faced by the Nyasaland African Congress. Most candidates gave the correct response. They chose **C** (tribalism).

Question 26

The question demanded candidates to identify the function of money. Most candidates got it right. The correct response was **A** (medium of exchange).

Question 27

Candidates were asked to choose an effect of population on the environment. Most candidates gave the correct response. They chose option **D** (ugly surroundings).

Question 28

The question demanded candidates to choose the type of tax that the government collects from salaries and business profit. Most candidates failed because they chose **D** (surtax) instead of **C** (income tax) as the correct response.

Question 29

The question demanded candidates to identify the insurance policy that covers the client in the event of death. Most candidates gave the correct response, **A** (property).

Question 30

The question required candidates to identify the responsibility of the Commonwealth secretariat. Most candidates failed because they chose **A** (promoting unity and solidarity and arrange meetings and conferences) instead of **C** (arrange meetings and conferences and provide various technical services) as correct responses.

SECTION B

Question 31a

The question asked candidates to state any three effects of slave trade. Most candidates gave correct responses e.g.

- Depopulation of the community
- Destruction of villages
- Loss of African identity

Those who failed gave answers like introduction of cash crops.

Question 31b

The question demanded candidates to mention any two raw materials which were required in Europe during the partition of Africa. Most candidates who answered the question correctly gave answers like “cotton, sugar and sisal”. Those who failed gave answers like “clothes, guns and beads”.

Question 31c

The question demanded candidates to give any two reasons for the decline of the Egyptian civilization. Most candidates gave correct responses e.g.

- Expansion of the kingdom made it easy for attacks by the Assyrians and the Persians.
- The Egyptian dynasty was attacked by the Greeks led by Alexander the Great.

Those who failed gave irrelevant answers like:

- political instability
- corruption within the government

Question 32a

The question asked candidates to state any two reasons why basins and rift valleys are important. Most candidates gave correct responses e.g.

- source of water for domestic use
- contains fertile soil for agriculture

Those who failed gave answers like “home of wild animals”.

Question 32b

Candidates were expected to mention any three ways in which family members are related. Most candidates failed because they gave answers like “assisting one another during funeral, working together” instead of “by marriage, adoption and blood”.

Question 32c

Candidates were asked to give any two points on the importance of petroleum. The majority of the candidates failed because they gave answers like “job opportunities”. The expected responses were any two of the following:

- for motor vehicle fuel
- for industrial power
- for domestic purposes

Questions 33a

The question demanded candidates to mention any three components of the environment. Almost all the candidates gave correct responses e.g. physical, social and cultural. The few who failed gave responses like “natural environment”.

Question 33b

Candidates were asked to describe any one factor that influences population change in a district. Most of the candidates got low marks because they merely listed the factors without describing them e.g. death rate, birth rate and migration. The expected answer was one of the following:

- Birth and death rate: when there are more births than deaths, the population increases and when deaths are more than birth rate, the population decreases.
- Migration: if more people immigrate, the population increases; and if more people emigrate, the population decreases.

Question 33c

Candidates were asked to give any two functions of the ward councilor. Most of the candidates gave correct responses e.g.

- represents his/her ward at council meetings
- interprets the council plan to people
- mobilizes people on development works

Those who failed gave responses like “settling disputes in the community” and “ensuring that customs and traditions are maintained”.

Question 34a

Candidates were asked to mention any two institutions of the local government. Candidates failed because they gave irrelevant answers like “healthy, security, education” instead of any two of the following: “city assembly, district assembly, town assembly” etc.

Question 34b

Candidates were asked to name any one fishing area in Malawi. Most candidates failed because they gave answers like “Mangochi, Salima” instead of fishing areas like “lakes, oceans, rivers”.

Question 34c

The question demanded candidates to describe any two types of soil erosion. Most candidates got low marks because they simply mentioned the types without describing them e.g. splash, rill erosion. The expected answers were any two of the following:

- Splash erosion: It is caused by rain drops which hit the ground and break the soil into particles which are carried away by running water.
- Wind erosion: It is the removal of loose dry soil by the wind.
- Sheet erosion: It is caused by running water on large flat surfaces.
- Rill erosion: It is caused by running water which concentrates in small channels down a slope carrying away soil.

Question 35a

Candidates were expected to state any two duties of a good citizen. Most candidates failed because they gave answers for qualities of a good citizen like “loyalty, tolerance, unselfishness, honesty”. The correct responses were any two of the following:

- paying tax
- obeying laws of the country
- respect for other people
- protecting the state

Question 35b

The question demanded candidates to give any two points on the importance of budgeting. Almost all candidates gave correct responses like any two of the following:

- It gives a clear picture of how much money to spend.
- Money is used on planned items only.
- It allows the individual not to overspend the financial resources.

