

Candidate's Name:.....Stream.....

12/1

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

2025

HOURS



## **Apex Examination Council**

### **UGANDA CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION**

**Pre-Registration Examination 2025**

**S4 ENGLISH 112/1**

**Paper1**

**2Hours**

#### **INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES:**

- *This paper consists of two sections: A and B. It has four examination Items.*
- *Answer one item from section B*
- *Answer three examination items in all.*
- *Answer to section A must be written in the space provided.*
- *Answer to section A must be written in the answer booklets provided.*
- *Any additional items will not be scored.*

For Examiner's Use only		
Section	Score	Examiner's signature and No.
A		
B		
TOTAL		

### 1. Read the text below.

Low productivity is one of the biggest challenges facing Uganda's maize industry. The reason for this is that, as most maize farmers are small holders, their use of agricultural technology, such as fertilizer and improved seed, is very limited. There are also concerns that changes in temperature and rainfall—specifically increases in temperature and decreases in rainfall—will further affect maize production.

To address these challenges, in 1991 Uganda released improved maize varieties with drought tolerance. Although it depends on the conditions of the maize growing areas, studies indicated that compared with local varieties, drought-tolerant maize can increase yields by 15%. It also reduced the probability of crop failure by 30%.

But, even after 30 years, drought-tolerant maize has yet to be widely adopted by small holders. In one study, which covered 1,000 households, just 14% used the modified seed in their fields. I set out to understand why small holders 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 include: 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 fertilizer in markets.

Most maize farmers in Uganda are resource-constrained small holders. Thus, their decision to adopt the drought-tolerant maize may be influenced by perceived economic risks. The seeds of the local maize varieties that farmers use are ones that they've saved from previous harvests, and may cost them nothing. In 2015, modified maize seed could cost up to Ush 6,000 per kilo (about US\$1.60) depending on the variety, while the local seed cost nothing.

However, a study 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 fertilizer costs. This suggested that the reason for low adoption by small holders may not be financial.

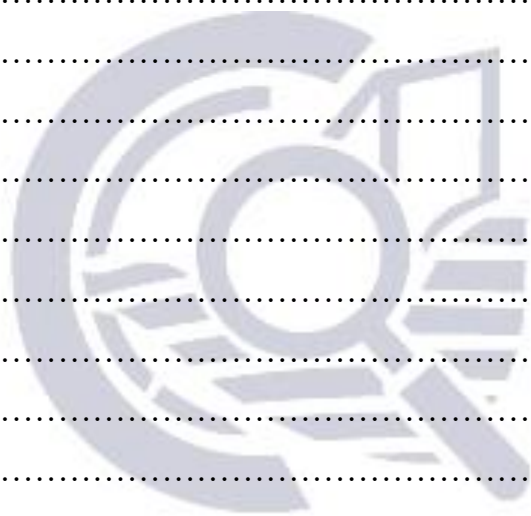
Farmers need information on how the seeds work, and will decide whether or not to use them based on this. Whether a farmer has relevant information is based on the farmers' network, specifically, contact with extension services, NGOs or cooperative memberships. Their understanding is also affected by 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 resistant to pests, taste more familiar or mature faster. There's also evidence that some drought tolerant varieties don't suit certain local conditions. Counterfeit seeds are another issue. Between 30% and 40% of seeds traded in Uganda are thought to be counterfeit. Farmers will be likely to take the risk of using modified seeds if they believe they might be counterfeit.

**Task:**

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.

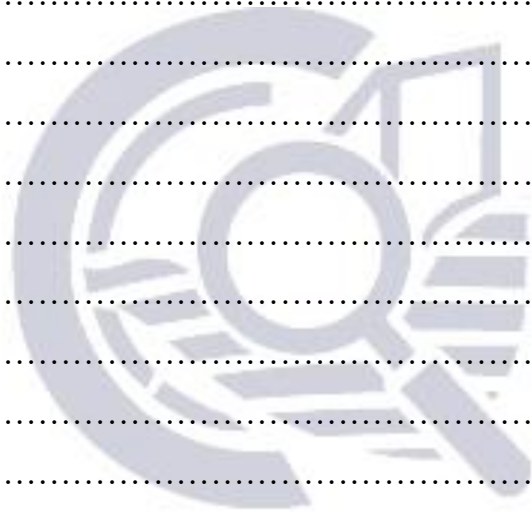
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2. Read the text below

**A nostalgic Experience**

School holidays were always occasions we looked forward to. Like everywhere else in the country, we had three sets of holidays in a year. Each of these holidays coincided with a particular season and particular activities in the village. The first term holidays usually ran from late April to mid-May. This was the season of mushrooms and mangoes. These Cond term holidays ran from mid-August to mid-September. This was the season of white ants. And finally, the longer third term holidays which ran from early December to late January came with Christmas and these Cond season of mangoes.

We always looked forward to these holidays when we would **indulge** ourselves in the various activities that came with the seasons. It was always a joy to **roam** the bushes picking mushrooms, climbing trees to devour and collect juicy mangoes, and above all, the exciting experience of trapping white ants. Most of these seasons started during the term and so it was only in the holidays that we had a full experience of them.

The best time for collecting mushrooms was in the morning, when they were likely to be still fresh and also before other intruders found them. We used to wake up very early in the morning and head out in to the surrounding bushes. The mushrooms could be found in the gardens, along the paths and even deep in to the uncultivated bushes. They were the brown type and were fairly big. This was unlike the small white ones that were mostly to be found around ant hills. We would pluck the mushrooms from the ground and skew them up on a stick. When the stick got full, we found another. We competed to see who would come up with the highest number of skewers.

