



Checkpoint Report Bermuda 2023-2025

April 2026

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Executive Summary

The Cambridge Checkpoint tests are tests of knowledge and skills based on the Cambridge Primary and Lower Secondary Curriculum Frameworks. The standards for these tests are set using criterion referencing. This means a candidate's performance is measured against standards predetermined by Cambridge rather than against other candidates. Findings in this report are based on the Checkpoint results from Bermudian Checkpoint entries for each series (typically around 150–240 candidates per subject/level) from 2023 to 2025. This supports descriptive commentary on overall patterns in mean scores and performance bands over time. However, small year-on-year changes should be interpreted with caution, as they may reflect normal cohort variation, changes in entry, and normal measurement variation as well as real shifts in attainment. Strand-level findings provide additional detail within the same entry.

Overall Checkpoint performance shows relatively stable proportions at the highest performance levels of 'High' and 'Outstanding' across all subjects. Primary and Lower Secondary English consistently demonstrates strong outcomes, with mean scores remaining comparatively high and a greater proportion of candidates achieving strong performance bands. This is followed by Lower Secondary Science, which also features relatively high mean scores compared with Mathematics and Primary Science. A gradual decline in mean scores is observed in multiple subjects, with notable exceptions in Lower Secondary English, Lower Secondary Mathematics, and Primary Science.

Analysis of performance bands indicates that English maintains a stable proportion of high-achieving learners, particularly at Lower Secondary level, while Mathematics and Science have seen a growing share of candidates in lower performance bands. This shift is associated with an increase in candidates classified as 'Unclassified' or 'Basic', alongside relatively stable proportions at the highest performance levels, with a corresponding contraction of middle-band performance.

Strand-level analysis highlights persistent strengths in 'Reading' in both Primary and Lower Secondary English, demonstrating candidates' strong reading competencies. Solid performance is also observed in 'Statistics and Probability' and 'Thinking and Working Mathematically' in Primary and Lower Secondary Mathematics, and in 'Biology', 'Earth and Space' and 'Thinking and Working Scientifically' in Primary and Lower Secondary Science. Candidates' performance is slightly weaker in 'Writing' in English. Other patterns include uneven performance across Mathematics strands over time, and comparatively lower outcomes in Primary Science 'Chemistry'. Lower Secondary Science remains more balanced across strands but also shows a gradual reduction in the proportion of higher performance bands over time.

In summary, the findings suggest relatively stable performance over the period of 2023–2025, with English showing particularly strong and consistent performance. However, there is increasing performance polarisation in Mathematics and Sciences, which is associated with a slight decline in overall performance. Differences between subjects may warrant further review, and some strand-specific areas may benefit from targeted support.

1 Introduction

- 1.1** The Cambridge Checkpoint tests are tests of knowledge and skills based on the learning objectives within the Cambridge Primary and Lower Secondary Curriculum Frameworks. They are diagnostic tests, intended to give learners and teachers comprehensive feedback on learner strengths and weaknesses in the core subject areas of English, English as a Second Language, Mathematics and Science. The Cambridge Checkpoint results allow schools and school authorities to:
- tailor individual learning programmes;
 - manage learning programmes as learners move between schools;
 - monitor group and individual performance;
 - compare the performance of all the learners taking the tests in that series.
- 1.2** As of May 2023, Cambridge transitioned the reporting of Checkpoint scores from a scale of 0 to 6.0 to a new scale from 0 to 50. The focus of this report is on the performances of Bermudian learners between 2023 and 2025 when the new performance scale was used. The performance of learners between 2013 to 2022 is provided in the Appendix.
- 1.3** The data provided covers three Checkpoint subjects entered by centres in Bermuda; English, Mathematics and Science at both Primary Level and Lower Secondary Level.
- 1.4** Cambridge Checkpoint marks are converted into a standardised scale of achievement running from 0 to 50, with 0 being the lowest possible score and 50 the highest. These scores are then converted into Performance Bands representing learners' knowledge, skills and understanding of the curriculum content: Unclassified (0), Basic (1-10), Aspiring (11-20), Good (21-30), High (31-40) and Outstanding (41-50). As part of the grading process, the checkpoint thresholds for conversion of raw marks to the standardised scoring uses criteria referencing to set the standards.
- 1.5** Cambridge Checkpoint reports are typically provided for schools and individual students. We are pleased to support Bermuda's Department of Education's use of the test data, particularly as the reports have been used to focus supportive activity and resources on specific areas of improvement rather than for the purposes of accountability, for which the tests and testing schedules are not designed or best suited. This report provides a descriptive analysis of the Bermudian Checkpoint entry for May 2023–May 2025. Entry sizes for each subject/level are typically around 150–240 candidates per series, which is sufficient for describing overall patterns in mean scores and performance band distributions over time. However, small year-on-year differences should be interpreted with caution and in context, as they may reflect cohort effects, changes in the profile of candidates entered, and normal measurement variation as well as real shifts in attainment. Strand-level findings provide additional detail within the same entry.
- 1.6** Cambridge Checkpoint test scores represent a consistent standard from year to year, and across the subjects in the Curriculum Frameworks. The Department should, therefore, be able to make longitudinal comparisons over successive years using the data from the Bermudian entry.

2 Overall Mean Subject Scores 2023-2025

This section of the report considers the Checkpoint mean score by subject and by Checkpoint series. Table 1 shows the number of entries per subject in 2023-2025.

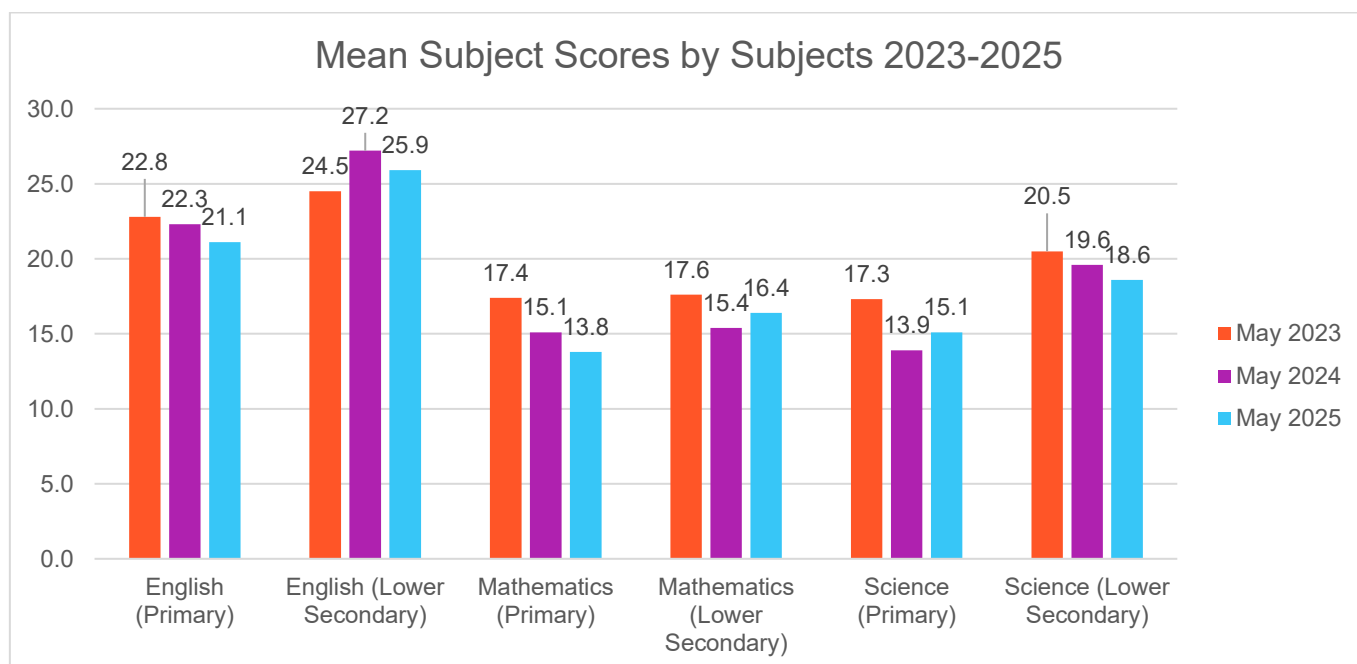
Checkpoint report, Bermuda 2026 (continued)

