

examination has served a very useful purpose in diverting the thoughts of pupils and teachers towards other than the fairly narrow range of former examination subjects. The increasing number of candidates is throwing an ever-greater burden on the Department, which must arrange for the examination of great numbers of candidates in a wide range of subjects in many centres, and which is expected to produce a pass list as early as possible in the New Year. The whole examination procedure, from the Department's point of view, is a remarkable piece of detailed organization.

The numbers of candidates for the examination in 1948 and 1949 are given below :—

A. *Subjects Closely Associated with Core Syllabus—*

	1948.	1949.
English	8,369	8,846
History	4,721	4,838
Geography	4,769	5,279
Mathematics	3,920	4,087
General science	1,747	1,899

B. *Fine Arts Subjects—*

Drawing and design	982	1,003
Music	197	244
Embroidery	49	39

C. *Science Subjects—*

Applied mechanics	255	255
Biology	1,579	1,896
Chemistry	2,737	2,636
Electricity and magnetism	621	668
Heat, light, and sound	132	138
Physiology and hygiene (in 1949, human biology)	360	456

D. *Agricultural Subjects—*

General agriculture	307	311
Animal husbandry	117	109
Dairying	147	138
Horticulture	90	138

E. *Trades and Industrial Subjects—*

Engineering shopwork	249	246
Heat engines	38	21
Technical drawing	491	493
Technical electricity	140	111
Woodwork	212	214

F. *Home-course Subjects—*

Homecraft	448	531
Clothing	605	660

G. *Commercial Subjects—*

Commercial practice	808	1,005
Book-keeping	1,166	1,305
Shorthand and typewriting	368	457

H. *Foreign Languages—*

French	2,763	2,812
German	29	25
Greek	1	11
Latin	1,004	1,091
Maori	117	143

In all there were 9,352 candidates in 1949 and 8,592 in 1948. It will be seen that there is little change in many subjects, but where there is an upward tendency it is found in the newer subjects.