

National News

The aligned A-Level Curriculum was launched in February 2025, and its pioneers will sit for end-of-cycle assessments later this year.

BY JANE NAFULA

NCDc explains new A-Level grading system

The National Curriculum Development Centre (NCDc) is putting the finishing touches on changes to the grading system for A-Level under the new Advanced Secondary Curriculum, a senior officer at the body has confirmed.

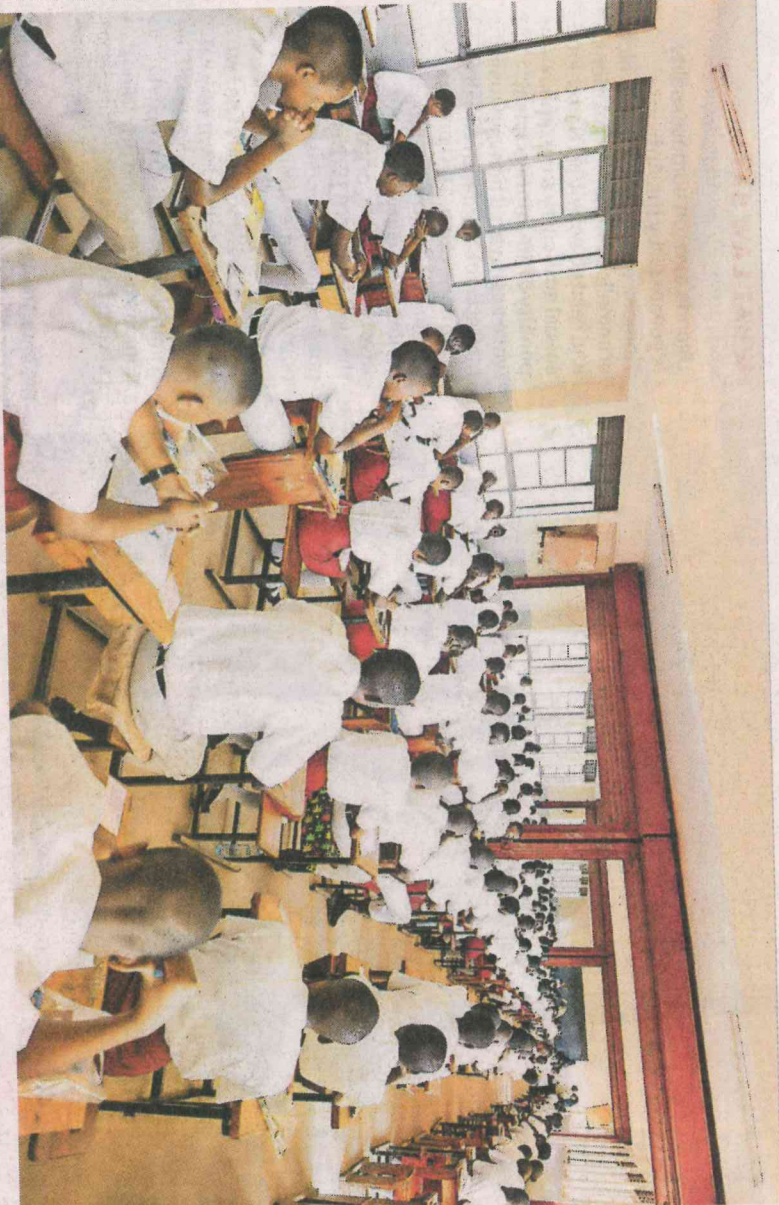
Mr Gilbert Gift Sima, the manager of the Secondary Department at NCDc, told this publication yesterday that the system will shift from the current letter grades A, B, C, D, E, O, F to A, B, C, D, E, and will be effected this year.

"Yes, it is going to be A, B, C, D, E but what is important in that A, B, C, D, E is the descriptor that talks about what a child is able to do. The grades don't put food on the table but what puts food on the table is what this child is able to do. After we have done that, Uganda National Examinations Board (Uneb) will pick up from there and then we finalise. These discussions continue up to the point of release of the results of the first cohort of the aligned A-Level Curriculum," Mr Sima explained.

He added: "The procedure of coming up with the final grade is still ongoing because after this, Uneb is going to have another panel where NCDc is represented, we sit and finalise. But where we have reached, we are confident to say this is what it is. What happens is that along the way, as we continue piloting, testing and doing a number of things, Uneb will pick up from here because there are other pretests that they have to do and after that, we might see some slight adjustments but those ones are normal and they are usually minor."

Mr Sima explained that under the new arrangement, two students may both earn an A in Fine Art, but the descriptors will distinguish their levels of achievement.

According to NCDc, the new grading scale proposes A = 5 points, B = 4, C = 3, D = 2, and E = 1. Under the old system, A carried 6 points, B 5, C 4, D 3, E 2, and O 1.



Senior Six candidates of Kololo High School prepare to sit for an examination last year. PHOTO/IBRAHIM KAVUMA

COMPARISON OF GRADING SYSTEMS

According to NCDc, the new grading scale proposes A = 5 points, B = 4, C = 3, D = 2, and E = 1. Under the old system, A carried 6 points, B 5, C 4, D 3, E 2, and O 1 for A-Level candidates.

Teachers attending ongoing online training confirmed the development. Mr Joshua Ewo Moi, the deputy head teacher of Fr Aloysius Secondary School in Kole District and a Physics teacher, said: "We were informed that the grading will be A, B, C, D and E and they have descriptors per construct. Just like for O level, A stands for exceptional achievement, B is outstanding performance, C is satisfactory performance, D is basic understanding and E is elementary understanding."