Table 1: Bermudian schools' entries in Cambridge Checkpoint **Primary** and Cambridge Checkpoint **Lower Secondary**, May 2023 to May 2025

Year	Subject (Level)	Entries
May 2023	English (Lower Secondary)	177
	Mathematics (Lower Secondary)	175
	Science (Lower Secondary)	203
	English (Primary)	237
	Mathematics (Primary)	232
	Science (Primary)	239
May 2024	English (Lower Secondary)	161
	Mathematics (Lower Secondary)	159
	Science (Lower Secondary)	187
	English (Primary)	233
	Mathematics (Primary)	235
	Science (Primary)	235
May 2025	English (Lower Secondary)	157
	Mathematics (Lower Secondary)	149
	Science (Lower Secondary)	194
	English (Primary)	213
	Mathematics (Primary)	214
	Science (Primary)	215

Chart 1 shows the mean Checkpoint score by individual subject and level across series.

Chart 1: Bermudian schools' mean scores by subjects in Cambridge Checkpoint **Primary** and Cambridge Checkpoint **Lower Secondary**, May 2023 to May 2025 (all scores rounded)



2.1 The chart shows that candidates perform consistently well in Primary and Lower Secondary English, with mean scores above 20, compared with Mathematics and Science.

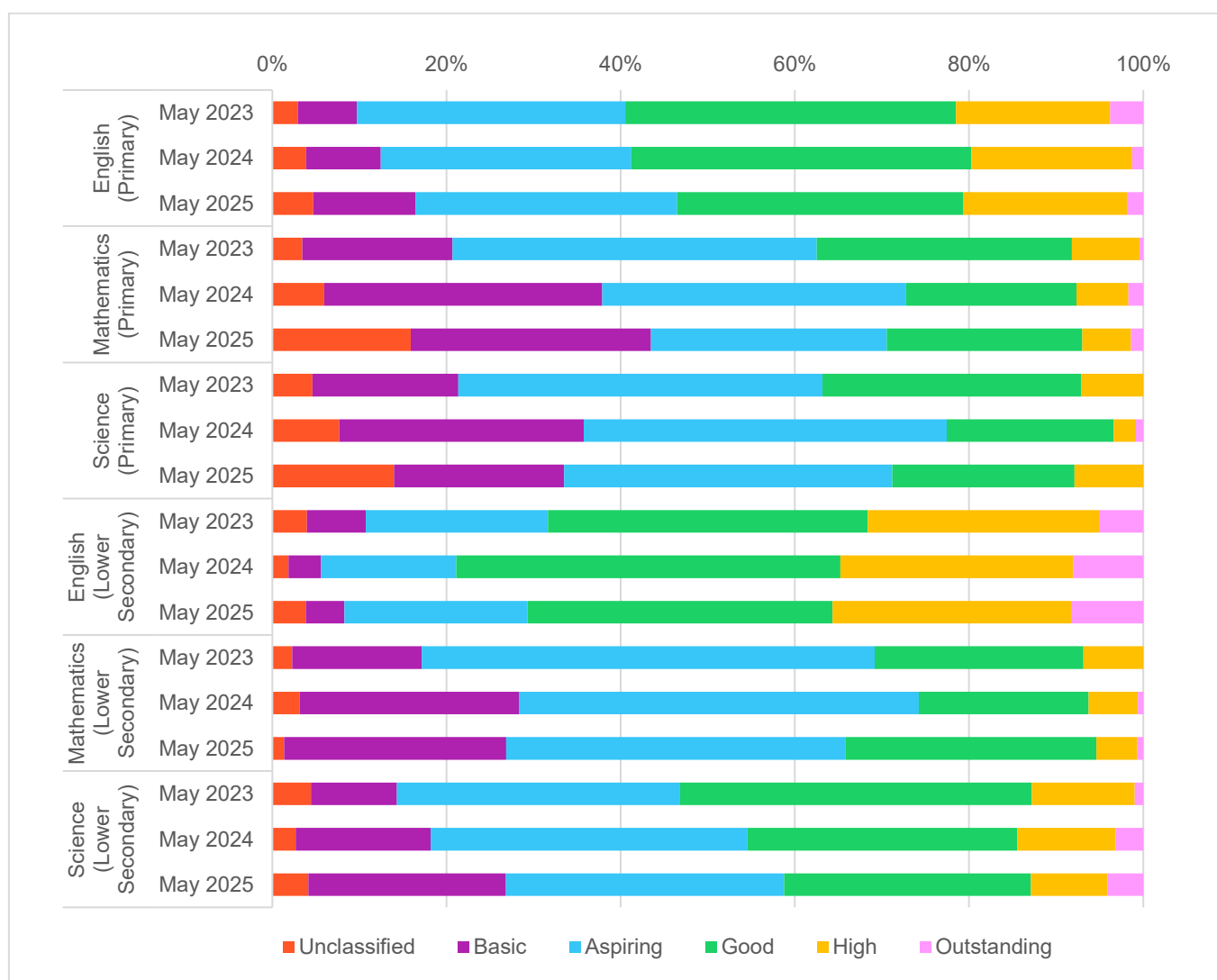
Checkpoint report, Bermuda 2026 (continued)

- 2.2** Overall mean scores have fluctuated over the years. Specifically, Lower Secondary English mean score showed improvement in 2024 compared with the previous year and then decreased slightly in the subsequent year.
- 2.3** Lower Secondary Mathematics and Primary Science, on the other hand, saw a decrease in mean scores in 2024 but then an increase in 2025, although the means scores of these subjects are still lower than those in 2023. The other subjects show a gradual decline in mean scores.
- 2.4** At the Primary level, English shows the strongest performance whereas Mathematics and Science are almost in line with each other in terms of mean scores.
- 2.5** At the Lower Secondary level, English again shows the strongest performance. Candidates perform better in Science compared with Mathematics.

3 Overall Performance Bands 2023-2025

This section of the report considers the Checkpoint performance bands. Chart 2 shows the performance bands for each individual subject and level across the Checkpoint series May 2023 to May 2025.

Chart 2: Bermudian schools' bands in Cambridge Checkpoint **Primary** and Cambridge Checkpoint **Lower Secondary**, May 2023 to May 2025 (all scores rounded)



- 3.1** Similar to the trends observed in the overall mean subject scores, performance bands of Primary and Lower Secondary English demonstrate a noticeably higher percentage of strong performers (Good, High or Outstanding) compared with the other subjects. Lower Secondary English in particular shows over 65% of students performed well consistently in 2023-2025, followed by Primary English with over 50% of strong performance over the last three years.
- 3.2** Mathematics and Science subjects demonstrate a higher percentage of relatively weak performance (Unclassified, Basic or Aspiring) with over half of the learners falling under these lower bands. One exception was Lower Secondary Science where more than 50% of learners reached the higher bands in 2023. However, the percentage of higher performers in this subject shrank in the subsequent years, although the overall performance is still stronger than Primary Science or Mathematics.
- 3.3** Percentage of candidates falling under the 'Unclassified' and 'Basic' bands in particular increased from 2023 to 2025 across most of the subjects, most notably in Primary English, Primary Mathematics, Lower Secondary Mathematics and Lower Secondary Science. In contrast, top-end performance under 'High' and 'Outstanding' bands is broadly stable. These two trends combine result in shrinking middle bands of 'Aspiring' and 'Good'.
- 3.4** At the Primary level, English has the highest percentage of strong performers and lowest percentage of weak performers consistently, whereas Mathematics and Science are comparable in these regards.
- 3.5** At the Lower Secondary level, English again leads on the percentage of strong performers by band and shows the lowest percentage of weak performers consistently. Stronger performance is observed in Science with noticeably higher percentage of strong performance compared to Mathematics, although the difference in percentage of weaker performance between these two subjects is less pronounced.

