



BOTSWANA
EXAMINATIONS
COUNCIL

2008 JUNIOR CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION RESULTS SUMMARY



INTRODUCTION

The Junior Certificate Examination (JCE) assesses the achievement of learners who have completed the last three years of the 10-year Basic Education Programme. The 10-year basic education curriculum blueprint outlines subject specific learning outcomes and skill areas that cut across all subject areas. The curriculum junior secondary curriculum puts emphasis on understanding and application of concepts; development of inquiry, decision making, reasoning, creative, analytical, problem solving and process skills and the acquisition of hands on experience that should increase the participation and performance of all groups e.g. groups of different abilities, learners with special needs, girls and boys. All these skills entail more practical and challenging content that require higher levels of engagement of a learner's cognitive ability that are commonly referred to as High Order Thinking Skills (HOTS). Examinations are designed to reflect the spirit and emphasis of the curriculum. Thus performance in examinations is indicative of the extent to which the intent of the curriculum is being achieved in schools.

A total of 208 school centres and 45 private centres registered candidates for the 2008 JCE. The 2008 JCE assessed, for the first time, candidates in the 4 junior secondary schools that introduced 'double shift' in 2006. The JCE examination papers were administered from 27 October to 7 November, 2008. Marking of examination scripts started on the 1st of December and was completed on the 17th December.

The 2008 JCE Summary Results Report is structured as follows:

- ◆ Candidature
- ◆ Overall Performance
- ◆ Performance by Subject
- ◆ Performance by Centre
- ◆ Performance by Gender
- ◆ Performance by Education Region
- ◆ Summary of Results
- ◆ Attachment A JCE Results for the four Double Shift Schools

2008 JCE RESULTS SUMMARY

1.0 CANDIDATURE

Table 1.1 JCE CANDIDATURE IN 2006, 2007 AND 2008 BY SUBJECT AND GENDER									
SUBJECTS	2006			2007			2008		
	All	Male	Female	All	Male	Female	All	Male	Female
Setswana	37313	18226	19094	37555	18427	19128	38284	18482	19802
English	37547	18328	19228	37775	18515	19260	38483	18582	19901
Mathematics	37516	18321	19199	37739	18497	19242	38466	18567	19899
Integrated Science (Incl. Gen Sci.)	37504	18319	19185	37701	18413	19288	38463	18568	19895
Social Studies	37451	18309	19144	37672	18467	19205	38462	18576	19886
Design & Technology	10256	7611	2645	9624	7096	2528	9531	7059	2472
Agriculture (Incl. Pvt. Agric.)	37424	18290	19134	37684	17645	20039	38452	18564	19888
Home Economics	10334	1511	8823	9760	1420	8340	9704	1424	8280
Business Subjects	8194	3055	5139	9332	3555	5777	9919	3604	6315
Religious Education	20212	8363	11849	22415	9306	13109	22419	9052	13367
Art	9806	6680	3125	9459	6623	2836	9510	6591	2919
Moral Education	33225	16269	16955	37597	18431	19166	38454	18564	19890
French	628	291	337	770	379	391	805	383	422
Music	547	285	262	532	283	249	579	280	299
Physical Education	13199	7993	5206	13971	8497	5474	14671	8845	5826
Total Candidature	37325	18259	19065	37557	18410	19147	38293	18499	19794

- The total number of candidates who satisfied the requirements of the 2008 Junior Certificate Examination (JCE) is **38293**.
- Out of the **38293** candidates, **36693** were school candidates, while **1536** were from private centres.
- The number of school candidates meeting the requirements of 2008 JCE increased by **354** from last year's figure of **36339**; while the number of private candidates increased by **262** from last year's figure of **1174**.
- These figures show a higher proportionate increase in the number of private candidates compared to school candidates.
- There were **19794** female candidates and **18499** male candidates.
- All the subjects showed an increase in candidature except Design and Technology and Home Economics; Table 1.1 shows a steady decline in candidature for the two subjects since 2006.

2008 JCE RESULTS SUMMARY

Table 1.2
JCE CANDIDATURE IN 2006, 2007 AND 2008 BY SUBJECT AND TYPE OF CENTRE

SUBJECTS	2006		2007		2008	
	School Centre*	Private Centre**	School Centre	Private Centre	School Centre	Private Centre
Setswana	36241	1072	36200	1355	36559	1660
English	36401	1146	36358	1417	36694	1714
Mathematics	36402	1114	36357	1382	36694	1697
Integrated Science	36401	-	36358	-	36694	-
General Science	-	1102	-	1343	-	1694
Social Studies	36398	1053	36358	1314	36694	1693
Design & Technology	10256	-	9624	-	9531	-
Agriculture	36394	-	36355	-	36882	
Private Agriculture	8	1022	3	1326	12	1683
Home Economics	10329	-	9760	-	9704	-
Business Subjects	8100	1074	8000	1150	8171	1673
Religious Education	19513	699	21108	1307	20715	1630
Art	9806	-	9459	-	9510	-
Moral Education	32867	358	36345	1252	36688	1691
French	618	10	751	19	786	19
Music	547	-	532	-	579	-
Physical Education	13199	-	13971	-	14671	-

School centres include all government schools and those non-government schools that follow the national junior secondary curriculum.

Private centres are for candidates who have been studying privately, those who study with Botswana College of Distance and Open Learning (BOCODOL).

2.0: OVERALL PERFORMANCE

2008 JUNIOR SECONDARY EXAMINATION RESULTS

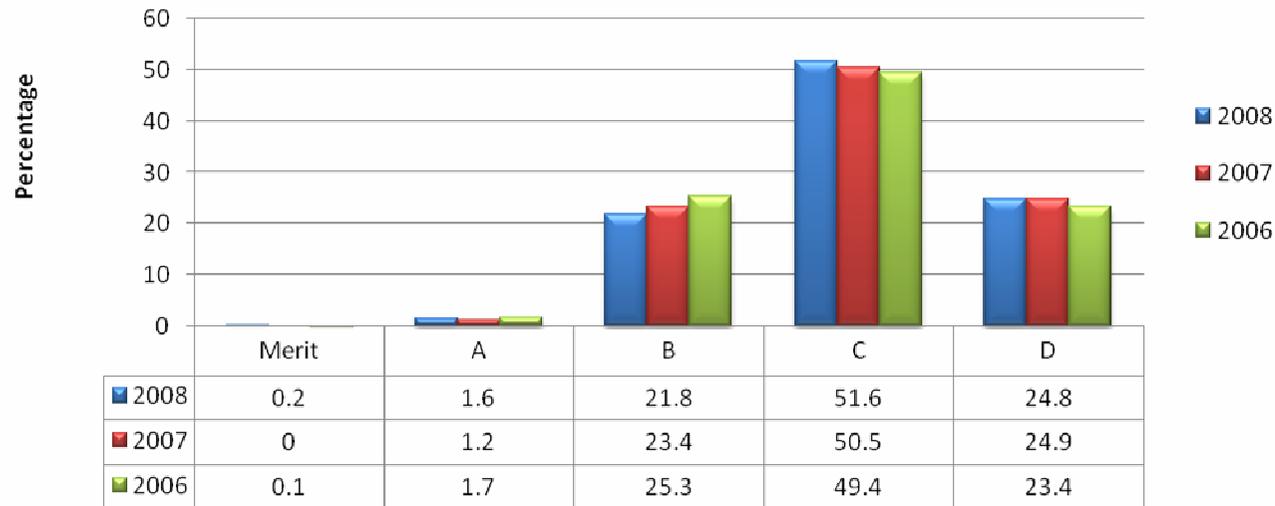
Candidature:	38293	
Merit	69	0.2%
A	628	1.6%
B	8345	21.8%
C	19757	51.6%
D	9494	24.8%

