



## UGANDA NATIONAL EXAMINATIONS BOARD

# STATEMENT OF RELEASE OF THE 2020 PRIMARY LEAVING EXAMINATION RESULTS

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### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

Honourable Minister, the Uganda National Examinations Board (UNEB) is pleased to present to you the Results of the 2020 Primary Leaving Examination (PLE) which was conducted smoothly on 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021; under the theme: **Integrity and Security in the Management of Examinations, the Health and Safety of the Learners is a joint Responsibility**. Needless to say, the COVID-19 pandemic presented unprecedented challenges to the Board, and indeed, the Ministry of Education and Sports, Local Governments, examination centres and examination officials in ensuring that adequate preparations were made to conduct the examination in accordance with the Regulations and the Standard Operating Procedures as issued by the Ministry of Health.

### 2.0 REGISTRATION OF 2020 PLE CANDIDATES

A total of **749,761** candidates from **14,300** centres (schools) registered for PLE in 2020 compared to **695,804** in 2019. Of this number, **513,085 (68.4%)** from 11,231 centres were Universal Primary Education (UPE) beneficiaries, and **236,677 (31.6%)** 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
2020	513,085	236,677	749,761	14,300
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

The above table indicates that candidature increased by **53,957** (7.75%) over the previous year. This is the highest rate of increase recorded. Candidature has been increasing by an average of 2.5% over the last five years.

In 2020, analysis by gender indicated that **353,925** (47.2%) boys were registered compared to **395,836** (52.8%) 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 **1,599** learners with special needs of various categories. The blind, the deaf, the physically handicapped and the dyslexics among others. Of these, **752** (47.0%) are females and **847** (53.0%) are males.

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

**Table 2: PLE Figures for candidates who sat and absentees**

Year	Total Registered	Total Sat	Absentees	% of Absentees
2020	749,942	736,942	12,819	1.7
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

The percentage of absentee candidates has declined compared to previous years.

### **3.0 PERFORMANCE OF CANDIDATES BY SUBJECT**

The performance of candidates in the four subjects is compared over the two-year period of 2020 and 2019 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	2020				2019			
	TOTAL	CUMMULATIVE %			TOTAL			
		2	6	8		2	6	8
ENGLISH	734,835	7.2	59.5	87.5	683,433	7.6	59.5	84.0
SST	734,868	14.5	79.2	93.1	683,400	14.0	78.9	93.1
SCIENCE	734,837	10.9	67.3	88.1	683,494	4.9	69.6	90.0
MATHS	734,851	4.7	47.2	82.3	683,496	6.0	48.3	84.9

**NOTE: Figures do not include withheld results**

The table indicates that in English there was an overall improvement in performance at the minimum pass level. Distinction level passes declined slightly but the credit level remained the same. In Social Studies with Religious Education (SST), performance improved at the distinction and credit levels while overall pass level remained the same. Integrated Science recorded an improved performance at the distinction level, similar to the levels seen before 2019, but the overall pass level declined slightly. Mathematics had a slight drop in performance across all three pass levels. SST remains the best done subject as in previous years.

#### **4.0 COMPARISON OF SUBJECT PERFORMANCE BY GENDER**

Table 4 below shows subject performance by gender. The figures are in cumulative percentages at each pass level.

**Table 4: Subject Performance by Gender**

	MALE			FEMALE		
	D2	C6	P8	D2	C6	P8
ENGLISH	7.1	57.6	86.5	7.3	61.1	88.4
SST	15.3	80.4	93.5	13.7	78.2	92.9
SCIENCE	11.8	69.5	89.0	10.2	65.3	88.1
MATHS	5.2	49.2	83.6	4.3	45.4	81.2

The table indicates the females performed better than the males in English, but the reverse is true for the other three subjects; Social Studies & Religious Education, Integrated Science, and Mathematics.

As we have reported in previous years, candidates' performance in English and Mathematics tended to be poorer in questions requiring free expression or application of learned concepts in problem solving situations. Candidates performed better in questions that were direct and based on recall.

Examiners again reported good handwriting and organized work presented by candidates. The number of candidates scoring zero in various subjects has generally increased compared to previous year.

## 5.0 OVERALL PERFORMANCE BY DIVISION

Table 5 below shows the overall performance of candidates by Divisional grades in 2020 compared to the performance of 2019.

**Table 5: Candidates' overall Performance by Divisional Grades**

DIV	2020			2019		
	NO.	CUM.	CUM%	NO.	CUM.	CUM%
1	81,864	81,864	11.1	69,243	69,243	10.1
2	334,711	416,575	56.7	318,155	387,398	56.7
3	146,142	562,717	76.6	140,420	527,818	77.3
4	97,193	659,910	89.8	89,332	617,150	90.4
U	74,878	74,878	10.2	66,152	66,152	9.6
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>734,788</b>			<b>683,302</b>	

**NOTE: Figures do not include withheld results**

The table shows that in 2020, more candidates obtained Division 1 than in 2019. The overall pass levels are comparable between the two years. In terms of numbers, **659,910** candidates passed the PLE compared to **617,150** the previous year. Overall, therefore, more pupils qualify to join the post-primary institutions than the previous year.

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 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.

## 6.0 DIVISIONAL GRADES BY FUNDING

Table 6 below shows performance by divisional grades by funding type.

