

## 12.0 ISLAMIC RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (314)

In the year 2008 Islamic Religious Education (IRE) was tested in two papers. *Paper 1 (314/1)* consisted of six essay questions and candidates were required to answer five. The paper tested the *Quran, Hadith/Sunnah, Devotional acts* and *Pillars of Iman*. *Paper 2 (314/2)* also had six essay questions of which candidates were required to answer five. This paper tested *Akhlaq, Muamalat, History of Islam and Muslim scholars*. Both paper 1 (314/1) and paper 2 (314/2) were marked out of a maximum of 100 marks each and time allocation for each paper was 2 hours and 30 minutes (2½ hours). Each question in the papers carried a maximum of 20 marks.

The questions in the IRE examination tested candidates:

- Knowledge of the factual materials relevant to each topic in the syllabus.
- Understanding of the meaning and interpretation of each of the topics.
- Ability to express themselves on the basis of evidence and argument.
- Appreciation and evaluation of the materials studied in each topic.
- Ability to respond and apply the religious, moral and social issues raised in each topic.

### 12.1 GENERAL CANDIDATES' PERFORMANCE

The table below shows candidates performance in IRE at the KCSE level for the last four years.

*Table 17: Candidates Overall Performance in IRE in the last four years*

<u>Year</u>	<u>Paper</u>	<u>Candidate</u>	<u>Maximum Score</u>	<u>Mean Score</u>	<u>Standard Deviation</u>
2005	1	5,488	100	59.50	17.20
	2		100	64.57	18.31
	<b>Overall</b>		<b>200</b>	<b>123.99</b>	<b>32.00</b>
2006	1	6,105	100	60.34	17.34
	2		100	56.76	17.77
	<b>Overall</b>		<b>200</b>	<b>117.10</b>	<b>31.00</b>
2007	1	7,100	100	64.51	17.91
	2		100	58.42	16.78
	<b>Overall</b>		<b>200</b>	<b>122.93</b>	<b>31.00</b>
2008	1	8,622	100	61.43	16.99
	2		100	48.01	17.68
	<b>Overall</b>		<b>200</b>	<b>109.42</b>	<b>31.39</b>

The following observations can be made from the table above:

- 12.1.1 The candidature in the KCSE IRE examination has been rising steadily over the four year period, with the year 2008 registering the highest number of candidates (**8,622**) compared with the year 2007 (**7,100**) a percentage increase of **17.65 %**.
- 12.1.2 In the year 2008, candidates' performance in *paper 1 (314/1)* was better than in *paper 2 (314/2)*.
- 12.1.3 The year 2008 registered the lowest overall mean of **109.42** in the four years under review.

This report analyses the candidate's general performance in the year 2008 KCSE IRE examination papers, paying special attention to the questions where candidate's performance was relatively poor. An attempt has been made to highlight possible causes of the poor performance. The report also gives samples of expected responses and makes suggestions to the teachers of IRE with the hope of helping them evaluate and improve their teaching methods and approaches with the aim of improving candidate's performance in future.

## 12.2 PAPER 1 (314/1)

The general performance of the candidates in IRE paper 1 (314/1) examination was commendable as is shown by the mean of **61.43**. The questions in which candidates' performance was relatively poor in the year 2008 KCSE IRE paper 1 (314/1) examination were **2(a)**, **2(b)** and **6(a)**

### Question 2(a)

Identify the themes emphasised in the Makkan *Surahs*.

The question expected that the candidates knew the themes outlined in the surahs revealed in makka.

### Weaknesses

The candidates gave general themes of the Quran and the characteristics of makkan surahs.

### Expected Responses

- Tawheed (unity of Allah).
- Worship of Allah.
- Day of judgement.
- Allah's mercy to human kind.
- Man's ingratitude to Allah.
- The power of Allah.
- Hell.
- Paradise.
- Righteous conduct.
- Condemnation of idol worship.

### Advice to Teachers

Teachers should emphasize on themes and also characteristics of surahs and not just translation and meaning of the surahs.

### Question 2(b)

Discuss the importance of *Surah Fatiha*.

The candidates were expected to discuss the importance of Surah Fatiha to Muslims

### Weaknesses

The candidates did not know the teachings of Surah Fatiha and ended up giving its translation and teachings.

