

# **The predictive validity of public examinations: A case study of Nigeria**

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This study determined the extent to which candidates' scores obtained from public examinations conducted by the West African Examination Council (WASSCE), National Examinations Council (SSCE), National Business and Technical Examination Board (NBCE/NTCE) and the Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board (UME) predicted academic achievement of those candidates' university degree examinations. The study also developed structural models for predicting the university academic achievement.

Scores in public examinations were obtained from a random sample of 4904 candidates in 22 Nigerian universities that satisfied certain predetermined criteria. In addition, the candidates' academic records were obtained from these universities in eight core disciplines. The forward inclusion multiple linear regression analysis was used to analyze these data. The study revealed that there were low but positive correlations ( $0.12 \leq r \leq 0.30$ ) respectively between performance in public examinations and students' academic performance. In general, public examinations were poor predictors of students' university academic achievement.