The few who failed gave responses like:

- It saves time.
- It helps in the acquisition of skills.
- It makes a person self-reliant.

Question 35c

Candidates were expected to give any three ways in which the government uses taxes collected by the Malawi Revenue Authority. Most candidates gave correct responses like:

- paying civil servants salaries
- providing educational facilities
- providing healthy facilities
- providing improved national security

Those who failed gave answers e.g. “custom duties, income tax and surtax”.

Section C

PART 1: BIBLE KNOWLEDGE

Question 36a

Candidates were asked to name any two judges of Israel. Most candidates failed because they gave answers like “Isaiah, Micah and Amos” instead of “Gideon, Samson, Debora”.

Question 36b

The question required candidates to describe how the Israelites crossed the Red sea. Most candidates gave incomplete answers like “striking and holding over the sea. The correct answer was: God told Moses to lift up his walking stick and hold it over the sea and the water got divided. The Hebrews crossed the sea on dry ground.

Question 36c

Candidates were expected to give any two points on the importance of work among Christians. Most candidates got low marks because they gave partial answers like:

- It is part of their exercise
- It helps people develop friendships.

The expected answers were any two of the following:

- It helps a person to acquire skills.
- It helps in providing basic needs e.g. food, clothes and shelter.
- It makes a person to be self-reliant.
- It protects a person from the effects of laziness.

Question 37a

The question demanded candidates to give any two duties of prophets. Most candidates gave correct responses e.g.

- foretells the future
- condemns people's sin
- warns people of God's punishment

Those who failed gave answers like:

- settling minor disputes among people
- protecting rights of people

Question 37b

Candidates were asked to give any three excuses that Moses gave to refuse the work of rescuing the Hebrews from Egypt. Most candidates failed because they gave irrelevant answers like:

- He was afraid of being killed by Pharaoh.
- He had killed an Egyptian.
- He had married a foreign wife.

The expected answers were the following:

- People would doubt the source of his authority.
- He was not an eloquent speaker.
- He feared that the elders would not accept him.

Question 37c

The question demanded candidates to state why Jephthah offered his only daughter as burnt offering? Most candidates got low marks because they gave partial answers like "because he made a promise to God and because he was afraid of God" The correct response was: because he made a vow to God that he would offer anything that would come to welcome him from war; and his daughter was the first to welcome him.

Question 38a

The question demanded candidates to mention any two positive effects of conflicts among Christians. Most candidates gave correct responses e.g.

- creating good relationship

- helps in behaviour change
- restores broken relationship after parties in conflict resolve their differences

Those who failed gave answers like “fighting, destruction of properties and divorce.”

Question 38b

Candidates were asked to give three ways in which Jesus promoted tolerance. Most candidates performed poorly because they gave answers like “cooperation, unity and love”. The expected responses were any three of the following:

- by feeding five thousand people
- by healing both Jews and gentiles
- by promoting peace and unity
- by raising the dead

Question 38c

The question demanded candidates to state any one way in which each of the following communicated with God

(1) Elijah

(2) Hannah

Most candidates gave correct responses e.g.

- Elijah: through burnt offerings
- Hannah: through prayer

Those who failed gave responses like:

- Elijah: through praising God.
- Hannah: through fasting

Question 39a

The question asked candidates to give any two events that occurred when Jesus had a triumphant entry into Jerusalem. Most candidates gave correct responses e.g.

- People spread clothes on the road.
- People sung songs of praise to God.
- People spread branches on the road.

Those who failed gave the following answers:

- There was darkness over three hours.
- There was earthquake.

Question 39b

Candidates were asked to state any three things that happened when Jesus was crucified. Most candidates gave correct responses e.g.

- The curtain in the temple was torn into two parts.
- The earth shook.
- Tombs were opened.
- Bodies of saints were raised and seen walking in the city of Jerusalem.

Those who failed gave responses like:

- They cut the curtain.
- They went to visit the tombs.
- They saw people running away.

Question 39c

Candidates were asked to give any two reasons why many people followed Jesus when he started his ministry in Galilee. Most candidates gave correct responses e.g.

- because of his teachings
- because of miracles he performed
- because he accepted outcasts

Those who failed gave answers like:

- Tombs of the saints were opened.
- Darkness over three hours

Question 40a

Candidates were asked to state any two ways in which Christians can prevent the spread of HIV and AIDS. Almost all the candidates gave correct responses e.g.

