



LITERATURE & ENGLISH EDUCATION INITIATIVE UGANDA (LEECU)
Uganda Certificate of Education

MOCK EXAMINATIONS 2025
ENGLISH LANGUAGE

SCORING GUIDE

SECTION A

ITEM 1: SUMMARY WRITING

Expected Responses:

Title (Example):

THE REASONS FOR PARENTS' SUDDEN CHANGE AGAINST THEIR CHILDREN AND HOW CHILDREN CAN COPE WITH IT

Key Points to Extract:

1. Parents can stop loving their children due to things like **mental health issues**,
2. **financial struggles**,
3. or the **pain of divorce** can cause parents to pull away.
4. Fathers feeling **overwhelmed** by
5. **stress, depression** and **guilt**.
6. Substance abuse/addiction
7. Neglect due to **new partners or relationships**
8. Parents **prioritizing personal interests** over children
9. **Infidelity** or **relationship conflicts**
10. Disconnection caused by **chronic stress/exhaustion**
11. Parents taking out their frustrations on children

Ways Children Can Cope:

1. Know it is **not their fault**
2. **Accept and express feelings** of hurt
3. Talk to trusted adults/family friend
4. Surround themselves with supportive people
5. Seek therapy or counseling

6. Build resilience and manage emotions
7. Rebuild relationships where possible

Sample Summary:

Parents may stop loving their children because of **mental health** issues, **depression, or anxiety**. **Addiction or substance abuse** can cause neglect. **Divorce, job loss, and health crises** preoccupy parents, leaving them less available. **Chronic stress or exhaustion** can lead to disconnection from their children, while **infidelity or relationship problems** reduce confidence in providing for their children's needs. Sometimes parents **prioritize their own interests or relationships**, and women who **get new partners** may vent frustrations on children. To cope, children may **turn to other family members, trusted adults, or friends** for support. They should **communicate openly** with parents, **seek counseling or therapy**, and **rebuild relationships** where possible. Developing **resilience, managing emotions**, and **maintaining positive relationships** with supportive adults can help children deal with the situation. (141 words):

Success Criteria:

- **Summary Structure (SS1) = 03 scores**
- **Summary Content (SC1) = 06 scores**
- **TOTAL = 09 scores**

A. Summary Structure (03 scores)

- Relevant/correct heading (capital letters or underlined).
- Opening statement indented (2cm from margin).

B. Summary Content (06 scores)

Success Criteria:

- 06** Extracts and presents **15+ ideas** clearly in an indented paragraph.
- 04** Extracts and presents **8–14 ideas**.
- 02** Extracts and presents **3–7 ideas**.
- 00** Extracts and presents **0–2 ideas**.

Marking Notes:

- If no subject in opening statement but title is given → treat as normal.
- If written in outlines only → award ½ score per idea.
- If punctuated only with commas → award ½ score per idea.
- Must include a transition/discourse marker. Without it → score ½ per idea.
- No punctuation → **00 for content**.
- Strict word limit: **not more than 150 words**.

ITEM 2: COMPREHENSION

a) Lottery winnings (OP)–05 scores

Expected response:

No, the messenger will likely not receive his winnings. He admits, *“I know people who won more than five hundred cedis last year. They still haven’t got their money.”* This shows a corrupt system. His plan to bribe officials also indicates lack of trust in the process.

Seeking police help is costly (“it costs you more money if you go to the police”), implying inefficiency and corruption.

Scores:

- 05 = clearly states and supports opinion with evidence.
- 00 = Incorrect, incomplete, or unsupported response.

b) Advice to messenger (AL)–03 scores

Expected response:

Advise him not to bribe because it fuels corruption. Instead, seek legal channels, expose corruption via media, or approach trustworthy organizations. Honest means are difficult but create lasting change.

Scores:

- 03 = Clear, suitable, morally correct advice.
- 00 = Unclear/immoral/incorrect advice.

c) Police–people relationship (CA)–06 scores

Expected response:

The relationship is strained, exploitative, and distrustful. The messenger says going to police “costs more money,” implying corruption and inefficiency. The police are viewed as part of the problem, not the solution.

Scores:

- 06 = Clear description and explanation.
- 00 = Incorrect/incomplete response.

d) Sentence Joining (GU)–05 scores

Correct Responses:

- The night clerk took a long time completing the log, and when he finally finished, he closed the book and got up from the centre chair.
- Having finished the log, the night clerk closed the book and got up from the centre chair.
- No sooner had the night clerk finished the log than he closed the book and got up from the centre chair.
(Any correct compound/complex version accepted.)

Scores:

- 05 = correctly joined, grammatically accurate.
- 00 = Incorrect structure.

e) Writer's intention (IF) – 06 scores

Expected response:

The writer contrasts the monotonous control room routine with chaotic societal corruption. This shows disillusionment with institutions, stagnation in public systems and people's frustration with inefficiency.

Scores:

- 06 = Correct inference + explanation.
- 00 = Incorrect/incomplete.

f) "It costs you more money if you go to the police." (EC) – 04 scores

Expected response:

The messenger means the police exploit citizens through bribes. Instead of solving problems, they increase expenses. This shows corruption and lack of justice.

Scores:

- 04 = Clear explanation.
- 00 = Incorrect/unclear explanation.

SECTION B

ITEM 3 & 4: FUNCTIONAL WRITING

Acceptable Forms

- **Item 3:** Speech
- **Item 4:** Article, Formal Letter to the Editor, Email, Report, Poster

General Criteria:

1. **Format**
2. **Content**
3. **Language**

Format (F1-F6)

Format	Requirements	Score
Speech	Title, Protocol observed, Greeting, Self-introduction, Indented paragraphs	05
Formal letter	Writer's address, Receiver's address, Date, Salutation/Re:, Indented paragraphs, Closing tag (signature + name in caps)	06
Email	To:, From:, Subject:, Indented paragraphs, Signing off	05
Article	Title, Headline, By-line (writer's name), Indented paragraphs	04
Report	Title, Subheadings/paragraphs, Signing off (signature + name + designation)	04
Poster	Title, Design/illustrations	03

Content Guidelines

Item 3: Speech

- **C1:** Acknowledge status quo (celebration of outstanding performance) and thank family, friends, and supporters.
- **C2:** Mention challenges and how they were overcome.
- **C3:** State future plans, pledge commitment, and conclude.

Item 4: Formal letter/article/report/email/poster

- **C1:** Identify problem (e.g. poaching and its dangers).
- **C2:** Elaborate on causes and effects (extinction, tourism decline, loss to future generations).
- **C3:** Appeal for action (laws, sensitization, gazettement, punishments) and conclude with strong call to action.

Sample Vocabulary/Register (VR)

- **Speech:** celebrate, gratitude, occasion, indebted, sacrifice, commitment, parenting, selfless, resilience, keep in touch etc.
- **Item 4 (poaching):** illegal activity, rare species, extinction, game reserves, legislation, heavy fines, sensitization, indiscriminate killings, flora and fauna etc.

Language Criteria (L1–L5):

- **L1** Spellings (0–3 errors = 01; 4+ errors = 00)
- **L2** Tenses (0–3 errors = 01; 4+ errors = 00)
- **L3** Punctuation (0–3 errors = 01; 4+ errors = 00)
- **L4** Sentence construction (0–3 errors = 01; 4+ errors = 00)
- **L5** Vocabulary/Register (at least 5 suitable words required)

Functional Writing Scoring Grid

Format: (E.g. Letter)						Content			Language					Total
F1	F2	F3	F4	F5	F6	C1	C2	C3	L1	L2	L3	L4	L5	

