



BOTSWANA
EXAMINATIONS
COUNCIL

2009 PRIMARY SCHOOL LEAVING EXAMINATION RESULTS SUMMARY



INTRODUCTION

The Primary School Leaving Examination (PSLE) is a criterion referenced examination that is administered to all learners who have completed the 7-year primary school programme. PSLE candidates sit examinations in seven subjects, namely: Setswana, English, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, Agriculture and Religious and Moral Education. PSLE results provide feedback across different levels of the education system in terms of the learner's achievement of important knowledge and skills within the primary education programme. This report presents a summary of the 2009 PSLE. The results report performance at national, district, and city/town council levels and by subject and gender. The report is structured as follows:

- ◆ Candidature
- ◆ Overall Performance
- ◆ Performance by District and Town/City Council
- ◆ Performance by Subject
- ◆ Performance by Gender
- ◆ Summary of Results
- ◆ Attachments

1.0 CANDIDATURE

Table 1.0			
PSLE CANDIDATURE IN 2007, 2008 AND 2009 BY SUBJECT			
SUBJECTS	2007	2008	2009
Setswana	40675	40974	41474
English	41170	41466	42217
Mathematics	41163	41455	42217
Science	41168	41459	42217
Social Studies	41165	41461	42217
Agriculture	41119	41460	42217
Religious and Moral Education	41112	41421	42165
Total Candidature	41191	41471	42217

- ◆ A total of 42217 candidates sat for the 2009 Primary School Leaving Examination. Of this number, 21270 were females, 20939 were males while 7 did not indicate their gender.
- ◆ The candidature increased by 746 (1.80%) from 41471 in 2008 to 42217 in 2009.

