



# EDUCATION FACT SHEET - GHANA

## IN BRIEF

Ghanaian Population: 34 million (2023)

Ghana size: 238, 533 sq km

National Curriculum: Yes

Literacy Rate: 80.38%  
(1.34% increase from 2018)



Years of public school: 12 (6 primary, 6 secondary)



### Language of Instruction: English

(although in the first years of primary education, the most common indigenous language of each region is used)



High school leaving exams:

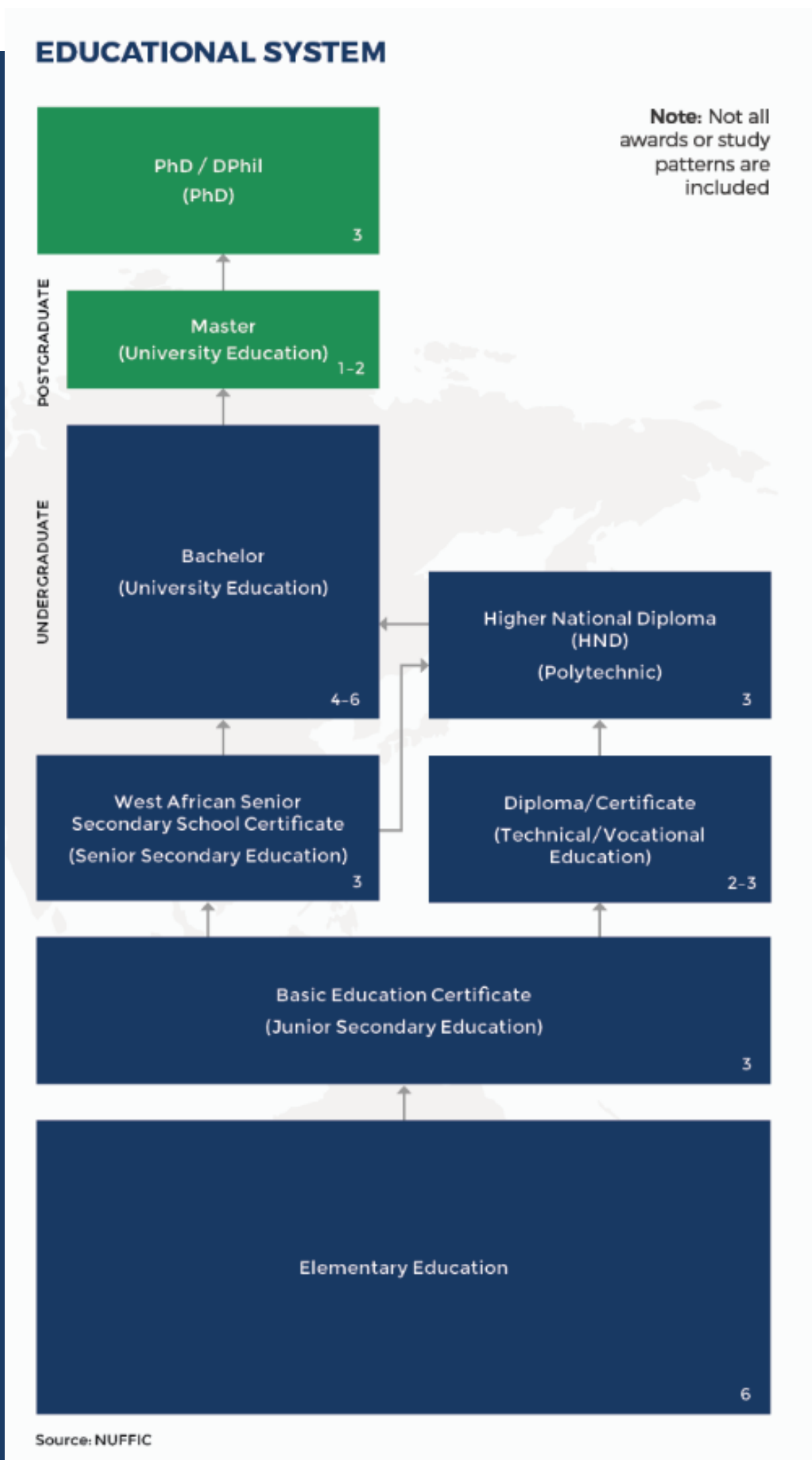
West African Senior School Certificate Examination (WASSCE), which is considered below the A-level standard.

Date of exams: April/May



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## EDUCATION OVERVIEW



Binary structure with universities on one hand and polytechnics on the other hand, with a 6+3+3+4 structure. Education is compulsory between the ages of 6 and 15. The academic year runs from August to May inclusive. Basic Education in Ghana is 11 years made up of 2 years of Kindergarten, 6 years of Primary School, and 3 years of Junior High School (JHS). Language of Instruction: English (In the first years of primary education, the most common indigenous language of each region is used.)