We used to compete for the mushrooms with African tortoises. Apparently, mushrooms were their favorite food too. At this time, it was very common to come across a tortoise **lumbering** in the bushes. It also became a **pastime** to play with the tortoises. We would tease them and loved to see them fold in to their shell for protection. They would then emit a



foul smelling odour as they released their excrement from the safety of the shell. We would sometimes carry them home and place them in the compound. Then we would watch from a distance as they tried to escape.

Mushroom soup was a favorite delicacy at this time of the year. You could have it fresh, boiled alone or with silver fish. But our mothers would also dry the mushroom we collected for about a week. They would then be prepared in to a stew with ground nuts paste. Fresh or dried and pasted, mushroom was a delicacy that went down well with millet bread.

Around this time too, the mangoes would be in season. We used to reserve mango picking for the late afternoons. Therefore, after spending the greater part of the morning collecting mushrooms, we would head out again in the afternoon and invade the various mango trees around the village. The trees would be sagging with appetizing yellow fruit. Even the ground around the trees would be littered with fallen mangoes, some still fresh but most of them already rotting. In this mix you would also find many half-eaten fruits.

Each tree would be invaded by about three or four people. Like monkeys, we would gleefully reach for the tops, plucking at the fruits and munching away. The yellow juice flowed down our chins, hands and on to our clothes. To avoid staining our clothes, which would certainly fetch us a beating from our mothers, we used to remove our shirts and leave them on the ground. This way, the sticky juice would only drop on to our chests, which we would wash off with an ice cold bath later in the evening. However, the mango expeditions often came with the danger of falling off trees, encountering snakes or wasps and above all, the inevitable stomach up sets that were the result of consuming one too many mangoes. Having eaten our fill, we would then collect several mangoes to carry home for our sisters and the rest of the family.

The season of white ant trapping ran from July to early September. This was a time when expert white ant trappers would collect sacks and sacks of tasty insects. There were two types of white ants, and each had a different time of trapping them. The *amagabulo* types were trapped during the day. But trapping them was no mean task. After identifying their places of abode, we would get short thick sticks which we would hit with another to produce a vibrating sound as we song in unison. This was believed to induce them to come out. A structure would be constructed over the place and covered with bedsheets. As the ants came out of their holes in hordes, they collected in a hole dug at the entrance. They were then

scoped in to containers. Those that managed to escape flew away but attracted birds known as *obichu*, which feasted on them. We also used his opportunity to trap these birds by baiting them with live white ants stuck on a piece of grass but surrounded by an almost invisible net of small woven sisal threads.

The other type of white ants was known as *esechere*. These usually came out at night. They were mostly to be found in ant hills. A structure similar to the one for *omagabulo* trapping would be created over the ant hill. The same procedure of beating rhythmic vibrating sounds with sticks was done earlier in the day. Then at night, the structure was covered with bedsheets or blankets. Torches of fire would be lit and burnt over the holes of the ant hill. This would induce the ants to come out. They would collect in the hole dug for that purpose, and would then be scooped in to containers.

But the most interesting holidays were the December ones. These came with Christmas, a time which everyone, young or old, looked forward to. Our parents used to buy us new clothes every Christmas. On Christmas day, we donned our new clothes and went to church. We never really followed the prayers, but spent most of the time outside the church, playing and comparing our new out fits. We would then return to our homes to a sumptuous lunch. On the menu would be chicken, rice, fish, in addition to the usual millet bread. This was a day to eat our fill.

Later in the afternoon, our parents would allow us to go to the trading Centre. The Centre would be filled with people, many of whom we did not know. We would wonder where they had come from. We were told they were people from the city. They were born in these parts but lived and worked in the city. At Christmas, they all came back to enjoy with their families. Others were fishermen who worked on the islands. They had made a lot of money and were now spending it, buying soda and other niceties for friends.

The Christmas days were always marked by a two-day football tour name involving several teams from the neighboring villages. The football ground would be filled to capacity. The cheering crowds could be heard from as far as three kilometers away. Those who could not access the playground spend the time in bars and restaurants around the trading Centre, eating, drinking and making merry.

**Use the text as a material to respond to the items below:**

- a) School holidays were always occasions we looked forward to. Like everywhere else in the country, we had three sets of holidays in a year. Why did the speaker always wish for the holidays to come?

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- b) East or West home is the best. Using the text, explain the meaning of this saying.

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- c) If the December holiday was once extended to be holiday study time for the learners how would this be different from the other holidays?

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- d) Football is so popular and a thriller in the towns, trading centers and cities and villages are not spared too. In your view what makes this sport so much loved?

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- e) We were told they were people from the city. Others were fishermen who worked on the islands. (Join the two sentences in to one using: Not only.....)

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- f) Replace the **bolded** word in the sentence with an appropriate word without changing the meaning:

We always looked or ward to these holidays when we would **indulge** ourselves in the various activities that came with the seasons.

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**EITHER:**



Imagine you have visited your boyfriend at his place without informing him and you bump in to him with another girl who happens to be your best friend. Write a descriptive essay talking about your reaction after the shocking incident (use 250-300 words)

OR

During holidays you visited your other relatives and stayed with them for two weeks. One of the children's birth day party took place during your stay with them. Write what took place. (Use between 250-300 words)



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