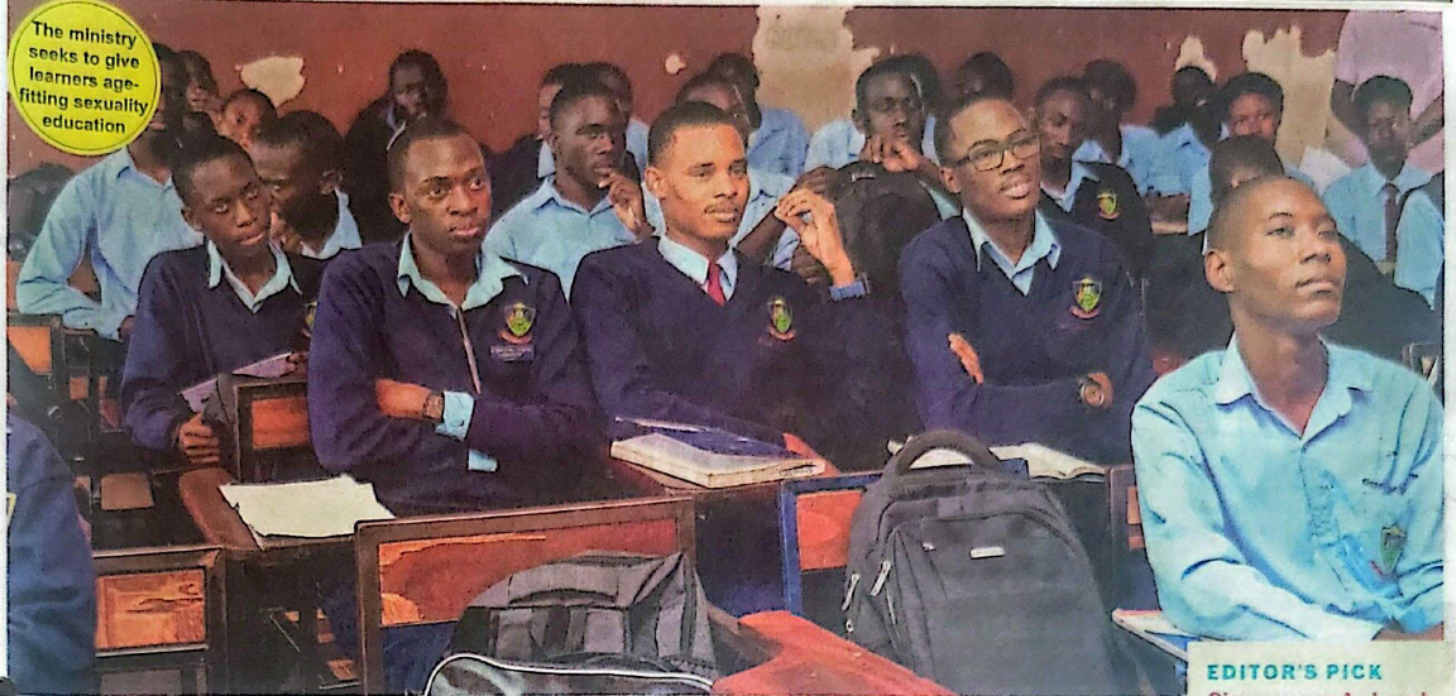




The ministry
seeks to give
learners age-
fitting sexuality
education



What's the cost of choosing the wrong A-Level combination?

Limitations. Teachers, university administrators and education experts warn that choosing the wrong combination limits one's university admission opportunities, limits one from reaching their dream career and leads to emotional frustration.

BY SYLVIA KATUSHABE

Every year, thousands of Senior Four leavers step into Advanced Level (A-level) education with ambitious dreams of becoming doctors, engineers, lawyers, accountants and entrepreneurs, among others. To do this, many choose whatever subject combinations will work to enable them achieve these goals. However, educationists are warning that a wrong subject combination at this critical stage can quietly lock learners out of their de-

sired university courses and careers. In Uganda's education system, the subjects a student selects in senior five largely determine the range of university programmes they can pursue. While many learners make these choices at the start of A-Level, a few fully understand the long-term consequences of their decisions.

Teachers, university administrators and education experts say that choosing the wrong combination not only limits one's university admission opportunities, limits one from reaching their dream career, lead to emotional frustration but also causes financial losses.

Both public and private universities programmes/courses are guided by subject requirements at A-Level which determine whether a learner qualifies to apply for a particular course.

Prof Mukadasi Buyinza, the academic registrar of Makerere University, explains that university programmes or courses classify A-Level subjects into three categories; essential, re-

levant and desirable. Essential subjects are compulsory for admission to a particular programme while relevant or desirable subjects are advantageous but not mandatory.

"If you want a particular degree programme at university, you must ensure that the combination you offer at A-Level fits within the essential or desirable subject requirements for that course," Prof Buyinza said.

He added, "For example, if a student wants to pursue bachelor of Medicine, they must offer Biology and Chemistry. If they want to pursue Engineering or Physical Sciences, Mathematics and Physics are essential."

According to the Public Universities Joint Admissions Board (PUJAB) booklet for 2026-2027, at Makerere University, students aspiring for health-related courses such as Surgery, Dental Surgery, Veterinary Medicine and Pharmacy, all require Biology and Chemistry.

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EDITOR'S PICK

Choose your A - Level subject combinations carefully

It is important for students to choose subjects that are representative of essential areas of study in the chosen degree programme of choice.

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Uganda Martyrs SS Namugongo students find solutions to local problems

Ethan Okiror used his past experience as a patient to come up with an automated bin that minimises infections in populated places like schools and hospitals. /P.24