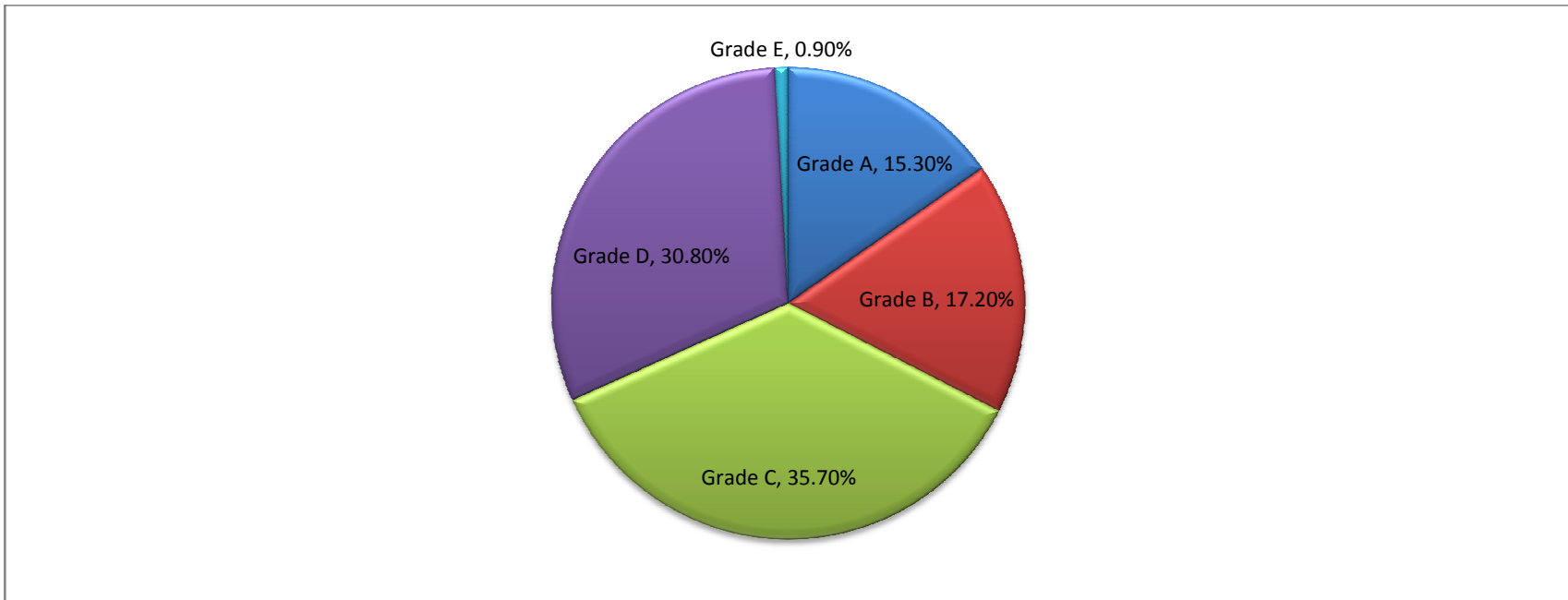
2.0: OVERALL PERFORMANCE

TABLE 2.1: 2009 PRIMARY SCHOOL LEAVING EXAMINATION RESULTS

Candidature 42217

A	6468	15.3%
B	7259	17.2%
C	15058	35.7%
D	13005	30.8%
E	392	0.9%
Ungraded	35	

Figure: 2.1 Overall Performance in the 2009 PSLE

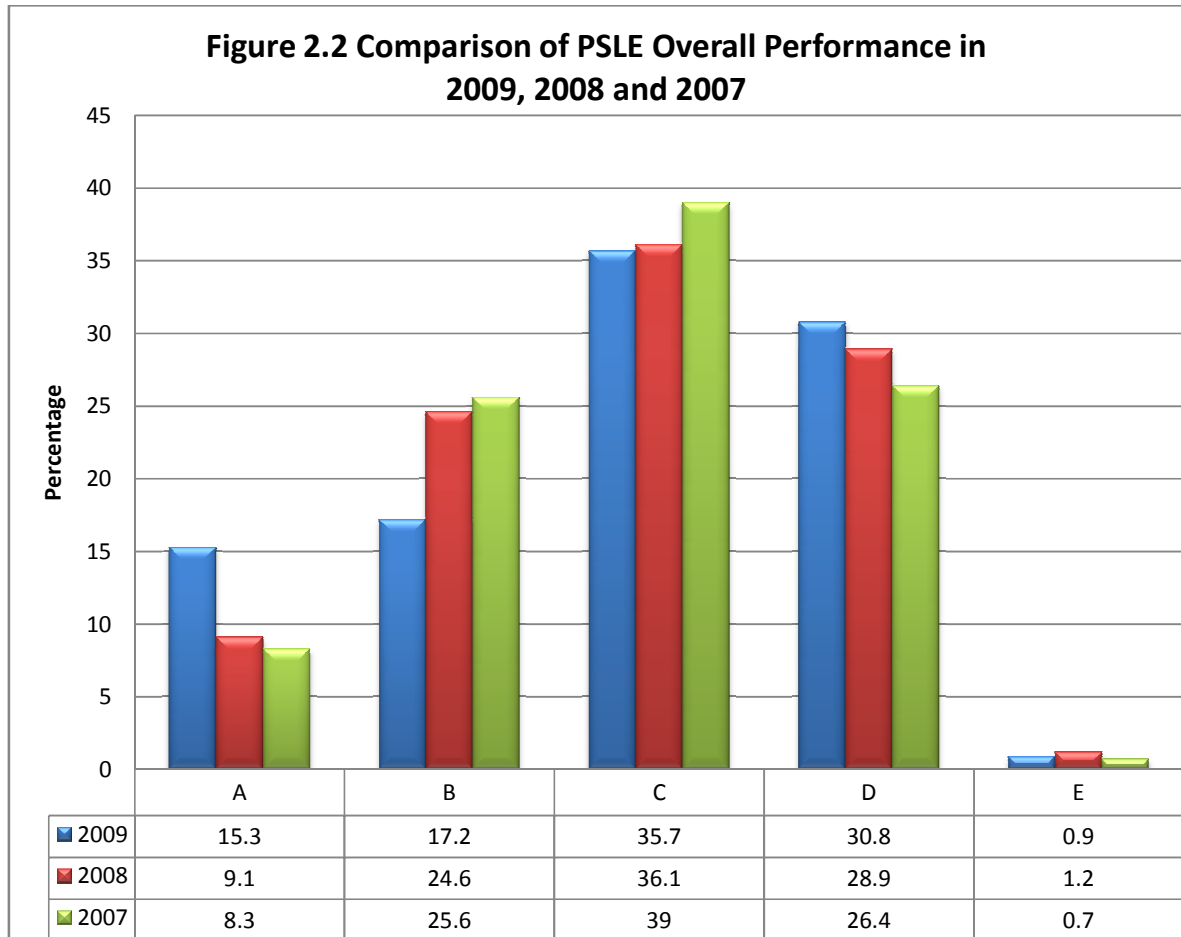


COMPARISON OF 2007 2008 AND 2009 OVERALL RESULTS

Performance in the 2009 PSLE shows an improvement in Grade A. 15.3% of the candidates were awarded Grade A compared to 9.1% in 2008 and 8.3% in 2007. Percentage of candidates obtaining grade B dropped by 7.4% from last year's. Proportion of candidates at Grade C also dropped from last year's 36.1% to 35.7 in 2009.

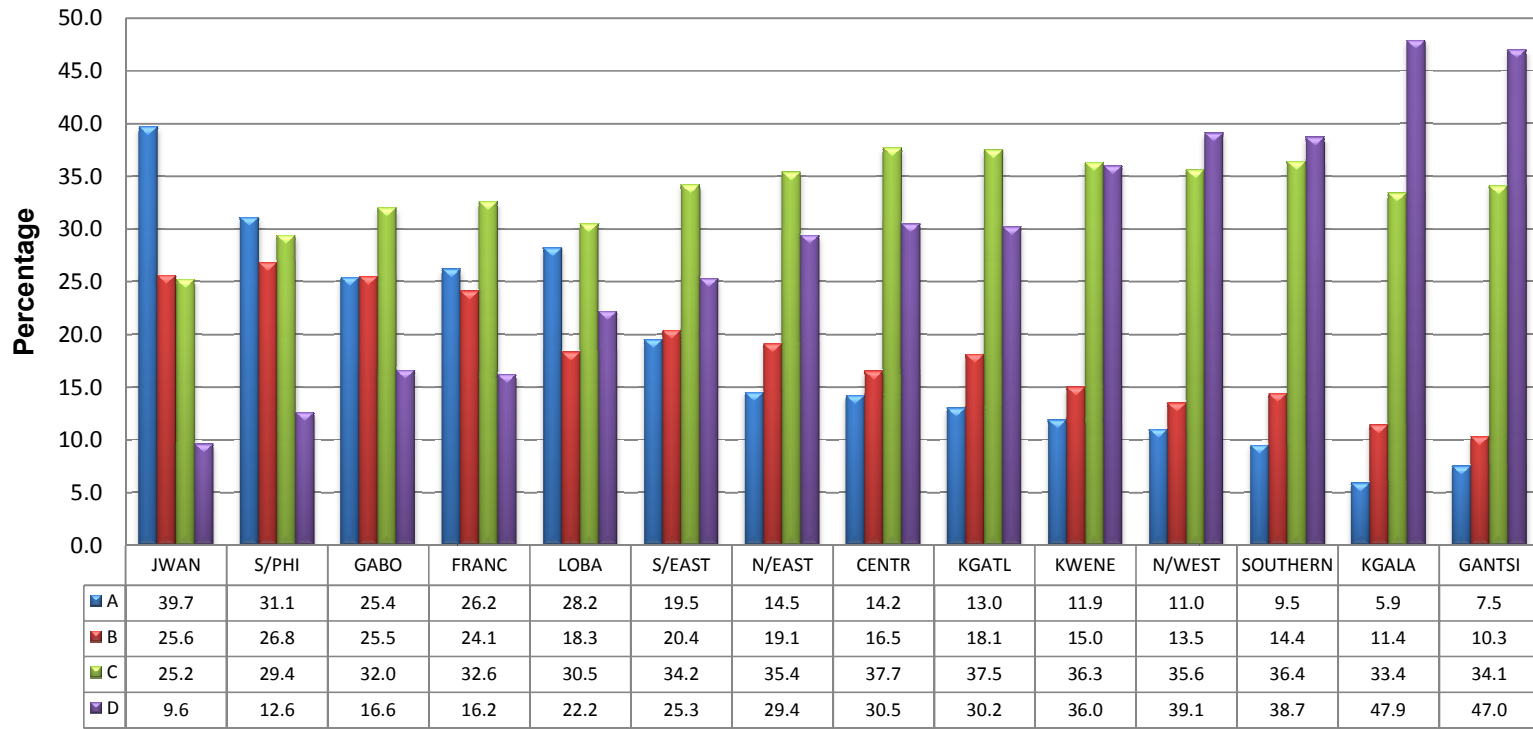
The proportion of candidates classified under D and E has increased, showing a growing number of learners who perform below the minimum competency levels required for learning more demanding material at the junior secondary school level.