4 Performance Bands by Strands 2023-2025

This section of the report considers the performance bands at strand level for each subject. Table 2 indicates the strands for each Checkpoint subject and level

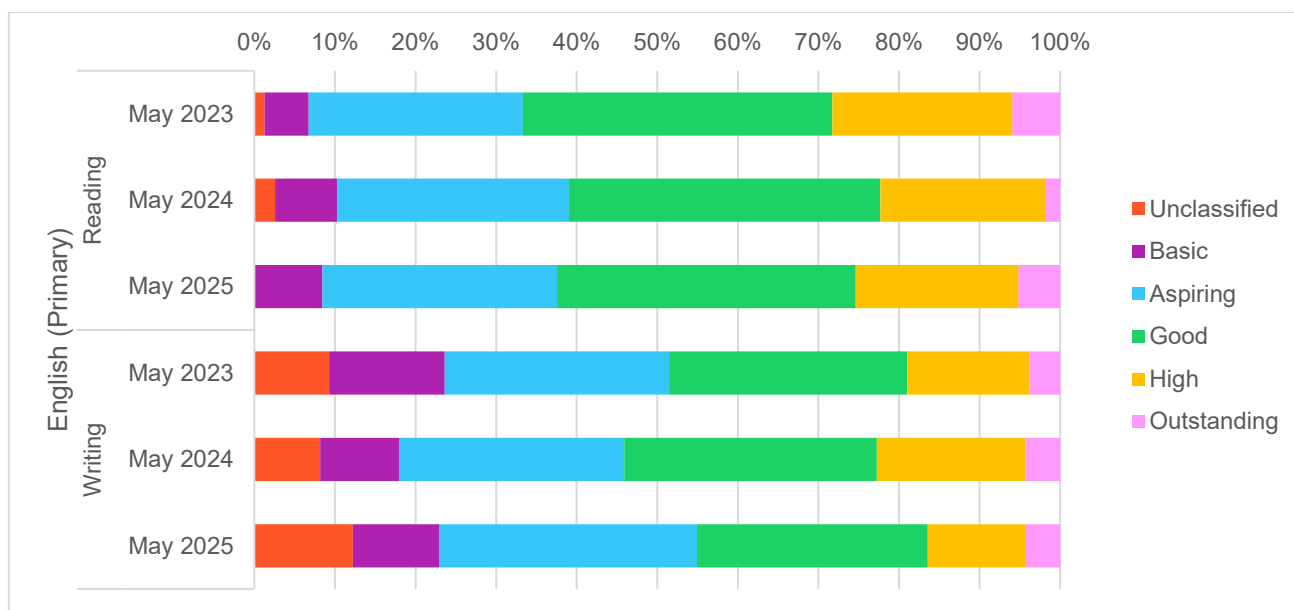
Subject (Level)	Strands
English (Primary)	• Reading • Writing
Mathematics (Primary)	• Geometry and Measure • Number • Statistics and Probability • Thinking and Working Mathematically
Science (Primary)	• Biology • Chemistry • Earth and Space • Physics • Thinking and Working Scientifically
English (Lower Secondary)	• Reading • Writing

Checkpoint report, Bermuda 2026 (continued)

Mathematics (Lower Secondary)	- Algebra - Geometry and Measure - Number - Statistics and Probability - Thinking and Working Mathematically
Science (Lower Secondary)	- Biology - Chemistry - Earth and Space - Physics - Thinking and Working Scientifically

Charts 3-8 below show the performance bands achieved at strand level for each individual Checkpoint subject at both Primary and Lower Secondary and across series May 2023 to May 2025.

Chart 3: Bermudian schools' bands by strands in Cambridge Checkpoint **Primary English**, May 2023 to May 2025 (all scores rounded)



Checkpoint report, Bermuda 2026 (continued)

Chart 4: Bermudian schools' bands by strands in Cambridge Checkpoint **Primary Mathematics**, May 2023 to May 2025 (all scores rounded)

