

A Helpful Guide on How to Prepare for JAMB Success

JAMB Success Secrets



Nigerian Scholars



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JAMB Success Secrets

A Helpful Guide on How to Plan and Prepare for JAMB-UTME
Success

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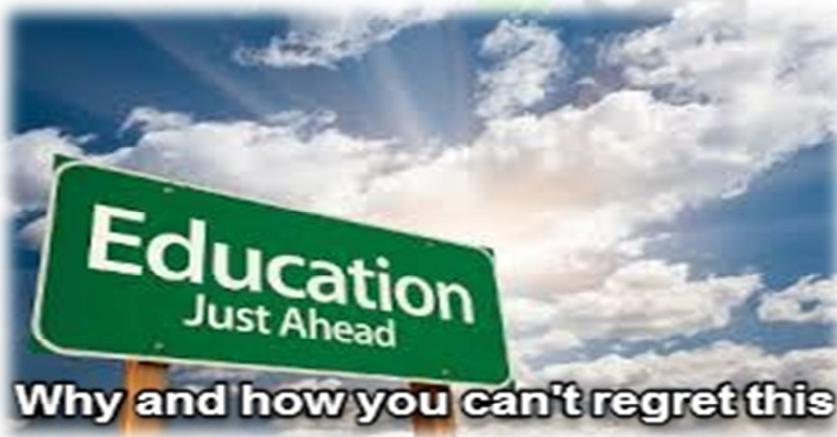
What Matters is What You Believe and Do



Nigerian Scholars

Part 1:

Introduction



Introduction

I am delighted to be sharing with you these rare ideas, tips and secrets that helped me and so many others in our pursuit for admission into the university. As we must be well aware, getting admission into tertiary institutions in Nigeria has proven to be quite a menace to so many school leavers in recent years.

The Joint Admissions and Matriculations Board (JAMB) has for so many years been the Nigerian entrance examination board for tertiary-level institutions and the examinations being administered have usually been available for most students who choose to apply for admission into Nigerian public and private colleges of education, polytechnics, and universities.

Scaling through this examination administered by JAMB has been the major challenge for students who have found themselves in this menace. On the 17th of April, 2014, the board released her 2013/2014 UTME results for those that registered for her Pencil and Paper Examination Type (PPT).

The statistics showed that about a million candidates registered for this type and out of that number, only 24 candidates scored 250 and above out of a possible 400. What an alarming situation!

The candidates that registered for the Computer Based Test (CBT) which took place on the 17th of May, 2014 to the 31st of May, 2014 added to the number that sat for the PPT resulted in a massive total of 1.8 million candidates that sat for the 2013/2014 JAMB-UTME. Again, out of this number, not more than 450,000 students were admitted into universities.

Do the math and you will discover that with the over 1.2 million students leaving our secondary schools each year, it is very likely that more than 2 million candidates will participate in the 2014/2015 JAMB-UTME.

Brief History of JAMB

As at 1974, there were seven federal universities in the country. Every one of these existing universities conducted its own concessional examination and admitted its students. However, this system of admission revealed serious limitations and quite often the waste of resources in the process of administering the concessional examination, especially on the part of the candidates.

The general untidiness in the uncoordinated system of admissions into universities and the attendant problems were sufficient cause for concern to the committee of vice chancellors.

These problems had assumed new dimensions when by 1976, the then federal military government, under the leadership of General Olusegun Obasanjo established six additional universities. Consequently, the government set up a national committee on university entrance under the chairmanship of Mr. M. S. Angulu. After the various concerns had been considered, sometime later, the Joint Admissions and Matriculations Board (JAMB) was born.

In the 2009 University Matriculation Exam, the grading system of the normally reputable examination body was subject to serious controversy when the overall performance was one of the poorest on records. Much to JAMB's embarrassment, it was later revealed that the machines which optically graded the papers had erroneous answers and the JAMB changed some students' scores by as much as 15%.

The Joint Admissions and Matriculations Board (JAMB) have since tried to upgrade her methods and technology. In December 2013, the management of JAMB introduced a new system for candidates applying for admission into higher institutions by cancelling the option of choosing two universities, two polytechnics and two colleges of education.

The new system unlike the previous one now allows an applicant to fill in only one university, one polytechnic, one college of education and one computer institute during form registration.

Also, the Computer Based Test (CBT) has been introduced and it is been suspected from the statement of the JAMB Registrar, Prof. Dibu Ojerinde after the 2013/2014 exercise that, “We have gone digital in JAMB” , that the 2014/2015 JAMB-UTME will be only computer-based and the Paper and Pencil Type will no longer be used.

Why and How You Will Not Regret Getting This Book

For you to have taken the pains to purchase this book, it shows you are concerned about your present predicament and for you to have to gone ahead to open it, it further shows that you are determined to see a change in that predicament for the better.

I wrote JAMB only once the moment I left secondary school and obtained admission that same year to study my choice course, Mechanical Engineering in my first and second choice institution, the University of Nigeria, Nsukka with a cumulative UTME score of 249.

Since I did not experience any difficulty such as waiting another year to rewrite JAMB, having to shop for another course or even having to wait for a second or supplementary list – having entered with my name in the primary merit list – some of you may think that I have no idea what it’ s like to suffer for the sake of getting admission into the university.

But, I must tell you that even though I may not understand experientially, I do have an idea having watched close relatives and friends spend so many years – ranging from three to yes, ten years – in pursuit of admission into the university. Trust me, as you

may well know, it's not in any wise funny to wait that much time to further your education.

I have gone through a number of books and articles on this same subject and it's so shocking that very few of them present practical steps that can help you plan and prepare for outstanding success in JAMB. The majority of them are merely motivational barely practicable.

Even though motivation is very important, I do believe that before a person can be motivated, he or she must have something he plans to do. Motivation is meant to spur an individual to action – to do something – and when that person has the slightest idea on what to do, then motivation becomes mere noise and utterly useless.

In this book, I will share with you my heart and the heart of many others that have applied these time-tested principles of academic success and have not regretted it. I strongly believe from experience that JAMB can be overcome and yes by you.

I also do believe that if you will apply with discipline, diligence, determination and perseverance these things we will discuss here together, you will be the one sharing your own success story with others in the future.

Part 2:

JAMB Myths and Facts



Five Common JAMB Myths

A myth in this context is something that many people believe but that does not exist or is false. It is synonymous with the term ‘fallacy’ which could similarly be defined as a false idea that many people believe is true.

The only thread between a rumor and a myth is the number of people that have believed and accepted it to be true. A rumor gradually becomes a myth when it has spread widely and has been accepted over a long time.

There are such false ideas about JAMB that have gradually become strongholds in the minds of students and have prevented them from putting in their very best for this examination.

If you must succeed in JAMB this time around, you must first start by dispelling these false notions from your mind. The four JAMB myths mentioned here may not be the only wrong notions students have and believe about JAMB but I’m pretty sure they are the most common.

Myth 1: JAMB uses negative marking strategy in scoring candidates.

For so many years, there have been controversies as to how JAMB marks students’ exam scripts and if the JAMB negative marking strategy – a strategy used to minimize students’ guessing of answers by subtracting marks for any question failed – was used.

Permit me to state clearly here that negative marking in JAMB does not exist and there is absolutely nothing like JAMB negative marking strategy. This has been confirmed by JAMB personnel that see the need to dispel this school of thought and negative idea.

To further buttress the point from my own personal experience, in my time also, so many of us were deceived by wide-spread rumors that advised us to leave blank the spaces for questions we did not know or were not sure of.

One of my close friends and classmate, the then head boy who was very smart heeded to this advice and he ended up with 226 in his JAMB, not a very good score for someone who constantly had been performing outstandingly from his junior secondary school.

I refused to follow that advice because of my belief as a Christian, that anything good and worthwhile I do in God's Name, I do with His backing. Quite afraid that fateful day, I shaded every blank space I wasn't sure of by guessing logically before the invigilator asked us to stop writing. My JAMB score which would have been better had I known some of the things I'm sharing with you now was a 245.

So many people have fallen victim of these false idea and I can go on and on with instances of people who performed much better in JAMB and secured their admission after they corrected this problem and started to logically fill in every blank space for questions they were not sure of and had no idea about. Since nothing like negative marking exists, it is advisable that you shade an answer for all questions.

First answer the questions you are very sure of and then come back later to answer the rest because JAMB most times keeps the simpler questions towards the end of the question paper. Make sure you remain enough time for this 'logical' guessing.

What I mean by logical guessing is much like the 50:50 applied in the television program, 'Who wants to be a millionaire'. Logical guessing is done by elimination of the options that you know by first sight can never be the correct answer.

Myth 2: JAMB regulates students' scores to decrease the number of students seeking admission into federal universities.

This school believes that the board regulates the scores of students or more specifically, they are of the notion that JAMB reduces students' scores when good performances are high and more than the number that universities are willing and capable of taking.

It's no news that the Nigerian educational system today - the number of approved and recognized institutions of learning - is not very capable of meeting the high demands of young desperate students seeking tertiary education.

Since not up to half a million students out of the nearly 2 million that write JAMB these days usually obtain admission into the university, it has become a belief among candidates that JAMB reduces the score of students so that less number of students will be given a chance for admission into the university and more will consider polytechnics - which are of little recognition and acceptance in the country.

I want to assume this is not true, even though I don't have particular proof for that assumption. A board that is being questioned every year by educational parastatals and criticized every day by the public for the constant rate of failure will not want to keep watching students fail at their hands.

JAMB is responsible for regulating the admission process in Nigeria and we cannot completely overlook the possibility that they may use this power to affect students' scores in order to in their own way manage the traffic into federal and public universities.

And like I said earlier, we cannot prove that now to be a fact. But, making that assumption, I want to state that no matter how the scores are reduced, someone who prepared very well will not be affected.

For instance, let's assume they deducted 50 marks each, as much as that is, a student whose real score was 295 will end up becoming 245. That gave me a smooth and stress-free ride into the university before some of my mates could say 'Jack Robinson'. Let's be sincere with ourselves, the ball lies in our court.

Myth 3: It is impossible to score above 300 in JAMB.

The response of majority of students to someone who mentions his or her target score of 300 and above in JAMB will be something like "You don dey mad abi? In fact, dey there dey dream; even if you be Einstein, dey no dey get that kind score for JAMB." Very few students are exempted from this group.

I blame the failure rates that we have seen in recent years in JAMB examinations. When we recorded only less than 0.01% of the number of students that sat for the 2013/2014 JAMB-UTME that could get up to 250 and above, what more can you expect students writing the next time to believe. It is now seen as an impossible feat to obtain a score up to 300 in JAMB.

I want to put it to you that since there's nothing like negative marking and we have safely assumed that JAMB does not reduce candidates' scores; it is very possible to score up to 300 and above in JAMB.

Students have done it in the past and they God did not create for different brains for them than ours, neither did He give them two heads. My faculty mate from the Department of Electrical Engineering in UNN did it in his time and when I asked him how, he said he 'simply' started preparing from SS 1.

He had made up his mind that what had been holding others back from one-time entry into the university would not hold him back, so he decided to start early to read according to JAMB and WAEC syllabuses even far ahead of his class subject work schemes as well as solve their past questions.

Even though you may not have the time now to put in even up to a one-year preparation, you can start now with discipline to diligently, relentlessly and perseveringly put in your very best to prepare for your own success story.

In the Bible, God helped David defeat Goliath using just a sling and a stone but before that he had cooked up his skills for long in the wilderness while just rearing sheep. You are going to overcome JAMB on that fateful day in less than four hours and with just a pencil or your hand on the computer mouse as the case may be no matter what people may say or have said.

You just need to start now to decide whether your stone throw will be able to throw the giant down or just keep him coming back at you.

Myth 4: It is not possible to pass JAMB without engaging in exam malpractice.

Another false notion believed by so many is that if you don't engage in examination malpractice by perhaps paying an impersonator to write your exam for you or carrying 'leaked' answers and e-textbooks into the hall, you can't pass JAMB.

This one is wrong in very many ways, one being that examination malpractice is a grievous offence that could cost a student time in prison or his or her hope of ever reading in any Nigerian university if he or she is caught.

Assuming the person not caught, it still doesn't change the fact that life and providence has a way of making our crimes catch up with us. What we sow, we'll surely reap. After all, one cannot continue being impersonated forever. I have met so

many students who are regretting today the actions they took during their secondary school days.

Some had people write their JAMB and all their O-level papers for them and now they amassing carryovers everywhere even with all the malpractice they still attempt in the university.

Some learnt their lessons on time while in school, changed their ways and began to strive to make the best results they could even if they had to spend one year more than usual in school.

Others have not allowed life to teach them any lessons and it's almost too late. These ones are those called 'external or overstay students' in school. I know of one who has spent 11 years in school carrying over courses for a 5-year course and there still seems to be no hope for him getting a certificate.

These consequences happen as a result of the mistakes one made in his or her yesterdays. Some escaped from school and couldn't get jobs because they couldn't prove their capability - second class upper honors on their certificates but no commensurate ability to show they earned those degrees themselves.

You can not only pass JAMB without examination malpractice but you can make an outstanding performance if you decide today to work hard, smart and intelligently for your success and leave a godly and worthy legacy for generations that will come after you.

You don't need to cut corners to make it in life. Trust me, hard work and diligence is most rewarding and gives the greatest joy.

Myth 5: You can't make it in life if you don't study Law, Medicine, Accounting, Engineering or any other so-called 'professional' course.

I beg to disagree with this belief and I don't blame anybody for thinking this way because our society has made u believe so. Parents pressurize their children to study these courses simply because of the big names and how popular and respected these names were in their days.

But I must tell you that the world is changing gradually and the world today is not what it used to be some decades ago.

Companies like the Nigerian Postal Service (NIPOST) and Nigerian Telecommunications Limited (NITEL) crashed in the late 1990's with the advent of electronic mail – what we know today as e-mail and mobile phones (GSMs) and so many other feats of globalization are making some courses irrelevant by the day and more neglected courses are gradually becoming hot-cakes.

For instance, Computer and Software Engineers are the highest paid in the world today because of the enormous roles computers play today.

Also, nurses with less education are gradually becoming better paid and in higher demand than medical doctors and assistants in some parts of the world where machines that have been programmed to carry out diagnosis are quickly replacing medical practitioners especially those ones that do not specialize in a particular field such as neurosurgery or plastic surgery – things that machines can't do.

Today, a nurse with little computer literacy only needs to ask for particular symptoms from the patient and input them into a machine that tells the problem and prescribes the medication.

Come of think of it also, the wealthiest people in the world today did not study so-called 'professional' courses. In fact, some of them had to go against their families and societal standards to drop out of school and develop their talents and skills in other neglected but highly latent areas.

Nigeria is also growing and developing gradually and it's only a matter of time before some highly celebrated job positions today will become almost obsolete.

Facts and Reasons Why You Can Get Admission This Year

The facts stated here are to show you why you have every reason to make your JAMB this year. I have earlier tried to disprove the common myths that have held some of us back and building upon that foundation, I want you see reasons with me why you can and should be able to secure your admission this year.

Fact 1: JAMB examinations are now Computer-Based.

JAMB Registrar, Professor Dibu Ojerinde's made a statement after the 2013 exercise that, "We have gone digital in JAMB" and as I write this, it has been confirmed that the coming exercises will be computer-based.

This is good news because marking errors will now be much more minimized. The computer will immediately after the examination grade you according to the program and your mark will be sent to the database till the result will be released for printing.

This is part of what I have been saying. The world is changing and Nigeria is following suit even though a little slowly. Very many people know at least how to operate a mouse on the computer and other little basics.

This is the only computer skill you need – how to operate a mouse, move the cursor around the monitor screen and select options by clicks. You may still attend basic computer training courses before JAMB if you so wish especially if you are completely computer illiterate.

In the examination hall, your computer will be ‘timed’ and once the allotted time is reached, the questions screen will turn off, even if you have not answered any question.

More advantages are that everybody will be given equal time and will have to stop at exactly the time allotted and moreover, the time will be counting down before you on the screen which will make you more time-conscious.

You may also need to know that the best results in the 2013/2014 JAMB-UTME were obtained by candidates that sat for the Computer Based Type (CBT).

Fact 2: JAMB doesn't go outside their syllabus.

Often times, candidates wonder where JAMB set their questions from because they seem difficult. There is nothing new under the sun for JAMB to set other than from those topics listed in their syllabus.

If you have noticed, the syllabus almost encompasses everything a school leaver should have been taught in secondary school according to the defined schemes of work. The only problem we often encounter is time to study and revise all those things over and over again as is necessary for that kind of exam.

Not to worry, I have prepared a helpful and flexible six month study plan in this book that you can adopt for your preparation. But, I must advice that if you are in SS 1 or 2 and are reading this book, make that plan a one year plan and incorporate into your study schedule.

Like my friend I mentioned earlier who made more than 300 in JAMB in his time, start now to prepare for JAMB and your O-level papers.

If JAMB doesn't go out of their syllabus, that means that you can go through the topics listed for focus and study them without having any fear of external questions

coming from the moon. The only you will need to worry about is how you can study those topics intensively and internalize them.

Fact 3: The world today is no longer as we knew it yesterday.

I brought in this fact to raise a point I have tried to make earlier. Some courses are gradually becoming obsolete while others are taking their place and you will do yourself a lot of good to start rethinking your reasons for wanting to study particular courses.

Do you want to study law, medicine, engineering, accounting, pharmacy and other so-called ‘professional’ courses because of their ‘big’ and popular names? Is your reason as a result of pressure from others such as parents or is it as a result of a myopic view?

In the world today, and with Nigeria following suit, a global skill shift is taking place. In other words, the advancement taking place is making so many jobs outdated and new jobs requiring new skills are being created.

A course like Library Science is becoming outdated because books can be gotten and read in electronic form today and are gradually these e-books are replacing paper-back books. Moreover, you are reading one now which I wrote and published in the comfort of my home, with a personal computer and internet connection.

Today, software engineers, systems analysts, network administrators, biomedical engineers, X-ray technicians, information and communication technicians, laboratory technicians, urban planners, financial advisors and analysts, business training specialists, technical writers and these so-called neglected professionals are now in high demand.

In fact, here in our country, the Federal Government is trying to encourage youths to venture into agriculture by funding their businesses. Soon, oil will no longer be the in-thing.

After all, it is a highly non-renewable natural resource and that's why in some countries today, cars run on water and electricity. Thread carefully while selecting your choice course of study.

Fact 4: The ball is in your court and you are responsible for your success or failure.

What this means is that JAMB has absolutely no power over you. It's a fact and you had better believe it. It's you that will decide whether you prefer to stay at home or whether you will make the required efforts to secure your admission into the university.

Admission awaits you if can only realize this. No matter how tricky and difficult JAMB make their questions, if you 'over-prepare' for the exams, you will have nothing to fear.

It is equally a fact that those very few (the number was less than five in my time) that make up to 300 and above do not have two heads, neither do they have a different brain than ours.

When I entered the university and began to grasp this truth and realize that there must be a price these people pay that I'm not paying, I began to discipline myself to take specific actions such as spending at least three hours in the library daily. That's when I started getting the best scores in my class, even 100's, yes 100 over 100.

Adequate preparation for anything at all will always at least supply the confidence to take on that challenge and this confidence alone is very important for success. Albert

Einstein' s principle was to research on anything he wanted to learn about until there was nothing left to find on that subject.

That' s why he was that extra-ordinary. Mind you, doing worthwhile things is never interesting at the start but it gets better as you begin to form it as a habit and your system adapts to it.



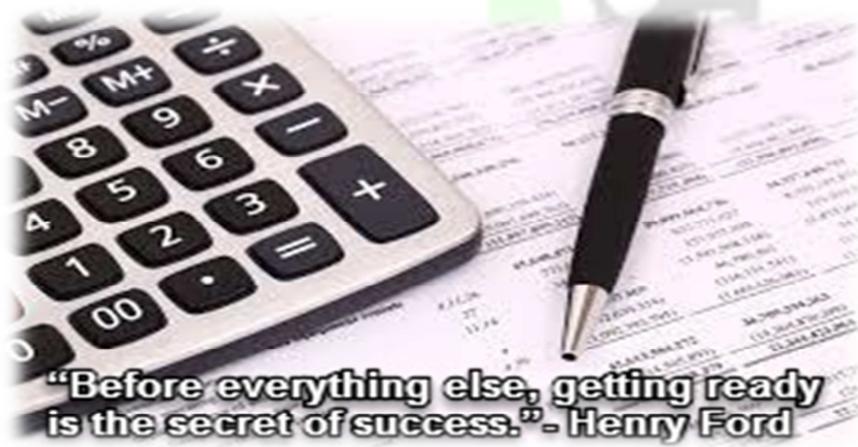
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Part 3:

Preparing for JAMB



“Before everything else, getting ready is the secret of success.” - Henry Ford

Seven Tips for Registering for JAMB

Success in JAMB and eventually securing admission into the university begins from JAMB Registration. So many students refuse to do their due diligence before registering for JAMB. Some register for courses and later begin to wonder whether they' ll be able to cope with that course if they got admission.

Some other students register for courses without knowing the correct subject combination. Failure had already begun for a student that does not take time to do his due diligence before registering for JAMB. Hard truth, right?

Some students register for courses and choose universities that do not offer those courses or have not had those courses accredited. Some students just fill in their registration forms without doing adequate research about what they want with respect to the best and most viable options.

As silly as some of these mistakes sound, some of us have previously fallen victim of these mistakes and they have cost us our one-time admission into the university.

As Henry Ford rightly said, “Before everything else, getting ready is the secret of success.” In this case, getting ready for JAMB success begins with registration.

Tip 1: Do your due diligence.

Before you register for JAMB this year, ensure that you are very well-informed about your natural gifts, talents and abilities because if you wish to succeed in life in the future, you will need to choose a course that tallies with your personality traits, flairs, skills, academic abilities, temperamental dispositions, likes and dislikes.

Naturally born engineers start from childhood to try to create new things from damaged or dismantled ones. Good accountants should be naturally meticulous money-wise. Great doctors are naturally moved by the health predicaments of others and seek

ways in which they can help them. Psychologists are great listeners. These are just a few instances.

Carry out a thorough research about yourself, ask friends and family that know you very well, seek the advice of secondary school teachers and counselors, career experts and people that have made it in that field you want to venture in.

Don't think the time you take in doing this is a waste. You will be very glad you did in the future. Don't allow yourself to first enter school and begin to regret your choices.

As you seek the counsel of others, you must also realize that you are the one that must make the decision after you must have acquired adequate knowledge about yourself. After all, it is your own future that is at stake.

Tip 2: Be careful in selection of course choices.

After you must have done a thorough and quick research about yourself, you can now proceed to select your course and register for it. This selection should be done with care and with consideration of your personality and abilities. Another consideration I will like you to make also has to do with the relevance of the course in the world today and in tomorrow's world.

You need to ask yourself questions such as: Will the course still be relevant in the next ten years from now or would it have become obsolete and somewhat outdated? What education or skill should I get and what line of work do I need to be in to best position myself for the coming decade? What will the labor market be like in the year 2020?

I have tried to earlier explain the fact that the world as we know it today is changing. The world is going digital and electronic. Globalization is slowly turning the world into a village with the progress of the Internet and telecommunications.

In the USA, so many people are getting degrees and classes online and it is being suspected that the need for teachers will decline drastically by the year 2020. Paper books are becoming in less demand with the advent of e-books. Nigeria is equally developing and following the trend of globalization.

When choosing your course of study, don't just sheepishly go after the so-called "popular and professional" courses (medicine and surgery, economics, accounting, law/civil law, pharmacy, mechanical, civil and electrical/electronic engineering).

One reason is that you will be competing with thousands upon thousands of candidates for admission here. Another reason is that other courses are coming up that will become in higher demand here in Nigeria before you even come out of the university.

Of course, in many parts of the world today, unless you specialize further, you may not even find good jobs after having read these courses. The oil that everybody is pursuing will finish in a matter of a number of years. You need to preempt into the future while selecting your course of study.

If you are very interested in the "big" courses, I'm not trying to discourage you but you must tread with caution. Also, if you have tried getting admission to study those courses before and failed, then you can try this time around to select a related course in a related faculty or possibly the same faculty, one that has less traffic and fewer number of candidates, from which you can then apply for change of course while in school.

For instance, choosing Metallurgical and Materials Engineering in the Faculty of Engineering, University of Nigeria and later applying for change of course to Mechanical Engineering after you must have gotten admission. This will highly boost your chances for admission.

Tip 3: Go for catchment areas.

A catchment area is an area from which a school takes its students. Every university in the world, not just in Nigeria – as many of us believe – has some catchment areas from which it takes most of its students, even though our understanding of catchment areas is mainly founded upon the “indigene and non-indigene” mindset.

However, the point is that a university in the south-east region will most likely take more students from host communities (that is where it is located) and then from the region before other students are considered.

As you register for JAMB, it is advisable that you go for catchment areas. Your chances for admission in those areas will be higher than in any other place. Also, as a note of suggestion and not that I doubt your potential and ability in any way, perhaps you may need to avoid competitive universities such as UNILAG, UNIBEN, UNN, UNILORIN, UNIZIK, FUTO, UI, and UNIPORT.

But, as I will always say, what matters is what you believe and how much effort you are willing to make to be outstanding. Nothing stops you from securing your admission into these notable universities. It's all comes down to you.

Tip 4: Know the basic requirements of the institution and of the course.

Knowing the basic requirements of the institution includes finding out their cut-off marks for various courses and O-level requirements. Some institutions such as University of Ilorin require a cut off of 220+ for professional courses.

Other universities like University of Ibadan and University of Lagos will require that your O-level results be ready and that you don't have any awaiting results before you sit for their post-UTME. You will then need to ensure that you have complete O-level results for your chosen courses if you seek admission into such universities.

Knowing the basic requirements of the course entails that you be well aware of the subject combination before you register for JAMB. This and other requirements can be obtained from JAMB brochure.

So many students are always in a hurry even when this is an issue that has a lot to do with their future and they forget to get the necessary information that will prevent frustration in the future.

I know of friends that have fallen victim of this problem. Please, find out all the basic requirements on time to prevent disappointment in the future.

Tip 5: Verify the accreditation status of the course.

It is also very important that verify the accreditation status of the course(s) you want to apply for in your choice institutions before you submit your application. Some universities offer courses that have not been approved by the National Universities Commission (NUC).

You won't get original certificates for such courses. For instance, as of the writing of this book, Medicine and Surgery has not been approved in Benue State University and some other state universities.

You can easily find accreditation status of courses and ascertain courses that have been approved by NUC for various universities in a recent JAMB brochure.

Tip 6: Ensure you register on time for the CBT.

As has been earlier mentioned, this year as I write this book, a change has occurred in JAMB's style of examination and the JAMB Registrar has confirmed that it will completely be computer-based.

Since this is a new development with 300 centers presently available across the nation and with the large number of candidates – possibly more than 2 million – that will

register for the exam this year, it is advisable that you register on time and as early as possible.

All admission seeking candidates that wish to sit for JAMB this year residing in the South-East environs and other such regions are specially advised to make early registrations to avoid missing out on available centers and being pushed to the North.

During the last 2013/2014 registration, some candidates had to be pushed to the North – where some of the areas are affected by the attacks of the Boko Haram sect – because all the centers at their locations had been exhausted.

Tip 7: Ensure you check all fields properly.

Finally, before you submit your application, make sure you check all fields properly such as your passport, your names, course choices, institutions, finger prints and so on because you will not have another opportunity to change those details and they will be verified before you're admitted.

Also, ensure your registration is done at a credible center to avoid future problems. It is better to do it at a location you can always easily go back to should any need to arise later. It is also advisable to purchase the registration forms at any of the banks allowed to sell them.

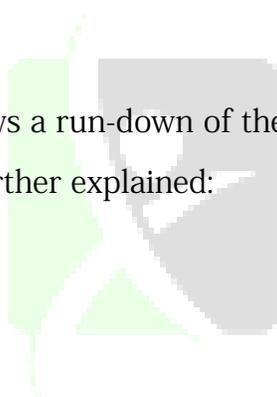
How to Prepare for JAMB

The Joint Admissions and Matriculations Board Examinations for candidates seeking admission into the university have since posed serious challenges to students. JAMB has gradually become the most feared name in the education sector of Nigeria and preparing for the examination is something that demands a lot of time commitment, discipline, and hard work.

I have never seen anyone perform outstandingly in JAMB or in any other thing worthwhile without putting together these three things apart from those that engage in examination malpractice which I have been able to point out as something that is usually regretted in a thousand and one ways in the future.

We shall now discuss eight straight-forward steps you can take to prepare yourself for JAMB. As easy to mention as these steps are, I must say that the simplicity ends there, in practice, they are actually difficult but are very practical steps that every outstanding student I' ve ever met practiced in their own way to overcome JAMB in their time.

Below is an infographic that shows a run-down of the steps to take when preparing for JAMB before each step is then further explained:

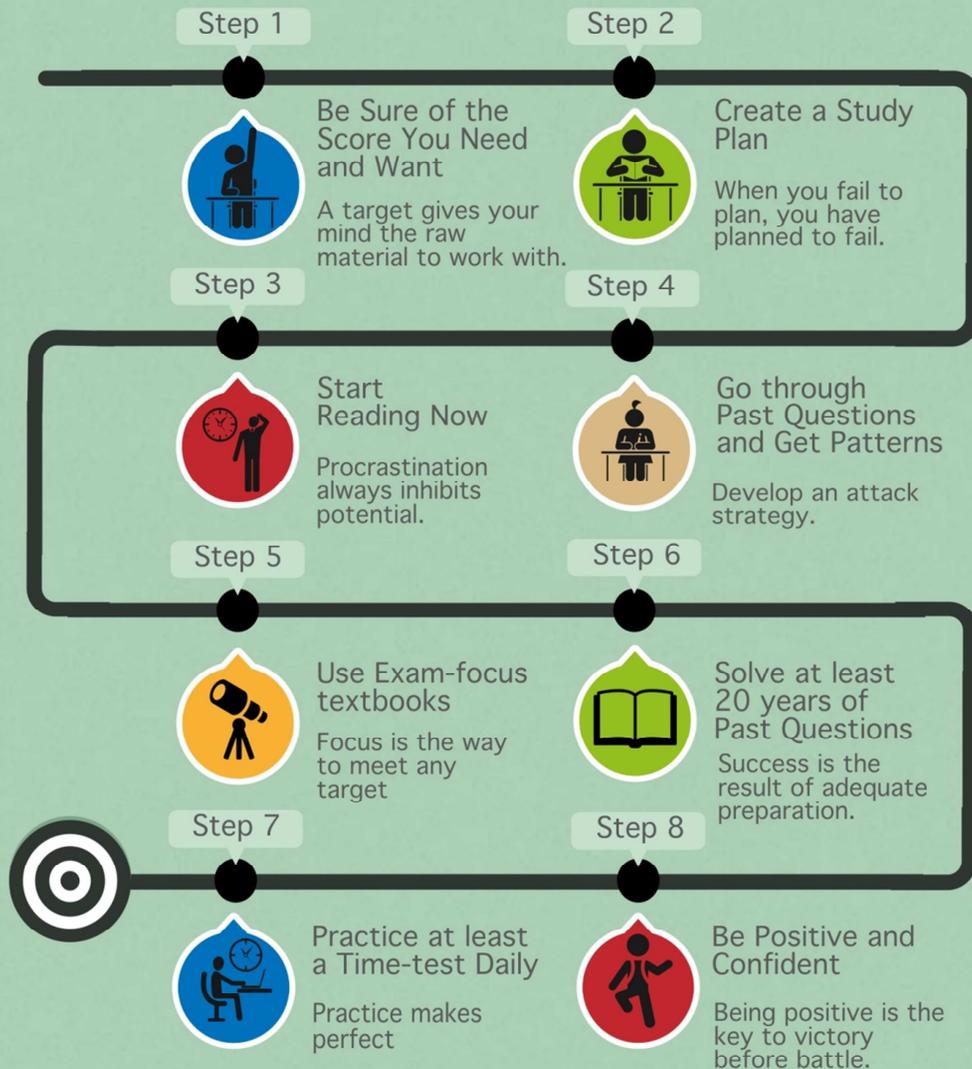


Nigerian Scholars

Courtesy: Nigerian Scholars

8 Ways to Prepare for JAMB

JAMB Success Secrets



Step 1: Ensure you know the JAMB score you need and decide on the score you want.

You must make sure you find out the average score you need in JAMB and with your subject combination to nail your desired course in the institution you want. This average score can be deduced from the minimum normal cut-off mark for JAMB that will qualify for post-UTME for that course and in the institution as well as the previous cut-off marks set by the institution that will qualify you for admission by merit.