Table 2.1: Comparison of 2008 results with 2007 and 2006 for all grades by number and cumulative percentage

YEAR	Merit		Grade A		Grade B		Grade C		Grade D	
	No.	Cum %	No.	Cum %	No.	Cum %	No.	Cum %	No.	Cum %
2008	69	0.2	628	1.8	8348	23.6	19757	75.2	9494	100
2007	9	0	459	1.2	8760	24.6	18946	75.1	9339	100
2006	26	0.1	651	1.8	9442	27.1	18406	76.5	8736	99.9

- The number of candidates who obtained Merit increased from **9** in 2007 to **69** in 2008.
- Out of the **69** Merits, **12** are from private centres.
- There is a decline in the proportion of Candidates awarded Merit to B, 23.6 in 2008 from 24.6 in 2007 and 27.1 in 2006
- **Grades Merit to B represent higher standards of performance and therefore a decline in these grades is likely to be related to a decline in the quality of teaching and learning.**
- The number of candidates who obtained Merit to Grade C in 2008 is 28802. This is an increase of 589 from 28213 in 2007
- The overall performance (Merit – C) of the 2008 candidates shows a slight improvement of 0.1% Compared to 2007. The amount of change is not significant and therefore overall performance of the 2008 is the same as that of the 2007 candidates.

Comparison of 2008 results with 2007 and 2006 results by percentage of candidates at each grade



There is no significant change in the 2008 results compared to 2007.

In 2008, compared to 2007, the proportion of candidates awarded

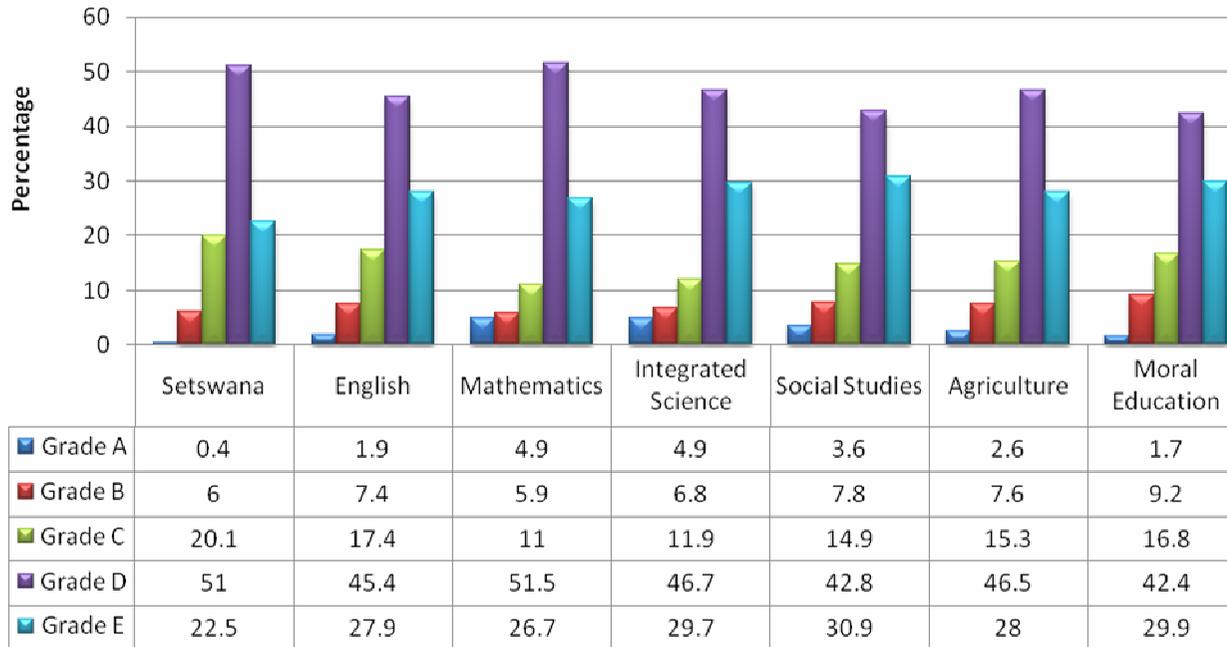
- + Merit increased by 0.2%;*
- + Grade A, increased by 0.4%*
- + Grade B, declined by 1.6% and;*
- + Grade C improved by 1.1%.*
- + The 2008 results show that the highest levels of achievement, represented by Merit and Grade A, is reached by only 1.8% of students in junior secondary schools*

3.0: PERFORMANCE BY SUBJECT

Table 3.1: Number and percentage of candidates awarded Grade C or better by subject 2008, 2007 and 2006