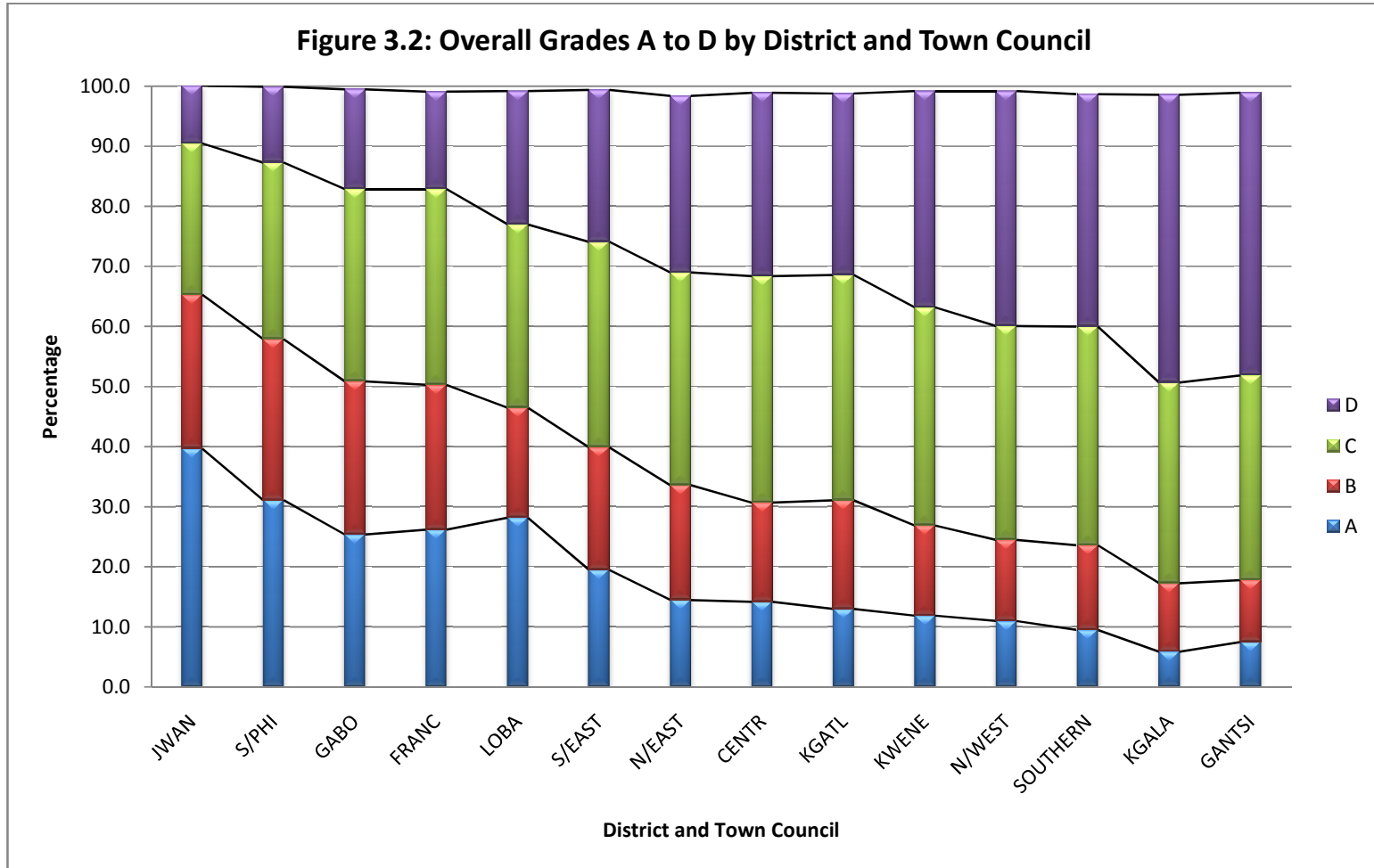
Figure 2.2 Comparison of PSLE Overall Performance in 2009, 2008 and 2007



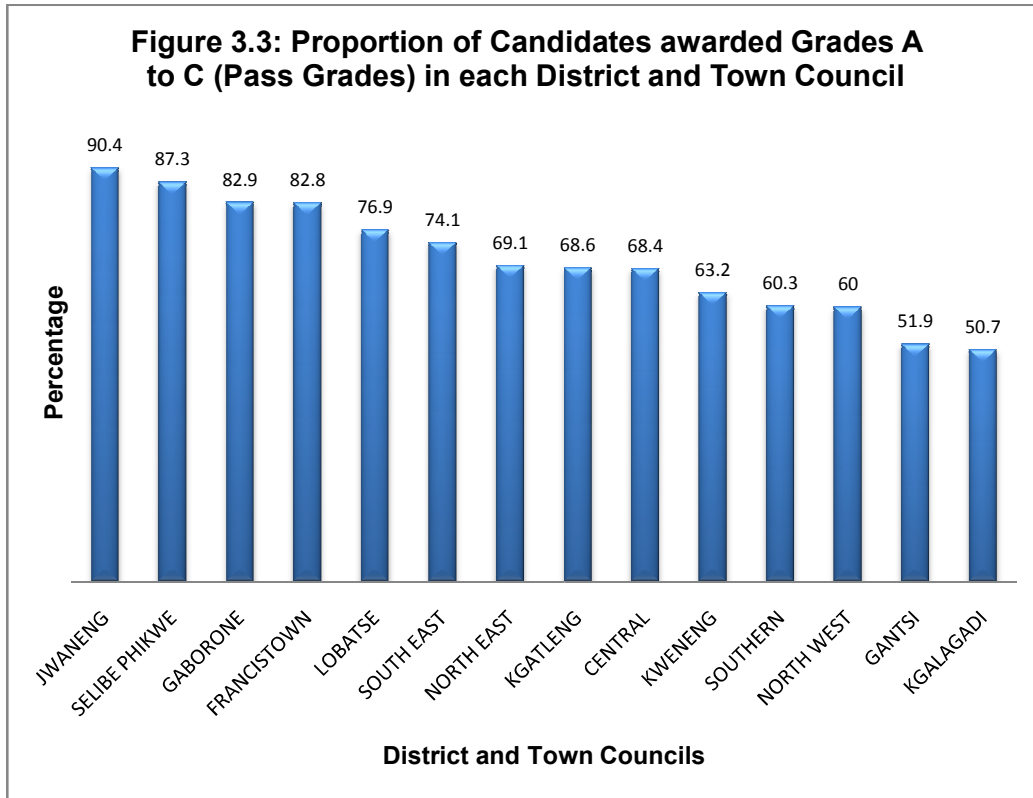
3.0 : PERFORMANCE BY DISTRICT AND CITY/TOWN COUNCILS

Figure 3.1: Proportion of Candidates Awarded Grade A to D by District and Town Councils





◆ City and Town Councils continue to perform better than the District Councils.



Schools located in City/Town councils performed better than those in District Councils.

