



UGANDA NATIONAL EXAMINATIONS BOARD

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Press statement

Official Release of the 2024 Time Table for the Four Examinations (4Es)

Theme: *Embracing security and holistic assessment of learners in a dynamic environment*

The Uganda National Examinations Board (UNEB) hereby releases the time table for the 2024 examinations. This is the first time that UNEB will be examining the candidates of the New Lower Secondary Curriculum (NLSC) for the award of the Uganda Certificate of Education (UCE).

Unlike previously when we had three sets of examinations, UNEB will this time round conduct **Four Examinations (4Es), the UCE Examination based on the NLSC and the UCE (transitional examination), based on the old curriculum.** The transitional examination is aimed at giving an opportunity to those that needed to repeat or those that missed the examination in 2023 for various reasons. This is a one –off examination under the old curriculum.

The other examinations are the **Primary Leaving Examination (PLE)** and the **Uganda Advanced Certificate of Education (UACE)** examination as shown in the table below.

Commencement and End Dates for the 4Es

	Examination Level	Commencement/ Briefing date	End Date
1	Uganda Certificate of Education (UCE) - New Lower Secondary Curriculum (NLSC)	Friday 11th October	Friday 8th November, 2024
2	Uganda Certificate of Education UCE - Transitional Examination based on the Old Curriculum	Friday 11th October	Friday 15th November
3	Primary Leaving Examination (PLE)	Monday 4th November	Thursday 7th November
4	Uganda Advanced Certificate of Education (UACE)	Friday 8th November	Friday 6th December

Theme for the 2024 Examinations

Our theme this year is ***‘Embracing security and holistic assessment of learners in a dynamic environment.’***

This theme is a call on all stakeholders to seriously consider the security of the examinations and preserve its sacredness. This is the only way for us to be sure that the learners who have gone through this process have the grades and certificates that reflect their true ability.

The theme further takes cognizance of the need for holistic assessment – which is a global trend and the spirit behind the NLSC - to assess learners’ competencies using a variety of methods including projects and continuous assessment.

The Candidature for the 4Es

A total of one million, three hundred twenty thousand, four hundred (**1,320,400**) candidates have registered for the Four Examinations (4Es). This is an increase of **7.8%** from last year’s candidature of **1,224,371**. Of the total candidature, **51.1%** are **females while 48.9%** are **males**. **379,620** of the registered candidates are UCE candidates that include **369,477** for the NLSC and **10,143** for the transitional examination.

We have recorded a very significant increase in candidature at UACE level this year, with **142,017** candidates, compared to last year’s candidature of **110,579**. This reflects an increase of **28.4%**.

At PLE level, the increase stands at **6.6%**, with a total of **798,763** candidates registered, compared to **749,371** in 2023.

Of the entire candidature, **4,498** are Special Needs Education (SNE) learners, as compared to **3,698** candidates who registered last year. The SNE candidates, include **3,295** (PLE), **760**, (UCE- NLSC), **38** (Transitional UCE- Old curriculum); and **405** (UACE). Uganda Prisons (Luzira Upper and Mbarara Main) have registered **108** Candidates (107 Male and 01 Female) for PLE; **39** for UCE (38 Male and 01 Female).

Overview of the Candidature

Level	2024 Candidature			2023 candidature
	Male Candidates	Female candidates	Total Candidature	2023 Total
PLE	379,420	419,343	798,763 (6.6% increase)	749,371
UCE (Old & New Curriculum)	186,212	193,408	379,620 (4.1% increase)	364,421
UACE	80,029	61,988	142,017 (28.4 % increase)	110,579
Overall Total	645,661(48.9%)	674,739 (51.1%)	1,320,400 (7.8% increase)	1,224,371

In terms of funding, **698,808 (53%)** of the total candidature are funded by the government under the Universal Education Programs, while **621,592 (47%)** are privately sponsored.

Overview of the Time Table for the NLSC

The time table for the NLSC has **36 subjects** as compared to the **46 subjects** of the old curriculum. It focuses on the End of Cycle (EoC) assessment conducted by UNEB, which will contribute **80%** of the overall achievement by each learner. The other **20%** is comprised of the Continuous Assessment (CA) carried out at school for every learner.

There are also new subjects and assessment modalities coming on board for the first time. They are **Ugandan Sign Language (U.S.L.)** with a total of **72 pioneer candidates**, eight of whom are hearing learners; and **Physical Education (PE)** with a total candidature of **15,000** registered in **1,341** centers.

In terms of assessment modalities, the Board will assess learners' achievements in **listening and speaking** for two of the foreign languages- **Latin and Arabic**. These were previously examined by only pen and paper. The other foreign languages will still be assessed in listening and speaking, with emphasis on the principles of fairness and evidence based assessment. A total of **4, 490 candidates** have registered for the foreign languages including; French (1,335), Arabic (1,993), Latin (627), German (209), and Chinese (326).

