



UGANDA NATIONAL EXAMINATIONS BOARD

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12 February 2016

STATEMENT ON RELEASE OF THE 2015 UACE EXAMINATION RESULTS

1. INTRODUCTION

Honourable Minister of Education, Science, Technology and Sports, with pleasure and honour, the Uganda National Examinations Board, presents to you the Results of the 2015 UACE examination. I am glad to report that we are presenting to you results of a successfully conducted UACE examination free from leakage just as was the case for the other examinations whose results you have already released.

2. CANDIDATURE

A total of **101,268** candidates registered for the 2015 examination from **2,003** centres compared to **108,419** candidates from **1,803** centres in 2014. This is a **decrease** by **7,151** (-6.6%). A total of **99,847** candidates appeared for the examination, compared to **107,297** in 2014, a decrease of **7,448** candidates (-6.9%). The third cohort of UPOLET students took the examination in 2015. The number registered under the scheme was **20,840** compared to **23,308** in 2014 (20.6% of total candidature).

Female registered candidates were **42,166** in 2015 compared to **43,944** in 2014. Females constituted **41.6%** of the total number of candidates who took the examination in 2015. Although gender parity has been achieved at UCE, at this level, the index is still low, at about **0.71**, about the same as in 2014. It is possible that many female candidates opt for the other available post – UCE level training programmes such as nursing, teaching, and other vocational courses instead of the UACE course. Fewer female candidates (1.0 per cent) were absent compared to males (1.7 per cent).

Statistics of the number of candidates who registered and those who sat the UACE examination for the last five years is given in the Table below:

Table 1: Registration of UACE Candidates for the period 2011-2015

Year	Candidates registered	Candidates who sat	Absentees	% Absent
2015	101,270	99,849	1,421	1.40
2014	108,419	107,297	1,122	1.03
2013	116,190	114,380	1,180	1.56
2012	111,456	109,972	1,487	1.33
2011	103,760	102,296	1,464	1.41

The table indicates that candidature has been falling for the last two years, 2014 and 2015. Registered candidates have decreased by 14,920 (12.8%) from 2013.

A total of 103 Special Needs Education candidates registered for the UACE Examination of whom 12 were blind, 13 had low vision, 23 were deaf; 23 had severe physical impairments; and 32 were of other categories requiring only extra time to be given. Necessary accommodations were made in their examination papers in consonance with their disabilities.

Although candidature decreased, entries for Mathematics increased from 26,800 to 31,306 (16.8%) and Physics increased from 15,413 to 16,873 (9.5%). Chemistry and Biology entries remained at about the same level as in 2014.

3. PERFORMANCE OF CANDIDATES

The Uganda National Examinations Board, in accordance with acceptable assessment practices and global trends, made a decision, with effect from 2015, to base grading more on criterion referencing. This implies that grades are based on predetermined competencies. Grade cut-off points and grade hurdles have therefore been adjusted. It will therefore, not be possible to compare grade levels from 2015 to those of 2014 and before. These adjustments however, will not result in a reduction in the overall pass levels.

The overall performance of candidates in the 2015 UACE examination shows that a very high percentage of candidates, (97.8%), qualified for the award of the UACE, about the same level with 2014 at 97.4%.

The performance of the year 2015 candidates is shown in Table 2 below in terms of numbers of candidates passing at the different principal pass levels.

Table 2: Performance of Candidates in 2015

Pass Level	2015			
	No. Of Cands	%	Cum No.	Cum %
3P	29,714	29.8	29,772	29.8
2P	26,807	26.9	56,656	56.7
1P	25,833	26.0	82,567	82.7
1S	15,012	15.1	97,634	97.8
F	2,202	2.2	99,849	100

NB: The figures do not include results that have been withheld.

At the minimum 2P level required for University admission **56,656** candidates (56.7%) qualify. However if other tertiary institutions are considered where 1P and two subsidiary passes levels are considered for admission, **82,567** candidates (82.7%) will qualify for admission compared to **87,826** (81.9%) in 2014. Proportionally, this is higher than for 2014.

Table 3 below compares pass levels between females and males.

