

Candidate's Name:

Signature:

Random No.					Personal No.		

(Do not write your School/ Centre Name or Number anywhere on this Booklet.)

112/1

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Paper 1

Oct./Nov.2024

2 hours



UGANDA NATIONAL EXAMINATIONS BOARD

Uganda Certificate of Education

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Paper 1

2 hours

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES:

This paper consists of two Sections; A and B. It has four items in all.

Section A is compulsory.

Answer one item from Section B.

Answer three examination items in all.

Answers to Section A must be written in the spaces provided.

Answers to Section B must be written in the answer booklet(s) provided.

Any additional items answered will not be scored.

SECTION A

Item 1. *You are the youth chairperson of your village and your Local Council Chairperson has asked you to give a talk to the youths about the dangers of social media. At first, you were not sure of what to say to them but then you remembered an educative article you read in one of the newspapers. The article is given below. Read it and write what you are going to tell them. Use about 100 words.*

Social media has undeniably become an integral part of the lives of today's youth, shaping their behaviour, attitude and interactions in profound ways. With the availability of smartphones and internet access, young people are more connected than ever before.

Nobody can measure the amount of productive time the youth lose due to constantly engaging with various social media platforms such as Facebook, Instagram and Snapchat. While social media platforms offer numerous opportunities for communication and sharing information, their negative impact on the youth is a topic of significant concern and debate.

Of all versions of social media, WhatsApp is the greatest challenge. It is addictive and encourages time-wasting and gossip amongst the young people through formation of many WhatsApp groups.

Social media impacts the mental and emotional well-being of the youth. The constant exposure to carefully idealized images and posts from their peers creates a distorted perception of reality, leading to feelings of inadequacy, low self-esteem, and even depression. The pressure to conform to unrealistic beauty standards can contribute to a heightened sense of anxiety in young people due to the desire to look like their role models.

Many young people no longer listen to their parents since they are too busy with WhatsApp. Their obsession with social media has diminished the level of parent-child interactions. They spend more time scrolling through screens rather than engaging with their parents. With every passing second, one is conscious of an incoming message or tweet from peers. Preoccupied with likes, comments and online connections, children miss opportunities for meaningful conversations, emotional support, and shared experiences with their parents, leading to feelings of isolation, low self-esteem and strained relationships. The constant need for likes, comments and followers can create a sense of superficiality in young people where the number of online friends becomes a yardstick for self-worth.

The constant bombardment of notifications, messages and viral content can easily distract young people from focusing on important tasks such as completing academic assignments. The addictive nature of social media platforms designed to keep users engaged for longer periods can lead to increased procrastination and decreased productivity.

Additionally, social media exposes young people to a wide range of misinformation, propaganda and cyberbullying, which affect their mental and emotional well-being. Lack of fact-checking and rapid spread of rumours can distort their understanding of the world and influence their beliefs and behaviours.

Too much exposure to social media has created a room for indecency among the youth. This is manifested through the vulgar language they sometimes use. Girls nowadays walk in public almost naked in pretext of imitating their highly reputable role models and celebrities.

Spending a day or two without data may cause undue stress to peers. In today's digitally-driven world, many youths have become so accustomed to constant connectivity that being without data for even a short period can cause significant distress. This phenomenon is often called 'digital withdrawal' or 'tech anxiety'. In order to get data or subscription fees, some youth resort to stealing money from their parents and peers to meet data bills.

Most young people have ended up as victims of online scamming. Online scamming is a serious threat in this digital age. Scammers use sophisticated tactics to deceive and exploit vulnerable youths. The fraudsters extract the youths' hard-earned money, promising to get them juicy jobs in reputable multinational companies.

Reversing this dangerous trend will be difficult. It is true that social media plays a significant role in our lives. However, there is need for healthy digital habits and boundaries to maintain a balance between online and offline interactions. As we embrace the wonders of social media, we have to be careful that it does not cost us our productivity and humanity.

(Adapted from: *The New Vision* July 27, 2016.)

Item 2. *Read the text below and respond to the given tasks*

The day finally came and Nasula carried her only sack of beans to the market to raise school fees for her only daughter, Sula. In the open space before her, where beans and other produce were sold in bulk, people diligently occupied themselves, standing their bags in the best positions, opening and adjusting them for improvement.