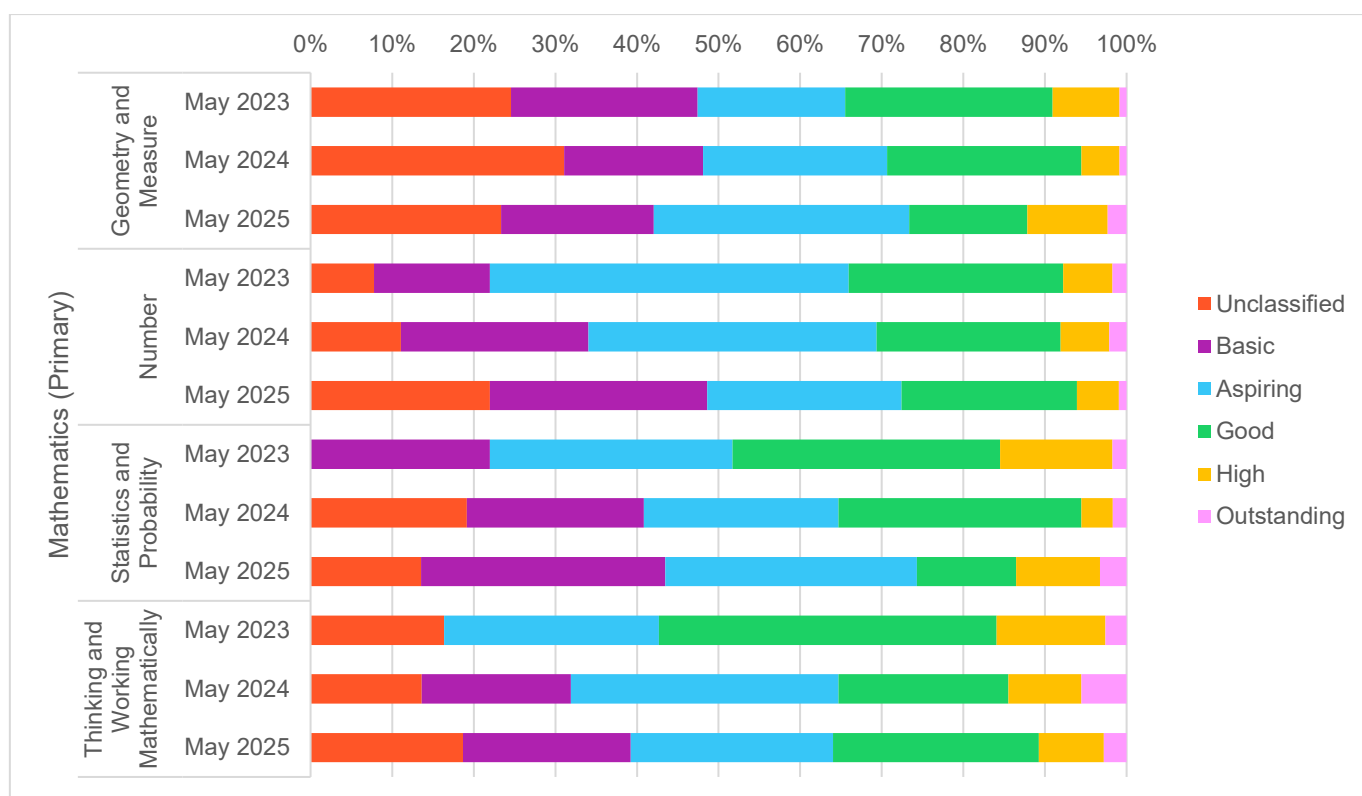
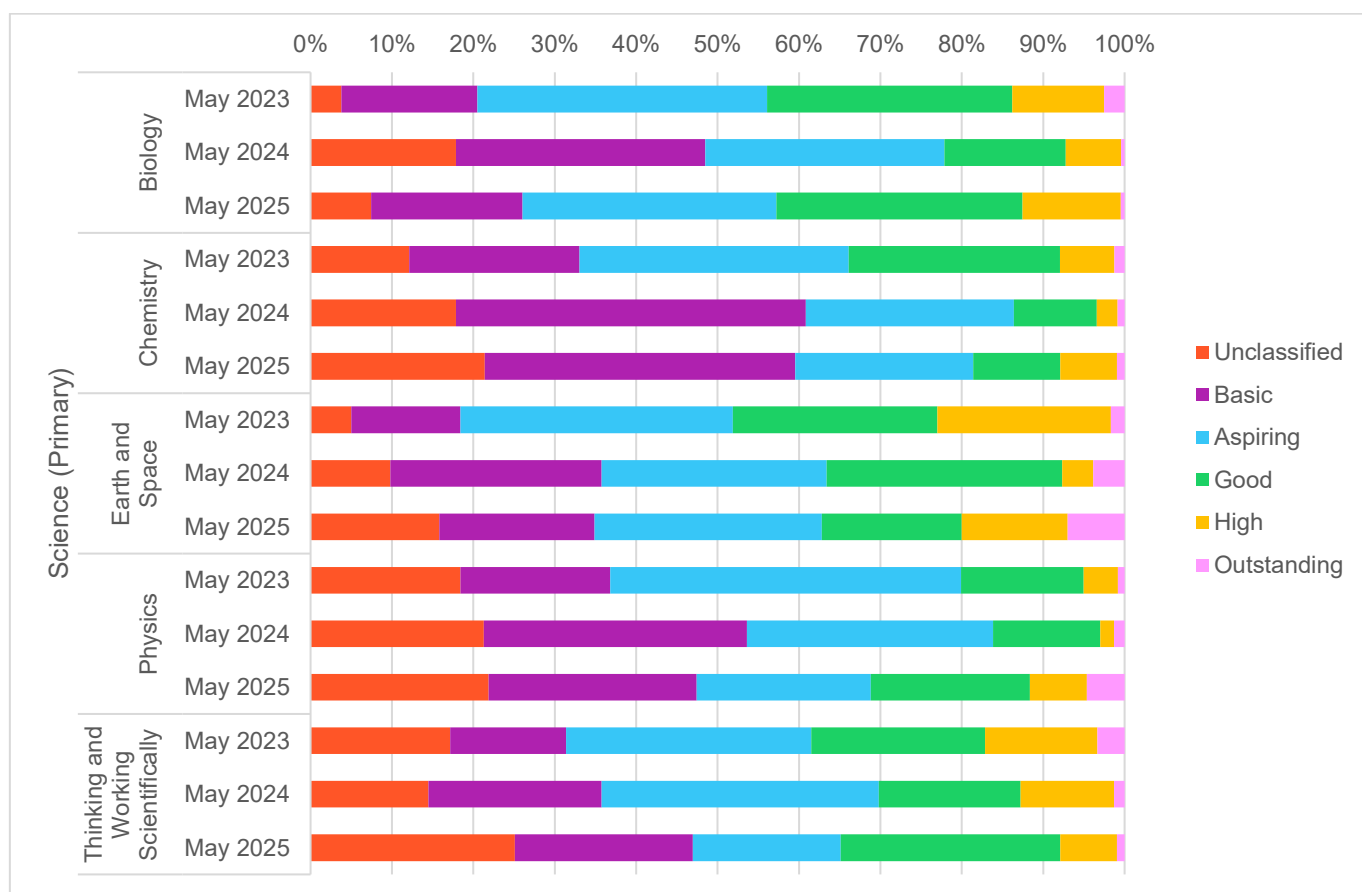


Chart 5: Bermudian schools' bands by strands in Cambridge Checkpoint **Primary Science**, May 2023 to May 2025 (all scores rounded)



Checkpoint report, Bermuda 2026 (continued)

Chart 6: Bermudian schools' bands by strands in Cambridge Checkpoint **Lower Secondary English** tests, May 2023 to May 2025 (all scores rounded)

