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Post-UME Screening Examination in Nigerian Universities: The University of Education, Ikere-Ekiti (Tunedik) Experience

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Introduction

Like other countries, Nigeria has a body that regulates educational qualifying examinations. Four prominent public examination bodies in Nigeria are the Joint Admission and Matriculation Board (JAMB), headed by Professor Dibu Ojerinde, the National Business and Technical Examination Board (NABTEB), headed by Professor David Awambor, the National Examination Council (NECO), headed by Professor Promise Okpala, and the West African Examination Council (WAEC), headed by Dr. Iyi Uwadiae (Idoko 2008). It is mandatory that candidates seeking admission to any of the university in Nigeria, whether federal, state, or private, take and pass the Joint Admission and Matriculation Board (JAMB) Examination before being considered for the Post-University Matriculation Examination screening, conducted by each university before the admission of these who qualify or pass.

TUNEDIK

The University of Education, Ikere-Ekiti (TUNEDIK) was established in 2007 by the administration of Governor (Engr) Adebayo Segun Oni of Ekiti State, Nigeria and approved by the National Universities Commission (NUC) on January 20, 2008 as the 31st state university and the 92nd university in Nigeria. (Ogunyemi 2008).

Universities in Nigeria

The Federal Military Government in Nigeria established six additional universities in 1976 in addition to the seven existing ones (Idoko (2008). The number of universities and degree-awarding institutions in Nigeria date has increased considerably. The list as contained in the 2008 JAMB Brochure includes:

- Federal Universities 16
- Universities of Agriculture 24
- Federal Universities of Technology 5
- State Universities 21
- Universities of Education 27
- State Universities of Technology 4
- Private Universities 41
- Other Degree Awarding Institutions 19
- Total 92

History of Joint Admission and Matriculation Board (JAMB)

Prior to the establishment of JAMB in 1978, each university was responsible for the conduct of its own concessional examination and admitted its own students. This system had serious limitations and was inefficient. The committee of Vice-Chancellors was concerned about this problem. Consequently, the government set up a National Committee on University Entrance Examination under the Chairmanship of Mr. M. S. Angulu and that Committee recommended setting up JAMB.

In 1987, the Board performed the exemplary feat of printing examination materials in Nigeria. Since then, the Board's question papers have always been produced and answer scripts processed in Nigeria (Idoko 2008). JAMB has introduced e-registration to reduce stress and replace the cumbersome process of registration, in which candidates have to travel to purchase and submit JAMB forms. Other problems included locating examination centers and accessing results.

Introduction of Post-UME Screening by Universities

Amatareotubo (2006) describes how the federal government of Nigeria introduced the policy of Post-JAMB screening by universities in 2005, through the Minister of Education, Mrs. Chinwe Obaji. This policy made it mandatory for all tertiary institutions to screen candidates after their JAMB results and before giving admission. Candidates with a score of 200 and above would be shortlisted by JAMB and their names and scores sent to their universities of choice which would screen again using aptitude tests, oral interviews, or even another examination. Obaji asserts that some candidates scored 280 and above in JAMB but could not score 20 percent in the post-JAMB examination, believing that those students must have cheated on their JAMB examinations and could not pass the Post-JAMB examination because there was no way to cheat.

Literature Review

Scholars have argued for and against the Post-Universities Matriculation Examination (UME) in Nigerian universities. Sobechi (2008) quotes the Vice-Chancellor of Ebonyi State University (EBSU), Professor Fidelis Ogah, as saying that he had refused to bow to pressure to conduct Post-UME tests because most institutions have turned it to a goldmine. Ogah alleged that most Nigerian universities that conduct Post-UME do so primarily to wring money from rich parents, whose children could not be admitted using JAMB results. Ogah stated that he had ignored pressure to conduct the test, pointing out that if he lacked confidence in the credibility of JAMB, he would lack confidence in a post-UME examination as well.

Similarly, during the 33rd and 34th convocation ceremony of the University of Benin, President Musa Yar'Adua of Nigeria, through the Director of Tertiary Education in the Federal Ministry of Education, Dr. Emmanuel Okon, remarked that the PUME may be cancelled if complaints against its conduct by students, parents, and guardians persist (Aliu 2008).

The Joint Admission and Matriculation Board (JAMB), the statutory body assigned to conduct admission examinations, and the National Universities Commission (NUC) have been directed to streamline Post-UME screening in order to avoid government intervention and the elimination of Post-UME screening. The JAMB Registrar, Professor Dibu Ojerinde, also lamented that universities have turned the UME screening into a money-making venture, as reported by Badmus and Idoko (2008). The House of Representatives Committee on Education in their oversight visits to educational agencies learned that universities had turned the screening of students seeking admission into a money-making venture. To stem the trend, the Chairman of the Committee, Honourable Farouk Lawan, suggested the need to call a stakeholders' meeting on the issue.

As the NUC began the accreditation of universities in 2009, Professor Peter Okebukola, the immediate past Executive Secretary of NUC and a member of the panel set to study university administration, said that institutional accreditation would precede course accreditation in Nigerian universities, noting that Nigeria, unlike the US, Europe, and Asia, only carried out course accreditation without accrediting the institutions offering these programmes (Makinde 2008).

Okebukola stated that this practice was one of the factors responsible for the quality of products turned out of the nation's tertiary institutions. He explained that institutional accreditation would consider the quality of students being admitted, staff, facilities, learning environment, and the university management. Okebukola stressed the need for graduates who are nationally relevant and globally competitive.

Some students employ unethical means to pass JAMB on their first attempt, while others do nothing of the kind. Clarence Peters states that, "when I finished Secondary School, I sat for JAMB because we had some financial difficulties and also to fulfill all righteousness, and, thankfully, I failed" Lawal (2008). Ogunleye (2008) reports that the Wesley University of Science and Technology (WUSTO), established by the Methodist Church Nigeria (MCN), licensed by the Federal Government in May 2007, has conducted its first UME screening. Oyedele (2008) quotes the University of Ado Ekiti Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dipo Kolawole, a well-known supporter of the post-UME test, as saying that "in the past a student will score 289, automatically he comes in, but with the Post-UME now, you find that such a student is scoring a very poor mark. They cannot even write. If we desire sanitation of our educational system … it does not make sense for anybody to be against the post-UME. If there are other built in mechanisms to purify the admission process … it should be a welcome idea.."

Makinde (2009) states that Professor Philip Abiodun, The Vice-Chancellor, Adekunle Ajasin University, Akungba-Akoko, Ondo State, has asserted that "two exams are not too many to sieve qualified candidates from those who cheated to pass." He observed that after comparing the results of the two exams one would be able to know who truly passed and who cheated. He noted that while some students scored very high marks in JAMB, they scored very low on the post-UME.

Post-UME Screening Examination at TUNEDIK

The University of Education Ikere-Ekiti (TUNEDIK) officially opened in May 2008. To allow prospective candidates to apply, those who earlier applied to JAMB, wrote the 2008 Universities Matriculation Examination, and attained the prescribed national minimum score were asked to apply to TUNEDIK, provided they met the minimum entry requirements.

TUNEDIK conducted two Post-UME screening examinations. The first was an objective text based on the subject/course areas of the candidates while the second examination was an essay test for those who passed the first examination.

The essay examination revealed the inadequacies of some of the candidates. Many who scored high in JAMB and in the first screening examination performed badly in the essay writing. The results of the two examinations were computed to determine eligible candidates for admission.

Analysis of Findings of the Post-UME Screening

A sample of five hundred candidates was drawn. One hundred were drawn each from the Faculty of Education, Department of Educational Management, Faculty of Arts, Department of English, Faculty of Social and Management Sciences, Department of Economics, Faculty of Science, Department of Pure Sciences (Biology), and Faculty of Science and Information Technology, Department of Applied Sciences (Computer and ICT).

(a) Department of Educational Management Table IA Shows Candidates (50) who scored 200 marks and above in JAMB

S/N	JAMB SCORES (400%)	POST-UME I (OBJECTIVE 100%)	POST-UME II (ESSAY 50%)
1.	235	44	05
2.	227	44	05
3.	252	51	05
4.	211	44	05
5.	202	41	05
6.	218	42	06
7.	206	41	06
8.	212	44	08
9.	203	40	08
10.	219	45	08
11.	205	41	08
12.	214	44	09
13.	240	42	10
14.	206	44	10
15.	212	45	10
16.	204	41	10
17.	207	44	12
18.	205	47	12
19.	207	49	12
20.	240	48	12
21.	207	49	12
22.	217	42	12
23.	220	42	13
24.	215	51	13
25.	215	41	13
26.	238	44	14
27.	203	44	14
28.	207	43	14
29.	208	44	14
30.	266	62	15
31.	202	44	15
32.	210	44	15
33.	208	40	16
34.	238	46	17
35.	202	41	17
36.	208	45	18
37.	218	48	18
38.	203	43	20

39.	203	44	20
40.	226	49	20
41.	230	48	20
42.	213	41	22
43.	208	47	22
44.	203	48	23
45.	229	48	24
46.	206	47	25
47.	240	46	28
48.	200	44	32
49.	255	57	32
50.	213	51	38

Only 13 of the 50 candidates who scored 200 and above in JAMB made 40 percent (20 marks) and above in the Post-UME essay screening test, representing 26 percent.

(b) Department of Educational Management: Table 1B Shows candidates (25) who scored 190-199 marks in JAMB

S/N	JAMB SCORES (400%)	POST-UME I (OBJECTIVE 100%)	POST-UME II (ESSAY 50%)
1.	198	43	02
2.	195	40	08
3.	190	42	08
4.	190	41	09
5.	196	44	10
6.	195	44	10
7.	195	42	10
8.	198	40	13
9.	190	44	14
10.	195	44	16
11.	191	48	17
12.	197	41	17
13.	197	42	18
14.	198	44	18
15.	193	45	18
16.	192	42	18
17.	199	49	18
18.	194	45	20
19.	196	43	22
20.	197	45	22
21.	196	42	24
22.	194	45	25
23.	198	45	25
24	194	45	25
25.	194	41	38

Eight of the twenty-five who scored between 190-199 in JAMB, made 40 percent (20 marks) and above in the Post-UME essay screening test, representing 32 percent.

(c) Department of Educational Management: Table 1C Shows candidates (25) who scored 180-189 marks in JAMB

S/N	JAMB SCORES (400%)	POST-UME I (OBJECTIVE 100%)	POST-UME II (ESSAY 50%)
1.	182	42	05
2.	181	43	06
3.	182	45	07
4.	184	42	07
5.	184	43	08
6.	184	40	08
7.	180	44	10
8.	188	40	10
9.	184	42	12
10.	181	41	13
11.	182	43	14
12.	182	42	14
13.	185	43	15
14.	187	43	15
15.	185	42	15
16.	183	45	16
17.	187	42	18
18.	187	42	16
19.	181	44	19
20.	180	44	19
21.	183	45	20
22.	186	42	22
23.	188	44	25
24	182	42	31
25.	184	43	33

Table 1c above shows that only 5 of the 25 candidates who score between 180-189 in JAMB, made 40 percent (20 marks) and above in the Post-UME essay screening test, representing 20 percent.

(d) Department of English: Table IIA Shows candidates (50) who scored 200 marks above in JAMB)

S/N	JAMB SCORES (400%)	POST-UME I (OBJECTIVE 100%)	POST-UME II (ESSAY 50%)
1.	214	45	01
2.	214	51	08
3.	241	60	09
4.	202	56	09
5.	264	53	09
6.	212	50	10
7.	214	52	10
8.	214	52	10
9.	210	56	12
10.	218	48	12
11.	213	56	12
12.	279	64	12
13.	220	56	13
14.	214	59	14
15.	205	52	14
16.	204	51	15
17.	237	60	15
18.	204	52	15
19.	205	58	16
20.	201	56	18
21.	209	54	18
22.	201	51	18
23.	207	57	18
24	238	65	19
25.	238	65	19
26.	230	56	19
27.	262	58	20
28.	202	56	20
29.	236	59	20
30.	254	69	20
31.	202	55	21
32.	202	55	22
33.	230	63	22
34.	232	62	22
35.	207	54	23
36.	210	55	24
37.	227	56	24
38.	202	54	24
39.	203	53	25

40.	209	52	26
41.	207	59	28
42.	248	68	29
43.	248	68	29
44.	206	56	30
45.	257	62	31
46.	203	53	32
47	226	58	32
48.	234	61	32
49.	214	57	33
50.	219	60	33

Table IIA above shows a better performance as 24 of the 50 candidates who scored 200 marks and above in JAMB, made 40 (20 marks) and above in the Post-UME essay screening test, representing 48 percent.

(e) Department of Educational Management: Table IIB Shows candidates (25) who scored 190-199 marks in JAMB

S/N	JAMB SCORES (400%)	POST-UME I (OBJECTIVE 100%)	POST-UME II (ESSAY 50%)
1.	197	46	05
2.	194	52	08
3.	195	49	12
4.	193	52	13
5.	196	56	14
6.	198	53	14
7.	193	50	15
8.	197	52	15
9.	195	48	16
10.	195	48	16
11.	199	45	17
12.	193	53	17
13.	199	51	18
14.	193	51	18
15.	198	53	18
16.	190	54	18
17.	194	45	20
18.	195	56	22
19.	198	30	23
20.	192	50	24
21.	190	53	24
22.	192	50	24
23.	199	56	25
24.	194	46	28
25.	194	53	32

In table IIB above, 9 of the 25 candidates who scored between 190-199 in JAMB made 40 percent (20 marks) and above in the Post-UME essay screening test, representing 36 percent.

(f) Department of English: Table IIC Shows candidates (25) who scored 180-189 marks in JAMB.

S/N	JAMB SCORES (40%)	POST UME 1 (OBJECTIVE 100%)	POST-UME II (ESSAY 50%)
1.	188	52	13
2.	186	45	14
3.	184	53	15
4.	186	47	16
5.	180	49	16
6.	184	50	18
7.	180	52	18
8.	188	50	18
9.	180	51	18
10.	181	50	19
11.	181	50	19
12.	188	53	20
13.	181	49	20
14.	184	43	20
15.	181	45	21
16.	181	44	21
17.	181	59	22
18.	181	48	22
19.	185	52	22
20.	185	48	23
21.	185	47	23
22.	182	47	24
23.	185	45	32
24.	189	55	34
25.	189	56	34

Table IIc above shows that 14 of the 25 candidates, who scored between 180-189 in JAMB, made 40 percent (20 marks) and above in the Post-UME essay screening test, representing 56 percent.

(g) Department of Economics: Table IIIA Shows candidates (50) who scored 200 marks and above in JAMB.

S/N	JAMB SCORES (40%)	POST UME 1 (OBJECTIVE 100%)	POST-UME II (ESSAY 50%)
1.	248	47	01
2.	212	47	09
3.	244	46	09
4.	221	49	10
5.	231	49	10
6.	227	47	12
7.	251	57	12
8.	244	49	12
9.	249	50	13
10.	203	47	13
11	214	48	13
12.	220	50	14
13.	202	46	15
14.	266	57	16
15.	274	51	16
16.	203	53	16
17.	203	53	16
18.	206	48	17
19.	227	46	18
20.	259	52	18
21.	240	49	19
22.	233	50	19
23.	217	47	19
24.	237	59	20
25.	249	56	20
26.	225	49	22
27.	216	48	23
28.	210	50	23
29.	227	53	24
30.	213	46	24
31.	213	46	24
32.	204	46	25
33.	243	56	25
34.	203	46	25
35.	222	48	25
36.	214	48	25
37.	212	47	25
38.	208	47	25

39.	230	51	25
40.	249	52	26
41.	253	53	28
42.	200	46	29
43.	223	51	29
44.	217	49	30
45.	218	51	30
46.	205	50	31
47.	219	53	32
48.	217	50	33
49.	247	51	34
50.	253	56	36

Table IIIA also shows that 27 of the 50 candidates who scored 200 marks and above in JAMB made 40 percent (20 marks) and above in the Post-UME essay screening test, representing 54 percent.

(h) Department of Economics: Table IIIB Shows candidates (25) who scored 190-199 marks in JAMB

S/N	JAMB SCORES (40%)	POST UME 1 (OBJECTIVE 100%)	POST-UME II (ESSAY 50%)
1.	198	50	06
2.	190	43	06
3.	198	48	10
4.	194	47	11
5.	198	47	12
6.	196	47	14
7.	194	48	15
8.	191	44	16
9.	196	46	19
10.	198	47	20
11.	190	47	20
12.	198	50	21
13.	192	46	21
14.	191	46	21
15.	192	46	21
16.	197	47	21
17.	194	48	21
18.	195	45	23
19.	191	49	23
20.	197	46	24
21.	194	46	24
22.	199	50	27
23.	191	49	28
24.	197	49	32
25.	196	49	37

In table IIIB, 16 of the 25 candidates who scored 190-199 in JAMB, made 40 percent (20 marks) and above in the Post-UME essay screening test, representing 64 percent.

(i) Department of Economics: Table IIIC Shows candidates (25) who scored 180-189 marks in JAMB

S/N	JAMB SCORES (40%)	POST UME 1 (OBJECTIVE 100%)	POST-UME II (ESSAY 50%)
1.	188	42	06
2.	189	45	08
3.	182	45	08
4.	187	40	10
5.	184	49	10
6.	185	48	15
7.	188	48	15
8.	185	47	15
9.	188	46	16
10.	189	49	17
11.	183	49	17
12.	183	50	17
13.	187	46	18
14.	187	48	18
15.	186	46	20
16.	181	49	20
17.	187	46	23
18.	184	46	24
19.	182	47	24
20.	183	47	25
21.	1888	45	25
22.	181	47	26
23.	188	43	28
24.	180	41	28
25.	188	50	28

Table IIIC indicates that 11 of the 25 candidates who scored between 180-189 in JAMB, made 40 percent (20 marks) and above in the Post-UME essay screening test, representing 44 percent.

(J) Department of Pure Sciences (Biology): Table IVA Shows candidates (25) who scored 200 marks and above in JAMB

S/N	JAMB SCORES (40%)	POST UME 1 (OBJECTIVE 100%)	POST-UME II (ESSAY 50%)
1.	203	48	08
2.	202	44	10
3.	212	44	12
4.	218	46	12
5.	205	46	12
6.	209	54	15
7.	221	48	16
8.	203	46	16
9.	244	48	18
10.	227	47	18
11.	264	50	18
12.	231	45	20
13.	209	52	20
14.	232	51	20
15.	200	50	22
16.	266	58	24
17.	267	54	25
18.	213	50	25
19.	243	52	25
20.	208	47	26
21.	209	45	27
22.	264	53	28
23.	281	58	29
24.	217	51	29
25.	224	56	36

Table IVA above shows that 14 of the 25 candidates who scored 200 marks and above in JAMB, made 40 percent (20 marks) and above in the Post-UME essay screening test, representing 56 percent.

(k) Department of Pure Sciences (Biology): Table IVB Shows candidates (25) who scored 190-199 marks in JAMB.

S/N	JAMB SCORES (40%)	POST UME 1 (OBJECTIVE 100%)	POST-UME II (ESSAY 50%)
1.	191	43	02
2.	190	41	07
3.	195	43	10
4.	198	48	11
5.	196	48	12
6.	196	43	12
7.	192	50	13
8.	197	48	15
9.	193	44	15
10.	192	50	16
11.	196	45	18
12.	196	45	18
13.	192	50	18
14.	193	49	19
15.	199	46	19
16.	196	47	19
17.	190	49	20
18.	192	44	21
19.	199	49	22
20.	191	43	25
21.	190	47	26
22.	196	45	27
23.	192	48	30
24.	199	48	31
25.	198	46	36

In table IVB above, 9 of the 25 candidates who scored between 190-199 in JAMB, made 40 percent (20 marks) and above in the Post-UME essay screening test, representing 36 percent.

(L) Department of Pure science (Biology): Table IVC Shows candidates (25) who scored 180-189 marks in JAMB

S/N	JAMB SCORES (40%)	POST UME 1 (OBJECTIVE 100%)	POST-UME II (ESSAY 50%)
1.	182	41	4
2.	184	41	5
3.	181	42	8
4.	184	43	8
5.	186	49	10
6.	182	48	10
7.	188	49	13
8.	186	45	13
9.	187	46	14
10.	181	46	14
11.	184	45	14
12.	188	46	14
13.	182	46	15
14.	181	43	15
15.	185	47	18
16.	182	44	18
17.	187	43	20
18.	187	46	20
19.	187	43	20
20.	186	46	20
21.	183	43	20
22.	188	47	20
23.	180	44	24
24.	189	45	24
25.	188	50	28

In table IVC above, 9 of the 25 candidates, who scored between 180-189 in JAMB, made 40 percent (20 marks) and above in the Post-UME essay screening test, representing 36 percent.