- through abstinence
- by being faithful to a mutually faithful partner
- by avoiding sharing skin piercing instruments

Those who had challenges gave answers from other subject areas like “by using condoms”.

Question 40b

The question demanded candidates to mention any two factors that make gender roles vary in Christian families. Most candidates failed because they gave answers like “cooking and fetching firewood”. The correct responses were “environment, culture and learning”.

Question 40c

The question demanded candidates to give any three ways in which churches can promote democratic values. Most candidates gave correct responses e.g.

- by respecting views of others
- by promoting unity among members
- by promoting fair judgement

Those who failed gave answers like “Both of them start with a prayer when they want to start their activities.”

PART 2: RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**Question 41a**

The question demanded candidates to give any three sites where prayer rituals are performed in African Tradition Religions. Almost all candidates gave correct responses e.g.

- shrines
- under huge trees
- graveyards
- mountain peaks

Those who failed gave responses like:

- churches
- big holes
- cars

Question 41b

Candidates were asked to give any two reasons why people should take care of God’s creation in different religions. Most candidates gave correct responses e.g.

- to sustain it
- to show stewardship
- to show God’s power through creation

Those who failed gave answers like “planting trees and grass on bare grounds”.

Question 41c

Candidates were asked to state any two rites of passage in different religions. All the candidates gave correct responses like “birth, puberty, marriage and death”.

Question 42a

Candidates were required to state any three common beliefs among different religions. Almost all candidates gave correct responses e.g.

- belief in one God
- belief in life after death
- belief in God as Creator
- belief in the existence of angels

Question 42b

Candidates were asked to give any one talent of each of the following people

- (1) David
- (2) Joseph

Most candidates gave correct responses e.g.

- David: playing beautiful music, fighting
- Joseph: interpreting dreams, good governance

Those who failed gave answers like “David’s talent was a killer of Goliath” and “Joseph’s talent was betraying his brothers”.

Question 42c

Candidates were asked to give any two challenges which people face in different religions. Most candidates gave correct responses like:

- poverty
- peer pressure
- food insecurity
- sickness

Those who failed gave answers like “quarrelling with each other and scrambling for food”.

Question 43a

The question demanded the candidates to mention any three qualities of God’s messengers. Most candidates gave correct responses e.g.

- faith in God
- love of prayer
- physical pain because of love of God
- cheerfulness

Those who failed gave answers like:

- fearing challenges
- paying tax
- loyalty

Question 43b

Candidates were expected to state any two ways in which people react when a person dies. Almost all candidates gave correct responses e.g. crying, (mourning), wearing black attire, dancing and being disappointed.

Question 43c

Candidates were asked to give any two examples of virtues in different religions. Almost all candidates got it right. They gave responses like:

- honesty
- courage
- wisdom
- justice

Question 44a

Candidates were asked to give any three points on the importance of marriage in different religions. Almost all candidates gave correct responses e.g.

- for moral safeguard
- for bearing children
- for lessening temptation towards opposite sex
- for experiencing love

Question 44b

Candidates were expected to mention any two proverbs in Africa Tradition Religious which teaches that life is a gift from God. Most candidates failed because they gave irrelevant answers e.g. “Prevention is better than cure” and “Dust is yourself”. The expected responses were any two of the following:

- Moyo ndi mpamba.
- Moyo saika pachiswe.
- Moyo ndi mbiya nsunga ndekha.

Question 44c

The question asked candidates to give any two examples of human rights in different religions. The question demanded examples of human rights. Almost all candidates gave correct responses e.g. right to life, right to own property and right to expression.

Question 45a

Candidates were asked to state any three situations in which people demonstrate tolerance in different religions. Most candidates failed because they gave ways of demonstrating tolerance like:

- respecting other people’s views
- religious tolerance
- through proverbs

The expected responses were any three of the following:

- attending other religious festivals
- attending other religious funerals
- participating in development work
- supporting religious freedom

Question 45b

Candidates were requested to give any two points on the importance of religious teachings on the environment. almost all candidates gave correct responses e.g. The teachings are important because the environment provides:

- medicine.
- shelter for wild animals.
- firewood and timber.

Question 45c

Candidates were asked to state any two ways in which religious groups deal with poverty. Almost all candidates gave correct responses e.g.

- providing material support i.e. food, clothes to the poor
- providing medical assistance
- providing employment

D. Recommendations to:

(i) Schools

- Teachers should adequately cover the syllabus.
- Teachers should encourage learners to read widely.

(ii) The Ministry of Education

The Ministry should:

- provide enough teaching and learning resources to all schools.
 - frequently supervise schools to ensure effective teaching in schools.
-