



Remarks by Hon. Fayval Williams

Minister of Education, Youth and Information

At Press Conference on CSEC / CAPE 2021 Exams Results

9:00 a.m. October 18, 2021

Courtesies

I am pleased to share with you highlights from the results of secondary level external examinations sat in June / July this year and administered through the Offices of the Overseas Examination Commission.

1: Caribbean Advanced Proficiency Examination (CAPE) Results for 2021

The preliminary analysis report for All Jamaica (Public and Private Schools) 2021 Caribbean Advanced Proficiency Examination (CAPE) results showed that candidates were entered for one or more of the thirty-four (34) subjects that were tested in the 2021 CAPE exams.

Across the Sixth Form cohort, there was a total of **53,643** subject entries for Units 1 and 2. Of this number **48,702 (90.8%)** subject entries were sat, with **88.8%** being awarded **Grades 1-5**. These grades are

passing grades that are acceptable by tertiary and other institutions for further studies.

CAPE Unit 1 had a total of 37,416 subject entries, of which **33,861 (90.5%)** were sat. The percent of subject entries passed was **88.3%**. Of the 16,227 subject entries for Unit 2, a total of **14,841 (91.5%)** were sat. The percent of subject entries passed was **90%**.

Total No. Subject Entries	No. of Subject Entries Sat	% of Subject Entries Passed
Unit 1 - 37,416	33,861 (90.5%)	88.3%
Unit 2 - 16,227	14,841 (91.5%)	90.0%

The preliminary analysis report for All Public Schools – Subject Entries

Public schools accounted for 48,401 (90.3%) of the total subject entries for Units 1 and 2. Of this number **44,366 (91.7%)** subjects entries were sat. The per cent of subject entries passed was **89.6%**.

Unit 1 had a total of **33,444** subject entries, of which **30,592 (91.5%)** were sat. The per cent of subject entries passed was **89.2%**. Of the **14,957** subject entries for **Unit 2**, a total of **13,744 (91.9%)** were sat. The per cent of subject entries passed was **90.5%**.

Total No. Subject Entries	No. of Subject Entries Sat	% of Subject Entries Passed
Unit 1 – 33,444	30,592 (91.5%)	89.2%
Unit 2 – 14,957	13,744 (91.9%)	90.5%

We note that improved performances over the 2020 results in public schools were recorded in **five (5)** subjects namely Accounting, Animation and Game Design, Chemistry, Entrepreneurship and Physical Education and Sport.

Some 294 entries in all 34 subject areas for both Units were deferred, that is, these candidates would have decided not to sit the subjects in this examination period.

It should be noted that Performing Arts Unit 2, Music and Dance were not administered this year because of the pandemic.

Public Schools – Students

Some **12,234** students from public schools were entered for **Unit 1**, while **7,153** students were entered for **Unit 2**.

In Unit 1, **17** subject areas had greater than 90% of the students with passes. For one of those subjects, French, 100% of students who sat

got passes. The lowest percentage of students who passed was in Applied Mathematics. Only 47.3% of students had a passing grade.

Females outperformed males in most subject areas except Animation and Game Design, Applied Mathematics, Financial Services Studies, Green Engineering, Logistics and Supply Chain Operations Unit 1 and Spanish.

In Unit 2, **21** subject areas had greater than 90% of the students with passes. For four (4) subject areas, of the 21 subject areas, **100%** of the students who sat got passes. These were Animation and Game Design, Electrical and Electronic Engineering Technology Unit 2 (Option A), Performing Arts Unit 2 (Cinematic Arts) and Performing Arts (Drama). Sixty six per cent (66.0%) of the students who sat Logistics and Supply Chain Operations in Unit 2 had passes.

Similarly, to Unit 1, females outperformed males in most subjects except Applied Mathematics, Geography, History and Logistics and Supply Chain Operations Unit 2.

2: Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate (CSEC) Examination Results for 2021

For the June administration of the Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate (CSEC) Examination, a total of **30,188** students from public schools were registered to sit the examination, of which **27,789 (92.1%)** sat papers across 34 subjects ranging from Agricultural Science to Principles of Accounts.

Of those students who registered and sat exams in the 34 subject areas, **23,760 or 85.8%** received **Grades 1, 2 or 3 (which are passing grades)** in at least one subject.

Of the number of students who registered to sit the exams, **17,023 (56.4%)** were females and **13,165 (43.6%)** males. The number of females who actually sat was 16,075 (94.4%) with **13,992 (87.0%)** awarded Grades 1-3 in one or more subjects while the number of males who sat was **11,714, (89%)** from which **9,768 (83.4%)** obtained Grades 1-3 in one or more subjects.

Subject Entries

Across our cohort of CSEC students in both public and private schools, there were **172,927** subject entries of which **155,735** or 90% were sat. Some **5,509 (3%)** subject entries were deferred.