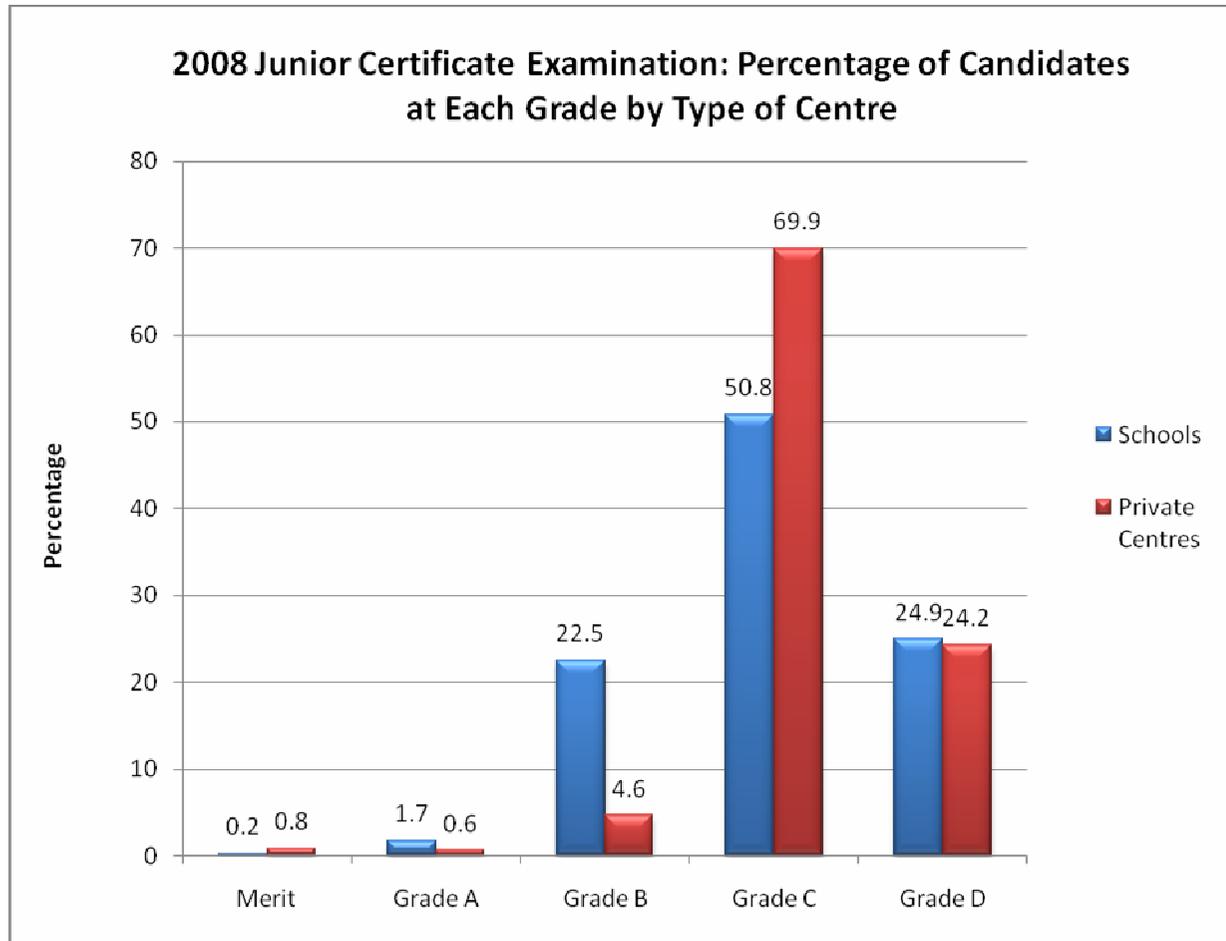
SUBJECT	2008		2007		2006	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
SETSWANA	10149	26.5	10355	27.6	9876	26.5
ENGLISH	10279	26.7	10318	27.3	10911	29.1
MATHEMATICS	8403	21.8	8597	22.8	8638	23
INTEGRATED SCIENCE	8658	23.6	9104	25	9652	26.5
SOCIAL STUDIES	10136	26.4	10709	28.4	10163	27.1
AGRICULTURE	9378	25.6	10146	27.09	10520	28.9
DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY	2323	24.4	2409	25	2616	25.5
HOME ECONOMICS	2538	26.2	2734	28	2901	28.1
COMMERCE & OFFICE PROCEDURES	1506	26.7	1397	25.8	1268	27.3
COMMERCE & BOOKKEEPING/ACCOUNTING	743	29.5	729	28.2	710	28.7
COMMERCE	287	22.2	242	24.7	196	24.7
BOOKKEEPING	46	17.4	37	21.6	37	21.5
OFFICE PROCEDURES	47	24.4	36	19.8	30	25.9
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION	6390	28.5	6262	27.9	5561	27.5
ART	2478	26.1	2309	24.4	2586	26.4
PRIVATE AGRICULTURE	349	19.7	307	23.1	232	22.4
GENERAL SCIENCE	307	17.4	265	19.7	243	21.9
MORAL EDUCATION	10658	27.7	10998	29.3	9543	28.7
FRENCH	196	24.3	173	22.5	143	22.8
MUSIC	141	24.4	145	27.3	144	26.3
PHYSICAL EDUCATION	3754	25.6	3606	25.8	3350	25.4

2008 Junior Certificate Examination: Percentage of Candidates at Each Grade in Core Subjects



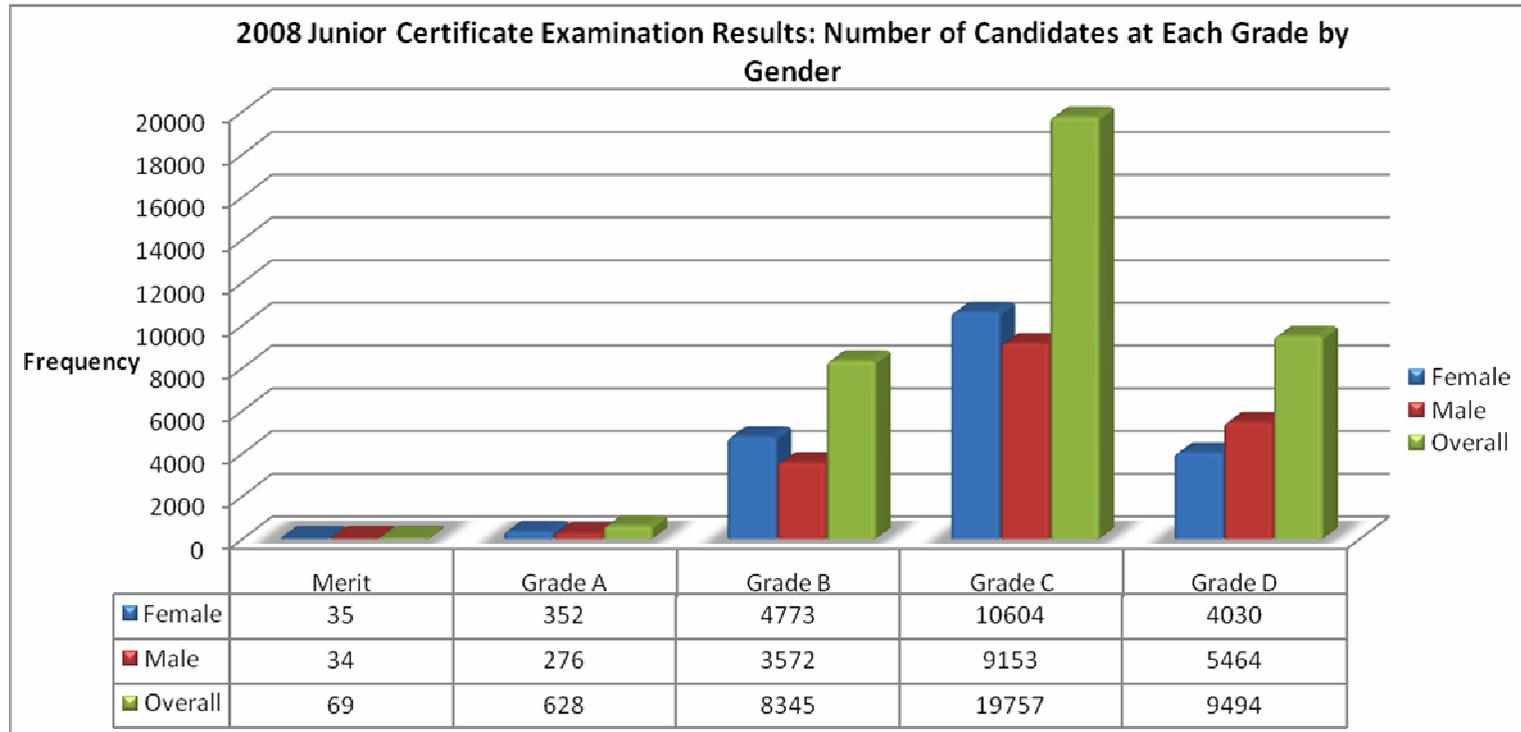
- ◆ Mathematics and Integrated Science has the highest proportion of candidates awarded Grade A at 4.9%
- ◆ Setswana has the lowest proportion of candidates awarded Grade A at 0.4%
- ◆ Moral Education has the highest proportion of candidates in Grade B with 9.2%
- ◆ Setswana Has the Highest proportion of candidates in Grade C with 20.1%
- ◆ The average proportion of candidates earning higher grades (A and B) in Core subjects is around 11%