Consistent with the overall results, the proportion of candidates earning pass grades (grade A to C) in 2009 , were generally lower than in the previous years in all Districts except for Jwaneng and Lobatse districts which show an increase of 4.4% and 3.6% respectively.

Jwaneng has moved back to first position from second position in 2008 while Selibe Phikwe dropped to position two .

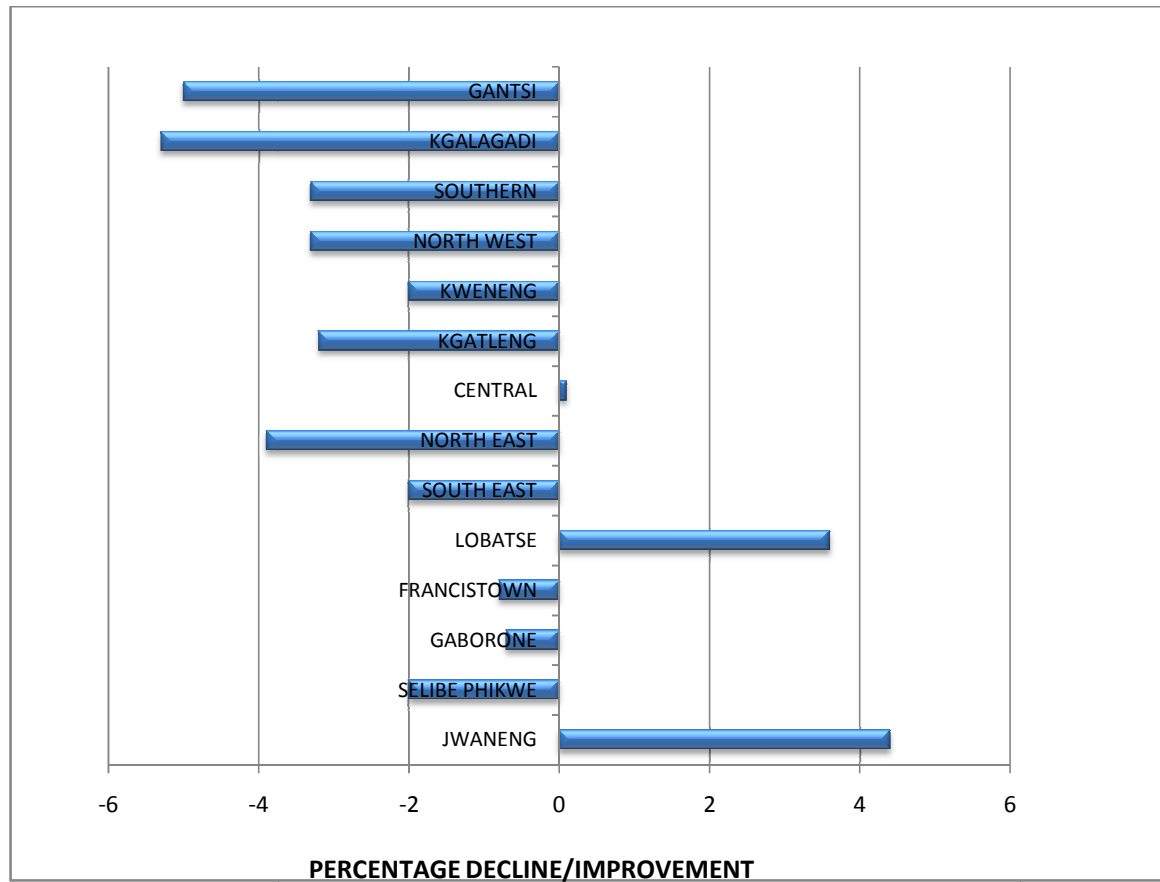
Gaborone has moved to position three and Francistown to position four.

South East is the highest among the district councils followed by North East.

North West continues to perform better than Kgagalagadi and Gantsi Districts since 2008.

