

Uganda - Uganda Certificate of Education

Uganda National Examinations Board - Government

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Overview

Identification

Summary

ABSTRACT

The Uganda Certificate of Education (UCE) has been administered annually since 1980 by the Uganda National Examinations Board to grade 11 (ISCED 2) students in general education programmes in public and private schools.

The UCE is a high-stake and mandatory examination that certifies completion of lower secondary general education programmes. It is a requirement for students wishing to pursue an upper secondary education (ISCED 3).

The UCE is administered face-to-face. It comprises a written component, delivered through paper-pencil tests, an oral component, and practical applications. All test-takers are presented with the same cognitive booklets or tests, which are aligned with the national curriculum.

The UCE serves the following purposes:

- student certification for completion of lower secondary general education programmes
- student selection to higher education programmes or admission into specific courses or tracks
- school or educator accountability
- sub-national level monitoring of learning outcomes
- monitoring education quality levels
- planning education policy reforms

The UCE accommodates students with special needs, by providing the following arrangements:

- Hearing impairment: additional time, support staff, sign language interpreters
- Visual impairment: test materials with large font
- Language impairment: additional time and support staff
- Emotional disturbance: additional time and support staff

KIND OF DATA

Census (all students at the given grades or ages)

UNITS OF ANALYSIS

Results are reported at the student, school, sub-national and national levels. Data are disaggregated by sex, geographic location (urban and rural), major cities and type of school (public and private).

Results are published in reports, which are available in print and online. Results are broadcasted on the radio and the television, and published in the media.

Scope

NOTES

The Uganda Certificate of Education comprises six mandatory subjects administered in English. The subjects and the

duration of each test are listed below:

- Mathematics, 150 minutes
- Biology, 120 minutes
- English language, 120 minutes
- Chemistry, 120 minutes
- Physics, 120 minutes
- Geography (150 minutes), or History (120 minutes) or Religious education (120 minutes if the student chooses Christian education; 90 minutes if the student chooses Islamic education).

The optional subjects comprise cultural subjects (such as Music); technical subjects (such as Carpentry); and other subjects such as Accounting, Business and Computer science.

A candidate registers for a minimum of eight and a maximum of 10 subjects.

Note that some subjects consist of more than one paper, and each paper may have a different duration.

Description of test items: Test items consist of multiple choice questions with three or more response options, open-ended questions requiring short constructed responses, essay writing and individual project.

Description of stimuli: Test stimuli consist of continuous, non-continuous and mixed texts. As well, some stimuli are presented in audio format.

Reporting metrics: Student performance is reported by average score.

Students are assigned to one of four divisions, each associated with a range of scores; however, the corresponding ranges are not disclosed. The best achievement is division one, and the minimum requirement to meet the national standard is division four.

Coverage

GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE

National

UNIVERSE

Students enrolled in grade 11 (ISCED 2) in general education programmes in public and private schools.

Producers and Sponsors

PRIMARY INVESTIGATOR(S)

Name	Affiliation
Uganda National Examinations Board	Government

OTHER PRODUCER(S)

Name	Affiliation	Role
Uganda National Examinations Board	Government	Test development and administration; data processing and dissemination; programme development
Ministry of Education and Sports	Government	Financial support through ministerial budget
Teachers Unions	N/A	Test administration; data dissemination

Name	Affiliation	Role
Parents Associations	N/A	Test administration; data dissemination
Households	N/A	Financial contribution through examination fees paid by candidates

Metadata Production

METADATA PRODUCED BY

Name	Abbreviation	Affiliation	Role
Uganda National Examinations Board	UNEB	Government	Data collection
UNESCO Institute for Statistics	UIS	United Nations	Questionnaire design, metadata collection, review and publication

DATE OF METADATA PRODUCTION
2014

DDI DOCUMENT ID
UGA-UCE-2013

Data Collection

Data Collection Dates

Start	End	Cycle
2013	2013	Every year

Data Collection Mode

Face-to-face [f2f]

Data Processing

Data Editing

Test booklets are scored and verified manually. The data editing process is performed in local examination centres.

Other Processing

Data entry is performed manually and by scanning score sheets. The data capture operations are performed at headquarters.

In the near future, UNEB will use tablet computers in local examination centres for capturing data before it is uploaded to the headquarters' central server.

Data Access

Access Authority

Uganda National Examinations Board (Government), uneb@uneb.ac.ug, www.uneb.ac.ug

Contact(s)

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Access Conditions

Access to the data is offered with charge for private users.

To access the data, please send a request to the Uganda National Examinations Board.

Tel: +256 414 256 286635/6/7/8

Fax: +256 414 289397

Citation Requirements

Once access to the data has been granted, a private user is free to cite the data or use them in publications.