4.0: PERFORMANCE BY TYPE OF CENTRE



- ◆ Overall, school candidates perform better than candidates who registered in private centres at Grade A and Grade B.
- ◆ The proportion of candidates awarded a Merit grade in private centres (.8%) is higher than in school centres (.2%)
- ◆ A Higher proportion of candidates in private centres were awarded Grade C, 69.9%, compared to 50.8% in schools
- ◆ There is no difference in pass rates (Merit to C) in schools (75.2%) and private centres (75.9%)

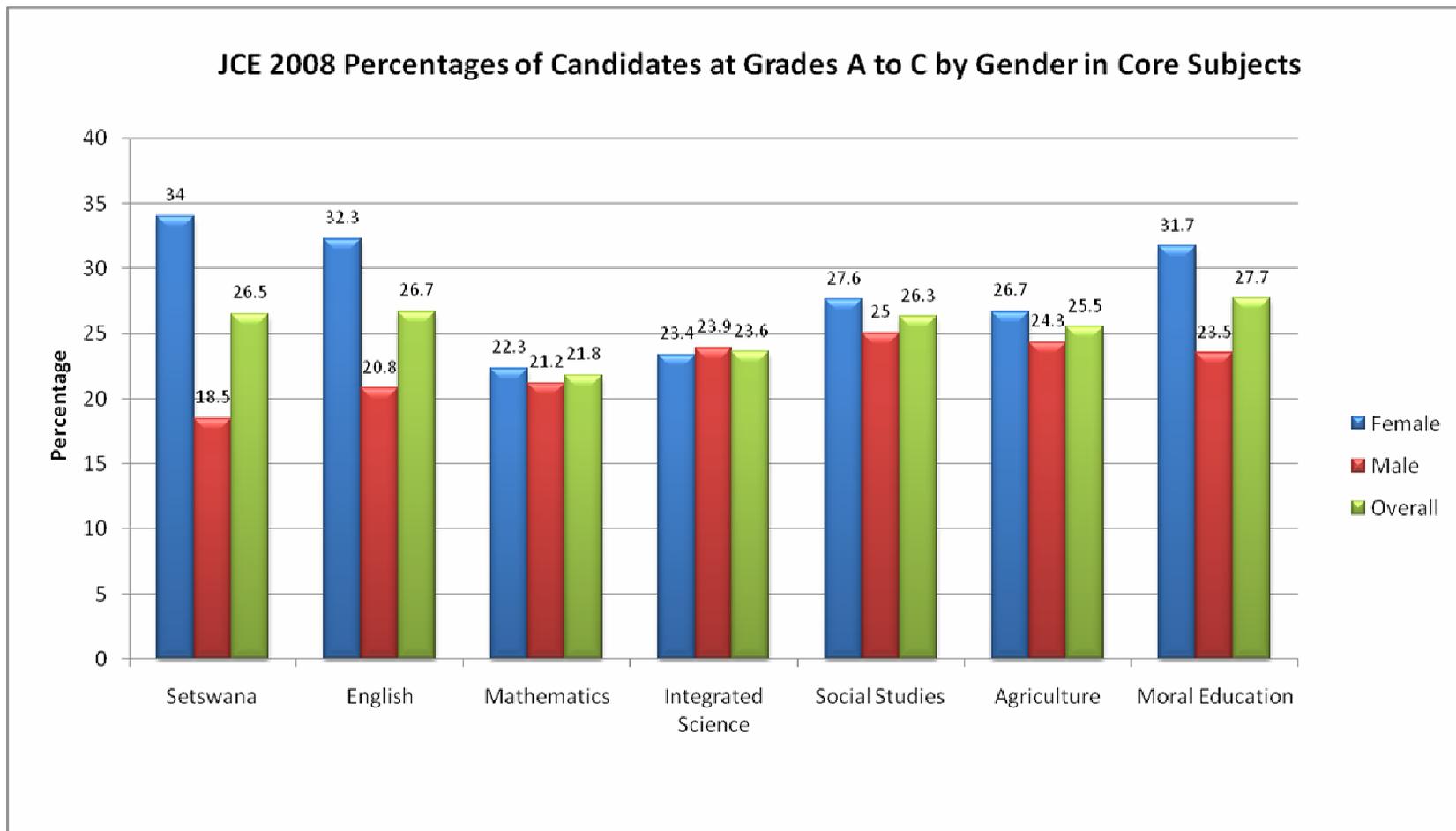
5.0: PERFORMANCE BY GENDER



◆ More girls are awarded grades A, B, and C than boys and fewer girls are awarded Grade D than boys

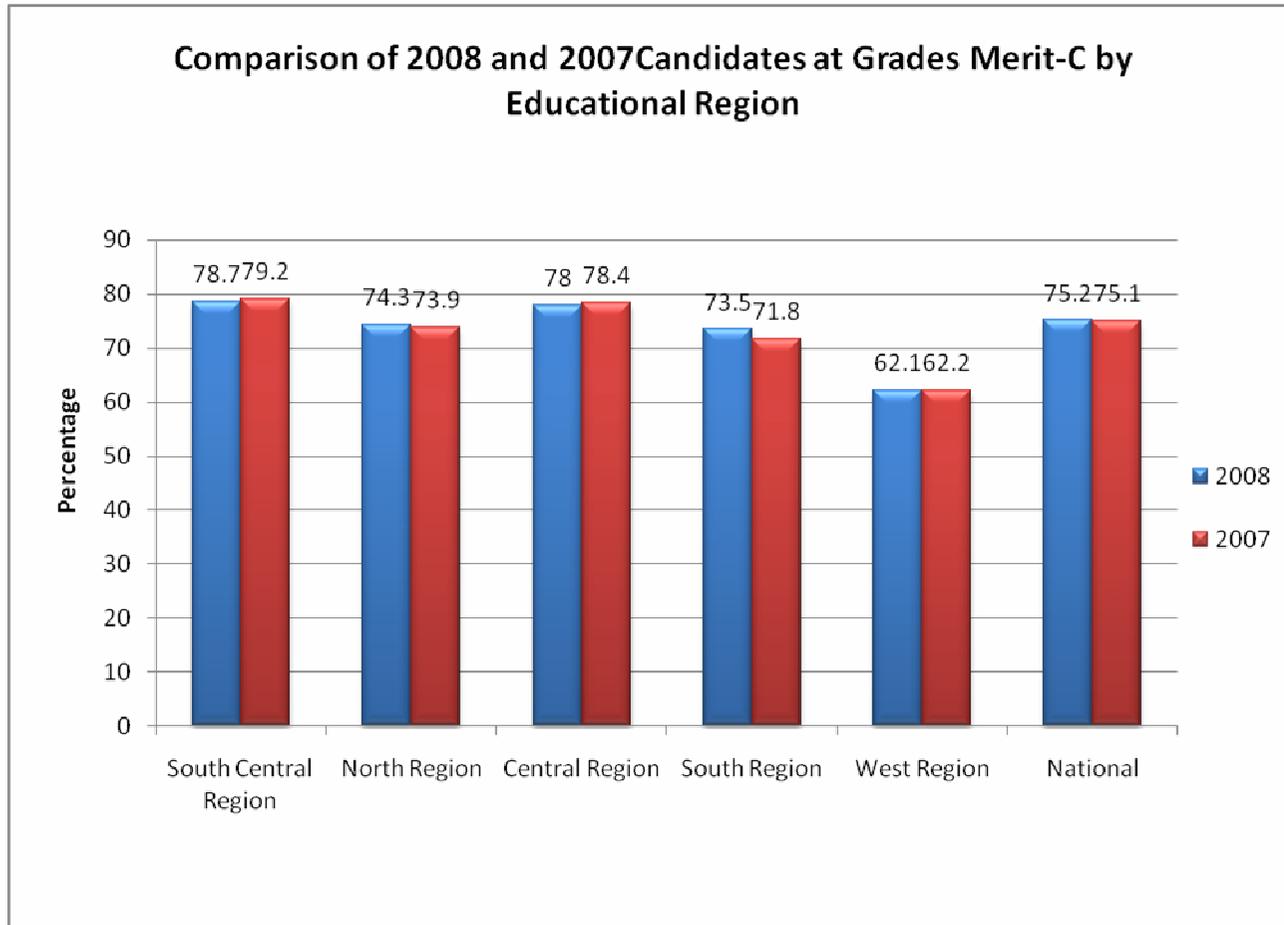
Table 5.1: Percentage of candidates at each grade by subject and gender

