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**ENGLISH**

**LANGUAGE**

**Paper 1**

**2024**

**INTERNAL MOCK,2024**

**Uganda Certificate of Education**

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

**Paper 1**

**SECTION A**

**Item 1: Read the text below.**

Low productivity is [one of](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/322952923_Adoption_of_Improved_Varieties_and_Input_Elasticities_Among_Smallholder_Maize_Farmers_in_Kabarole_District-Western_Uganda_Citation) the biggest challenges facing Uganda’s maize industry. The reason for this is that, as most maize farmers are smallholders, their use of agricultural technology, such as fertiliser and improved seed, is [very limited](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/322952923_Adoption_of_Improved_Varieties_and_Input_Elasticities_Among_Smallholder_Maize_Farmers_in_Kabarole_District-Western_Uganda_Citation). There are also concerns that changes in temperature and rainfall – specifically [increases](https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S026483771630775X) in temperature and decreases in rainfall – will further affect maize production.

To address these challenges, in 1991 Uganda [released](https://tasai.org/wp-content/themes/tasai2016/info_portal/Uganda/National%20Crop%20Variety%20List%20for%20Uganda%20(2015).pdf) improved maize varieties with drought tolerance. Although it depends on the conditions of the maize growing areas, studies indicated that [compared with](http://www.fao.org/3/CA2545EN/ca2545en.pdf) local varieties, drought-tolerant maize can increase [yields by 15%](https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0264837718314534). It also [reduced](https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0264837718314534) the probability of crop failure by 30%.

But, even after 30 years, drought-tolerant maize has yet to be widely adopted by smallholders. In one study, which covered 1,000 households, [just 14%](https://link.springer.com/article/10.1186/s40100-019-0135-7) used the modified seed in their fields. I [set out to understand](https://openagriculturejournal.com/VOLUME/14/PAGE/98/FULLTEXT/) why smallholders did or didn’t plant drought tolerant maize. To do this I used available literature, policy documents and reports. I found that the constraints to adoption included: different farmer characteristics such as wealth or education level; a lack of information or understanding about the seeds; the attributes of the seeds themselves and whether they meet the farmers’ needs; and counterfeit seed and fertiliser in markets.

Most maize farmers in Uganda [are](https://ageconsearch.umn.edu/record/101714/) resource-constrained smallholders. Thus, their decision to adopt the drought-tolerant maize may be influenced by perceived economic risks. In 2015, modified maize seed could cost [up to](http://www.fao.org/3/CA2545EN/ca2545en.pdf) Ush6,000 per kilo (about US$1.60) depending on the variety, while the local seed cost nothing.

However, a [study](http://www.fao.org/3/CA2545EN/ca2545en.pdf) calculating the costs and benefits of modified seed found that the drought-tolerant maize could be more economically beneficial. For instance, local maize could require more labour costs due to less resistance, if any, to pests, weeds and diseases. Also, the higher yield of the improved maize could compensate for the higher seed and fertiliser costs. This suggested that the reason for low adoption by smallholders may not be financial.

Farmers need information on how the seeds work, and will decide whether or not to use them based on this. Whether a farmer has relevant information [is based](https://link.springer.com/article/10.1186/s40100-019-0135-7) on the farmers’ network, specifically, contact with extension services, NGOs or cooperative memberships. Their understanding is also affected by levels of education or farming experiences. If the farmer decides to cultivate the new seed, it must be physically available, accessible, and affordable. One of the reasons for this is because farmers prefer traditional varieties. This could be because the traditional varieties [may be more](https://www.ajol.info/index.php/acsj/article/view/156973) resistant to pests, taste more familiar or mature faster. There’s also [evidence](https://www.ajol.info/index.php/acsj/article/view/156973) that some drought tolerant varieties don’t suit certain local conditions. [Counterfeit seeds](http://extwprlegs1.fao.org/docs/pdf/uga175068.pdf) are another issue. Between 30% and 40% of seeds traded in Uganda are thought to be counterfeit. Farmers will be less likely to take the risk of using modified seeds if they believe they might be counterfeit.