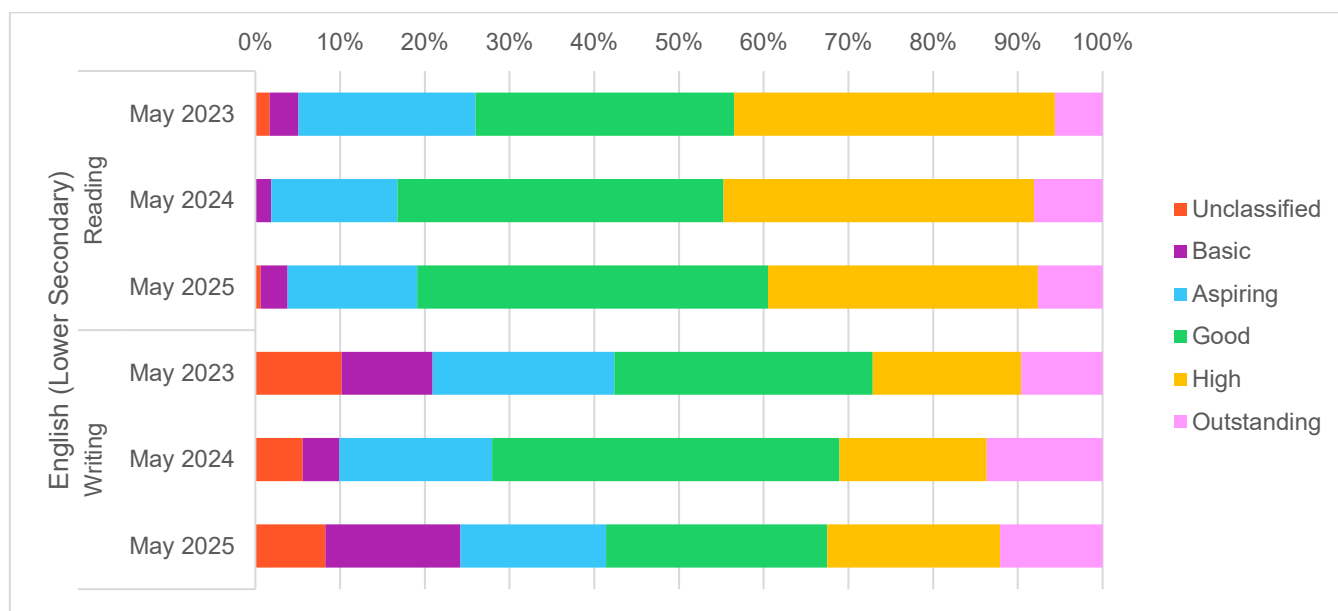
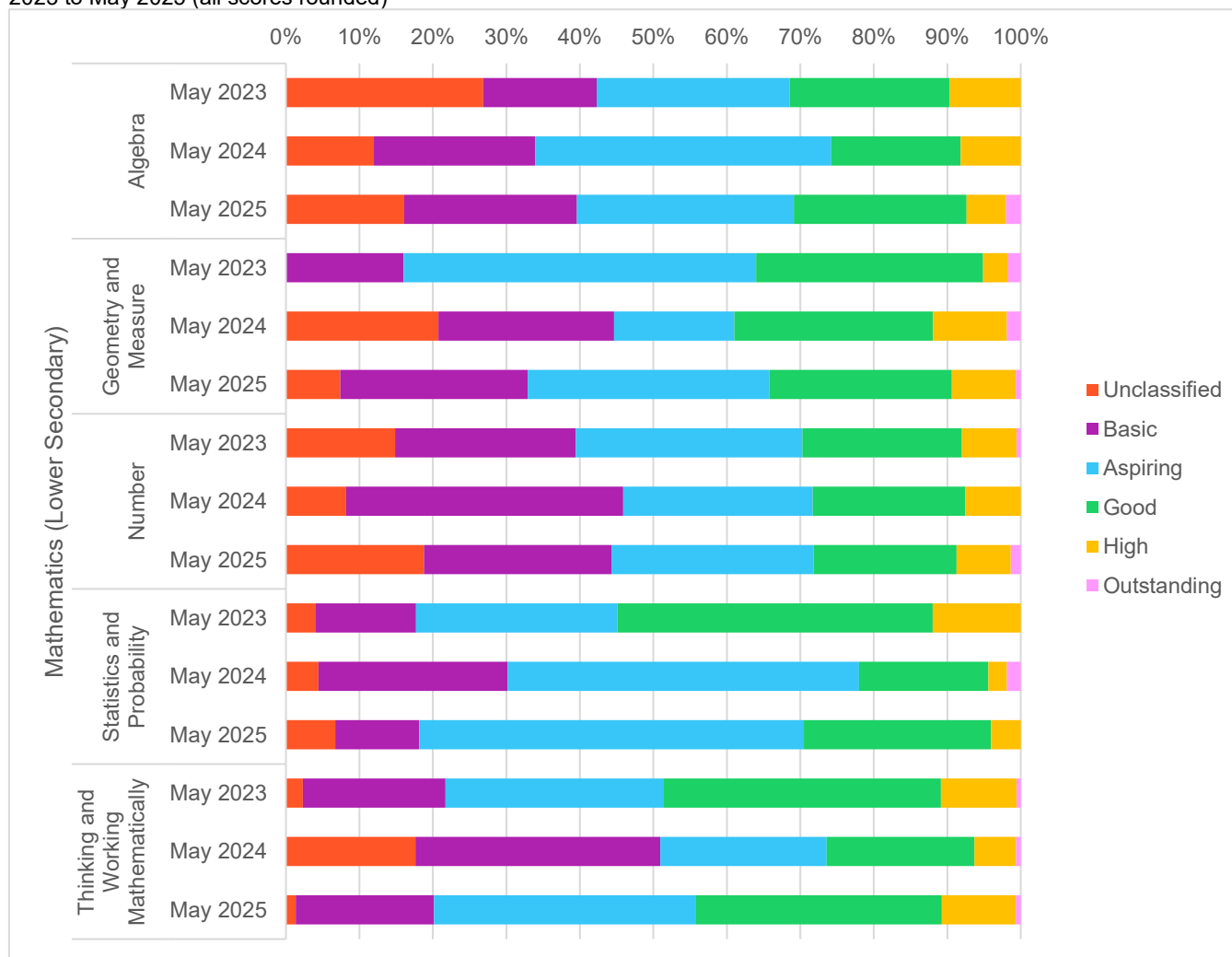
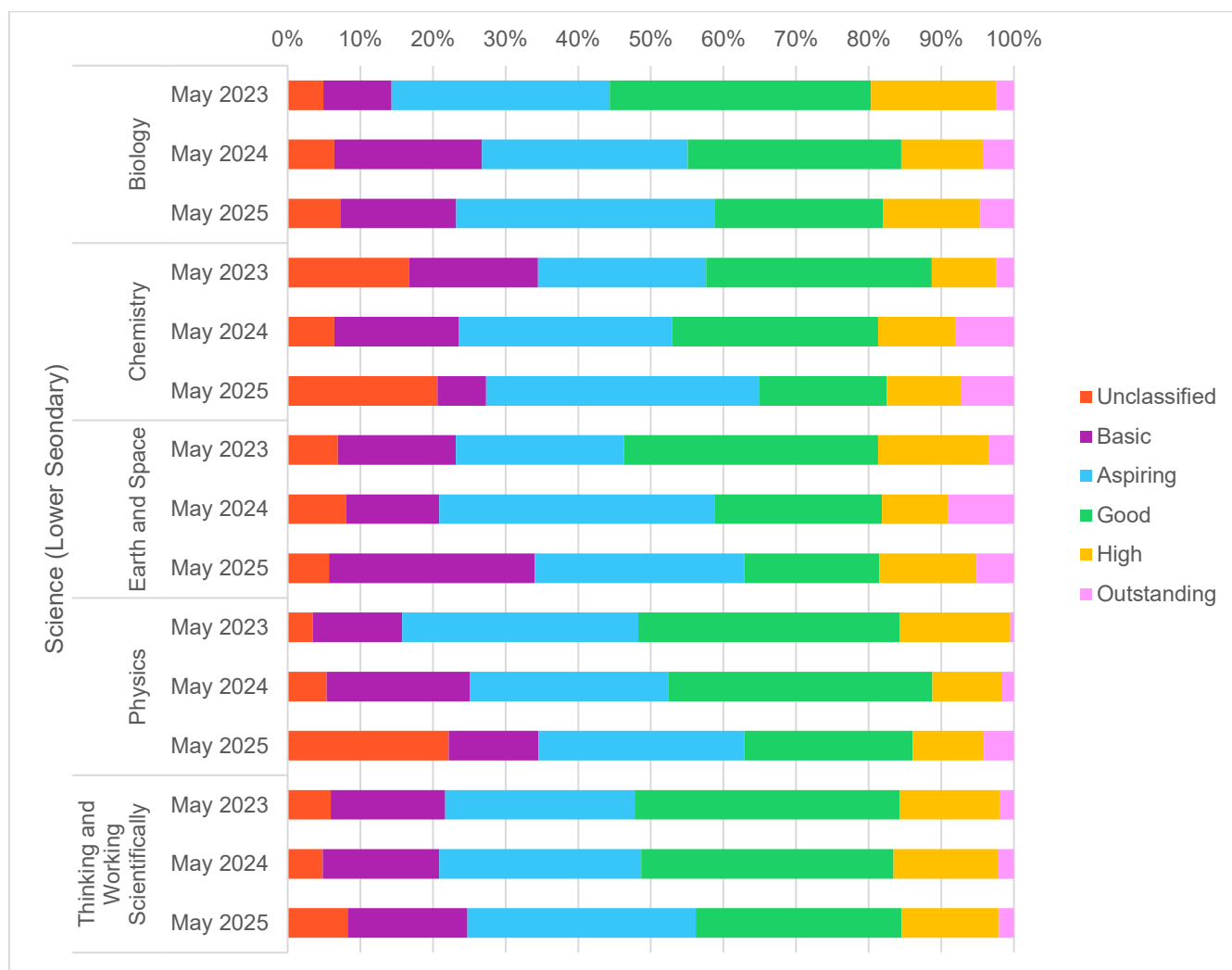


Chart 7: Bermudian schools' bands by strands in Cambridge Checkpoint **Lower Secondary Mathematics** tests, May 2023 to May 2025 (all scores rounded)



Checkpoint report, Bermuda 2026 (continued)

Chart 8: Bermudian schools' bands by strands in Cambridge Checkpoint **Lower Secondary Science** tests, May 2023 to May 2025 (all scores rounded)



- 4.1** In Primary English, candidates generally perform better in 'Reading' than 'Writing' with a higher percentage of strong performers and lower percentage of weak performers. Specifically, over 60% of candidates are ranked 'Good', 'High' or 'Outstanding' in the 'Reading' section consistently in 2023-2025 compared with roughly 50% in the 'Writing' section. On the lower end of the scale, only around 10% of candidates fall under the 'Unclassified' or 'Basic' bands in 'Reading', whilst this percentage in 'Writing' is around 20%. Within 'Reading' and 'Writing' strands respectively, the percentages of learners falling under each band largely consistent over the years of 2023-2025 with minor fluctuations.
- 4.2** Similar trends are observed in Lower Secondary English where percentage of high performers is higher in 'Reading' than in 'Writing' and the opposite applies to percentage of low performers, illustrating that candidates overall possess stronger 'Reading' competencies than 'Writing'.
- 4.3** In Primary Mathematics, candidates performed better in 'Statistics and Probability' and in 'Thinking and Working Mathematically' with higher percentage of strong performers in 2023, compared with 'Geometry and Measure' or 'Number'. However, the percentage of higher performance declined in the subsequent years across all the strands, resulting in relatively even percentage of strong performers ranging from around 25% to 35% in 2025. At the same time, relatively weak performance of 'Unclassified' or 'Basic' was on the rise across most of

