

ABSTRACT

An Examination of The Performance Characteristics of Boys and Girls From a Sample of Secondary Schools In Barbados Writing The Caribbean Examinations Council General Proficiency Examination (Paper 2) 1988 in Mathematics.

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This study is an attempt to find out why students are underachieving in Mathematics, to assist teachers in overcoming this problem, and to find out if there is justification for the consistently poor annual ratings of students by the Caribbean Examinations Council (CXC) Reports.

Scripts of three hundred students, 141 boys and 159 girls from six Secondary Schools, two Older and four Newer, referred to as Schools A, B, C, D, E and F were examined to find out possible factors leading to the receipt of low grades in the Caribbean Examinations Council General Proficiency Examination (Paper 2). Answers to seven questions were examined to identify candidates' strengths and weaknesses with a view to assisting teachers in their future planning.

The results of the study showed that the low grades were most likely the result of errors due to carelessness, misconceptions and inaccurate computation. Other features such as failure to answer questions and to

carry out instructions were also prominent. The boys seemed, on the whole to perform better than the girls, but the difference was not great.