

## 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?  
The writer's goal in travelling across continents was for culture and an opportunity to meet people.
- (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?  
It says Uganda is a pearl of Africa and a beautiful country.



- (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?  
 I would describe him as a person who needs information.
- (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?  
 The clue in the article that shows that there is hope for Uganda is that Uganda had the biggest population in Africa.
- (e) Why does Uganda need a national identity? One may ask. (Combine the two clauses into one sentence and begin: One.....)  
 One should have Uganda national identity for order for easy identification.
- (f) Does this story make you feel proud of your country? What else does it make you feel?  
 Yes the story make me feel proud of my country and I also feel peace and comfortable in my country.
- (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?  
 I learnt that Ugandans were proud because we communicate in our official language.

### SECTION B COMPULSORY

Writers of novels create powerful stories from simple beginnings. They usually start with a word, a phrase or a simple idea in a short sentence. You have successfully got the motivation of many successful writers whose books you have enjoyed and you now intend to begin exercising your writing abilities and skills.