Figure 3.4: DECLINE/IMPROVEMENT IN THE PERCENTAGE OF CANDIDATES AWARDED GRADE A-C BETWEEN 2008 AND 2009

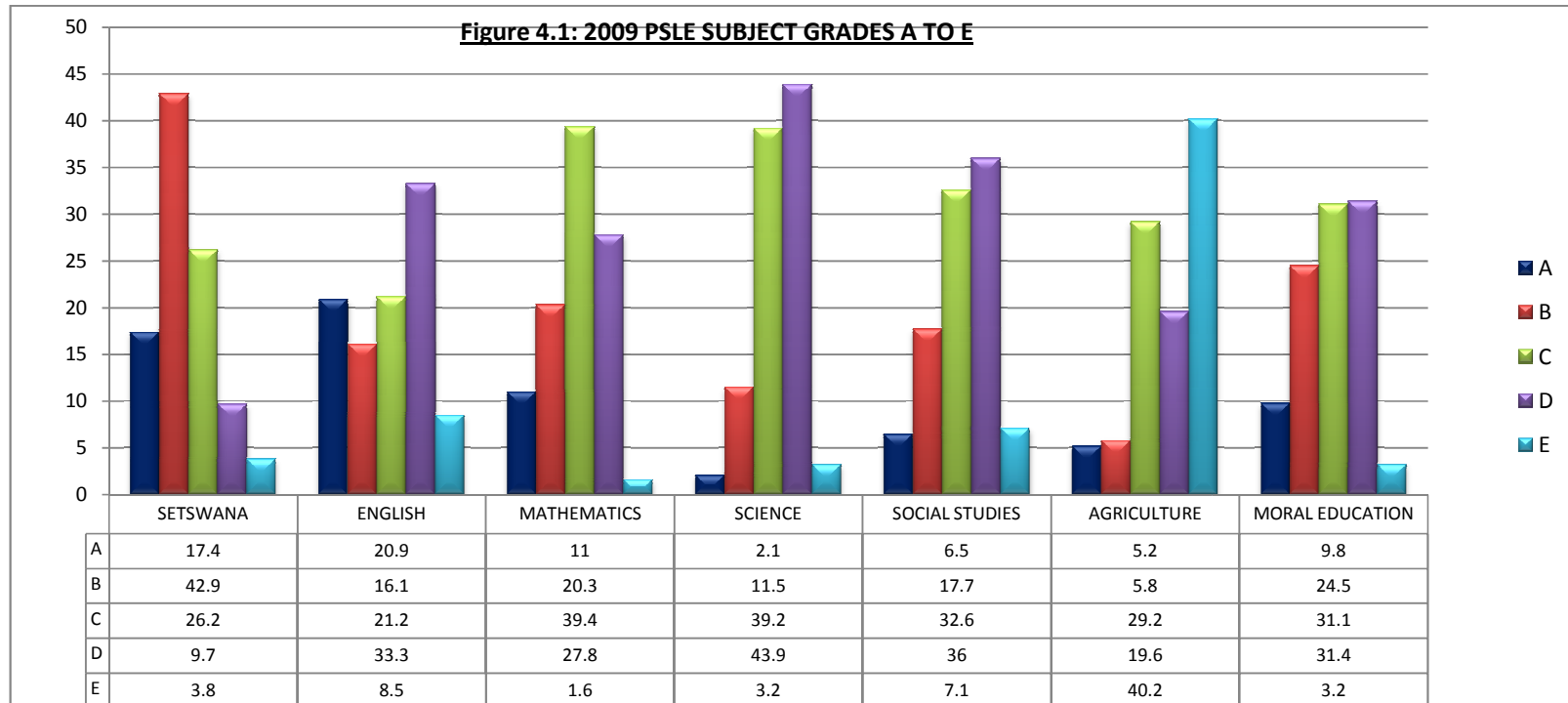
2009 PSLE RESULTS SUMMARY



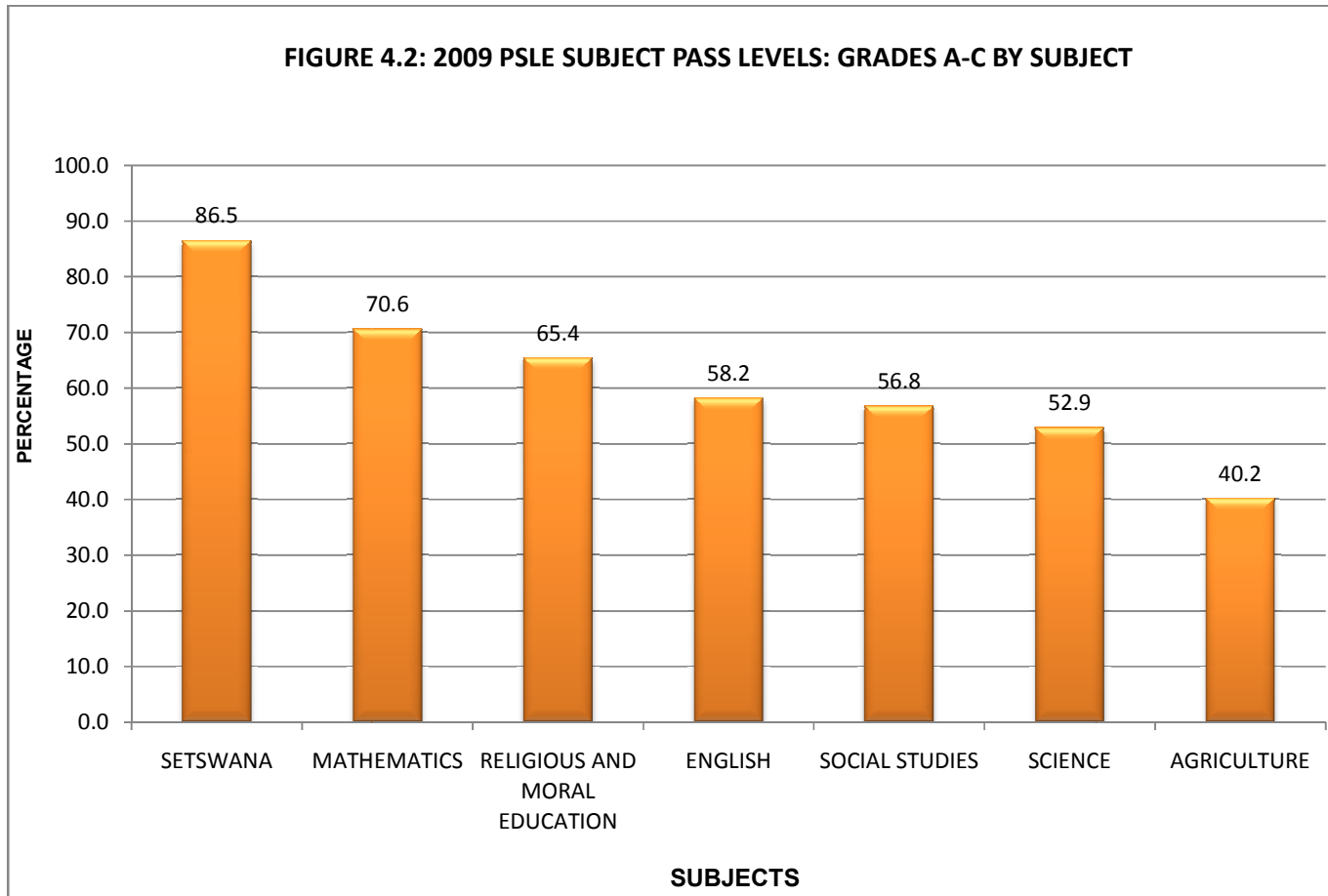
4.0: 2009 PSLE PERFORMANCE BY SUBJECT AREA

◆ A more detailed interpretation of subject results is provided in **Attachment 7.1**.

