The purpose of this study was to investigate the probable factors responsible for poor performance in Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KSCE) in Vihiga district. For the purpose of the study ten sample schools were selected randomly from five divisions in the district.

Three instruments. Questionnaires, Interview schedule and Observation schedule were used in getting the required information from the following: Head teachers, teachers, students, District inspector and DEO.

The data obtained was analysed using descriptive statistics. The findings of the study revealed that the following, amongst others, were the major factors responsible for poor performance in KCSE examinations in Vihiga district:

- Inadequate number of graduate teachers in secondary schools in the district, substandard internal evaluation, inadequate revision for examinations by candidates, failure to supervise students revision, low teacher morale/motivation, inadequate learning resources, poor school administration and leadership, inadequate supervision and inspection of schools, low parental contribution to the learning of their children. Some negative community factors also adversely affected the secondary school students. These included single parenthood, large families, drug abuse and circumcision ceremonies.

In the light of these findings the researcher recommended that there was need to distribute secondary school teachers fairly to all schools, teachers ought to be dedicated to their duty, there was need to develop the school facilities and learning resources, there was need for effective administration and leadership of schools while the parents should strive to create a conducive learning environment at home. Every effort should be put in discouraging the negative community factors. This would yield good results not only to the district but also to Western Province as a whole.