

S101/1
General Paper
July, 2025
2 hours 40 minutes



LITERATURE & ENGLISH EDUCATION INITIATIVE UGANDA (LEECU)
Uganda Advanced Certificate of Education
MOCK EXAMINATIONS 2025
GENERAL PAPER
Paper 1
2 hours 40 minutes

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES:

- *The total time of 2 hours and 40 minutes includes ten minutes for you to study the questions before you begin answering.*
- *Answer **two** questions in all. **One** from section A and **One** other from section B.*
- *You are advised to divide your time equally between the two questions.*
- *All questions carry equal marks.*
- *Answers to each section **must** start on a fresh answer sheet then the two sections be fastened together.*

SECTION A

*Answer **one** question from this section.*

*Essay should be between **500 to 800** words in length.*

1. To what extent has the promotion of sciences in Uganda contributed to development and innovation? (50 marks)
2. Assess the initiatives implemented to reduce poverty in Uganda. To what extent have they been successful? (50 marks)
3. “Cultural norms, values, and practices have hindered women empowerment and gender equality in Uganda.” Discuss. (50 marks)
4. In what ways has social media impacted communication and dissemination of information? (50 marks)

SECTION B

*Answer **one** question from this section.*

5. *Read the following information carefully and answer the questions that follow:*

Six political parties are contesting in a general election in the Republic of Abazonia. The six parties are: PDP, APP, ADP, LPA, SDP and APF.

The Electoral Commission has set the following rules and guidelines:

- The party with the highest number of votes forms the government.
- The party with the second highest number of votes forms the Official Opposition.
- The country's Senate has 150 seats. These seats are allocated according to a party's performance in the election. The winning party takes 40% of the seats. The party that comes second takes 20% of the seats. The remaining 40% of the seats are split between the rest of the parties according to their performance as follows: 3rd (16%), 4th (10%), 5th (8%) and 6th (6%).
- Coalitions are allowed after the elections. If parties form a coalition, their total votes will be combined and the Senate seats will also be combined. This means that if they have performed well, they can form the government or Official Opposition.

There are five regions in the country and the national total number of voters is 9.6 million. This number is distributed among the five regions as follows:

- North – 1.6 million voters
- East – 1.8 million voters
- West – 2.2 million voters

- South – 2.6 million voters
- Central – 1.4 million voters

An independent opinion poll has been carried out and indicates the percentage popularity of each party in the different regions as follows:

%	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>West</i>	<i>Central</i>	<i>South</i>
PDP	16	18	63	14	14
APP	23	14	10	16	8
ADP	42	12	8	20	10
LPA	11	48	12	22	46
SDP	5	6	4	18	13
APF	3	2	3	10	9

Questions:

- If the opinion polls accurately represent the performance of each party, determine how many votes each party will get in each region.
(12 marks)
- Which party will form:
 - The Government? (01 mark)
 - The Official Opposition? (01 mark)
- How many Senate seats will each party be allocated? (06 marks)
- If the ADP and SDP form a coalition, what will be their combined votes and Senate seats? How will this affect the overall result? (04 marks)
- What are the causes of election violence in your country? (08 marks)
- Suggest ways of making elections in your country more credible. (08 marks)

SPGE = 10 marks

6. Read the passage below and answer the questions which follow using your own words wherever possible.

If there is a sector that is **highly regulated** in Uganda, it's the tobacco industry, and cigarette trading by extension. In fact, the regulation is not unique to Uganda – it is a global push that seeks to reduce cigarette smoking and related diseases. However, even with the existence of tough regulations on access, sale and branding, among others, trade in illicit cigarettes continues to thrive, increasing where it ought to have reduced.

Across the board, different reports paint a picture that presents the dangers posed to the cigarette value chain, which includes consumers, retailing companies, and government. In details contained in British American Tobacco Uganda

financial results, BATU indicated that third-party research shows a 5% growth in illicit trade incidence in less than two years to June 2024. For instance, BATU noted that illicit trade in cigarettes was estimated at 34% in June, 2024 from 29% in December, 2022. The growth, BATU noted, not only impacts industry revenues, but also deprives government of an estimated Shs35b thereby affecting the overall economy.

“Illicit trade continues to undermine legitimate industry revenues,” BATU said, noting that much of illicit cigarettes lack tax stamps, which is an indication that they are not taxed and are not approved for human consumption.

Illicit cigarettes, the report added, have no or have altered graphic health warnings, contain flavours, and are sold at significantly lower prices, which drives the prevalence. Thus, BATU noted that there was need for government, through a **multi-agency approach**, to address the illicit trade menace by **ramping up enforcement** of tobacco control regulations, especially by ensuring that all traded cigarettes have digital tax stamps.

Away from the cigarette menace is the increasing trade in illicit alcohol, which, just like tobacco, presents dangers to consumers, manufacturers, and the government as a whole. A study commissioned by Private Sector Foundation Uganda shows that in 2024, there was more illicit alcohol consumed than legal beverages. The study conducted by PwC indicated that 64.7% of alcohol on the Ugandan market was illegal, resulting in a URA revenue loss of more than Shs1.6 trillion. This has not been any different over the years, according to different reports, including the Euromonitor illicit alcohol trade report published last year. Details contained in the report noted that the illicit alcohol trade was estimated to be worth \$1.91b (Shs7.25 trillion) between 2017 and 2020, for which, government had lost an average of \$458m (Shs1.67 trillion) in taxable revenue.

At the market level, a previous report by Nile Breweries indicated that illicit alcohol trade was costing the industry an average of Shs629b annually, with **counterfeit** and illegal brands contributing the highest loss of more than 40.6%. This was followed by distilled homebrew at 36.7% and smuggling at 13.3%. Spirits, the report indicated, were the most counterfeited product. The report also noted that whereas government had for long focused on large formal businesses that were fully compliant, there was need to shift focus to small-scale producers by establishing strong and clear audit trails on medium-scale wholesalers, distributors

and stockists where compliancy is less complete and the audit trail is less distinguishable.

Thus, with such a multi-dimensional challenge, it is important that government comes up with a multi-faceted and a long-term solution, which should leverage technology to **increase compliance**. For instance, the EU has had tremendous results by using track-and-trace digital solutions in curbing illicit trade in alcohol and cigarettes. Track-and-trace solutions primarily allow transit traders operating within a certain **jurisdiction** to establish an integrated system that tracks the movement of goods by using unique identifiers to monitor and track movement of goods in real-time.

In its report, PSFU agrees that digital tax solutions have been an important tool in tracking and tracing the movement of goods such as alcohol and cigarettes, even as it comes at a huge cost. However, the report notes that the system needs to be reviewed **to align** digital tax solutions operations with global standards such as the **Illicit Trade Protocol** to improve its efficiency. This can be important in monitoring instances of possible tampering along the supply chain and capturing storage data. It is this solution that the East African Business Council (EABC) is modeling to use to control a vice that has been growing annually.

In the five years to December, 2024, according to a PSFU report, digital tax stamps have addressed tax leakages in excise duty collections, with more than 900 companies registered for digital tax stamps, of which 689 were manufacturers while 212 were importers. However, there still exist gaps that need further handling to effectively manage illicit trade. For instance, as a region, there have been suggestions for East Africa to establish a track-and-trace system in partnership with the East Africa Business Council under a public-private partnership arrangement.

Research by Acode indicates an estimated 19% of cigarettes sold in Uganda are **contraband**, with the main source being Kenya. Thus, illicit trade remains a challenge across East Africa. But in Uganda, just like other regional governments, government has registered good progress by deploying digital tax stamps to fight **illicit products**. But these solutions only apply in particular countries and not as a region.

Speaking at the launch of a report on the impact of digital tax stamps, commissioned by PSFU last year, URA Commissioner General, John Musinguzi Rujooki, said digital tracking solutions were instrumental in eliminating illicit

products and creating fair competition. Therefore, he said it was important that manufacturers look beyond the challenges of the solution to focus on their importance in cleaning the market of illicit products and ensuring fair trade. For instance, he said, manufacturers of Kombucha, who had for a long time not paid taxes, yet they were taking up a sizable market, had started to comply, while those that had refused to comply had closed, which was good in achieving the intended objective of cleaning the market for tax-paid products and increasing sales of those who pay tax. *(Adapted from **Daily Monitor** of Thursday, May 15, 2025)*

Questions:

- a) Suggest a suitable title for the passage. (02 marks)
- b) Explain what the writer means by a “track-and-trace system” and how it can be used to control illicit trade. (04 marks)
- c) How effective do you think digital tax stamps are in curbing illicit trade? (04 marks)
- d) In about **100** words, explain what, according to the passage, are the consequences and solutions to the thriving illicit trade in cigarettes and alcohol in Uganda. (10 marks)
- e) Explain the meaning of the following words and phrases as used in the passage.
 - i) highly regulated (02 marks)
 - ii) multi-agency approach (02 marks)
 - iii) ramping up enforcement (02 marks)
 - iv) counterfeit (02 marks)
 - v) increase compliance (02 marks)
 - vi) jurisdiction (02 marks)
 - vii) to align (02 marks)
 - viii) Illicit Trade Protocol (02 marks)
 - ix) contraband (02 marks)
 - x) illicit products (02 marks)

Spelling, Punctuation and Grammatical Expression (SPGE) (10 marks)

END