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**Date:** 23rd January 2020

## **AMENDED CIRCULAR NCDC 1/2020**

All Chairpersons,  
Board of Governors/School Directors,  
Government Aided and Private Secondary Schools in Uganda.

### **GUIDELINES TO SCHOOLS ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEW LOWER SECONDARY SCHOOL CURRICULUM**

In a bid to provide quality secondary education to all school going learners in Uganda, the Ministry of Education and Sports reviewed the Lower Secondary School Curriculum. The review aimed at reducing content overload, contact hours in the classroom; fostering learner centred pedagogy, competence based approach, and criterion referenced assessment. The purpose of the review is to produce **a secondary school graduate with employable skills that are competitive in the job market**. It is also intended to improve efficiency and effectiveness in curriculum delivery.

The revised Lower Secondary Curriculum is due to start in 2020 with Senior One. The teaching syllabi for 11 compulsory subjects to be studied in Senior 1 and 2 have been distributed to all Government Aided and Private Schools.

For smooth implementation of the new Curriculum, the following implementation guidelines should be noted:

A School may identify up to 15 subjects; 11 of which are compulsory in Senior 1 and 2, plus 4 elective subjects depending on the capacity and availability of resources.

The learner is free to choose one elective subject in Senior 1 and 2, which will give him/her a total of 12 subjects. On transition to Senior 3 and 4, the learner will study 7 compulsory subjects plus **a maximum of 2 electives OR a maximum of 3 electives for learners with special learning needs**, as per the subject grouping shown below. The rest of the classes will continue with the curriculum of 2008 (for UCE).

## THE LOWER SECONDARY SCHOOL CURRICULUM MENU

The new Lower Secondary curriculum menu consists of 20 subjects.

### a) COMPULSORY SUBJECTS FOR SENIOR 1 AND 2

| Subject                           | Subject                              |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1.English Language                | 8.Entrepreneurship                   |
| 2.Mathematics                     | 9. Kiswahili                         |
| 3.History and Political Education | 10.Physical Education                |
| 4.Geography                       | 11. Religious education [CRE or IRE] |
| 5.Physics                         |                                      |
| 6.Chemistry                       | General Science for SNE*             |
| 7.Biology                         |                                      |

\* Learners who have been assessed and declared to have special learning needs such as visual impairment and dyslexia will study General Science as an alternative to the major Science subjects.

### b) ELECTIVES FOR SENIOR 1 AND 2

The choice for the elective subjects will be made from the following groupings;

| Electives 1                            | Electives 2                                      |
|--|--|
| 1.Foreign Languages                    | 1.Agriculture                                    |
| 2.Local Languages/Uganda Sign Language | 2.Art and Design                                 |
| 3.Literature in English                | 3.Performing Arts                                |
|  | 4.Information and Communication Technology [ICT] |
|  | 5.Nutrition and Food Technology                  |
|  | 6. Technology and Design                         |

At **Senior 3 in 2022**, the curriculum menu will change as follows:

### a) COMPULSORY SUBJECTS FOR SENIOR 3 AND 4

| Subject                           |                         |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1.English Language                |                         |
| 2.Mathematics                     |                         |
| 3.History and Political Education |                         |
| 4.Geography                       |                         |
| 5.Physics                         |                         |
| 6.Chemistry                       | General Science for SNE |
| 7.Biology                         |                         |

### **b) ELECTIVES FOR SENIOR 3 AND 4**

The choices for the two elective subjects OR three elective subjects for learners with special learning needs, will be made from at least two of the following groupings;

| <b>Elective 1</b>       | <b>Elective 2</b>                                | <b>Elective 3</b>               |
|-------------------------|--|---------------------------------|
| 1.Uganda Sign Language  | 1.Performing Arts                                | 1.Christian Religious Education |
| 2.Kiswahili             | 2.Art and Design                                 | 2.Islamic Religious Education   |
| 3.Literature in English | 3.Agriculture                                    |                                 |
| 4.Local Language        | 4.Entrepreneurship                               |                                 |
| 5.Foreign Language      | 5.Physical Education                             |                                 |
|                         | 6.Nutrition and Technology                       |                                 |
|                         | 7.Information and Communication Technology [ICT] |                                 |

#### **Further Guidance**

1. All Secondary Schools shall be obliged to offer the 11 compulsory subjects for Senior 1 and 2 as indicated in [a] above.
2. School instructional time is from 8.00am to 2.55pm but the school day will run up to 4.30pm each working day.
3. Each lesson is 40 minutes which will total to 40 periods per week.
- 4. Schools are requested to submit formal requests to the Director, NCDC, for the instructional materials required to teach a maximum of four (4) elective subjects, to be selected from the list of electives for Senior 1 and 2 above. On delivering the request letter, the school will accordingly be issued with the elective teaching syllabus of the identified elective subjects.**



Grace K. Baguma  
**DIRECTOR**