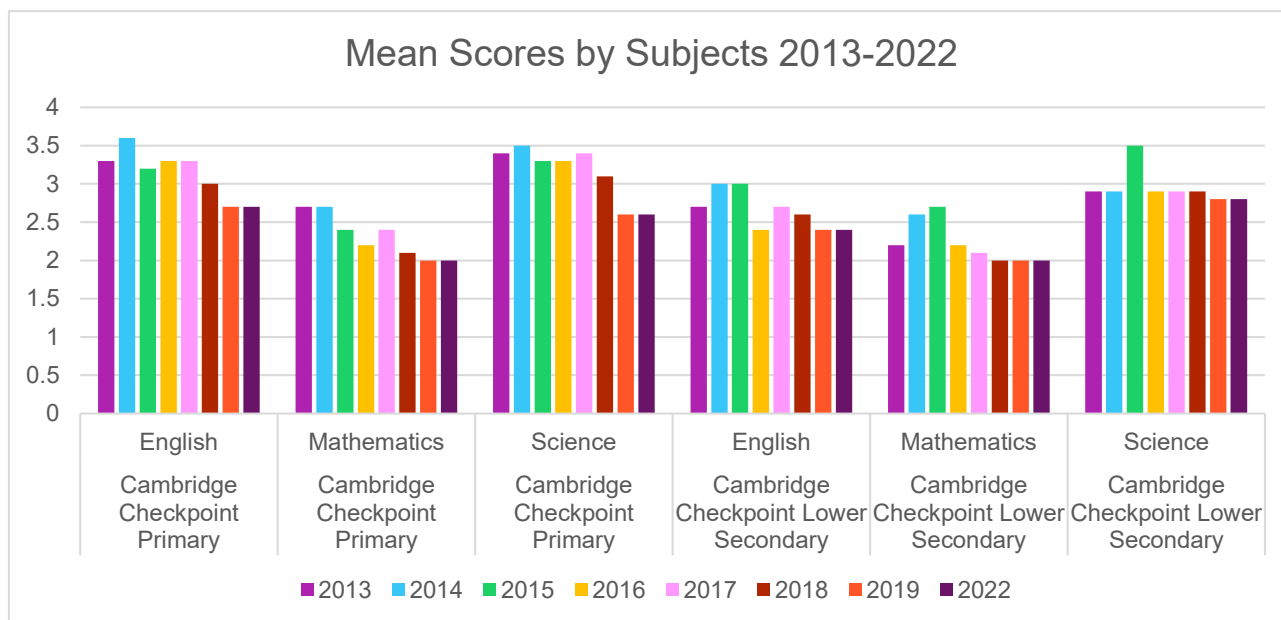
the strands with the exception of 'Geometry and Measure'. The result was lower mean scores overall in this subject.

- 4.4** Lower secondary Mathematics shows some similar trends as Primary Mathematics, where performance in 'Statistics and Probability' and 'Thinking and Working Mathematically' were once stronger in 2023 but the gap between strands narrowed in 2025. However, the rise in percentage of low performers is less noticeable in Lower Secondary Mathematics in comparison with Primary. In 'Algebra' and 'Thinking and Working Mathematically' in particular, the percentages of weaker performance are in fact lower in 2025 than those in 2023. Therefore, the overall performance in Lower Secondary Mathematics in terms of mean scores and bands is more stable than Primary Mathematics.
- 4.5** In Primary Science, candidates perform stronger in 'Biology', 'Earth and Space' and 'Thinking and Working Scientifically' with 30-40% under the bands of 'Good', 'High' or 'Outstanding'. In contrast, in the 'Chemistry' and 'Physics' strands, roughly 15-30% of candidates show relatively strong performance. Especially in 'Chemistry', the percentage of candidates falling under the 'Unclassified' or 'Basic' bands rose from about 33% in 2023 to around 60% in 2024 and 2025. The percentage of weak performers also increased notably between 2023 and 2024 across the other strands too, particularly in 'Biology', 'Earth and Space' and 'Physics'. This resulted in a decrease in overall performance in 2024, although this trend was slightly reversed in 2025.
- 4.6** Lower Secondary Science, in contrast to Primary Science, shows much more even performance across the board with similar percentages of stronger and weaker performance in all strands. Although 'Biology', 'Earth and Space' and 'Thinking and Working Scientifically' also show a slightly higher percentage of strong performance under 'Good', 'High' or 'Outstanding' bands, the difference between these components and others is less evident. The same applies to percentage of lower performers. Within each strand, however, there is a similar trend of shrinking high performance over the years of 2023-2025, especially in 'Biology', 'Earth and Space' and 'Physics', accompanied by rising percentage of low performance in these strands. The adverse effect of these changes on the overall performance is as not drastic as that in Primary Science in 2023-2024. Nonetheless, these trends still lead to gradually decreasing mean scores over the last three years.

Appendix 1: Mean Subject Scores 2013-2022

There were no examinations in 2020 and 2021, so these dates have been excluded.

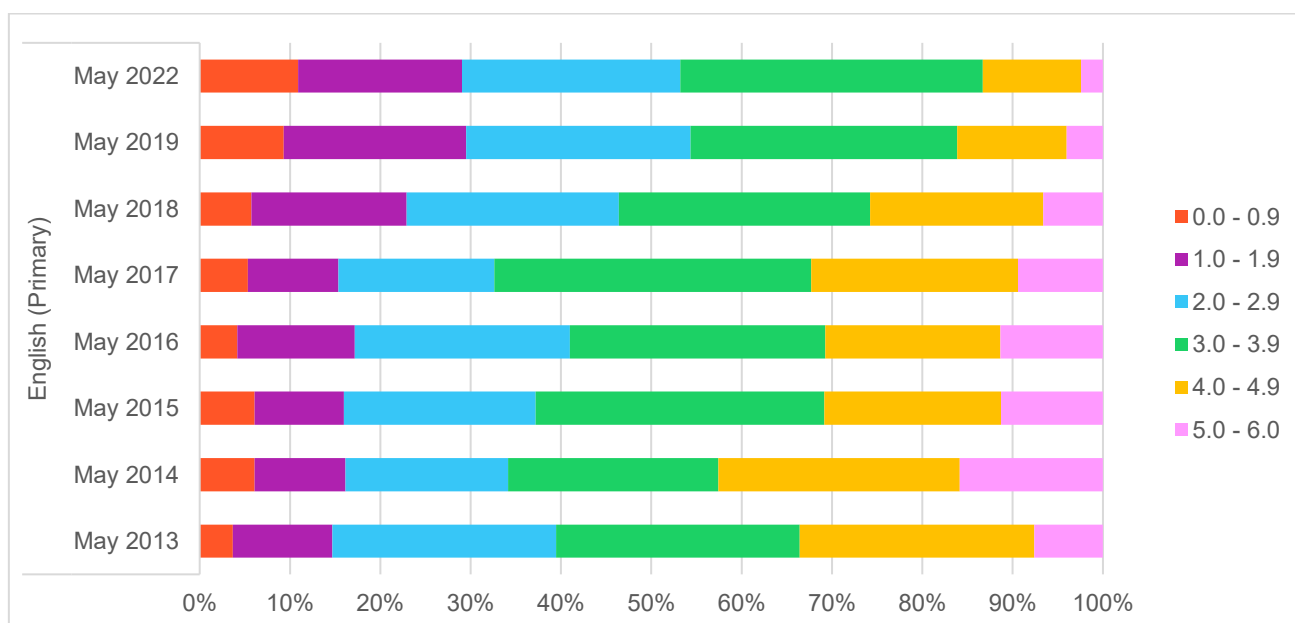
Chart 9: Bermudian schools' mean scores by subjects in Cambridge Checkpoint **Primary** and Cambridge Checkpoint **Lower Secondary** tests, May 2013 to May 2022 (all scores rounded)



Appendix 2: Score distributions for Cambridge Checkpoint Primary 2013-2022

There were no examinations in 2020 and 2021, so these dates have been excluded. Performance bands were introduced as from May 2023.