The **six (6)** subjects with the highest percentage of the students who passed with Grades 1, 2, or 3 are the following:

Subjects	% of students who passed with Grades 1,2 or 3
Agricultural Science Double Award	94.7%
Agricultural Science Single Award	87.1%
Food, Nutrition and Health	88.1%
Information Technology	85.6%
Physical Education and Sport	89.9%
Textiles, Clothing and Fashion	86.8%

A slightly higher percentage of males achieved Grades 1 - 3 passes in four (4) subjects than did females. These are Agricultural Science Double Award , Economics, , French , and Principles of Business.

Subjects	% of Males with Grades 1 – 3 Passes	% of Females with Grades 1 – 3 Passes
Agricultural Science Double Award	94.9%	94.5%
Economics	66.3%	65.3%

French	65.2%	64.0%
Principles of Business	80.8%	80.4%

Mathematics and English Language

In our public schools, **Mathematics** continue to be a big challenge. Only 38.2% of our students had a passing grade of 1, 2, or 3.

Subjects	% of students with passing grade of 1, 2, or 3
Mathematics	38.2%
English Language	73.3%
Integrated Science	57.2%
Chemistry	58.5%
Physics	61.7%
Human and Social Biology	64.2%
Biology	71.6%

In the All Jamaica total, which includes private schools, **46, 010** candidates were registered to sit the examination, of which **27, 679 (60.2%)** were females and **18, 331 (39.8%)** were males. Of those who

entered, **41, 266 (89.7%)** students sat, of which **32, 548 (78.9%)** received **Grades 1-3** in at least one subject.

Subject Entries

The results showed 205,451 subject entries, of which **182,176 (88.7%)** were sat. Of the total entries sat, 117,844 or 64.7% were awarded Grades 1-3. Mathematics and English Language, with the largest numbers of entries and sittings, had 34.8% and 71.1% of students with passing grades respectively.

Comparison – 2021 vs 2020

This year's results in comparison to that of last year showed improved performances in **seven (7)** subjects namely Agricultural Science (Double Award), Human & Social Biology, Integrated Science, Music, Textiles, Clothing & Fashion, Theatre Arts and Visual Arts. This means that in twenty seven (27) subjects, the results were similar to or less than that of 2020.

In the very important subjects, one of which is English A (Language), for this year, 73.3% of the students had passes of Grades 1, 2 and 3 compared with 83.9% in 2020 and 82.8% in 2019.

In Mathematics, the subject with the greatest weakness, 38.2% of students had passes of Grades 1, 2 and 3 in 2021 compared with 61.2% in 2020, 54.6% in 2019.

To address the performance gaps, especially in the areas of numeracy and literacy, the **National School Learning and Intervention Plan (NSLIP)** augmented by our specialist teacher model will address the foundational principles and improved readiness of our students to pursue the CXC syllabi. Currently we have assigned a team of 83 persons - 50 primary Math Coaches, 19 secondary Math Coaches and 14 Math Specialists, who continue to provide support remotely and physically to 158 primary schools and 72 secondary schools in the area of numeracy/mathematics. In so doing, the team is engaged in the following activities that we believe will redound to recovery in the ensuing academic year:

SUPPORT ACTIVITY	NUMBER FACILITATED For Week ended Oct 15, 2021
Virtual PTA Meetings	2
Pull – Out Sessions	3 (9 students)
Lesson Observations	222
Teacher Workshops	21 (172 participants)
Student Workshops	9 (119 participants)
Demonstration Lessons	18
Co-Planning Sessions	95

SUPPORT ACTIVITY	NUMBER FACILITATED For Week ended Oct 15, 2021
Co-Teaching	21
Department Planning Sessions	39
Principal Consultations	141
Teacher Consultations	453
QEC Engagements	15

We have high hurdles to clear this academic year but we are working to ensure that our students are not stymied in the pursuit of their education and career goals.

I want to commend all the students who persevered and did their examinations under very trying and challenging circumstances this year. I also want to encourage those who may not have done as well as they would have liked to look for opportunities that will contribute to improved performance.

This year in particular we must thank all our teachers for their hard work as well as the parents who supported the students in their academic pursuits.

With the formal launch of the **Sixth Form Pathways Programme**, all our students will now have the opportunity to continue their education in one of three pathways: Traditional (CAPE), Technical and General. This will allow for both advance and remedial work to be done to increase the life certification rate and the chances of our students.

We appeal to all our students and their parents to visit their high schools and register in the **Sixth Form Pathways Programme**. We have spaces in our high schools for face to face (when this is possible), online learning or a hybrid approach to support all our students. We have also reserved spaces in our tertiary institutions for access to the **Sixth Form Pathways programme** to include the pursuit of Occupational Associate Degrees (OADs) and other Associate Degrees that are accredited by the Council of Community Colleges of Jamaica (CCCJ) and the University Council of Jamaica (UCJ).

Whilst these are ongoing, we call on all stakeholders– students, teachers, principals, parents, past students’ associations, parent teachers association among others, to play their part to support the Ministry’s thrust to attain quality outcomes for all.

Thank you.

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