



UGANDA NATIONAL EXAMINATIONS BOARD

STATEMENT OF RELEASE OF THE 2019 PRIMARY LEAVING EXAMINATION RESULTS

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Honorable Minister, the Uganda National Examinations Board (UNEB) is pleased to present to you the statement of results of the 2019 Primary Leaving Examination (PLE) which was conducted smoothly between 4th and 5th November 2019 under the theme: “Integrity and Security in the Management of Examinations is my Responsibility.

2.0 REGISTRATION OF 2019 PLE CANDIDATES

A total of **695,804** candidates from **13,475** centres (schools) registered for PLE in 2019. Of this number, **473,893 (68.2%)** were Universal Primary Education (UPE) beneficiaries, and **221,912 (31.8%)** of the candidates were Non-UPE. Table 1 below gives details of candidature and centres for the last five years.

Table 1: PLE Registration Figures for the last five years

Year	UPE	Non-UPE	Total	No. of Centres
2019	473,893	221,912	695,804	13,475
2018	476,130	195,796	671,923	13,072
2017	466,235	179,955	646,190	12,751
2016	488,310	152,657	640,833	12,391
2015	478,585	142,816	621,401	12,235

The above table indicates that candidature increased by 23,881 (3.6%) over the number of candidates and centres in the previous year. Candidature has been increasing by an average of 2.4% over the last five years.

In 2019, analysis by gender indicated that 336,040 (48.3%) boys were registered compared to 359,764 (51.7%) girls, indicating that more girls than boys completed the Primary Education cycle. This has been the trend in the last five years.

The Board registered 1,315 learners with special needs of various categories. The blind, the deaf, the physically handicapped and the dyslexics among others. Of these, 49.3% are females and 50.7% are males.

Table 2 below gives the details of candidates who registered, those who sat and absentees for the last five years.

Table 2: PLE Figures for candidates who sat and absentees

Year	Total Registered	Total Sat	Absentees	% of Absentees
2019	695,804	683,302	12,502	1.8%
2018	671,923	659,633	12,293	1.8%
2017	646,190	631,282	14,907	2.3%
2016	640,833	623,540	17,427	2.7%
2015	621,401	620,482	19,614	3.2%

The percentage of absentee candidates has remained the same as in 2018.

3.0 PERFORMANCE OF CANDIDATES BY SUBJECT

The performance of candidates in the four subjects is compared over the two-year period of 2019 and 2018 in Table 3 below. The performance is indicated at Distinction 2, Credit 6 and Pass 8 levels.

Table 3: Candidates' overall Performance by Subject

SUBJECTS	2019				2018			
	TOTAL	CUMMULATIVE %			TOTAL	CUMMULATIVE %		
		2	6	8		2	6	8
ENGLISH	683,433	7.6	59.5	84.0	651,590	6.3	62.7	87.7
SST	683,400	14.0	78.9	93.1	657,589	12.1	80.4	95.5
SCIENCE	683,494	4.9	69.6	90.0	657,601	13.4	64.5	92.3
MATHS	683,496	6.0	48.3	84.9	657,565	6.2	41.7	77.0

The table indicates that in English and SST, performance improved at the distinction level. Overall pass level rose in Science although performance at the distinction level dropped sharply.

In both English and Mathematics performance was poor in questions where candidates were required to apply knowledge in problem solving situations or express themselves freely. Candidates were more comfortable with questions that are direct and based on recall. This situation has persisted over the years.

The reports from Examiners, however, indicated that there is an improvement in candidates' handwriting. Candidates also organized and presented their work more clearly even when the answers are wrong. The number of candidates scoring zero has also reduced greatly compared to previous years.

4.0 OVERALL PERFORMANCE

Table 4 below shows the overall performance of candidates by divisional grades in 2019 compared to the performance of 2018.

Table 4: Candidates' overall Performance by Divisional Grades

DIV	2019			2018		
	NO.	CUM.	CUM%	NO.	CUM.	CUM%
1	69,243	69,243	10.1	77,133	77,133	11.8
2	318,155	387,398	56.7	272,861	349,994	53.4
3	140,420	527,818	77.3	142,201	492,195	75.1
4	89,332	617,150	90.4	107,398	599,593	91.4
U	66,152	66,152	9.6	56,105	56,105	8.6
TOTAL		683,302			655,698	

The table shows that generally there was better performance in 2019 than 2018 in the upper divisions 2 and 3.

A candidate is deemed to have passed if he/she obtains divisional grades of 1, 2, 3 or 4. Such candidates will qualify to register for any post primary examination conducted by UNEB. This year **617,150** candidates passed the PLE compared to **599,593** the previous year. Overall, therefore, more pupils qualify to join the post primary institutions than the previous year. Division U (Ungraded) is awarded to candidates who have failed to reach the minimum level of performance that can be awarded at least a Division 4. Such candidates are advised to repeat.

UNEB maintains an examination centre at Uganda Government Upper Prison School. Of the 62 candidates who registered, 56 candidates sat, there was none in Division 1, 31 obtained Division 2, 19 obtained Division 3, 4 obtained Division 4, and only 2 were ungraded.

The best blind candidate, AINAMANI ARTHUR RWAKITARA from Grand Masion Primary School Nabbingo (Wakiso) obtained Division 1 with an aggregate of 9. The best dyslexic candidates are a female, AHURIRA RHINA from Bwaise Parents Primary School (Kampala) with Division 1, Aggregate 9 and a male GAEL PARWOT GADI from Victorious Primary School (Kampala) also aggregate 9, Division 1. The best deaf candidate is a female PEACE SHARON from Ojipaku Primary School Arua with Aggregate 13, Division 2.

5.0 PERFORMANCE BY GENDER

Performance by gender is shown in table 5 below:

Table 5: Performance by Gender

GENDER	DIV.1	DIV.2	DIV.3	DIV. 4	DIV. U
MALE	39,182	159,923	60,244	43,868	26,976
	11.9%	48.4%	18.2%	13.3%	8.2%
FEMALE	30,061	158,232	80,176	45,464	39,176
	8.5%	44.6%	22.6%	12.3%	11.0%

The table shows that proportionally boys performed better than girls at the upper grades, and with a lower failure rate.

6.0 EXAMINATION MALPRACTICE

Although the examination was conducted smoothly, cases of malpractice were reported. These were mainly cases of external assistance given to candidates by third parties inside the examination rooms. There were several instances of fake papers circulated prior to the examination. Sixty one persons have so far been arrested from various parts of the country and charged. Many gullible schools bought these papers and used them to teach the children overnight on the eve of the examination. Such children were greatly disorganized on finding different questions in the examination papers. Markers found in some candidates' scripts excuses such as "this is not the paper we are to do," "this is not our examination," etc.

Those arrested and charged cases are awaiting court action. UNEB wishes to warn that from now on, the perpetrators of examination malpractice will be hunted down and brought to book.

The Board has sought and obtained approval of the Hon. Minister in accordance with Section 4(3) of the UNEB Act to withhold results of about 1,512 candidates pending completion of investigations. This is much lower than the 3,346 withheld in 2018 PLE. Schools whose results are withheld will be notified through their District Inspectors of Schools.

All candidates whose results have been withheld will be accorded a fair hearing by the Board's Examinations Security Committee. Those candidates who will be cleared will have their results released. After the hearings are concluded the Board will publish in the media the list of schools and districts from which results will have been cancelled.

7.0 REPORT ON WORK OF CANDIDATES

The Board gives feed back to its stakeholders. A Report on Work of Candidates is therefore compiled using observations of Examiners. Advice to teachers is given. All stakeholders particularly teachers are urged to utilize this Report.

8.0 A WORD OF GRATITUDE

I would like to thank you Hon. Minister for the assistance you render to ensure release of funds. I thank the Permanent Secretary for the keen interest in the work of UNEB and his being readily available for consultation any time I have needed him.

I would like to thank the Chairperson and Board members for their guidance. I would also like to thank my dedicated staff at UNEB Secretariat for their tireless efforts to ensure that the results of the examination are released on time. I thank the District leaders; the Chief Administrative Officers, District and Municipal Education Officers, District and Municipal Inspectors of Schools, monitors, scouts and invigilators for their cooperation and support during the management of 2019 PLE.

Honourable Minister, I wish to pay special tribute to the people who handled the examination in the districts in the areas mentioned by the Chairperson, but in particular, Bulambuli and Bududa districts. Where the rains and terrain made it impossible to use motorized transport, they trudged up the hills and down slippery slopes to ensure examination papers reached the sitting centres. Theirs was the best example of patriotism.

Special thanks go to the Inspector General of Police, the Chief of the Defence Forces and other Security agencies for releasing their personnel to support UNEB in ensuring the security of 2019 PLE. Under the name "Operation Hadari," they did a very good job.

I would like to thank the media for the role they played and continue to play.

I wish to **congratulate all the candidates** who have passed the examination, the teachers who prepared them and the parents/guardians for their support.

Finally, I wish to thank the institutions that allowed UNEB to use their premises and facilities to mark the PLE Examination.

9.0 COLLECTION OF RESULTS

Results will be uploaded on the Portal. However, District and Municipal Inspectors of School can **collect** hardcopies of the **results** from UNEB offices at Ntinda beginning on **17th January 2020** at **3.00 p.m.** Parents, candidates and well-wishers are informed that the Board will not issue any results at the headquarters. They are therefore advised to utilize SMS services on mobile networks which will post results of candidates on their mobile sets instantly.

10.0 INSTRUCTIONS TO GET PLE RESULTS BY SMS

- Go to messages
- Type PLE
- Leave space
- Type the full index number
- Send to 6600

Once again, I thank you and wish you a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Dan. N. Odongo

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

17th January 2020