Table 3: Breakdown of Performance by gender - 2015 UACE

Pass Level	FEMALES				MALES			
	No. of Cands	%	Cumm No.	Cumm %	No. of Cands	%	Cumm No.	Cumm %
3P	13,484	33.2	13,484	33.1	16,230	27.5	16,230	27.5
2P	11,457	28.2	24,941	61.5	15,350	26.0	31,580	53.5
1P	9,641	23.8	34,582	85.1	16,192	27.5	47,772	81.0
1S	5,428	13.4	40,010	98.5	9,641	16.3	57,413	97.3
F	598	1.5	40,608	100	1,604	2.7	59,107	100

NB: Withheld results not included

Proportionally, female candidates performed better than their male counterparts at all levels with a lower failure rate than for the males. This is similar to the situation in 2014.

Table 4 below compares performance of male and female candidates in selected subjects.

Table 4: Performance of Females and Males in Selected subjects

SUBJECT	FEMALES			MALES			CUMM %	
	Number	A(%)	A-E(%)	Number	A(%)	A-E (%)	A	A-E
General Paper	40,601	1.3	69.1	58,941	1.0	65.0	1.1	66.7
History	18,541	6.5	86.1	19,710	5.5	85.1	5.9	85.6
Economics	16,365	1.4	59.0	25,639	0.8	51.4	1.1	54.3
Entrep. Educ	12,236	0.4	40.4	12,440	0.4	38.2	0.4	39.2
Islamic Rel Ed	2,029	4.9	76.0	1,711	4.0	68.1	4.5	72.2
Christian Rel Ed	13,910	0.3	55.0	10,488	0.2	49.8	0.3	49.8
Geography	15,905	0.1	43.3	24,606	0.04	37.1	0.1	39.5
Lit in Eng.	5,227	0.5	71.0	2,354	0.2	58.0	0.4	66.5
Mathematics	8,891	4.0	54.3	22,348	5.3	53.3	5.0	53.7
Maths (Sub)	13,280	1.6	29.2	17,553	2.0	22.1	1.8	25.0
Physics	3,456	0.2	37.9	13,368	0.4	37.3	0.4	37.5
Agriculture	2,651	0.4	61.5	7,830	0.6	62.4	0.6	62.3
Chemistry	3,586	1.0	58.0	8,453	3.6	62.0	2.8	60.4
Biology	4,162	0.0	37.4	8,817	0.02	40.3	0.0	39.5
Art	7,759	0.5	70.0	12,510	1.1	74.0	0.8	72.5
Sub-ICT	27,142	5.6	63.3	41,082	9.4	68.2	7.9	66.2

In terms of percentages, female candidates performed better than males at the A-E level in History, Economics, Entrepreneurship Education, Islamic Religious Education, Christian Religious Education, Geography, Literature in English. They also performed better in General Paper and Subsidiary Mathematics. Male candidates performed better in the Science subjects. Majority of female candidates have offered the Arts subjects.

As observed in previous years, the core Sciences and Mathematics are compulsory at UCE level. However, the table above indicates that transition to UACE in those subjects has remained quite low. Only **31.3** per cent of the candidates who sat for the UACE in 2015 offered Mathematics. Physics had **16.9** per cent; Chemistry, **12.1** per cent and Biology, **13.0** per cent.

5. QUALITY OF CANDIDATES' WORK EXPECTED AT UACE

The Uganda Advanced Certificate of Education examination is designed to test candidates' ability to comprehend and apply knowledge in new situations; demonstrate analytical and reasoning skills, ability to carry out scientific experiments and interpret and draw conclusions from those experiments. Questions expected candidates to describe, explain, analyse, discuss and evaluate. Candidates were, therefore, expected to handle more of the higher order tasks than at UCE level.