(M) Department of Pure Science (Biology): Table IVD Shows candidates (25) who scored 170-179 marks in JAMB

S/N	JAMB SCORES (40%)	POST UME 1 (OBJECTIVE 100%)	POST-UME II (ESSAY 50%)
1.	170	41	01
2.	174	41	07
3.	173	43	08
4.	176	41	09
5.	179	41	10
6.	173	44	10
7.	176	40	11
8.	175	43	12
9.	178	47	13
10.	178	41	13
11.	177	43	14
12.	171	43	14
13.	175	40	14
14.	176	40	15
15.	175	45	15
16.	171	40	16
17.	176	43	17
18.	171	43	17
19.	177	42	17
20.	176	41	17
21.	172	44	18
22.	170	42	18
23.	177	47	18
24.	173	40	21
25.	179	42	24

Table IVD shows that only 2 of the 25 candidates who scored between 170-179 in JAMB, amde 40 percent (20 marks) and above in the Post-UME essay screening test, representing 8 percent.

(N) Department of Applied Sciences (Computer & ICT) Shows candidates (25) who scored 200 marks and above in JAMB

S/N	JAMB SCORES (40%)	POST UME 1 (OBJECTIVE 100%)	POST-UME II (ESSAY 50%)
1.	245	48	08
2.	223	43	08
3.	272	52	10
4.	208	44	12
5.	238	45	14
6.	272	52	17
7.	262	53	17
8.	219	51	17
9.	259	52	17
10.	256	48	18
11.	215	46	18
12.	231	47	18
13.	201	44	18
14.	240	49	19
15.	233	46	19
16.	204	41	19
17.	209	46	20
18.	232	47	20
19.	225	51	20
20.	211	50	20
21.	211	47	23
22.	218	48	25
23.	244	51	26
24.	212	47	27
25.	200	51	35

Table VA shows that 9 of the 25 candidates who scored 200 marks and above in JAMB, amde 40 percent (20 marks) and above in the Post-UME essay screening test, respresenting 36 percent.

(O) Department of Applied Sciences (Computer & ICT) Table VB Shows candidates (25) who scored 190-199 marks in JAMB

S/N	JAMB SCORES (40%)	POST UME 1 (OBJECTIVE 100%)	POST-UME II (ESSAY 50%)
1.	196	41	04
2.	193	47	06
3.	194	41	07
4.	193	55	12
5.	199	44	12
6.	191	43	13
7.	194	43	15
8.	197	45	15
9.	190	43	16
10.	199	51	16
11.	196	42	17
12.	193	44	17
13.	192	46	17
14.	191	44	17
15.	190	43	18
16.	192	46	19
17.	197	40	20
18.	194	47	20
19.	196	45	21
20.	192	46	21
21.	190	44	21
22.	194	45	25
23.	194	46	25
24.	194	46	25
25.	192	48	28

In table VB above, 9 of the 25 candidates who scored between 190-199 in JAMB, made 40 percent (20 marks) and above in the Post-UME essay screening test, representing 36 percent.

(P) Department of Applied Sciences (Computer & ICT): Table VC Shows candidates (25) who scored 180-189 marks in JAMB

S/N	JAMB SCORES (40%)	POST UME 1 (OBJECTIVE 100%)	POST-UME II (ESSAY 50%)
1.	187	42	12
2.	183	45	13
3.	184	42	14
4.	186	44	15
5.	183	44	15
6.	180	41	15
7.	182	43	16
8.	180	41	16
9.	183	42	18
10.	181	45	18
11.	186	47	18
12.	188	43	19
13.	183	45	21
14.	187	43	22
15.	188	53	22
16.	181	42	23
17.	187	46	24
18.	183	42	24
19.	186	50	24
20.	188	44	25
21.	187	47	25
22.	185	43	26
23.	182	41	26
24.	187	47	26
25.	185	44	30

Table VC above shows that 13 of the 25 candidates who scored between 180-189 in JAMB, made 40 percent (20 marks) and above in the Post-UME essay Screening test, representing 52 percent.

