

## **KEY SKILLS COMMUNICATION (JUNE SERIES) 2006**

### **Chief Examiner's Report**

#### **Level 3**

Following the usual pattern the June series at Level 3 was taken by very few centres. The overall performance was average although the percentage of candidates from CCEA centres who achieved a pass grade, did exceed the percentage of candidates who achieved a pass grade nationally at Level 3.

Entry details showed a very narrow range of candidates and their results were varied. There were a few who performed well and demonstrated competence in the skills required at Level 3. Another small group of candidates made minimum effort and did not attempt the tasks beyond the first one or two, while the majority were bunched in the middle range. There was no evidence that timing was a problem in this series, and those who failed did so because they lacked the ability to focus on the appropriate information from the documents. In many instances they identified superficial facts and failed to recognise the main issues. These candidates were also characterised by their lifting of sizable extracts from the documents with little attempt at synthesis. A few candidates did not read questions carefully in order to understand their exact requirements. This resulted in partly answered questions and failure to focus on the questions' real demands.

The source booklet for the June series, contained three documents which were highly relevant and of obvious interest to candidates. This interest unfortunately led some candidates to write from their own experience rather than confine themselves to the documents. The level of language in the documents was appropriate in both content and length and was easily understood. Two of the documents contained images – one of which was a cartoon. Many seemed to struggle in their interpretation of the cartoon and resorted to simple description.

The test paper made the typical demands on candidates. In Section A, candidates were required to demonstrate ability in the higher order skills of reading and synthesising information from the documents. As usual, one question was based on the interpretation of images. In Section B, candidates were required to write an article for a magazine and were given clear guidelines about the required content. Some candidates produced well structured articles and followed the given guidelines carefully. Technical inaccuracy remains a cause of concern and of many lost marks.