As you read this now, make your research and write that average score down. This will help you know the minimum mark you should work towards.

After you must have done that, the next thing is to decide on the score you want. The score you want should be different from what you need, actually it should be higher. The problem of many students is that they don't even know the score they need talk less of the score they should want to work towards while preparing for JAMB.

These students after writing JAMB then begin to make this research after which they now start praying to God to give them that score. God does not bless those kinds of efforts. Some students still do not even find out the needed score or cut-off mark until their result is out.

I understand that sometimes JAMB and various schools change their cut-off marks sometimes depending on the general performance of students but you can always make a safe assumption to work with from previous cut-off marks.

Setting a higher target is a principle in line with the saying that says "you should shoot for the stars, for you never know, you may land on the moon". When you set a high and reasonable target (what I mean by reasonable is achievable; some students set targets of '398' which is quite unreasonable), you'll most likely get something very close to it, if not exactly.

A target above 300 is high enough to spur you to action. Once you have fixed your target score, distribute it to your four subjects according to your strengths. For instance:

My target score for JAMB: 315

Use of English: 75

Mathematics: 80

Physics: 85

Chemistry: 75

Step 2: Create a study plan and reading time table.

It is one thing to set a target and it's another thing to map out a plan to implement and reach it. I will get '315' in JAMB is easier said than done. A study plan is therefore an organized schedule that a student creates that outlines study time and learning goals.

Creating a study plan and a reading time table not only helps you become more organized, but it holds you accountable for your own learning outcomes and the achievement of your goal or target.

Every student will develop a different study plan; there is no correct study plan for everyone. When creating your personalized study plan, you will need to do some self-evaluation of your current schedule and time management.

Find days when you have fewer personal commitments when you can squeeze more study time (while doing this, remember that you need to put in as much time as you desire to see results).

Remember, each student studies differently, so the amount of time you need to study will differ from the time others devote to studying. Also, some students find that

studying at night or at early hours of the morning is better for them than during the day. Work according to your system.

Determine why you are studying – which in this case is to reach a JAMB score target – and develop a plan that can help you achieve your goal. Take into consideration previous performances (that is if you have written JAMB before) and how you prepared in those occasions.

You need to also anticipate subjects that will take more time to prepare for than the others.

Lastly, create a study plan that is reasonable. Although you must set aside enough time in your schedule dedicated to your studies, blocking off five hours with no break will set you up for failure.

You can spend less time studying if you do it correctly. For a detailed look at how to make a personalized study plan, explore the step-by-step instructions below.

Three steps to create your study plan:

1. Create a time chart of your current activities –

Creating a time chart will allow you to see how you spend your time from day to day. Take notes about your daily activities. Record things like when you wake up, sleep, do chores, work, go out and if you're in school, how much time you spend in school daily.

Once you have done this, check for free time available for studying and it should be up to at least three hours especially as JAMB is fast approaching, if not you will need to re-organize your daily activities and create more time for studying.

2. Develop a schedule and reading time table -

Now that you have determined available days and times for studying, the next thing is to develop a schedule. It is best to have a schedule written down so you won't forget it. Seeing it written down can make it seem more important.

You need to know subjects that will require more time to study, especially if they are your weak points. Your schedule and reading time table will highly depend on the amount of time you have left.

If you are reading this book, and you have maybe three months left, then maybe you will need to put in more than five hours daily for work. Please be sincere to yourself here and put in as much time as is necessary.

One hour a day is simply self-deceit and will lead you nowhere. Let your plan be very definite; for example, if you have 30 chapters of a textbook to study and 15 years of past questions to tackle and you need to finish it in a month, then you may need to read a chapter a day and solve 1 year of past questions every two days.

Remember to have breaks in between long hours of study in order to prevent feeling overwhelmed.

3. Stick to your study plan -

A study plan works best if it is followed on a consistent basis. Some days may not go according to plan but it should always be for reasons beyond your control. Otherwise, you need to be disciplined enough to remember that your future and the future of others depending on you or that will depend on you in the future is at stake.

So, stick to your plan. You can use incentives such as eating after you've been able to read for three hours without getting up from your chair. You may also need to deprive yourself of some sleep at night because you can easily regain lost sleep after JAMB.

Lastly, some students find it helpful to find a study partner. Studying with a friend also preparing for JAMB allows for collaboration and discussion. When creating your study plan, check with other friends to determine if you can coordinate study sessions.

However, if you tend to socialize more than study when you are around others, stick to an independent study plan. If you do choose to study with a partner, choose someone with whom you are likely to stay on task.

Step 3: Start your reading now.

If you're in SS 1 or 2 and you are reading this book now, then I must say that you are very fortunate. It is very advisable that you create a plan, even if it is thirty minutes daily for JAMB and start as soon as possible, if you do, you will be smiling when others are breaking their heads trying to prepare months to the exam.

If you are months away from the exam, it does not matter much because you still have a great chance; but you must begin now to study with a working plan as I have described in step two.

If you have just few weeks left, then what you need to do is to start this very moment to focus on going through as many credible past questions as you can, you still have a good chance.

Step 4: Go through at least ten recent years of past questions to get patterns.

To study effectively, you need to know the patterns used by JAMB to set questions. First and foremost, we all know that JAMB questions are usually objective and the way you read for objective type questions is not the same way you read for theory or subjective type.

Even though it's easier to prepare for objective than the others because you can always easily infer the answer from the given options, you still need to know the common patterns they use to set their questions.

For instance, if for the past ten or so years, they have set more of questions involving calculation than theory in a subject like Physics or Chemistry, this will give you a clue as to where more of your focus should be.

Step 5: Use exam focus textbooks to study according to the syllabus.