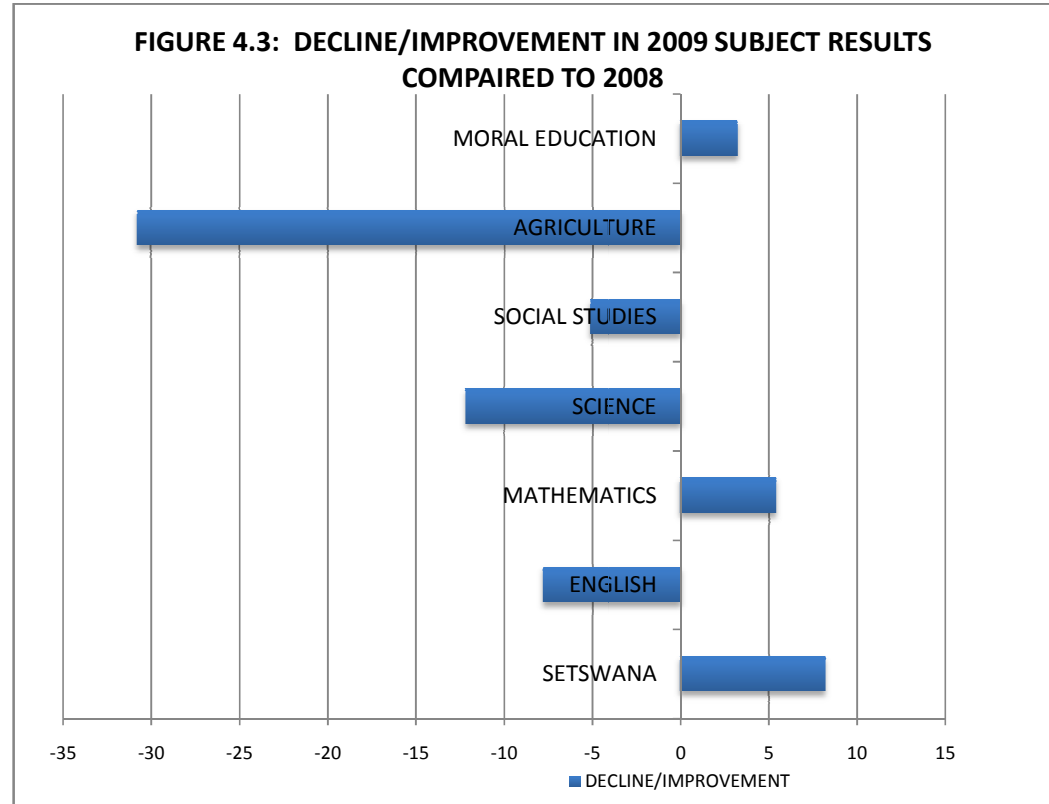
2009 PSLE RESULTS SUMMARY



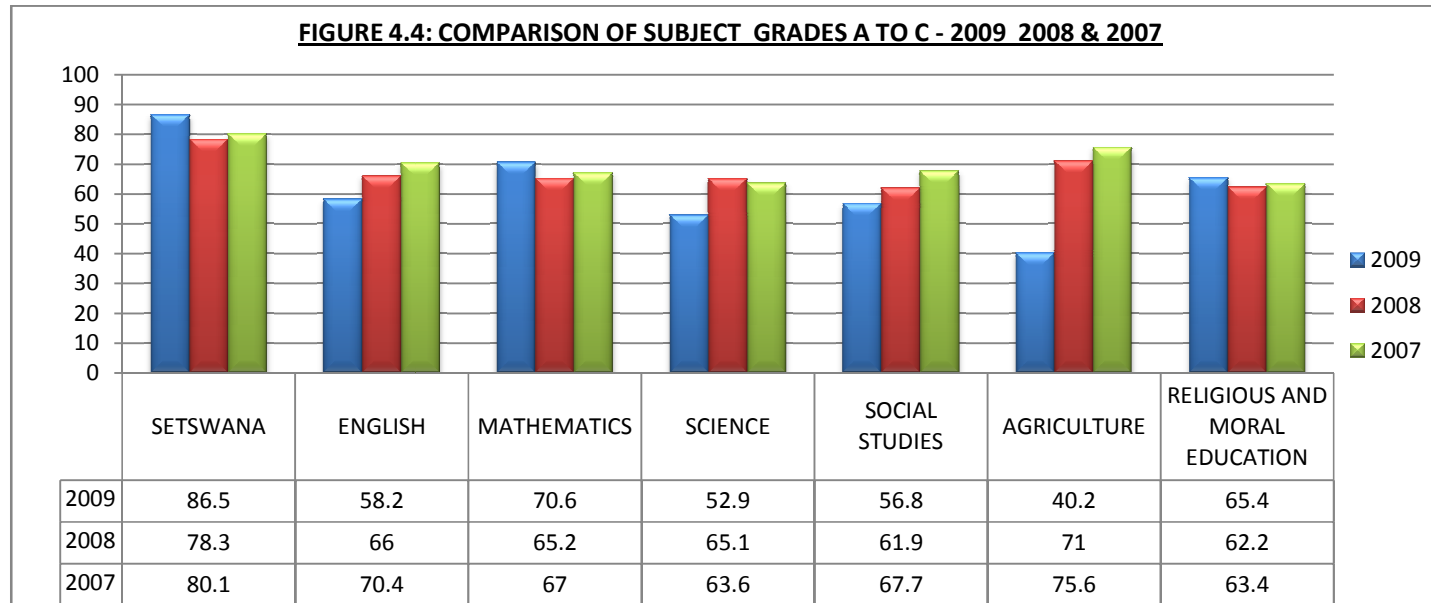
- ◆ The results show the highest proportion of candidates awarded grade A in English, at 20.9%.
- ◆ The lowest proportion of candidates awarded grade A is in Science at 2.1%.
- ◆ Setswana has the highest proportion of candidates at grade B with 42.9%.
- ◆ Mathematics has the highest proportion of candidates awarded C at 39.4%.



SUBJECT	DECLINE/ IMPROVEMENT
AGRICULTURE	-30.8
SCIENCE	-12.2
ENGLISH	-7.8
SOCIAL STUDIES	-5.1
MORAL EDUCATION	3.2
MATHEMATICS	5.4
SETSWANA	8.2

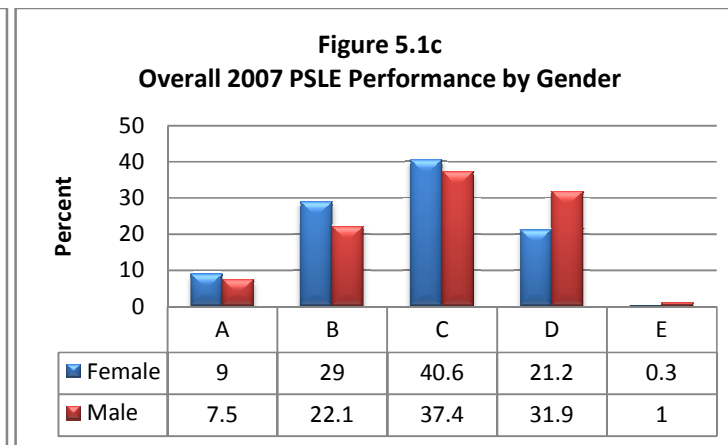
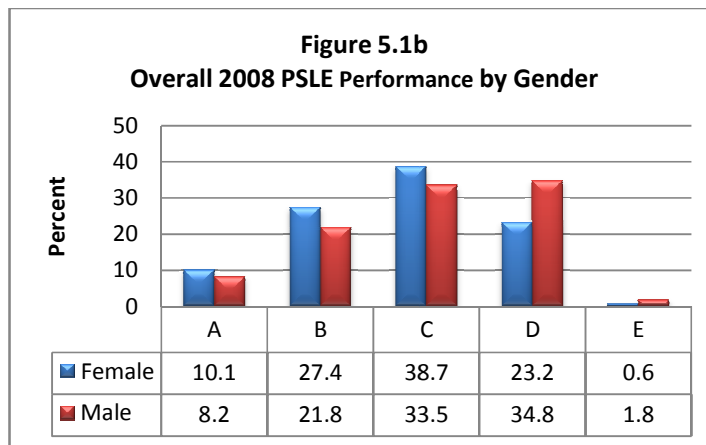
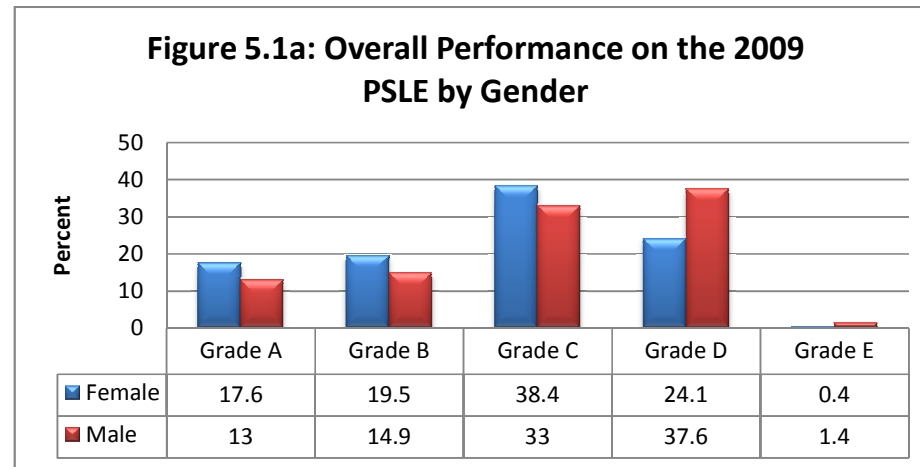