**TASK:**

1. You have been selected by the National Agricultural Research Institute (NARO) to address maize growers in Kakumiro District. Using the text, write a paragraph of not more than 150 words about the factors affecting the increase of maize productivity in Uganda

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Question 2

At the age of 27, I have been to every continent except Antarctica, visited over 30 countries and lived in five.

Extensive travel as a tourist has given me a broad overview of the cultural diversity the Earth offers. I have learned what makes a country memorable, seen what brings a country’s nationals together and experienced a wide range of cultures.

Travel, for me, is not about beaches and entertainment so much as a search for culture and an opportunity to meet people. As a result, quite naturally, part of my first African experience living here in Uganda was to ask the Ugandans I met, ‘What is Uganda?’ By that, I meant: what is your identity? What makes your country unique? Before I came, like most foreigners, the only things I associated with Uganda were war and Idi Amin.

However, that was a long time ago and I soon realised I was doing this beautiful country an injustice, so I was determined to find out more. Bafflingly, Ugandans themselves have not been very helpful in answering the question and I guess that is my first clue. I ask and there is silence, hesitation and then, invariably, a smile, followed by the answer: the Pearl of Africa! This is like saying that France equals the Eiffel Tower or the sun is hot.

After the few months I have spent in Uganda, I think the title is certainly justified but it does not tell me much. Clearly, there is a lot more to say about a country with so much potential. A recent article, internationally published, stated that Uganda had the biggest young population in Africa, which is pretty much the same as saying in the world. That makes this country’s future.

The question is: what future can its youth have if they do not know who they are? How do you build and represent a country you cannot describe and a nation of which you have no ownership? I worked with an education NGO here and spent some time with senior classes, Five and Six, those students who are about to head out into the big world.

As routine, we asked them to introduce themselves and, invariably, the first concept they used to qualify themselves was their clan. There seems to be real shame for those who cannot identify with a specific clan and I have yet to hear anyone start with a proud “I am a Ugandan!” Don’t get me wrong, cultural diversity is a beautiful thing: traditions, languages and so on should be preserved and kept alive.

But what defines Uganda in the absence of a strong cultural identity and a national sense of unity? A collection of borders, memories of old rivalries, and badly-healed battle scars? Why does Uganda need a national identity? One may ask. Why the need for sustainable solutions when each day seems the same as the previous one? What does Uganda want for its future?

(Slightly adapted: Ella Rychlewski, The Independent, November 30, 2010)

Now respond to the following tasks in complete sentences.

(a) It might be stated that every individual who tours regions of the world has some particular goal. What has been the writer’s goal in travelling across continents? ………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………..

(b) “A nation’s identity resides in the hearts and in the souls of its people.” How is this saying appropriate to Uganda as described in the above article? ……………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………….. 5

(c) The writer is a tourist. If the tourist in this story is your friend whose conversations you always listen to, what kind of person would you describe him as? ………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………..

(d) The article above is not only a story of disappointment but also a message of hope. What clues in the article show that there is hope for Uganda? ………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………..

(e) Why does Uganda need a national identity? One may ask. (Combine the two clauses into one sentence and begin: One………) ………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………..

(f) Does this story make you feel proud of your country? What else does it make you feel? …………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………..

(g) When the national football team played in the recent African cup of nations, players communicated normally in a local language identical to most but not all of them instead of English the official language. The coach was also not able to effectively communicate with them being a non-Ugandan. What did you learn from this incident about our country? ………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………..

SECTION B

Choose one question

In the previous two terms, the students population has been going down from 1000 to 600 in the current third term. This has greatly worried the head teacher and the entire administration, that they invited you and tasked you as the head prefect with your committee to find out why.

Task

As the head prefect who has carried out enough research, present your findings.