

Kenyan Sign Language (504) is examined in the following three papers.

**Paper 1 (504/1) KSL Receptive Signing Skills** – This paper is video based. The paper tests the receptive signing skills of the candidates using a signed story, signed sentences and finger-spelt words and concepts.

**Paper 2 (504/2) KSL Language Use** -This paper tests KSL Grammar and the functional and creative language use of candidates in KSL. Candidates respond by writing in KSL sentence structures.

**Paper 504/3 Expressive Signing Skills** - This paper tests the practical /expressive signing skills of the candidates in KSL. A team of three assessors rate each candidate using a Language Proficiency Interview (LPI) rating scale.

### 3.6.1 Candidates' General Performance

The table below shows the performance of candidates in KSL 2012-2021

*Table 15: Candidates overall performance in KSL in 2012 - 2021*

Year	Paper	Candidature	Maximum Score	Mean Score	Standard Deviation
2012	504/1	224	35	19.58	7.48
	504/2		25	11.36	4.41
	504/3		40	30.16	3.86
	<b>Overall</b>		<b>100</b>	<b>60.96</b>	<b>14.05</b>
2013	504/1	235	35	19.60	7.73
	504/2		25	12.08	4.54
	504/3		40	28.90	3.97
	<b>Overall</b>		<b>100</b>	<b>60.58</b>	<b>13.26</b>
2014	504/1	323	35	19.06	8.17
	504/2		25	9.23	5.41
	504/3		40	29.03	3.94
	<b>Overall</b>		<b>100</b>	<b>57.26</b>	<b>15.26</b>
2015	504/1	391	35	16.11	8.31
	504/2		25	7.65	4.4
	504/3		40	26.61	5.02
	<b>Overall</b>		<b>100</b>	<b>50.37</b>	<b>15.38</b>
2016	504/1	420	35	16.65	7.0
	504/2		25	10.1	4.13
	504/3		40	27.23	4.21
	<b>Overall</b>		<b>100</b>	<b>53.98</b>	<b>12.78</b>
2017	504/1	459	35	16.42	7.33
	504/2		25	11.22	4.55
	504/3		40	28.31	4.47
	<b>Overall</b>		<b>100</b>	<b>55.94</b>	<b>14.25</b>



Year	Paper	Candidature	Maximum Score	Mean Score	Standard Deviation
2018	504/1	491	35	19.1	7.2
	504/2		25	9.6	4.95
	504/3		40	26.99	4.75
	<b>Overall</b>		<b>100</b>	<b>55.69</b>	<b>14.75</b>
2019	504/1	628	35	13	6.6
	504/2		25	6	3.2
	504/3		40	27	4.8
	<b>Overall</b>		<b>100</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>14.6</b>
2020	504/1	624	35	16.7	7.79
	504/2		25	8.08	4.93
	504/3		40	28.15	4.88
	<b>Overall</b>		<b>100</b>	<b>52.85</b>	<b>14.46</b>
2021	504/1	704	35	19.38	7.59
	504/2	711	25	11.40	4.90
	504/3	710	40	28.79	4.66
	<b>Overall</b>		<b>100</b>	<b>59.35</b>	<b>14.74</b>

The following observations can be made from the table above:

- (i) The candidature for this paper slightly increased from 624 in 2020 to 711 in 2021.
- (ii) The overall Subject Mean slightly improved in 2021 with a good standard deviation of 14.74 and a mean of 59.35.

### 3.6.1 KSL Paper 1 (504/1) Receptive Signing skills I

In 2021, this paper assessed the candidate's ability to receive signed information and respond to the questions in writing. The signed story was based on the importance of good health. Candidates were expected to observe the signed story answer questions correctly to indicate comprehension of signed information. The signed sentences drew concepts from various thematic areas while the finger-spelt words had a wide range of vocabulary expected for the level. Time for candidates to answer the questions is provided for in the Examination DVD. This paper carries a maximum of 35 Marks.

#### Weaknesses

Some of the candidates could not comprehend the importance of good health as signed; the promoters of good health and the factors that could hurt our health. In some cases, they mixed up the answers to the questions asked. Under the signed sentences section, most candidates did not follow the correct KSL word order when rewriting the sentences. Some candidates omitted key vocabulary and instead gave different words for signs used misrepresenting the signed information. Some candidates wrote incomplete sentences implying they have low vocabulary levels for comprehension. The finger-spelling section was well done by most of the candidates. Some omitted or added extra letters to the spelling rendering the responses incorrect. Poor use of punctuation was noted under this section by some candidates.



The teachers are guided to exposed students to more signed information by providing many opportunities to students to watch signed KSL information to enhance the acquisition of fluent receptive signing skills. Teachers should ensure that students have a wide range of vocabulary in various contexts. Students need to practice more with signed sentences in KSL sentence structures. Practice more of finger-spelling to improve on the student’s receptive signing skills. Avoid using glossed passages for such practice. Sign language is a visual language and teachers are advised to ensure they develop the receptive skills of their students.

**3.6.2 KSL Paper 2 (504/2) KSL Grammar and Language Use**

The paper had 2 sections:

**Section A:** The candidates were required to gloss a story ending in the given sentence or writing about a day they were very sick. (10 marks).

**Section B:** The candidates understanding of KSL Grammar and language use for various purposes was tested (15 marks). This paper carries a maximum of **25 marks**.

In 2021, this paper was poorly performed by the candidates.

**Table 16 below summarise the weaknesses and pieces of advice to teachers**

Section	Weakness	Advice to teachers
Composition writing on a sad event / sick day	Most candidates did not get the correct tense and KSL sentence structures. Poor use of punctuation is still noted in most candidates work	Teachers to teach the correct KSL sentence structures to use in a variety of moods.  More practice to be done on the use of punctuation of glossed work.
KSL Grammar and Language Use	It was noted that questions that tested candidates ability to apply knowledge on elements of a sign by describing the elements as used in a single sign given  Most candidates could not punctuate the sentences given. Short pause (/) not well used.  Hyphen not well used.  Changing the tense in sentences was poorly done.  Identifying illustrated signs and use them in a crossword puzzle was poorly done.	Emphasise on the importance of all elements of a sign in sign recognition.  Practice with them how to identify different elements of various signs correctly.  Teachers should guide the learners on the use various punctuation marks as used in glossing KSL sentences.  Teach the tenses of KSL.



Section	Weakness	Advice to teachers
Reading Glossed passages	Candidates gave incomplete sentences, some were lifting sentences from the passage given indicating poor comprehension.	More reading comprehension practice using well glossed passages should be given to the students. Use the strategies of enhancing reading comprehension to help candidates comprehend written information.

### 3.6.3 Paper 3 (504/3) Expressive Signing Skills

The paper consisted of language proficiency interview with the candidates on contemporary topic and a picture given for the candidate to choose **one** and sign about. This paper carries a maximum of **40** marks.

#### Weaknesses

Like it was noted in 2020, the candidates of 2021 preferred to sign on the picture story than on contemporary issues. However, some exhibited the lack of creativity as they signed out their responses to the assessors.

#### Advice to teachers

Teachers are advised to use pertinent and contemporary issues in their society to practice the expressive signing skills of the students. Encourage the candidates to engage the assessors with questions that will show the development of their own creativity in expressive language skills.