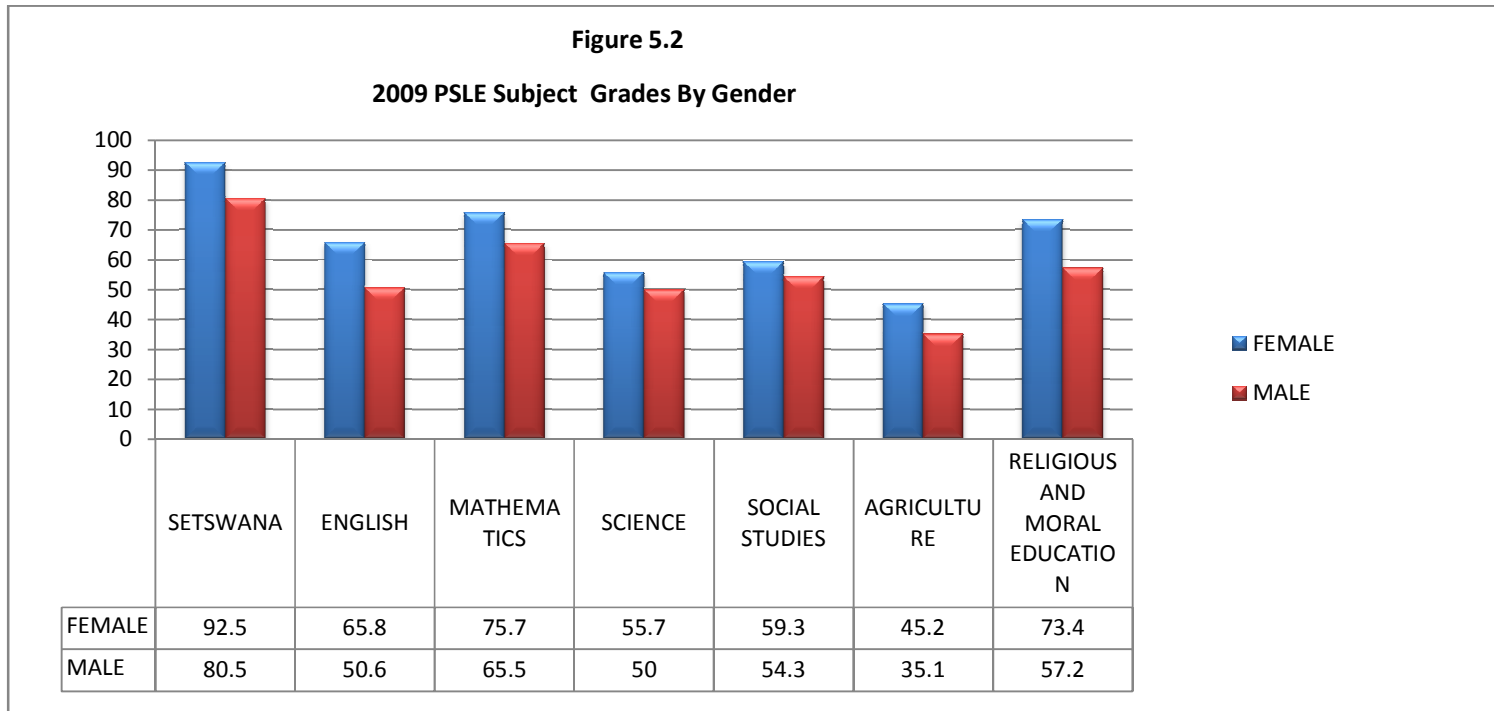
2009 PSLE RESULTS SUMMARY



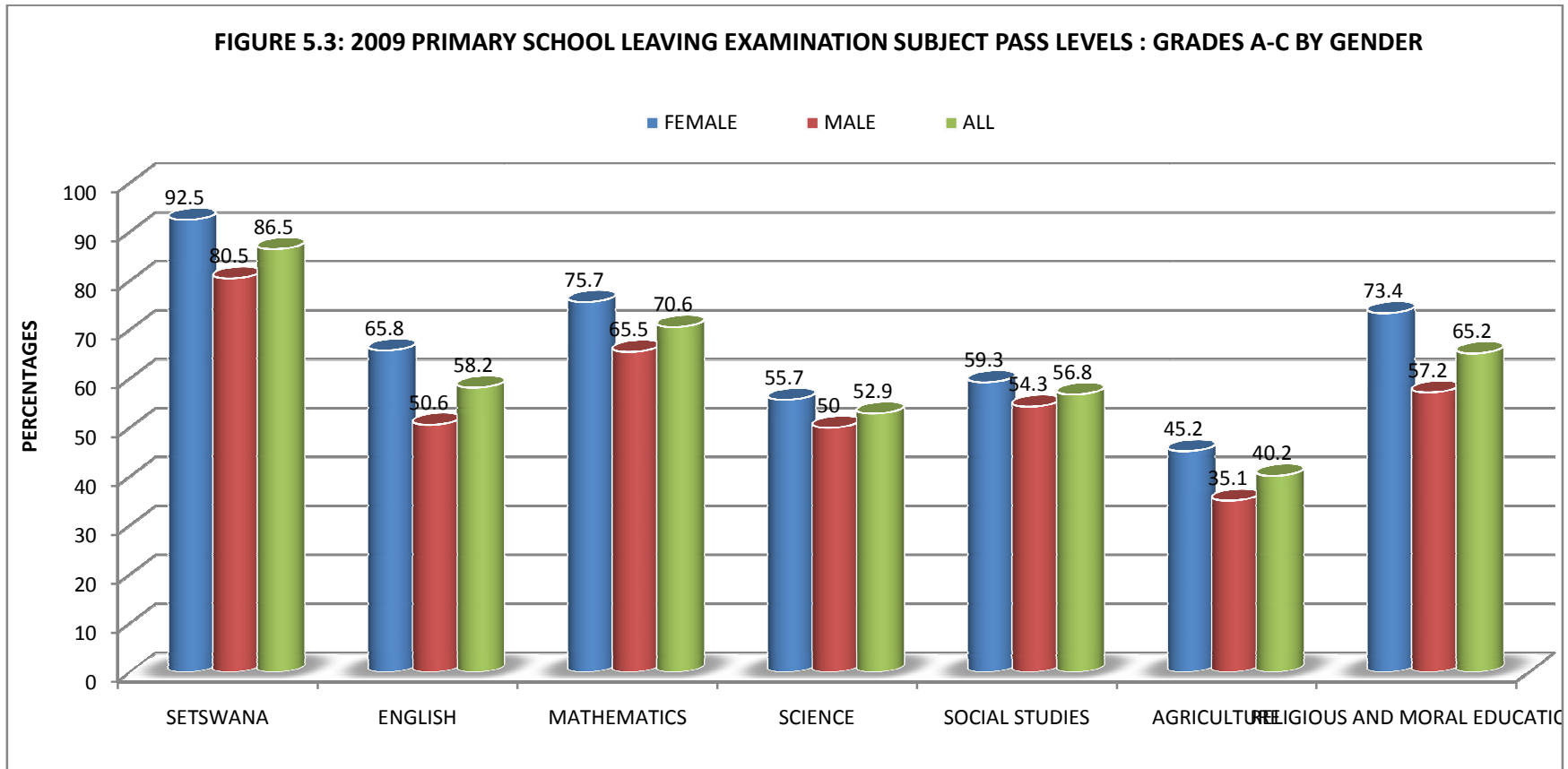
- ◆ The 2009 results show a general decline in subject grades A to C from the 2007 and 2008 results, except for Setswana, Mathematics and Moral Education. Setswana has shown a remarkable improvement of 8.2%.

5.0: PSLE PERFORMANCE BY GENDER





- ◆ The 2009 results show the girls performing better than the boys across all subjects. The pattern is consistent with both the 2007 and 2008 results.



◆ The 2009 PSLE subject results show that there are more girls obtaining grades A to C than boys. This pattern is consistent across all subjects though more pronounced in Setswana, English and Religious and Moral Education.

6.0 SUMMARY OF THE MESSAGE FROM THE 2008 PSLE RESULTS

- ◆ A total of 42217 candidates sat the 2009 PSLE compared to 41471 in 2008 and 41191 in 2007, representing an increase of 1.80% between 2008 and 2009.
- ◆ Overall, there is a decline in the percentage of candidates awarded grades A to C, with 68.2% in 2009 compared to 69.9% in 2008 and 72.9% in 2007.
- ◆ There is a general decline in performance in almost all councils except Jwaneng, Lobatse and Central.
- ◆ City and town councils perform better than district councils
- ◆ There is a decline in performance in English, Science, Social Studies and Agriculture
- ◆ Overall performance in Setswana, Mathematics and Religious and Moral Education has improved.
- ◆ Girls performed better than boys across all subjects.

7.0: ATTACHMENTS

ATTACHMENT 7.1: Interpretation of the 2009 PSLE Subjects Results

01. Setswana

Overall performance (A to C grades) in Setswana has increased from 78.3% in 2008 to 86.5%. Grades C or better for Dimension 1 (knowledge) increased from 73.6% in 2008 to 91.3%, dimension 2 (understanding) from 73.6% to 73.7% and dimension 3 (communication) 65.8% to 67.1%. Candidates still have challenges in dimension 3 – communication. This could be attributed to low performance in the following areas: originality, where candidates are supposed to build a story around the given guidelines; descriptive vocabulary; spelling; opening and closing salutations.

02. English