Eleven Local/Indigenous Languages will be assessed including; Uganda Sign Language, Luganda, Lusoga, Runyo/Rutoro, Runyankore/Rukiga, Lumasasba, Ateso, Lugbara Ti, Leb Lango, Leb Acoli, and Dhopadhola.

A separate time table has been set aside for assessing oral, speaking and listening for the languages where it is required, observing and signing for the Uganda Sign Language, Performing Arts and performance for Physical Education, practical Nutrition and Food Technology, as well as Technology and Design (TD). These examinations are already under way. UNEB is sending visiting examiners to the respective centers to conduct the examination before 12th October, 2024.

Continuous Assessment (CA) Scores

Continuous Assessment (CA) scores **MUST** be submitted to UNEB through the **school portal**. The deadline for submission has been extended from **30th September - 30th October, 2024** to give ample time to schools to compile and submit the scores on the portal.

Centers **MUST NOT** deliver the coursework assessment marks physically, by post or by courier because they shall not be accepted. UNEB has provided every school with a CD that has an offline software for capturing CA scores of the candidates and later submit them on the portal. UNEB has also trained 15 teachers in every school on how to compute and submit the scores. Concerned parties, including **candidates and parents**, should note that candidates **without CA scores** in any subject offered, and project work **shall not be graded**.

Accessing the Time Table

Heads of Centers can access the time tables from their school portals. Hard copies have also been provided along with the other stationery, currently being distributed. UNEB has printed enough copies for all the UCE and UACE candidates. Schools should therefore ensure that every candidate receives a copy of the time table. The time tables should also be displayed on the school noticeboards for interested parties to access.

Braille versions of the UCE (Transitional and New Curriculum), as well as UACE Time Tables have also been provided for candidates with visual impairment.

Candidates are advised to take off time and read through the time table to acquaint themselves with the instructions there in. Special attention should be drawn to the *Directions to candidates* and; *Caution against malpractice* sections of the time tables.

Display of candidates' registers

The display of candidates' registers, as required by the UNEB Act 2021, continues until **October 10th, 2024**. Article 4, sub-section 2 of the Act compels Examination Centers to display candidates' lists, sixty days before the date for the commencement of the national examinations. Accordingly, with effect from August 11th, 2024, Heads of Centers were asked to display the candidates' registers in a conspicuous place at the school notice boards. The purpose of the display is to enable candidates to confirm their registration status as well as the correctness of their bio-data.

Candidates and parents are advised to look out for correctness and order of names, date of birth, gender, resolution of the candidates' photograph, as well as the subjects and papers registered for in the case of UCE and UACE candidates. After confirming registration status, candidates **MUST** sign on a parallel register to confirm correctness of the registration data.

In case of anomalies in the registration data, candidates should inform the school authorities, who shall alert UNEB to make the necessary corrections. Where a learner is found not to have been registered by the school, and has proof of payment of registration fees before the set deadlines, the Board should also be informed immediately.

Call to Action

I wish to reiterate that the successful conduct of this year's **Four Examinations (4Es)** is a joint responsibility by all the stakeholders. Candidates and all those concerned **MUST** note that involvement in examination malpractice in one paper shall lead to cancellation of results of the whole examination. For avoidance of doubt, cases of examination malpractice that can lead to **disqualification, cancellation of results or arrest of a candidate** have been spelt out on the time table.

This time table is released ahead of the examination as part of the preparatory process. We therefore advise candidates to ensure that they thoroughly read, understand and commit to abide by the regulations therein. Parents/ guardians, teachers and Heads of Centers are equally advised to take keen interest in the precautions highlighted on the time table, and provide the necessary counseling and guidance to the candidates.

We also wish to caution candidates against involvement in acts of indiscipline. Being a candidate does not exonerate you from following school rules and regulations. UNEB does not condone indiscipline. Parents and guardians should therefore take extra caution to counsel the learners not to get involved in such acts, as it may ruin their opportunities of sitting for the examination.

Heads of UCE Centres **MUST** ensure that the project achievement and the CA scores for UCE candidates of the NLSC are submitted to UNEB before the new set deadline of **October 30th, 2024**. It is important to note that candidates **without project work as well as CA scores** in any of the subjects offered **shall not be graded**. Parents and candidates should therefore take keen interest and confirm with the school that the CA scores have been submitted to UNEB in time.

Clarification on distribution of examination papers

UNEB has, in the recent past, had engagements with education officials, area and center supervisors, where the we cautioned against the use of *Boda Boda* riders as distributors of examination papers. This however appears to have been misunderstood. This is to clarify that the Board is not against the use of motor cycles as a means of transport by the officials distributing examination papers, where it is applicable. We are however against **Boda Boda riders being assigned the role of 'Distributors of the Examination Papers.'** This has facilitated malpractice in the past, and we strongly condemn it.

Dan N. Odongo
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR