Statistics

Table 1: MATSEC Advanced Level Accounting, May 2010
Distribution of Grades

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grades</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>D</th>
<th>E</th>
<th>F</th>
<th>Absent</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No. of candidates</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>161</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>153</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>622</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Paper 1

Question 1
This first question in Section A, carrying 28 marks, tested the candidates’ knowledge regarding correction of errors through journal entries to enable the drawing up of final accounts. It was, by far, the preferred question in Section A and was attempted by 95% of the candidates. The candidates who chose this question showed a fair understanding of the topic and the average mark obtained was 49%.

Question 2
Question 2 tested the application of accounting concepts and IFRS's. Only 3% of the candidates opted for this question in Section A and the overall average mark of 32% was low and indicates that candidates are not very well prepared in this area.

Question 3
This question which focused on manufacturing with transfer pricing was the most popular question attempted by 89% of the candidates. The overall average mark of 61% is the highest for this paper and indicates that students were very well prepared on this topic.

Question 4
This question tested the candidates’ knowledge of using accounting ratios to arrive at missing figures in the context of incomplete records. Another favourite topic attempted by 81% of the candidates. The average mark was 55%, indicating a fair understanding of the topic.

Question 5
This question focused on accounting for fixed assets, depreciation and disposal of non current assets. 75% of the candidates attempted this question and the average overall mark of 51% is satisfactory.

Question 6
The last question of Paper 1 dealt with accounting ratios and their interpretation. As in previous years, this was the least favourite question attempted by only 47% of the candidates. The low average mark of 38% implies that even the candidates who opted for this question were not well prepared in this topic.
Paper 2

Question 1
The first question of Section A tested cash budgets. It was the preferred question of Section A and was attempted by 63% of the candidates. Candidates seemed well prepared in this area and the average mark was 57%.

Question 2
The second question of Section A was attempted by 40% of the candidates. This question tested the candidates’ knowledge of marginal costings including break even activity and margin of safety. The average overall mark was only 40%.

Question 3
The third question of Paper 2 required candidates to draw up actual and budget results and analyse the resulting differences. Variance analysis, especially material and labour, is usually a favourite topic with candidates who tend to be better prepared for questions with a structured format. However, the overall average mark for this question was only 42% and this may be attributed to the fact that the layout differed slightly from previous sittings.

Question 4
Question 4 was the preferred question in this paper and tested candidates on overhead absorption, another favourite topic with the candidates as it is usually examined in a structured way. The question was attempted by 91% of the candidates and the relatively high average mark of 62% implies that they are very well prepared for the topic and the layout.

Question 5
Question 5 was the least attempted question and also the one with the lowest average mark. Only 35% of the candidates answered this question, which tested the candidates’ knowledge on decision making - a topic which can be tested in various ways. The average mark was a poor 36% which indicates inadequate preparation and/or understanding of this topic especially when more thinking has to be applied when answering the question.

Question 6
The last question of Paper 2 covered the topic of process costing. Since this is another area where the approach does not vary much, it was a favourite and attempted by 89% of the candidates. The overall average mark of 59% is very satisfactory.