SUBJECT	FEMALE					MALE				
	A	B	C	D	E	A	B	C	D	E
SETSWANA	0.6	8.4	25	51.3	14.7	0.2	3.4	14.9	50.8	30.7
ENGLISH	2.5	9.6	20.2	46.9	20.8	1.3	5.1	14.4	43.8	35.4
MATHEMATICS	4.7	6.1	11.5	53.8	23.9	5.1	5.6	10.5	49	29.7
INTEGRATED SCIENCE	4.2	6.6	12.6	49.3	27.3	5.6	7	11.3	43.9	32.2
SOCIAL STUDIES	3.5	8.3	15.8	45.6	26.8	3.7	7.3	14	39.7	35.2
AGRICULTURE	2.7	7.9	16.1	48.3	25	2.6	7.3	14.4	44.5	31.1
DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY	2.2	4.4	9.1	48.6	35.8	3.9	8.6	15	45.6	27
HOME ECONOMICS	1.4	7.5	19.3	50.1	21.9	0.5	3.7	10.9	43	41.9
COMMERCE AND OFFICE PROCEDURES	1	8.1	19.8	50.8	20.3	0.7	5.7	16.3	45.4	31.9
COMMERCE AND BOOKKEEPING/ACCOUNTING	0.1	7.4	22.5	46.8	23.3	0.1	7.4	21.1	40.6	30.8
COMMERCE	4.1	5	10.2	49.9	30.8	3.8	6.5	16.4	52	21.3
BOOKKEEPING	7.6	6.3	5.7	59.5	20.9	4.7	1.9	7.5	62.6	23.4
OFFICE PROCEDURES	7.8	6	17.2	50.9	18.1	0	3.9	10.4	51.9	33.8
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION	1.3	10.2	21	44.1	23.4	0.7	6.8	15.1	39.8	37.5
ART	1	5.1	18.1	48	27.8	2.4	7.5	17	47.5	25.6
PRIVATE AGRICULTURE	4.4	3.6	9.3	51.6	31	3.1	5.6	14.6	59.9	16.9
GENERAL SCIENCE	5.2	2.9	6.2	57.8	27.9	5.4	3.8	12.7	59.6	18.5
MORAL EDUCATION	2.1	10.9	18.7	43.6	24.7	1.3	7.4	14.8	41	35.6
FRENCH	6.4	10.2	16.1	46.7	20.6	2.1	4.2	8.9	41.3	43.6
MUSIC	3.9	10.7	13.9	49.6	21.8	1.7	3.7	15.1	48.8	30.8
PHYSICAL EDUCATION	1.4	5.1	14.5	47.6	31.4	2.4	8.2	18.1	50.9	20.5



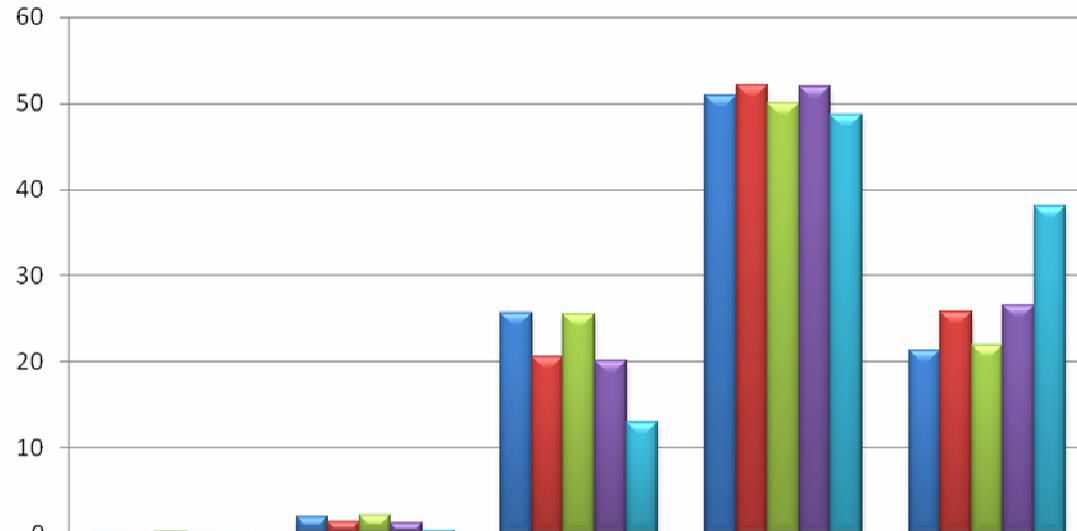
- ◆ Females performed better than males in all subjects except Integrated Science.
- ◆ The difference is widest in Setswana followed by English and Moral Education.