### Expected Responses

- It is the first chapter of the Quran/opening chapter.
- It is referred to as the key to the Quran.
- It teaches about the attributes of Allah.
- It is a supplication (Dua).
- It is a pillar of prayer. (Must be recited in the five daily prayers).
- It praises Allah and shows His majesty.
- It is also referred to as the greatest surah in the Quran by the prophet (p.b.u.h).
- It is referred to as As-sab Al-Mathani, the seven repeatedly recited verses.

### Advice to Teachers

Teachers should critically analyse all surahs in the syllabus.

#### Question 6(a)

Define the term *Ijtihad*.

The candidates were expected to give the meaning of the word '*ijtihad*'.

#### Weaknesses

The candidates did not know the meaning of the term "*ijtihad*" and assumed that it is jihad hence gave the definition of Jihad.

#### Expected Responses

- It literally means an effort or an exercise to arrive at one's judgment.
- In its widest sense it means the use of human reason in the elaboration and explanation of sharia law.
- It includes the interpretation of the text of the Qur'an, the assessment of the authenticity of Hadith.

#### Advice to Teachers

Teachers need to cover the syllabus adequately so as to enable candidates respond to this kind of question with ease.

### 12.3 PAPER 2 (314/2)

Performance in the IRE *paper 2 (314/2)* examination declined from a mean of **58.42** in the year 2007 to a mean of **48.01** in the year 2008. The questions in which candidates performance was relatively poor in the year 2008 KCSE IRE *paper 2 (314/2)* examination were **2(a)**, **3(b)** and **6(a)**.

#### Question 2(a)

Define the term *Mirath*.

Candidates were expected to give the meaning of the term '*mirath*'

#### Weaknesses

Candidates misunderstood the meaning of the term '*mirath*'.

#### Expected Responses

- Mirath is the terminology used for the Islamic law of inheritance.
- It also means the transfer of property or items from one person to another.
- Technically, it is a science that shows inheritance by application of some mathematical principles.

#### Advice to Teachers

Teachers should ensure that they explain the meaning of all Arabic terminologies in the syllabus so as to ensure that candidates develop the skill of definition.

#### Question 3(b)

Identify ways in which Muslims in Kenya can show *Taqwa*.

Candidates were expected to give ways in which Muslims in Kenya can show fear of God (*Taqwa*)

### **Weaknesses**

Candidates paid little attention to the key word '*Taqwa*' and ended up giving its definition and advantages.

### **Expected Responses**

- Showing gratitude for Allah's favours through words and action.
- Reading/reciting the Quran.
- Performing the five daily prayers and observing other devotional acts.
- Being humble, gentle and polite to others.
- By being patient and practicing self restraint.
- By protecting, conserving and taking care of Allah's creation.
- By living in peace with oneself and others.
- Being content with what one has.
- By living simple and modest lives.
- By leading chaste and moral lives/moral uprightness.
- Keeping away from evil deeds and immoral practices.
- Devoting time to Allah, remembering Him and His bounty to mankind.

### **Advice to Teachers**

Teachers to teach learners techniques of responding to questions appropriately.

### **Question 6(a)**

Elaborate the contribution made by Ibn Sina to medicine.

Candidates were expected to analyse Ibn Sina's contributions and specifically give his contributions in the field of medicine.

### **Weaknesses**

Candidates gave the general contributions of Ibn Sina to Islam.

### **Expected Responses**

- Authored books on medicine, for example: canon of medicine which were widely referred to.
- Made advances in the treatment of contagious diseases, for example:- Tuberculosis.
- Started a study on the interaction/relation/relationship between psychology and health.
- Made advances in the understanding of diseases spread through water and soil.
- Made contributions in the area of pharmacology.
- He describes 800 different drugs.
- He was the first to expose meningitis.
- Contribution to medical areas of anatomy, gynaecology and child health.
- Prescribed healing power of prayer.
- His works in medicine are used by universities all over the world.

### **Advice to Teachers**

It's evident from the candidate's performance on *Muslim scholars* that this topic is not adequately covered or is neglected during teaching. Teachers of IRE should ensure that the topic is exhaustively covered. Students should be guided to critically look at the contribution of the selected Muslim scholars.