Chart 10: Score distribution for Bermudian candidates in Cambridge Checkpoint **Primary English**, May 2013 to May 2022* (all scores rounded)



Checkpoint report, Bermuda 2026 (continued)

Chart 11: Score distribution for Bermudian candidates in Cambridge Checkpoint **Primary Mathematics**, May 2013 to May 2022 (all scores rounded)

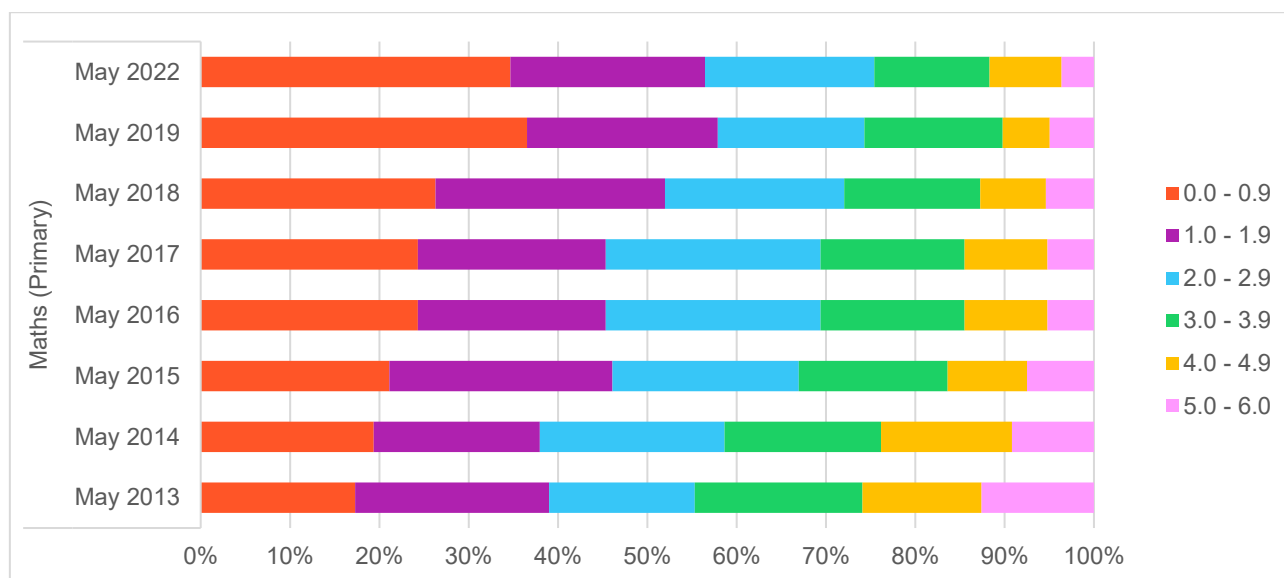
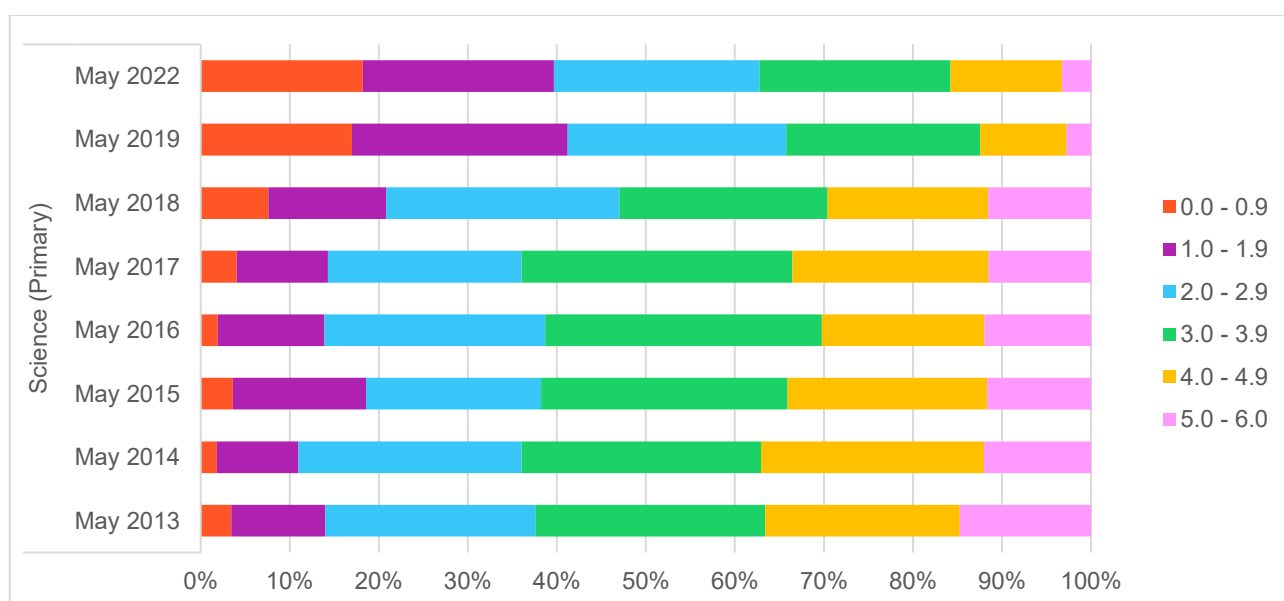


Chart 12: Score distribution for Bermudian candidates in Cambridge Checkpoint **Primary Science**, May 2013 to May 2022 (all scores rounded)



Total number of entries for each of the three Primary subjects decreased by over 20% from 2019 to 2022.

Shrinking percentage of high-performance (5.0-6.0) from 2019 to 2022 is observed in Primary English and Mathematics, whereas Primary Science has seen a slight increase in high-performing candidates.

There was an increase in percentage of low-performance (0.0-0.9) in Primary English and Science, whereas percentage of low-performer in Primary Mathematics decreased conversely.

Appendix 3: Score distributions for Cambridge Checkpoint Lower Secondary 2013-2022

There were no examinations in 2020 and 2021, so these dates have been excluded.

Chart 13: Score distribution for Bermudian candidates in Cambridge Checkpoint **Lower Secondary English**, May 2013 to May 2022* (all scores rounded)