**Table 6: Performance by Funding type**

DIV	UPE			NON UPE		
	NO.	CUM.	CUM%	NO.	CUM.	CUM%
1	26,127	26,127	5.2	55,737	55,737	23.9
2	212,623	238,750	47.6	122,088	177,825	76.1
3	117,338	356,088	71.1	28,804	206,629	88.4
4	80,484	436,572	87.1	16,709	223,338	95.5
U	64,487	501,059	12.0	10,391	233,729	4.5
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>501,059</b>			<b>233,729</b>	

**NOTE: Figures do not include withheld results**

From the table, it can be seen that Non UPE candidates performed better than the UPE candidates. Most of the Non UPE candidates are from schools located in urban areas. Studies conducted by UNEB through National Assessment of Progress in Education (NAPE) have consistently shown that learners in schools located in urban areas achieve at higher levels of proficiency than their peers in schools located in rural areas. Reasons for this include the fact that teachers in the urban schools tend to spend more time on task, there is a higher level of parental involvement in the learning process, better access to facilities that supplement classroom teaching, etc.

## 7.0 OVERALL PERFORMANCE BY GENDER

Overall Performance by gender is shown in Table 6 below:

**Table 7: Overall Performance by Gender**

GENDER	DIV.1	DIV.2	DIV.3	DIV. 4	DIV. U
MALE	44,877	163,973	63,781	43,434	30,394
	12.9%	47.3%	18.4%	12.5%	8.9%
FEMALE	36,987	170,738	82,361	53,759	43,924
	9.5%	44.0%	21.2%	13.9%	11.3%

**NOTE: Figures do not include withheld results**

The Table shows that proportionally males performed better than the females and recorded a lower failure rate.

## 8.0 PERFORMANCE OF SPECIAL CANDIDATE GROUPS

### 8.1 Inmates

UNEB maintains an examination centre at Uganda Government Upper Prison School, Luzira. Of the **58** candidates who registered, **53** candidates sat, **five** passed in Division 1, **23** obtained Division 2, **11** obtained Division 3, **11** obtained Division 4, and only **three** were ungraded.

### 8.2 Special Needs candidates

Table 8 below shows the performance of Special Needs candidates by category and by Division.

**Table 8: Performance of Special Needs candidates by Divisional Grades**

<b>CATEGORY</b>	<b>DIV. 1</b>	<b>DIV. 2</b>	<b>DIV. 3</b>	<b>DIV. 4</b>	<b>DIV. U</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED	1	28	9	4	3	45
BLIND	2	18	5	9	1	35
PARTIALLY BLIND	55	217	93	45	34	444
DEAF	0	23	38	45	112	218
DYSLEXICS & THOSE NEEDING TRANSCRIBERS	33	293	79	59	18	482
NEEDING EXTRA TIME ONLY	41	172	83	80	69	445

The table shows that there were more Special Needs candidates who were partially blind, dyslexic, needed transcribers, and those who needed extra time. Of the Special Needs candidates who registered, **20** were absent.

## **9.0 EXAMINATION MALPRACTICE**

Scouts and Examiners reported a number of cases of suspected external assistance given to candidates inside the examination rooms by third parties. Three cases of suspected impersonation were also detected. Security personnel also arrested some people vending fake papers on the eve of the examination. Unlike in 2019, such cases of fake papers were few.

Security also arrested some distributors in the districts of Nakasongola, and the greater Masaka areas who were entrusted with delivering the examination papers to examination centres, but along the way, cut the envelopes with a view to access the questions. These will be prosecuted in accordance with the UNEB Act.

In accordance with Section 5 (2) (b) of the UNEB Act No 1 of 2021 the Board will withhold results of 2,220 candidates pending completion of investigations. The largest numbers of withheld results are from districts in the Rwenzori region, especially in the districts of Bundibugyo and Kasese. 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. 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.

## **10.0 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.

## **11.0 A WORD OF GRATITUDE**

I would like to join the Board Chairperson in thanking you, Hon Minister for the support we received from you that ensured that we obtained the necessary funds to run the examination during this very difficult time. 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 thank the District leaders; the Chief Administrative Officers, District and Urban Education Officials, monitors, scouts and invigilators for their cooperation and support during the management of 2020 PLE.



Honourable Minister, I wish, in a special way, to appreciate the Staff of UNEB Secretariat. When the future looked bleak with uncertainties; when our personal safety was at great risk, our determination to deliver these results remained undaunted and rose each time we faced the COVID-19 related challenges. We dedicated each activity and each day in prayer in the firm belief that with God nothing is impossible.

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 2020 PLE in the field and at marking centres. 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 despite the fact that the exercise caused an alteration in their school programme.

## **12.0 COLLECTION OF RESULTS**

Results will be uploaded on the examination centre Portals. Each school can therefore download their results as soon as they are officially released. However, when conditions allow, UNEB will inform District and Municipal and City Inspectors of Schools to **collect** hard copies of the **results** from UNEB offices at Ntinda. No copies of results are available as of now. Parents, candidates and other interested parties may use the Short Message Services (SMS) on mobile networks which will post results of candidates on their mobile sets instantly.

We wish to warn schools against collecting candidates together to celebrate the results, as this act is likely to spread the corona virus. Instead, parents and the candidates themselves can use the Short Messaging Service (SMS).

### **13.0 INSTRUCTIONS TO GET PLE RESULTS BY SMS**

- Go to **Messages** on the phone menu
- Type **PLE**
- Leave space
- Type **the full index number of the candidate**
- Send to **6600**

**Dan. N. Odongo**  
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

*16<sup>th</sup> July 2021*