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The Influence of Gender on Secondary School Students' Academic Performance in South-West, Nigeria

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ABSTRACT This study investigated the influence of gender on secondary schools students' academic performance in South-West, Nigeria. The results of 2003/2004 to 2007/2008 West African School Certificate Examinations (WASCE) were collected on English Language, Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Economics, Geography, Government, Yoruba, Christian Religious Studies and French from 10 Secondary Schools selected from 5 States in Nigeria. The samples consisted of 2,305 students. Stratified random sampling was used to select 2 schools from each state. Purposive sampling was used to collect the WASCE results of students sampled. Chi-Square was used to test the 5 hypotheses raised. The study revealed that male and female students performed equally in English language. Males performed better than females in Mathematics, Science and Social Science while females also did better than males in Arts except in Yoruba. It was, therefore, recommended that necessary materials/equipment should be provided to make Mathematics, Science and Social Science interesting to girls, French and Christian Religious Studies encouraging to boys.