6.0: PERFORMANCE BY EDUCATION REGION



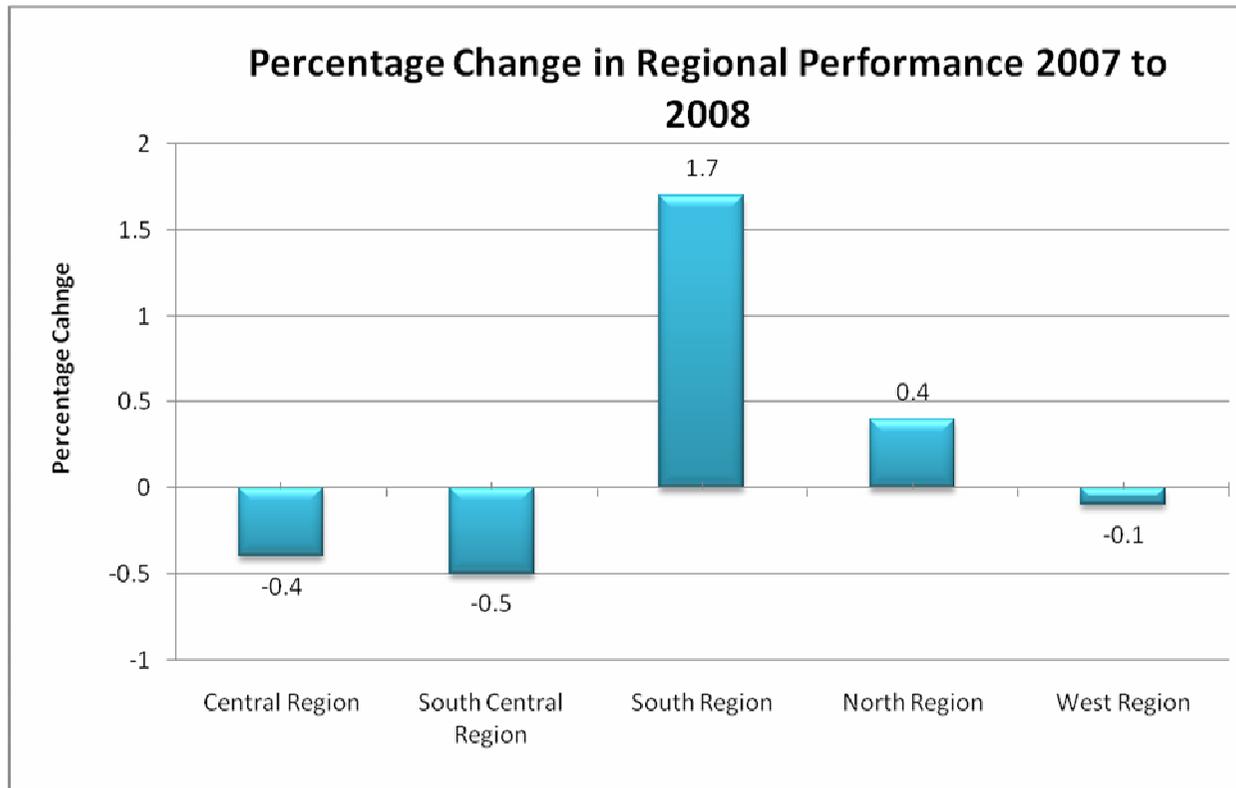
- ◆ The South Central has 78.7%, and Central 78% of their candidates awarded Merit to C. Both Regions performed above the national average of 75.2%.
- ◆ The West region has the lowest proportion of Candidates awarded Merit to C.
- ◆ The performance of all regions remains fairly constant from 2007 to 2008.

PERCENTAGE OF CANDIDATES AT EACH GRADE BY EDUCATION REGION



	MERIT	A	B	C	D
South Central Region	0.2	2	25.6	50.9	21.4
North Region	0.1	1.5	20.6	52.1	25.8
Central Region	0.3	2.2	25.5	50	22
South Region	0.1	1.3	20.1	52	26.5
West Region	0.1	0.4	13	48.6	38

- ◆ Central Region has the highest proportion of Candidates awarded Merit and Grade A.
- ◆ South Central has the highest proportion of candidates awarded grades Merit to C.



- ◆ South Region and North Region show improvement in performance compared to 2007 by 1.7% and 0.4% respectively.
- ◆ The other three regions all show a decline in performance.

7.0 SUMMARY OF THE MESSAGE FROM THE 2008 JCE RESULTS

- ◆ A total of 38293 candidates sat for the 2008 Junior Certificate Examination compared to 37557 in 2007, an increase of 736 or 2%
- ◆ The number of Candidates awarded Merit increased from 9 in 2007 to 69 in 2008.
- ◆ There is very little change in the pass rates between 2007 and 2008. The proportion of candidates awarded Merit to C is 75.2% compared to 75.1 in 2007.
- ◆ In Core Subjects group, Moral Education has the highest proportion of candidates awarded Grades A to C (27.7%).
- ◆ In the General Studies subject group, Religious Education has the highest proportion of candidates awarded Grades A to C (28.5%).
- ◆ In the Practical Studies subject group, Commerce & Bookkeeping/Accounting has the highest proportion of candidates awarded Grades A to C (29.5%)
- ◆ A small proportion of Candidates were awarded Merit to Grade B, (23.6%). This may be an indication of generally low standards of performance nationally. It may also be an indication of low quality of learning and teaching at the junior secondary level. The average proportion of candidates earning higher grades (A and B) in Core subjects is also very low, around 11%. Overall grades Merit to B and A and B at subject level represent higher standards of performance; therefore, small proportions of candidates earning these grades and a decline in these proportions may be related to among other factors, a low and declining quality of teaching and learning in schools.

8.0 ATTACHMENT A: DOUBLE SHIFT SCHOOLS

Candidature change between 2007 and 2008

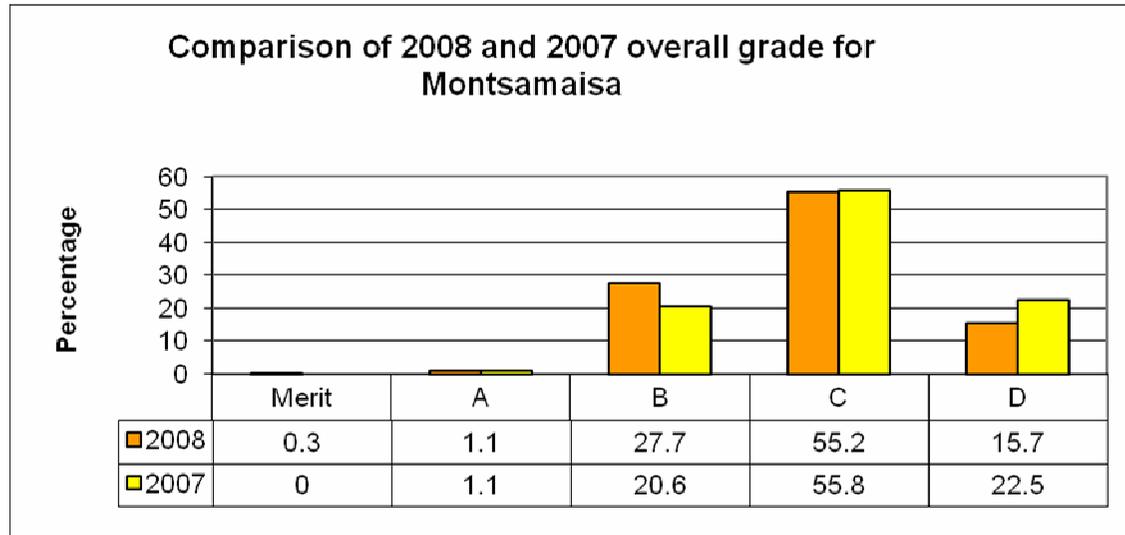
The number of candidates in each of the four centres where Double Shift was introduced in 2006 changed as follows:

Table 8.1: Candidature in JCE Double Shift Schools

School Name	Candidature in 2007	Candidature in 2008	Difference
Montsamaisa	267	357	90
Bokamoso	278	348	70
Rakops	232	235	3
Itekeng	267	248	-19

