

start training teachers on the new A'level curriculum this week and we will start with headteachers."

KEY CHANGES

It should be noted that the transitional curriculum is different from the new A'level curriculum, whose development was paused last year due to limited funds.

The ministry plans to deploy the transitional curriculum for four years and thereafter, return to the new one.

As part of the transitional curriculum, the Government will change the teaching, learning and assessment approaches, as well as the overall curriculum focus.

Just like in the new lower secondary school curriculum, students under the transitional A'level curriculum will be assessed according to competencies.

Under the adjusted curriculum, the Government has eliminated obsolete content, overlaps and redundancies in all the subjects taught at A'level.

As part of the changes seen by *New Vision*, subjects such as divinity and biology, which had three examinable papers each at Senior Six, will be reduced to two.

In addition, history, which had three examinable papers, will reduce to two.

In addition, the Government has eliminated obsolete content such as the cathode-ray oscilloscope in physics, which introduced learners to technologies of making old television and radio sets.

BIOLOGY

A'level biology has had one of the biggest changes. Topics such as classification and digestion in man have been removed since they are



The Government has eliminated obsolete content such as the cathode-ray oscilloscope in physics.

taught at O'level.

Under the biology practicals, the dissection of toads and cockroaches has been removed. Instead, the students will be exposed to the dissection of rats alone.

Experts who participated in the formulation of the A'level biology syllabus explained that the dissection of toads was removed for conservation purposes.

In addition, they indicated that the dissection of both toads and cockroaches did not have significant impacts on the learners' future.

However, as part of the biology syllabus, they incorporated food security, carbon footprint, pesticide resistance and antimicrobial resistance.

A source said the criteria for selection of courses at higher institutions of learning will be maintained.

NCDC EXPLAINS

Dr Grace Baguma, the director at NCDC, said they have developed the transitional curriculum to align the one for A'level with that of O'level.

Subsequently, she said, they have changed subject objectives into competencies and learning outcomes.

In addition, Baguma said, they have integrated concepts that were

removed at O'level and were not taught at A'level, removed content overlaps, as well as obsolete and redundant concepts.

"We are also realigning the assessment modalities to emphasise formative and summative assessment approaches at A'level with the competency-based assessment," she said.

Baguma said the new lower secondary school curriculum introduced learner-centred teaching, leaving the knowledge-based teacher-centred curriculum at A'level.

Now that the learners are transitioning to A'level, she said the sector needed to develop a

