

UCE: 80% QUALIFY FOR SCIENCE COMBINATIONS

BY MARTIN KITUBI, NELSON KIVA AND SIMON MASABA

| SUBJECTS | A | | B | | C | | D | | E | |
|----------------------|-----|-----|------|------|------|------|------|------|-----|-----|
| | M | F | M | F | M | F | M | F | M | F |
| English Lang. | 2.5 | 3.6 | 14.8 | 20.1 | 49.7 | 51.5 | 30.7 | 23.3 | 2.4 | 1.6 |
| Christian Rel. Educ. | 3.2 | 3.9 | 16.2 | 19.6 | 65.0 | 64.8 | 14.2 | 10.9 | 1.4 | 0.9 |
| History & Pol. Educ. | 0.9 | 0.7 | 20.9 | 18.5 | 63.9 | 64.6 | 11.4 | 13.0 | 2.8 | 3.2 |
| Geography | 3.8 | 3.1 | 20.3 | 19.1 | 55.9 | 60.0 | 18.1 | 16.4 | 1.9 | 1.4 |
| Mathematics | 1.9 | 1.1 | 24.9 | 20.9 | 59.7 | 64.2 | 10.7 | 11.2 | 2.9 | 2.7 |
| Agriculture | 0.2 | 0.2 | 23.1 | 21.7 | 61.5 | 63.8 | 13.3 | 12.9 | 1.8 | 1.6 |
| Physics | 1.0 | 0.6 | 17.3 | 13.9 | 61.1 | 64.8 | 19.8 | 20.2 | 0.8 | 0.6 |
| Chemistry | 0.9 | 0.8 | 18.1 | 17.6 | 62.1 | 66.7 | 17.7 | 14.4 | 0.8 | 0.5 |
| Biology | 1.5 | 1.2 | 15.6 | 13.8 | 68.6 | 71.1 | 13.8 | 13.4 | 0.6 | 0.5 |
| Art & Design | 2.3 | 2.2 | 16.8 | 18.3 | 69.6 | 69.7 | 10.9 | 9.5 | 0.4 | 0.3 |

The fruits of the competence-based curriculum are finally here. This year, the country has registered more learners who qualify for science subject combinations at Senior Five and health programmes at health training schools.

Data from the Uganda Examinations Board (UNEB) shows that at least 80% of the learners who sat last year's Uganda Certificate of Education (UCE) examinations qualify to take on mathematics, physics, chemistry and biology at Senior Five.

According to the UNEB data, at least 80% of the candidates that sat for each of the four science subjects, scored at least a 'C'.

Under the new UNEB grading system, a candidate who scores grade 'C' is considered as satisfactory because he or she has demonstrated an adequate level of competence in a subject by applying the acquired knowledge and skills in real life situations.

According to UNEB, 86.3% candidates scored at least a C in Mathematics, an improvement from 42% in 2024.

Additionally, at least 79.3% of the candidates scored a C in physics in

2025, compared to just 45.9% of them in 2024.

Relatedly, 83.4% of the candidates who sat for chemistry scored a C compared to 49.8% in 2024, while 85.8% scored at least a C in biology compared to 65.2% in 2024.

This implies that the candidate will be spoilt for choice and can enrol for subject combinations such as physics, chemistry and biology (PCB); biology, chemistry and mathematics (BCM); physics, chemistry and mathematics (PCM); as well as physics, economics and mathematics (PEM).

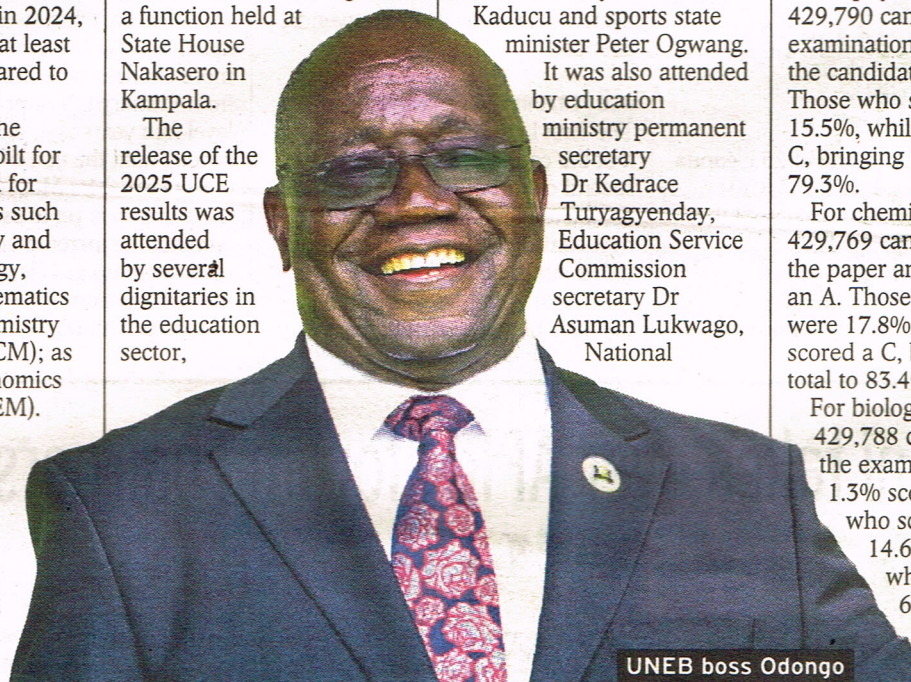
Such candidates will also have an opportunity to undertake mathematics, economics and geography (MEG) in Senior Five.

The 2025 UCE results were released yesterday by First Lady and Minister for Education and Sports, Mrs. Janet Museveni during a function held at State House Nakasero in Kampala.

The release of the 2025 UCE results was attended by several dignitaries in the education sector,

including higher education state minister Dr John Chrysostom Muyingo, primary education state minister Dr Joyce Moriku Kaducu and sports state minister Peter Ogwang.

It was also attended by education ministry permanent secretary Dr Kedrace Turyagyenday, Education Service Commission secretary Dr Asuman Lukwago, National



UNEB boss Odongo

WHAT IT MEANS FOR UGANDA

Minister Kaducu, who is a medical doctor, noted that the improved performance in science subjects provides opportunities for quality learners to join health training institutions.

"If you may recall, last year there was a public outcry from different stakeholders asking that we should only allow candidates who scored at a C to enrol for nursing and midwifery, as well as allied health programmes. I think this time, we will have many of these candidates fit to join the health training institutions," she said.

Dr Turyagyenda noted that the sector has started to see the benefits of the competence-based curriculum with improved performance in sciences.

"It is a good thing now that our children are performing well in sciences. Much as there is demand for scientists in the country, we ask our headteachers and teachers to guide these learners on the best subject combination," she said.

Curriculum Development Centre Dr Bannadette Nambi, among others.

Detailed Performance in Science

According to UNEB, of the 429,899 candidates who sat for the mathematics paper, 1.5% of them scored an A, 22.8% got B while 62% scored a C, bringing the pass rate to 86.3%.

For physics, a total of 429,790 candidates sat the examination and 0.8% of the candidates scored an A. Those who scored B were 15.5%, while 63% scored a C, bringing the pass rate to 79.3%.

For chemistry, a total of 429,769 candidates sat for the paper and 0.9% scored an A. Those who scored B were 17.8%, while 64.7% scored a C, bringing the total to 83.4%.

For biology, a total 429,788 candidates sat the examination and 1.3% scored an A. Those who scored B were 14.6%, while those who scored C were 69.9%.

UNEB

explains performance

Dan Odongo, the UNEB Executive Director, noted that more candidates have achieved more Cs in 2025 compared to 2024.

Odongo said it was quite encouraging in the sciences where percentages of candidates who have not achieved at least a D dropped significantly.

"In the science practical assessments, candidates were expected to use a given scenario and materials provided to develop aims and a hypothesis, plan and carry out investigations and draw conclusions," Odongo said.

"The scorers (examiners) report that although significant improvements have been made, the problem, as observed in the 2024 examination, is the failure of candidates to interpret the scenarios, or connect the scenarios and the materials supplied to real life situations; or interpret the results of the experiments carried out and create meaning that connects to everyday situations," he added.