A good number of examination centres displayed good quality work. At many other centres evidence of poor preparation was evident. Candidates at such centres showed lack of understanding of basic concepts, listing their points when descriptions or explanations were required, giving generalized answers lacking in specifics and examples; failing to understand key words that define the tasks in the questions. Zero scores were recorded in almost all subjects. Examiners reported that schools rush through the UACE syllabus in order to complete by Term I in Senior 6. The consequence of this is that many candidates do not adequately grasp the key concepts in the subjects. The rest of the time is devoted to revision, testing and seminars by persons called facilitators. When candidates have not grasped the basics, revision, testing and facilitation will not improve their performance appreciably. There is evidence of cram work, over-reliance on class notes and poorly written pamphlets, and lack of independent research by candidates. As reported in previous years, poor communication skills continue to affect the candidates' ability to express themselves adequately even if they understood the demands of the questions. This was most pronounced in the Humanities where questions required extended essay writing.

Detailed Report on the Work of Candidates will be prepared to indicate areas where improvements have been noted and those areas of weakness. The Report will give advice to teachers on handling the areas of difficulty. Schools are encouraged to obtain these from UNEB Publication sales points. Electronic versions will also soon be available to be accessed at a fee.

6. MALPRACTICE AND IRREGULARITIES

Results of 279(0.27% of candidates who sat) have been withheld. Most have been due to external assistance, possession of unauthorized material in the examination room and collusion. The most affected subjects have been Mathematics, Subsidiary Mathematics, Subsidiary ICT and Art. A list of the centres where most of these cases were reported is attached.

Hearings will be accorded to the affected candidates before final decisions are made.

7. GRATITUDE

Hon Minister, I wish to thank you for the personal efforts you have made to ensure that UNEB gets a Vote function and further efforts to secure funds for the completion of this work.

I thank the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development for releasing the funds that enabled us to pay the UCE examiners.

I would also like to thank the Chairperson and members of the Board, particularly those on the Examinations Security Committee for their guidance; all Area Supervisors, heads of centre, invigilators, staff of the Directorate of Education Standards and other institutions; senior citizens and all other persons who participated in several ways in the supervision and scouting of the examination in the field.

I take this opportunity to thank the candidates who took the examination; the examiners who marked the scripts; the institutions that allowed UNEB to use their premises for marking; the parents and guardians for their support to the candidates; members of the public and the Press for their vigilance and support. I thank the Uganda Police Force and other security organs for the assistance rendered to UNEB in various ways to ensure the smooth conduct of the examinations.

I congratulate the candidates who performed well and urge those that did not do well as expected, to try again.

Last but not least, I wish to thank my dedicated staff at the UNEB Secretariat, whose hard work and sacrifice enabled the Board to successfully conduct, process results of the UACE examination for release earlier than ever before, notwithstanding the fact that other examinations (PLE, and UCE) were conducted and processed within the same period.

Results have been uploaded on each centre portal and heads of centres can download the results. However, those who wish to pick hard copies from UNEB may do so from the Ntinda offices from **2.00 p.m. today, Friday, 12th February, 2016**. I appeal to Head teachers who come to pick their results to be orderly to enable us serve them quickly and efficiently.

Many Heads of centre have not been bothering to send queries/amendments in time. We advise them to study the result lists immediately and personally submit your queries/amendments to the Board.

Interested persons may access the results of individual candidates through SMS. Please go to the **Message** menu, then type **UACE**, leave a space then type the **correct index number** of the candidate and send to 6600. The service is available on MTN, WARID, AIRTEL and ORANGE networks.

8. CONCLUSION

Hon Minister, ladies and gentlemen, I wish to take this opportunity to bid farewell to you. I shall soon be retiring from UNEB work and this is the last examination I am releasing.

Mr Dan Nokrach Odongo, who is the Deputy Secretary in charge of Secondary School examinations, will be taking over from me.

I thank the Almighty God for all the support and providence, during the time we have worked together. I am grateful to the Government of Uganda for the support it has rendered to UNEB during my tenure.

I am grateful to the UNEB Board for the wise counsel and UNEB staff for their commitment. I also extend appreciation to the Ministry of Education, Science, Technology & Sports, Ministry of Finance, Planning & Economic Development, Government Ministries and departments, District officials, Area Supervisors, headteachers, teachers and all examination field personnel, the media and the security agencies for the unwavering support rendered to me, and UNEB.

Just like you have supported me, I pray for your continued support to my successor.

Farewell to you all, and may God bless you abundantly.

M.B.B. Bukenya
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY