

UGANDA MARTYRS UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGES AND COMMUNICATION STUDIES
LOCAL GOVERNANCE AND HUMAN RIGHTS
ORIGINAL AND CRITICAL LANGUAGE SKILLS EXAMINATION 2015-16

DATE: 27th June 2016

TIME: 10:00am-1:00pm

INSTRUCTIONS

- Answer 3 questions in all.
- Question 1 is compulsory
- Start each question on a new page
- Clearly number the questions you have answered.
- Legibly.

QUESTION 1

Read the article given below and answer the questions that follow.

(Passage is on a different page)

- a) Identify the main idea in the article.
- b) Provide the supporting ideas.
- c) Explain what is meant by the highlighted words.
- d) Write a summary of the article.

QUESTION 2

- a) Why do people write reflective journals? (10 marks)
- b) Write 5 entries of a reflective journal based on the following story: (20 marks)

One day a head teacher of a primary school in the District of Soroti was faced with a situation where young girl was brought to him in search of a job. When he tried to find out something about her, she burst into uncontrollable tears. When she had recovered sufficiently to talk she explained that she run away from her village in a faraway district because her family wanted her to get married so that her brothers would continue with their education using the dowry she would bring. She had just completed Primary Seven examinations.

QUESTION 3

Write **EITHER** a descriptive **OR** an analytical essay on one of the following topics:

- a) Capital punishment in schools.
- b) Journalists in Uganda do not do their own investigations.
- c) Politics in my country.

QUESTION 4

- a) Explain the relationship between originality, creativity and critical thinking. (10 marks)
- b) Critical thinking is a skill that is necessary in all areas of our lives. Discuss. (20 marks)

QUESTION 5

Imagine that you are faced with the possibility of divorce in your family.

- a) What kind of questions would you ask yourself? (15 marks)
- b) What is the role of those questions? (15 marks)



Joel Basoga Economy

Political stability promotes sustainable growth, devt

The past is never dead," the eminent words of the Nobel laureate William Faulkner serve as a reminder for us to pay attention to history in order to significantly assess what will happen in the future. The pre-current months have been a great cause of unrest and constitute a threat to the economic progression of Uganda.

From the insecurity that has gripped Kasese, the mass deployment of troops on the eve of the elections, the lurking suspense of what was anticipated to have been a "groundbreaking" Supreme Court decision, to the closure and paralysis of business in Kampala as a consequence of Dr Kizza Besigye's attempted procession to Najjanakumbi. An accumulation of all these point to a disturbance and uncertainty which could be reasonably construed as instability. Political instability is any fundamental threat to the status quo caused by acts of civil strife and civil disobedience likely to culminate into a threat to governance.

Some sacrifices have to be made to achieve the desired level of political freedom but what are the implications of such wanton acts of civil disobedience and exercise of civil liberties? How do they impact the economy and what bearing do they have towards the progression of a third world country like Uganda. Have we reached a tipping point where our liberties are worth much more than a stable economy?

It is logical to presume that political instability has adverse impacts on the economy. All other factors remaining constant, a steady political leadership advertently leads to sustained economic

growth. Stability comes with its perks; assurance of a definite market, increased investment and evolution of a country's intellectual capital which are all weighty indicators of progress in any economy. While on the other hand, instability at the hands of civil strife and disobedience condone mediocrity, underutilization of the capacity of the youth, discourage investment, employment and creation of income. This is a red flag being blatantly waived at the investors and tax payers prohibiting them from undertaking any investments and work. This stunts the growth of the economy. It would be fallacy for someone to neglect the plain truth about the relevance of stability to the sustenance of the economy.

The current national crisis is a result of the lack of a national consensus on "what is" or what the common interests of the Country are. We should have the courtesy to take a national consensus on the need for political stability after considering its impact on the economy. The death of civilians in Kasese is not only a troubling statistic to elicit empathy but it raises doubts as to whether a willing business person and investor would start a business or even continue trading amid such instability.

The implication of frequent stand offs between the government and opposition, the frequency of strikes, riots and civil unrest are all indicators that things could be heading for worse. They still send a deep message of instability and can be the root cause of a diminished economy.

Research conducted by Harvard University under the National Bureau

As we stretch out our constitutional liberties to assemble and express ourselves on the busiest streets in Kampala we should remain increasingly aware of the threat posed by constant demonstrations and standoffs.

of Economic Research (Working paper No.4173) demonstrates the effects of instability on economic growth, it affirms that business owners and investors prefer a system where there is stability, because it guarantees returns. The higher the likelihood of instability the greater the chances of the economy being obliterated. Stability enables increased savings, promotes incentive to work and investment. There is no ingenuity and proliferation in a system of instability. It does not facilitate any actual development.

As we stretch out our constitutional liberties to assemble and express ourselves on the busiest streets in Kampala, we should remain increasingly aware of the threat posed by constant demonstrations and standoffs. This aids the characterisation of Uganda as an unstable economy.

We have to strike balance between exercising our inherent rights of expression and assembly and their gross implications on the economy. We have to weigh the price we are paying for political freedom, what picture are we painting on the canvass of our struggling economy?

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