However, Mr Sima noted that the final decision is still in the pipeline.

According to NCDc, documents shared with teachers, end-of-cycle assessment will be construct-based. A construct is an abstract representation of a unifying theme that ties together knowledge, skills, and competencies. Learners may earn different grades across constructs within the same sub-

ject, with averages determining the final grade weight.

The Uneb spokesperson, Ms Jennifer Kahle said the new grading system will only be effected after the exams body signs off on the assessment framework. "As of now, we haven't gotten there, until we sign the assessment framework," she explained. On principal pas-

to the end. They could follow instructions but this time around, they will only be given the apparatus and scenarios so that they build up instructions by themselves, carry out experiment following their instructions and then do analysis and conclusion."

The aligned A-Level Curriculum was launched in February 2025, and its pioneers will sit for end-of-cycle assessments later this year.

The new grading system for A-Level also comes after government changed the O-level grading system in 2024, moving from a numerical grading system of distinction, credits, passes and failures, to a letter grading system using A, B, C, D, and E.

This change was part of the Uneb's implementation of a competence-based curriculum for O-level introduced in 2020.

On March 6, NCDc began a week-long online training for teachers and administrators on assessment under the new curriculum.

Subjects covered include Physics, Geography, Music, Clothing and Textiles, General Paper, Economics, Chemistry, IRE, CRE, Art and Design, History, Literature in English, Mathematics, Biology, ICT, Kiswahili, Agriculture, Local Languages, Entrepreneurship, Subsidiary Mathematics, and Food and Nutrition.

The NCDc spokesperson, Mr Deo Bwanbale, said the government has invested heavily in both O-Level and A-Level competence curricula to ensure Uganda's education system produces all-round learners fit for today's competitive labour market.

He noted that regional orientations in schools, training of master trainers, and online sessions have been conducted, with materials uploaded to the NCDc website and YouTube channel.

"Some people have been saying A-Level curriculum was not reviewed. This is not true. The curriculum was reviewed to make it competence-based and learner-centred. There was introduction of Project Based Learning, activities of integration. Some of the content was removed," he said, adding, "Everything else we have done. Teacher training has been done, materials have been printed and copies distributed to schools across the country."

Mr Bwanbale said the sessions unpacked the different areas of the curriculum and enabled teachers to know areas in the curriculum that had been adjusted. Adjustments were made in several subjects, including Entrepreneurship, Geography and Economics.

UJS petitions ICP over Muwema law firm eviction

BY BUSEIN SAMILU

KAMPALA. The leadership of the Uganda Law Society (ULS) has written to Inspector General of Police (IGP), Mr Abbas Byakagaba, demanding explanations on why police officers participated in what they described as the forceful eviction of Muwema & Co Advocates from their offices on Plot 50 Windsor Crescent Road in Kololo, Kampala, despite an ongoing case.

Mr Anthony Asimwe, the ULS vice president, yesterday told reporters in Kampala that the Force must explain why it acted outside the law by assisting court bailiffs from Downtown Investments Ltd in evicting their members.

"The police did this blatantly. This is an attack on the legal profession. We feel we are not protected as lawyers and members of the public. Even RDCs [resident district commissioners] didn't approve. We have formal

ly written to the Inspector General of Police to know who the Commanding Officer of the eviction was, and whether he approved this activity... without a verified and lawful warrant from a court which is valid."

Mr Asimwe added: "We also seek to know if any steps were taken to bring the culprits to the book and if the police were involved in removing confidential and sensitive documents? What if clients come and demand them? What will Muwema answer? Where's the custody for these documents after the eviction? We need all these answers. Who's liable? We need to know the names of these people who conducted this?"

Court bailiffs from Downtown Investments Ltd, backed by police, enforced a High Court order on March 6, evicting city lawyer Fred Muwema and his firm from the Kololo premises.



Mr Anthony Asimwe, the vice President of Uganda Law Society. PHOTO/ BUSEIN SAMILU

The eviction followed a February ruling by Justice Patricia Mutesi of the Commercial Division, which found the firm had overstay despite piling up rent arrears. The court ordered the firm

to vacate and settle financial claims exceeding Shs1.4 billion, including rent arrears, profits, and damages.

Video clips circulating on social media showed bailiffs hauling out office furniture, documents, and other items. The dispute traces back to a five-year lease signed in December 2014, initially pegged at \$5,000 (Shs18,600,850) per month plus VAT, later revised to \$10,000 (Shs37,201,700). Though the lease expired in December 2019, the firm remained in occupation.

Mr Asimwe described the eviction as "malicious" and a blatant violation of due process.

"We are shocked and disturbed by the video that went viral, evicting one of our members M/s Muwema and Company Advocates. As members of the Law Society, we have the mandate to protect our members and all lawyers

under Section 3(c) of the Uganda Law Society Act," he said.

He added: "Law firms handle sensitive client data, property and affairs, such as title deeds, wills and exhibits, which are legally protected from harm. Any disputes between advocates and landlords (or creditors) should not put clients at risk. The right of appeal is a fundamental aspect of due process, all parties must respect this process and allow courts to determine disputes conclusively."

In its statement, the Society said: "ULS, therefore, calls upon Downtown Investments Ltd and the Inspector General of Police to reverse their actions and apologise to M/s Muwema & Co Advocates, immediately cease all unlawful actions, and respect the pending appellate process."

The police had not commented on the issue by press time as our repeated calls and messages to the spokesperson were not answered.