After JHS, students may choose to go into different streams at Senior High School (SHS), comprising General Education and Technical, Vocational, and Agricultural and Training (TVET) or enter into an apprenticeship scheme with some support from the Government.



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## CURRICULUM AND EXAMINATION

### **Pre-School Curriculum:**

Reading  
Writing  
Environmental Studies  
Natural Science

### **Primary School Curriculum:**

English Language  
Mathematics  
Natural Science  
Citizenship Education  
Environmental Studies  
Creative Arts

### **Junior High School Curriculum:**

English Language  
Mathematics  
Integrated Science  
Social Studies  
Pre-Technical Skills (Basic Design Technology and Home Economics)  
Ghanaian language  
ICT

### **Basic School (Primary School and Junior High School) leaving exams:**

#### Basic Education Certification Examination (BACE)

The Ghana national exam happens in June and determines children's admission to Senior High Schools and Technical Institutes. Results come out in August.



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## ISSUES WITH THE EDUCATION SYSTEM

Despite reforms, Ghana's education system faces challenges such as poor infrastructure, overcrowded classrooms, inadequate furniture, lack of sanitation facilities, insufficient teaching and learning materials, limited access for some students, and inadequate resources for disabled children. Consequently, many students fail to complete primary or secondary education, with girls and rural students being disproportionately affected.

In Ghana, lower education rates are directly linked to higher incidences of childhood marriage, teen pregnancy, HIV/AIDS infection rates, and continued poverty, particularly for women and girls in rural areas.

Unfortunately, nearly a third of students enrolled in Ghanaian schools do not complete primary school and only 47% complete secondary school.

Children from more affluent families are more likely to complete the highest levels of education, as compared to children from the poorest families. For example, UNICEF said 71% of children from the wealthiest homes complete the highest level of education, but only 9% of children from the poorest families achieve the same result.

Girls from the poorest families on average obtain 4 years of education, while girls from the wealthiest obtain 13 years.



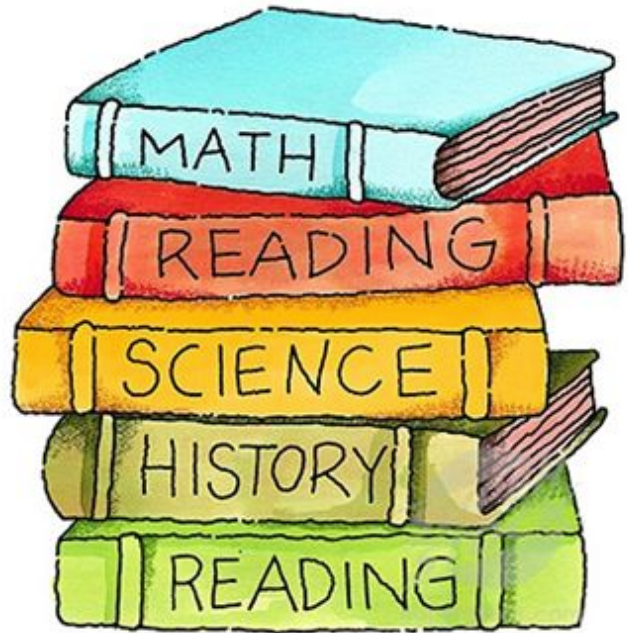
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## MISCELLANEOUS

### 2023 Academic Calendar for KG/PRIMARY AND JHS

LEVEL	FIRST TERM				SECOND TERM				THIRD TERM		
	IN SCHOOL		VACATION		IN SCHOOL		VACATION		IN SCHOOL		VACATION
JHS 3	10 <sup>th</sup> Jan. 2023	6 <sup>th</sup> April, 2023	7 <sup>th</sup> April, 2023	17 <sup>th</sup> April, 2023	18 <sup>th</sup> April, 2023	13 <sup>th</sup> July, 2023	14 <sup>th</sup> July, 2023	24 <sup>th</sup> July, 2023	25 <sup>th</sup> July, 2023	BECE IN SEPT/OCT. 2023	END OF ACADEMIC YEAR
KG - JHS 2	10 <sup>th</sup> Jan. 2023	6 <sup>th</sup> April, 2023	7 <sup>th</sup> April, 2023	17 <sup>th</sup> April, 2023	18 <sup>th</sup> April, 2023	13 <sup>th</sup> July, 2023	14 <sup>th</sup> July, 2023	24 <sup>th</sup> July, 2023	25 <sup>th</sup> July, 2023	12 <sup>th</sup> Oct. 2023	END OF ACADEMIC YEAR

Please note that the Academic calendar for KG/Primary and JHS is subject to change each year.



**Thank you for reading!**