There is a decline in the percentage of candidates getting grade C or better in both dimensions. In dimension 1 (comprehension) the percentage was 22.0% in 2009 compared to 24.0% in 2008 and in dimension 2 (communication and language use), it was 46.8% compared to 55.5%. Overall there was still a decline with 58.2% getting grade A to C compared to 66.0% in 2008. However, there is evidence of low performance in the following areas; building a story around provided guidelines, proper formatting of the address and salutation in a formal letter, giving relevant details, using correct tense and varying sentences all of which would hamper effective communication.

03. Mathematics

There is an improvement in both dimensions with 61.8% candidates getting grade C or better in dimension 1 (knowledge and computation) compared to 57.1% in 2008 and 58.5% candidates getting grade C or better in dimension 2 (application and reasoning) compared to 49.7% in 2008. Overall, candidates getting C or better increased from 65.2% in 2008 to 70.6%.

04. Social Studies

There is a decrease in all the dimensions with 63.1% candidates getting grade C or better in dimension 1 (knowledge of facts) compared to 66.3% in 2008; 51.3% in dimension 2 (understanding of ideas) compared to 57.3% and 59.4% candidates getting grade C or better in dimension 3 (skills) compared to 62.5% in 2008. Overall, candidates getting grade C or better decreased from 61.9% in 2008 to 56.8%.

05. Agriculture

The 2009 Agriculture paper was made up of short answer and structured questions instead of multiple choice questions. This was the first this format was used. Overall 34.6% candidates obtained grade C or better compared to 71.0% in 2008.

06. Science

There was a decrease in the percentage of candidates getting grade C or better in dimensions 1 (knowledge) and 3 (application) with 30.3% in dimension 1 compared to 54.5% in 2008 and 48.2% in dimension 3 compared to 64.7% in 2008. However, in dimension 2 there was an increase with 78.8% getting grade C or better in 2009 compared to 74.2% in 2008. Overall, candidates getting C or better decreased from 65.1% in 2008 to 52.9%. The decrease could be attributed to the fact that the 2009 examination paper was more demanding than in 2008 .however it reflected the desired standard and was closely aligned to the curriculum objectives.

07. Religious and Moral Education

Candidates performed better in dimension 1 (knowledge) with 68.6% getting grade C or better compared with 47.7% in 2008. In dimension 2 (understanding), 35.5% obtained grade C or better compared with 55.9% in 2008. Overall there was a slight increase in the percentage of candidates getting grades A to C in 2009 compared to 2008; 65.4% and 62.2% respectively.