

# The Standard

UCU COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

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## Our view Work hard

The examinations are round the corner. All students should remember that passing well will depend on how much effort they put in their studies during the semester. Like any other activity one may want to engage in, the key to success is adequate preparation and commitment.

Some students have in the past been found to engage in examination malpractices. This is because they lacked confidence. This is a direct result of lack of or inadequate preparation, which causes them to panic as they are unsure of their ability to pass the examinations.

It is these students who usually try to use unethical avenues with the hope of getting better results in the examinations than they have worked for. Such students should remember that even if they were to cheat in the examinations, they would not replicate the same when they eventually join the professional ranks.

All students should use the remaining time well by avoiding any activities that may divert their attention. This is the time they have to revisit all that they have learnt either by consulting their notes, their colleagues or other resources such as the Library. The lecturers and tutors are also available to those who may need them.

It is therefore inexcusable for any student to indulge in unethical behavior when all the resources they need to pass examinations are available.

As a Christian university our approach to higher education is different from that of others. We have standards we adhere to in the interest of fulfilling our vision. We do not bend rules to please anyone or to circumvent our established benchmarks. That is why everything done in this university is a result of careful thought.

We are mindful that all students cannot have the same academic endowment. And they should not expect to perform the same way. What we appeal to all students is to do the best they can. After all, success in life does not entirely depend on the grade of a degree certificate. The world will not collapse simply because one did not get a first class degree. That is not to say that you should be complacent or lazy. Work hard and be focused on your life goals because the coming examinations will partly determine the direction you will take in achieving them. The Standard wishes all of you success.

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## Opinion Opinion Opinion Opinion Opinion Opinion Opinion



Creative preparation may seem like the easy way to do well on exams, but the price is losing out on who you are meant to be, losing your very soul.

## Dear student who is cheating: You are rotting inside out.

THOMAS FROESE



It's a new day, a good day, a day when you'll be tested. Yes, it's time for another exam and you, dear UCU student, are out of bed, finished your breakfast and walking with a confident smile. This is why today is such a fine day; You know the answers, every one. Because you know the questions too.

Nobody suspects you're a cheater because you know the game and play it with skill. You're at every Sunday and community service to praise the Good Lord and pray with fervour too.

You know how common cheating is. But you don't think cheating is the best word, no, not the most accurate. Everyone needs to prepare in their own way and while plenty of UCU students study honestly, you know plenty of others get ready in the same dishonest ways that you do.

Sure, UCU has rules and warnings and a disciplinary committee. But you'll take your chances. You can handle a dead term. Better than a big financial hit which hurts more, but isn't very common punishment.

Besides, you also know how easy this all is. There are so many ways. Last term your lecturer dropped you a simple SMS with everything you needed.

Nobody suspected, no, not from that lecturer, a Christian above reproach.

And the favour he wanted wasn't so bad. You'd do it again.

Your parents are so proud of you too, ever since your picture landed in the newspaper when you were young. You'll never forget how they showered their love and approval. You can't disappoint now. You have a career ahead.

This is how it works in the real world anyway. In Uganda, anyone with eyes can see it. Yes, you've learned to cheat (I mean prepare creatively) in so many ways.

The best way to fight cheating is to create proper exams.

You over-heard this once in a conversation between two UCU heads. It was outside a classroom. One said that most exams in Uganda are, in fact, a sham. That's the word he used - "sham."

"We need to encourage students to think, not just give exams with tailored answers. But this is how it's done at national level from a young age."

"This is it," said the other. "Education is big business now. Top schools don't just want the best students, but more fees. Everything is based on marks instead of skills."

He continued: "No wonder so many First Classers do poorly in interviews. They don't have basic skills in language or reasoning. When I was in school you had to be a genius to be First Class. It was very rare."

But these issues aren't your concern, right? If universities want to turn a blind eye to avoid embarrassment and even build on sand, well, that's their business.

Let the system and the entire country suffer. You just need to walk on and keep calm and cheat.

After all, you might want to continue with post-grad studies later. Copy and paste, copy and paste is how your friend just did it at Makerere. He graduated just fine. His supervisor didn't have time to look into it. And who's supervising the supervisor?

So you're ready for it, this test. You've exercised your body and steadied your mind. Still, there's this thought that dishonest gain rots the bones and the soul both, that you're becoming an empty shell, a shadow of who you're meant to be.

The secret thought has nagged you, somehow. It has chased you.

You think you might have even dreamt about this recently. The dream was terrifying. You literally rotted from the inside out. It was a horrible and shameful loss. Then you forgot it. Until you read this.

This, dear UCU student, is your test today. It's your test any day.

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