

In last year's report the School Certificate subjects were grouped in eight sections, and the number of candidates in each subject was given. This arrangement is again followed, and the numbers of candidates in 1947 and 1948 are both given :—

A. Subjects Closely Associated With Core Syllabus—

	1947.	1948.
English	8,447	8,369
History	5,362	4,721
Geography	4,767	4,769
Mathematics	4,035	3,920
General science	1,774	1,747

B. Fine Arts Subjects—

Drawing and design	1,081	982
Music	175	197
Embroidery	23	49

C. Science Subjects—

Applied mechanics	241	255
Biology	1,305	1,579
Chemistry	2,887	2,737
Electricity and magnetism	615	621
Heat, light, and sound	150	132
Physiology and hygiene	305	360

D. Agricultural Subjects—

General agriculture	370	307
Animal husbandry	90	117
Dairying	150	147
Horticulture	60	90

E. Trades and Industrial Subjects—

Engineering-shop work	222	249
Heat engines	35	38
Technical drawing	458	491
Technical electricity	130	140
Woodwork	187	212

F. Home-course Subjects—

Homecraft	453	448
Clothing	599	605

G. Commercial Subjects—

Commercial practice	632	808
Book-keeping	1,211	1,166
Shorthand and typewriting	351	368

H. Foreign Languages—

French	2,904	2,763
German	32	29
Greek	1	1
Latin	1,002	1,004
Maori	88	117

In all there were 8,592 candidates in 1948 and 8,706 in 1947. 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.

The fact that 360 candidates offered physiology and hygiene shows that there is a definite desire to retain such a subject in the list of options for examination. With a revised prescription, it becomes human biology from 1949.

Although the number of pupils taking languages for School Certificate has shown little change since last year it is considered that the general position of foreign language teaching has improved. The number of pupils taking French in junior forms has increased,