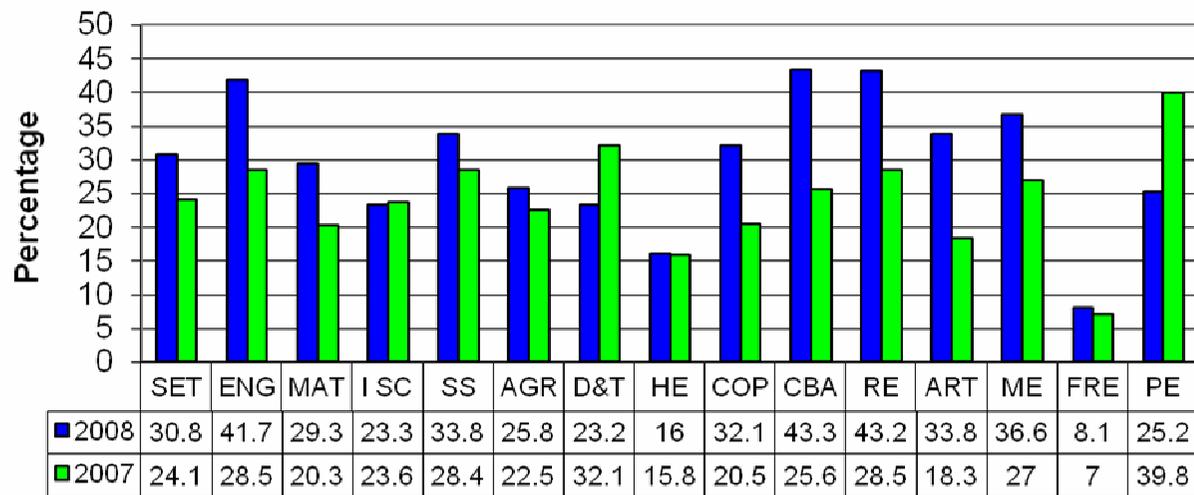
- ◆ Montsamaisa and Bokamoso had a significant increase in candidature. There was no change in Candidature in Rakops. Itekeng has a drop in candidature in Itekeng from 267 in 2007 to 248 in Itekeng.
- ◆ It is important to note that a decline or improvement in student performance is attributable to numerous factors in the school environment, student and home factors. School factors will include availability of teachers, classrooms, teaching time, teacher student ratio, etc. Therefore a change in school enrolment alone will not explain a change in student performance.

Results: Montsamaisa



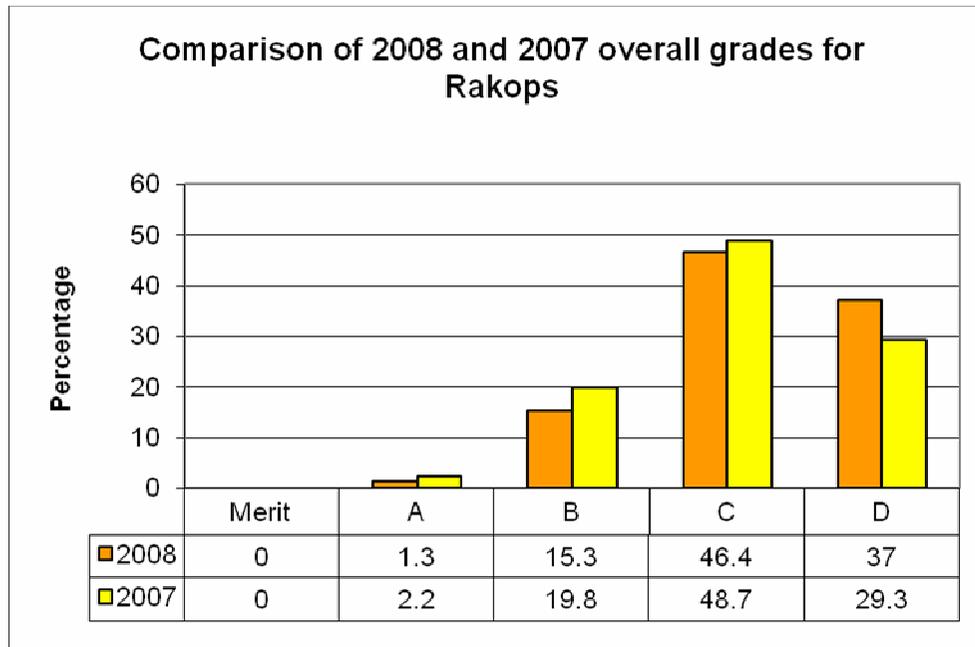
- ◆ Centre results have improved at Grade B and Grade D. A reduction of Candidate awarded Grade D is an improvement.
- ◆ The results show no negative impact on student performance as a result of an increase in candidature.

Comparison by Subject for 2008 and 2007 (A-C) for Montsamaisa JSS



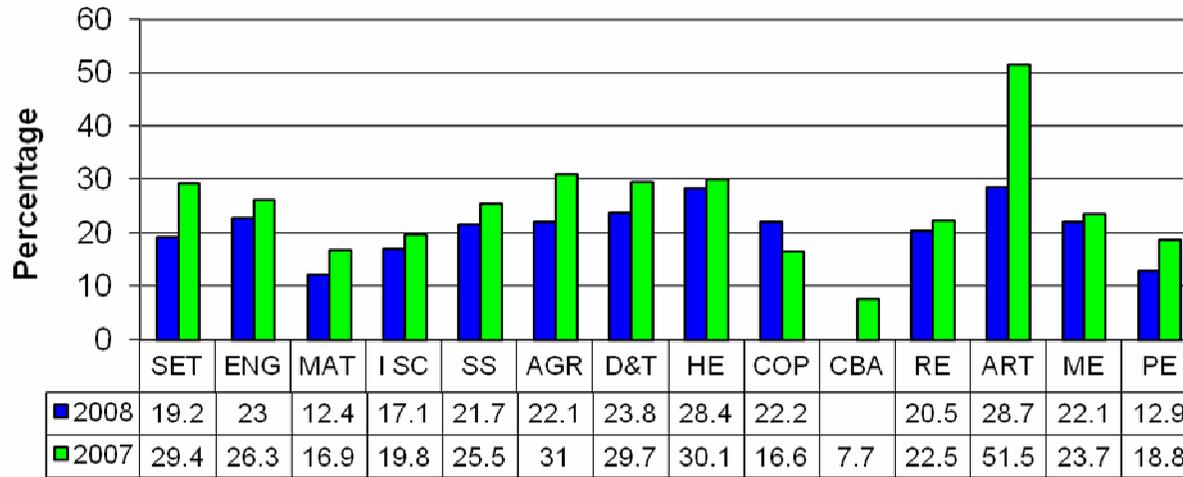
◆ At subject level Montsamaisa improved student performance in all subjects except for Design and Technology and Physical Education.