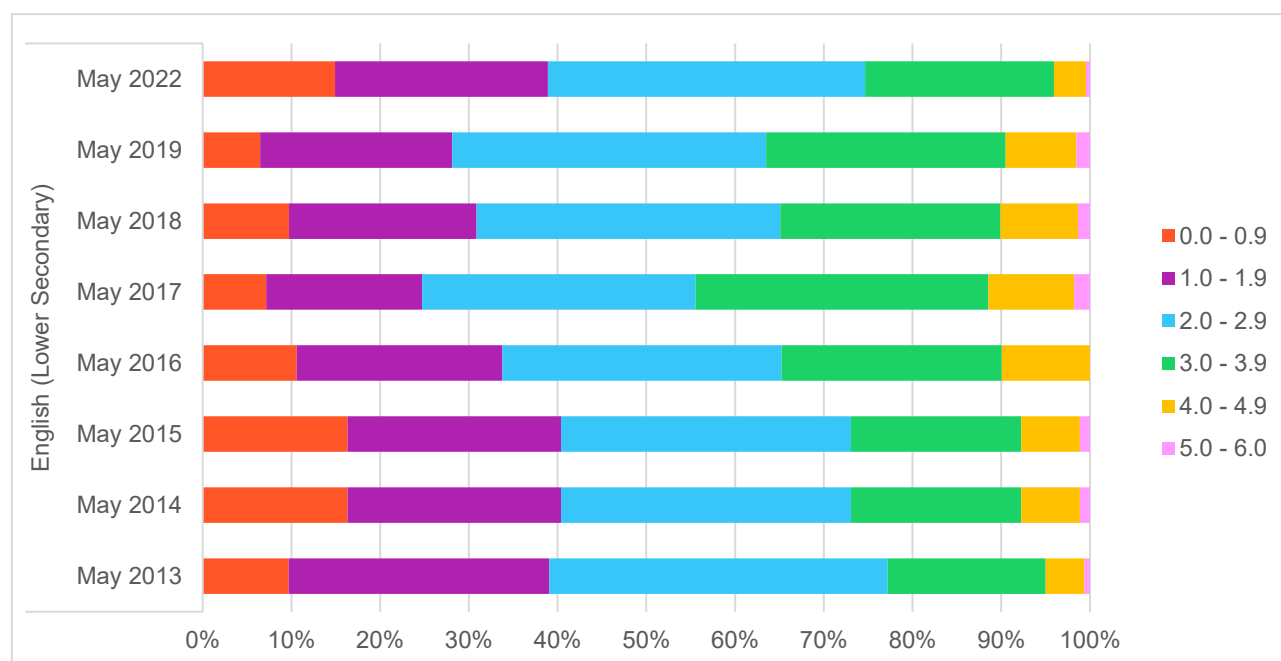
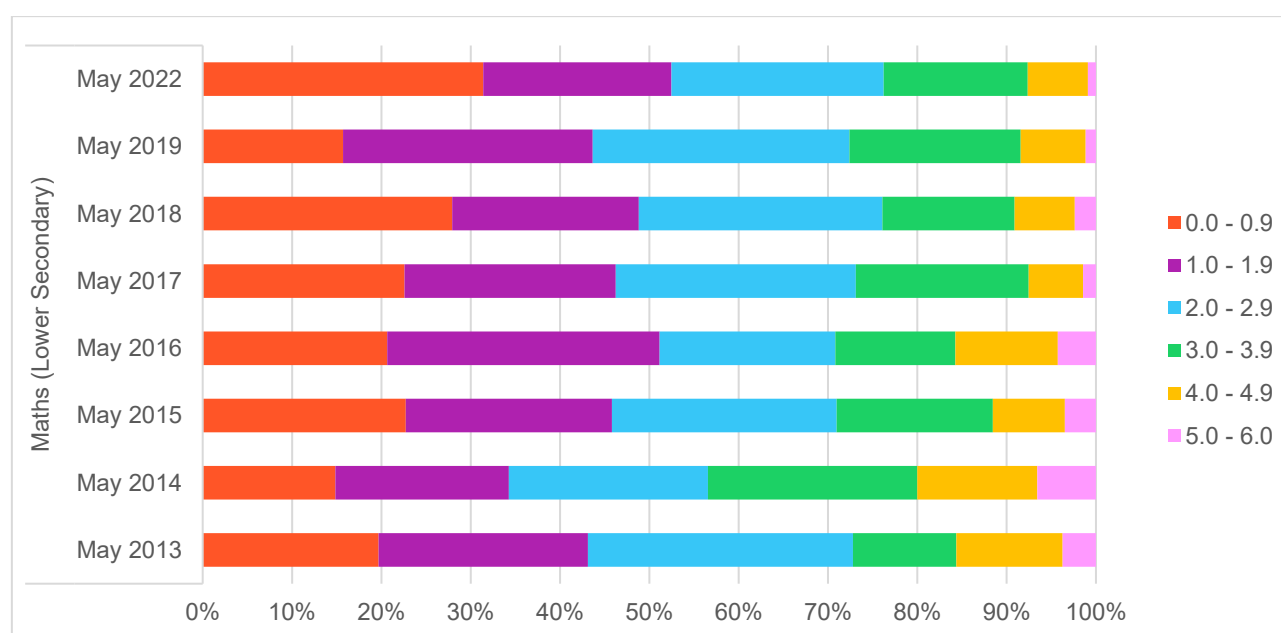
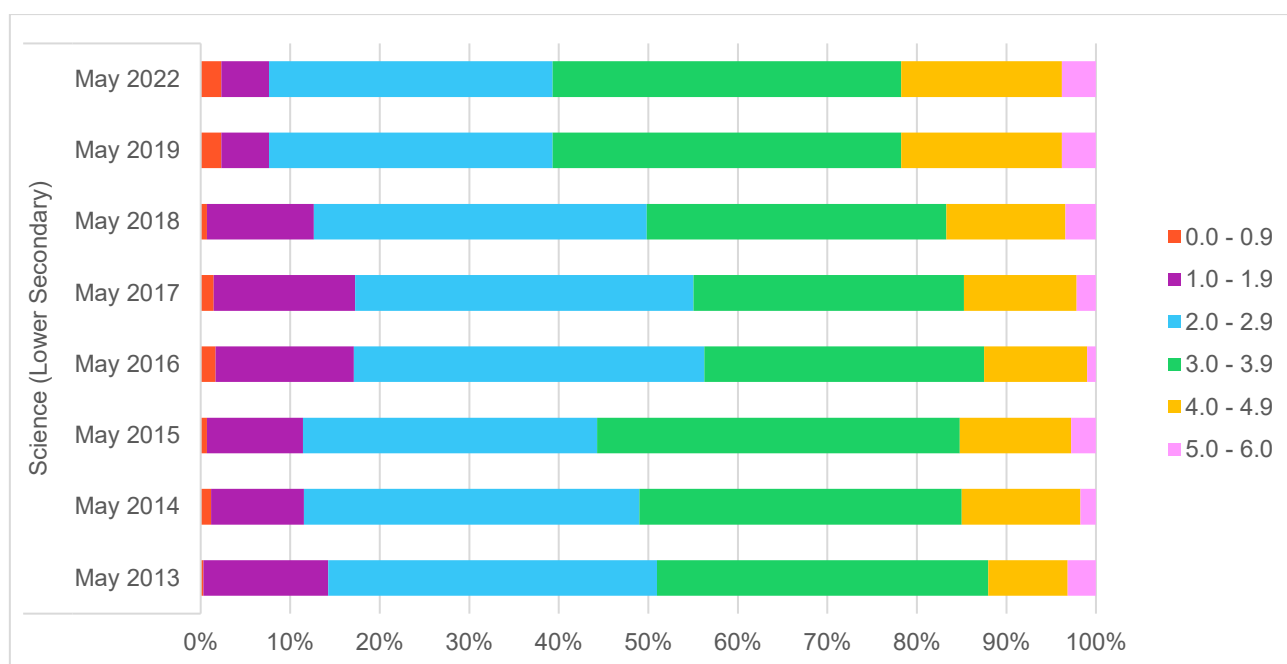


Chart 14: Score distribution for Bermudian candidates in Cambridge Checkpoint **Lower Secondary Mathematics**, May 2013 to May 2022 (all scores rounded)



Checkpoint report, Bermuda 2026 (continued)

Chart 15: Score distribution for Bermudian candidates in Cambridge Checkpoint **Lower Secondary Science**, May 2013 to May 2022 (all scores rounded)



Total number of entries for Lower Secondary English and Mathematics decreased by around 15% from 2019 to 2022. Total number of entries for Lower Secondary Science remained constant.

Shrinking percentage of high-performance (5.0-6.0) from 2019 to 2022 is observed in Lower Secondary English and Mathematics, whereas Lower Secondary Science has seen a slight increase in high-performing candidates. This trend is consistent from what can be observed in Primary.

There was more dramatic increase in percentage of low-performance (0.0-0.9) in Lower Secondary English and Mathematics, whereas percentage of low-performer in Lower Secondary Science decreased conversely. This trend differs from what can be observed in Primary.