The first person to stop by her bag of beans was a busy-looking young woman in a dark suit, who looked as if she worked in a good office. She asked the price and was told one hundred and twenty thousand kwacha. The woman then wrote something down on a piece of paper and walked away quickly but gracefully. More people came and went, appreciating the beans as being good, but not buying them.

The sky was clear and Nasula was beginning to feel hot, bored and tired. A man with a homburg hat which added to his stature, and a scent which smelt expensive, stood before Nasula. Well-built and in his late thirties, the man had well-cropped brown hair and broad shoulders. He wore an immaculate checked suit, dark shoes, a white shirt and a red tie.

Although there was something shrewd and not transparent about his long, scar-marked face and bright eyes, the man was impressive, taken all together.

'I'll give you one hundred and thirty thousand kwacha, Mama, for this bag,' he said. 'These are good beans.' His polished accent and the rather scented odour of his body seemed to intimidate Nasula. 'What do you say, Mama?'

She looked down at her bag of beans which was about to leave her, a breeze of relief and happiness rising inside her. The man offered her more than what other interested buyers had wanted to offer her.

'Did you say one thirty?' she asked the man, just to be sure she had heard him correctly.

'Correct, Mama.'

'You can take the bag!'

'Close it up, Mama. I will find some boys to come and lift it into the car for me.'

Nasula started sewing up the opening to the bag. As she finished, the man who had offered to buy the bag arrived with three young men to lift the bag into the car. Nasula stepped forward and helped the young men to carry the bag to the car. The man who was buying the beans walked ahead of them.

The car was parked by the edge of the market, along the road that marked the Southern border. It was a bright yellow car with a black line on its sides. It was a beautiful machine, as immaculate as its owner. Nasula's eyes darted from one to the other, as the man opened his boot and she and the helpers threw the bag of beans inside.

When he had closed and locked the boot, the man who was buying the bag of beans fished out a five hundred kwacha note and gave it to one of the three young men, saying that he and his friends would know how to share the money.

'Come, Mama, let us go,' he said to Nasula, and started walking back in the direction from which they had come. 'I want to buy some more of these beans.' Still walking, he took out a bunch of notes and counted them, making Nasula's heart throb with anxiety. 'Six hundred thousand kwacha. I must buy three more bags and hire a van to take them home,' he said to himself, loudly enough for Nasula to hear. But then, he did not give Nasula her share of his wealth. He put everything back in his pocket and walked on.

Reaching the spot where Nasula had been selling her beans, he told her to wait there a bit longer.

'Let me see if I can find some more beans like yours,' he said, walking towards another part of the market.

Nasula waited and waited but the man did not come. She became impatient and decided to follow him. She followed the passage through which he had walked, but there was no sign of him. She walked down every passage, where produce was sold in bulk, searching for him, but in vain. She decided to go and wait for him by his car. The yellow car had gone.

The nearby vendors confirmed her fears. It was clear that the man had cheated her out of her bag of beans.

(Adapted from: *A Cowrie of Hope* by Binwell Sinyangwe)

Respond appropriately to each of the following tasks according to the text:

- (a) *People diligently occupied themselves, standing their bags in the best positions, opening and adjusting them for improvement.* Explain why you think the vendors were doing this.

- (b) *The woman then wrote something down on a piece of paper and walked away quickly but gracefully.*
(Re-write this sentence, beginning with a past participle phrase.)

- (c) Different people have different personalities. In reference to the text above, what type of person is the man who took Nasula's bag of beans?

(d) In life, we learn from our own experiences or those of others. What can one learn from the text above?

(e) People's actions and behaviour affect us differently. Describe the feelings the text brings in you.

(f) If you were the leader of the vendors in the market where Nasula lost her bag of beans, what measures would you put in place to avoid such incidences?

SECTION B

Either:

3. You recently attended your cousin's marriage ceremony. It was well attended. There was a variety of things and all was in plenty. It was a well organised function.

Describe that event. (Use **450 – 500** words.)

Or:

4. One Saturday evening, you were returning from attending a friend's birthday party which was 10 kilometres away. You failed to get a taxi back home. A driver of a private car came by at around 8.30 pm and offered you a lift. There was no other person in the car. You went through an experience that you will never forget.

Write about that experience. (Use **450 – 500** words.)