(Q) Department of Applied Sciences (Computer & ICT): Table VD Shows candidates (25) who scored 170-179 marks in JAMB

S/N	JAMB SCORES (40%)	POST UME 1 (OBJECTIVE 100%)	POST-UME II (ESSAY 50%)
1.	175	44	09
2.	178	46	09
3.	178	44	10
4.	179	43	12
5.	175	41	12
6.	178	45	15
7.	175	42	16
8.	177	41	16
9.	173	41	18
10.	177	41	19
11.	178	40	19
12.	174	42	19
13.	177	44	20
14.	174	43	20
15.	174	43	20
16.	174	47	20
17.	176	43	21
18.	173	44	21
19.	173	41	22
20.	175	43	22
21.	177	41	24
22.	179	41	25
23.	174	41	27
24.	171	40	29
25.	176	46	30

Table VD shows that 13 of the 25 candidates who scored between 170-179 in JAMB made 40 percent (20 marks) and above in the Post-UME essay screening test, representing 52 percent.

Summary of Tables I-V showing candidates who passed (scored 40 percent and above) in the Post-UME (essay) screening test.

	Score Range	No of Candidates	Percentage (%)
1.	200 & above	87 passed out of 200	43.5
2.	190-199	51 passed out of 125	40.8
3.	180-189	52 passed out of 125	41.6
4.	170-179	15 passed out of 50	30
	Total	205 passed out of 500	155.9

The above shows that 87 of the sampled 200 candidates representing 43.5 percent did well in the Post-UME (essay) screening.

Summary of Tables I-V showing candidates who failed (scored below 40 percent) in the Post-UME (essay) screening Test.

	Score Range	No of Candidates	Percentage (%)
1.	200 & above	113 failed out of 200	56.5
2.	190-199	74 failed out of 125	59.2
3.	180-189	73 failed out of 125	58.4
4.	170-179	35 failed out of 50	70
	Total	295 failed out of 500	244.1

From the above summary, 113 of the sampled 200 candidates representing 56.5 percent who failed the Post-UME screening would have been admitted automatically, were it not for the Post-UME screening that exposed their lapses.

Justification for Post-UME Screening

The Post-UME screening, especially the essay exam, has helped expose the inadequacies of some candidates. Many who scored 200 marks and above in JAMB performed below expectation in the essay test, and showed a lack of basic writing skills. Before the introduction of post-UME screening, virtually all candidates who scored 200 and above secured admission almost automatically to the university of their choice. With post-UME screening, deficiencies of the candidates are exposed, especially when they are asked to write.

In the study conducted, only 87 of the sampled 200 candidates who scored 200 marks and above in JAMB, representing 43.5 percent, passed the post-UME screening test, while the remaining 113, representing 56.5 percent, performed poorly, scoring less than 40 percent) in the Post-UME screening. This set of candidates would have been admitted on merit to their first or second choice university if there was no post-UME screening. Hence, post-UME screening should not be discarded, but should be strengthened.

Recommendations and Conclusion

This study has shown clearly that post-UME screening is a necessity for determining the suitability of candidates for admission to tertiary institutions in Nigeria. The following recommendations are made to further strengthen post-UME screening by the universities in Nigeria.

- Post-UME screening should include both objective and essay questions to determine the competence of candidates in both areas.
- Candidates who scored 180 marks and above in JAMB did very well in post-UME screening and, in some cases, better than some who scored 200 marks and above in JAMB; hence, the minimum cut-off mark for eligibility for post-UME screening should be 180 marks and above in JAMB.
- Candidates for post-UME screening should be screened for the exam and supervised during the exam to guard against cheating.
- Post-UME screening should not be a money-making activity for univerisites, but for finding the best students to boost the standard of education in Nigeria.

Admission of candidates should be based on the JAMB and post-UME performance, and not on being the highest bidder as alleged by some.

In conclusion, merit should be the sole criterion for university admission in Nigeria, the influence of parents or guardinas notwithstanding. This would motivate young people seeking university admission to work harder. Likewise, the law governing examination malpractice should be enforced and culprits sanctioned to serve as a deterrent to others. These measures would make the unviersity admission system trustworthy and strengthn the credibility of higher education in Nigeria.

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