Results: Rakops:



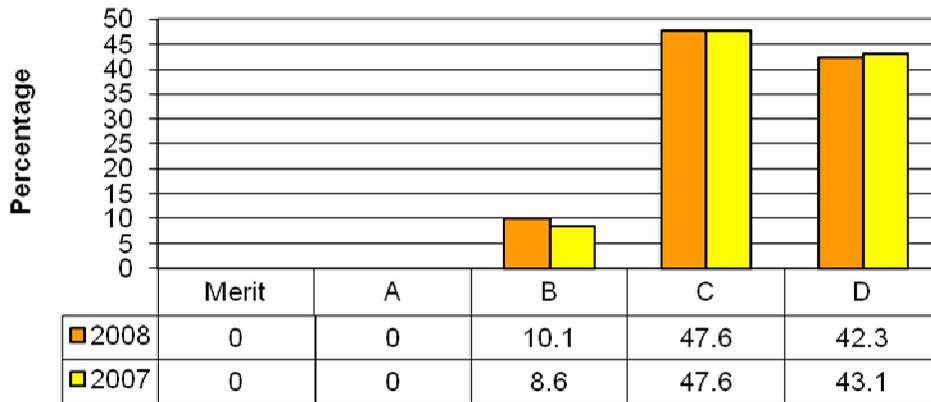
◆ There is an overall decline in student performance

Comparison by Subject for 2008 and 2007 (A-C) for Rakops JSS



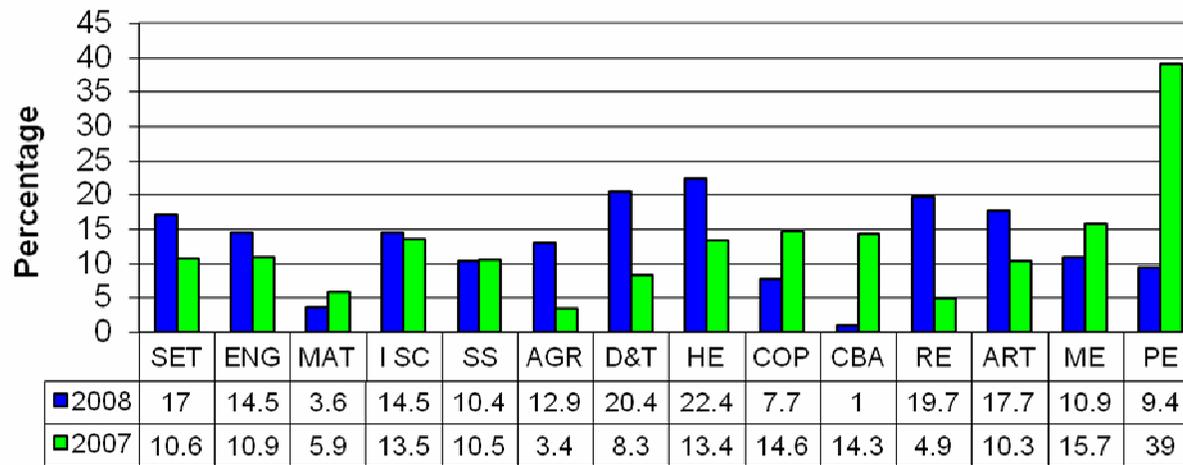
◆ There is a general decline in performance across all subjects except in Commerce & Office Procedures

Comparison of 2008 and 2007 overall grade for Itekeng



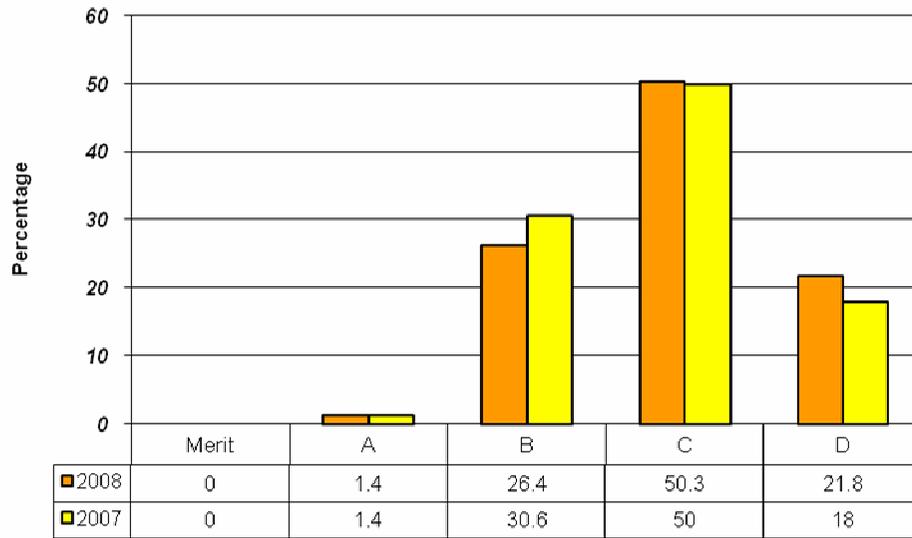
◆ There is a slight improvement in the proportion of candidates awarded Grade B.

Comparison by Subject for 2008 and 2007 (A-C) for Itekeng JSS



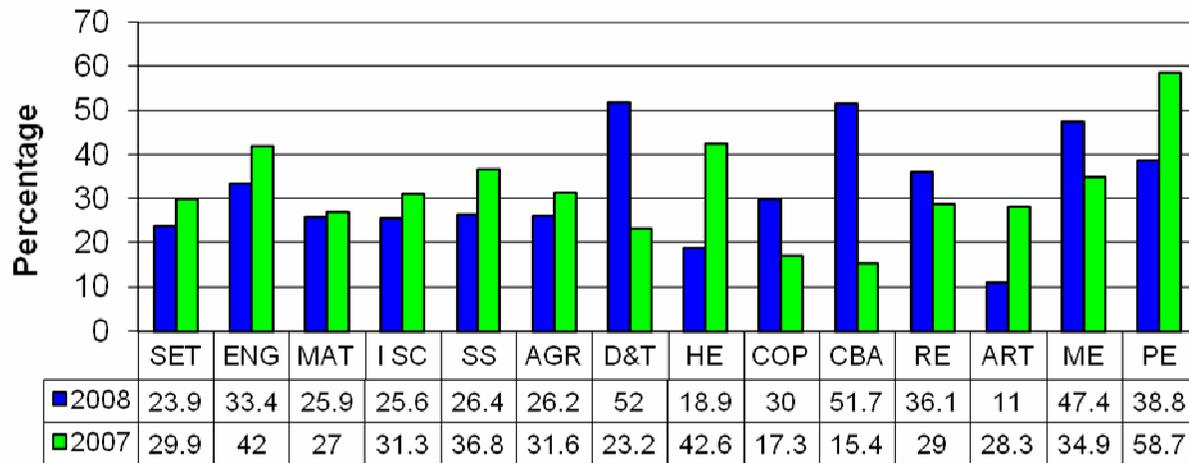
◆ Subject performance in 2008 is generally better than in 2007, except in Moral Education and Physical education.

Comparison of 2008 and 2007 overall grades for Bokamoso



There is a decline (4.2%) in performance at Grade B.

**Comparison by subject for 2008 and 2007 (A-C)
for Bokamoso JSS**



- ◆ Bokamoso shows mixed results with improvement in five subjects and a general decline in the remaining 9 subjects.
- ◆ The greatest decline is in Home Economics and Physical Education.
- ◆ South Central has the highest proportion of candidates awarded grades Merit to C.