This step is also very important to take note of because so many students study haphazardly. They give excuses such as: "JAMB syllabus is just too big, I'm sure they set everything", but that's a big lie.

Every exam has a focus; there are always things the examiners expect and assume that if you know, then you must know some other things related to it. For instance, if you know how to cook stew, then you must at least know what tomatoes, pepper and other such ingredients are.

An examiner then just needs to ask you to describe how stew is cooked and he has asked a number of questions together in one. After all, it's just fifty questions they set apart from in English.

Using exam focus textbooks – there are a lot of good ones – study with your results from the research on the patterns they have used in past questions according to their syllabus. That is the rule in one sentence.

Step 6: Solve at least twenty years of past questions yourself at least twice.

Of course, this will require time but if you can do this after studying according to their syllabus even more than twice, you will not regret it. Remember, as I have said earlier, your study plan all depends on how much time you have left to the examination day and how much time you are willing to give on each of those remaining days to adequate study.

JAMB has been conducting this examination since the 1970s and they have surely run out of questions; all they can do is to keep rearranging past questions to make them look new.

The problem with a lot of candidates is that they study about five recent years of past questions and they are satisfied. You hold the key to success in your own hands.

Use a credible JAMB Q & A for this, but do not depend solely on the answers given by the authors of the Q & A, still do your research using your textbooks on the questions you are not sure for yourself about.

Step 7: Practice at least one time test daily two weeks to the exam.

What I mean by a time test is a similar test to JAMB in which you will give yourself the amount of time JAMB usually gives or less if you want to work on your speed. At least two weeks to the exam – if possible more than that – begin practicing these time tests after which you will mark yourself or ask someone around to help you do that.

This is where a credible and original Q & A will be helpful. This will help you work on speed before the real exam situation.

Pick a previous year and solve the past questions for that year for your four subject combination (or you can mix different years) according to a time limit similar to the three and half hours JAMB usually gives.

It should be preferably years you have not gone through in step 6. You should be disciplined enough not to look at the answers while solving them and if you will be tempted, maybe you should the past questions JAMB normally gives in soft copy that has not been solved. Of course, you should know that it is self-deceit to copy the already solved answers.

Step 8: Write the exam in your mind at least on three occasions before the exam.

Many people usually do not like this kind of steps especially if they are very practical people. But playing the scene of the exam in your mind, seeing yourself going into the exam center confident and well-prepared as well as seeing yourself coming out happy and satisfied with how well you answered the questions helps you develop confidence and deal with tension as the exams approach.

On each occasion you do this, the best way to is to find a quiet place, preferably a place you stay in a lying position without sleeping of, close your eyes and begin to act the whole experience the way you want it to happen on the exam day from entering the exam center to collecting the papers, writing the exams and leaving the center after the exams.

Play it in your mind until you begin to feel and believe the success in reality. This is a universal principle called the Law of Attraction.

Additional Tips:

1. Prepare very adequately for the Use of English paper.

The Use of English paper is one paper that you can finish in the shortest possible time and that is not the only advantage. Another reason you should get very much ready for Use of English is that JAMB uses it to bring students down by setting tricky questions.

Use of English is very simple and is an easy and fast place to bag good marks if you know what you are doing but you need to prepare adequately for it and master its rules. A good textbook for it is the New Oxford Secondary English Course.

2. Learn to read primarily to learn and acquire knowledge.

Reading just to pass an examination and get a good score is one of the greatest killers of the potential of students. Even though wanting to pass JAMB and score high so that you gain admission into the university is a good goal, it is not a good enough reason to read especially if you want to maximize your potential.

When you read with the primary aim of learning something new and acquiring new knowledge, you will discover that you will develop more interest in what you are reading and 'interest' is one of the things that strengthen the chemical links and bonds between the neural traces of that subject in your brain.

Memories are just neural traces in the brain that get stronger and become easier to remember with application of interest, strong emotion, repetition and revision.

3. Do not leave God out of your planning and preparations.

I am adding this additional tip on the basis of my faith and I strongly believe that it is one of the keys to true success because only the manufacturer of a product knows the capabilities of that product and remains the best person to tell you how to make the best use of that product.

God made your brain and memory and trusting in Him to give you the strength and wisdom to apply His time-tested principles for true and lasting success will help you maximize His potential in you.

Now, permit me to include a great article by Tosanwumi Otokunefor on ‘Improving your chances of university admission’ . This excerpt has been culled from National Mirror.

Improving Your Chances of University Admission

To say that the process of securing admission into a Nigerian university is a nightmare is an understatement. The process has become increasingly more difficult over the years with the increasing population of candidates who are desirous of studying in the Nigerian university system.

It is not uncommon to run into a candidate who has been sitting the Unified Tertiary Matriculation Examination for upwards of five years. Year in and out, they procure and complete the Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board (JAMB) forms and attempt the examinations, but often with diminishing returns.

There is much agony in many families because of the failure of their offspring, the hope of entire generations, to secure admission into a university. For the majority of poor families, this is the single step they hoped would transform them from grinding poverty to instant wealth and change their circumstance for good, forever.

This has indeed been so for some. But for the majority of families, hopes have been shattered, and disappointments have given way to disillusionment and desperation and its many unpredictable manifestations, including social unrest.

Many of these candidates have little chance of gaining admission into the universities because of gross deficit in their knowledge bank. The school system that prepared them has failed to equip them with the necessary tools to secure admission into a university.

Many have obtained the relevant credits and passed the UTME through examination malpractice only to crumble like a pack of cards in the post-UTME. Such candidates should swallow their pride and enroll in an appropriate extramural programme and upgrade their abilities.

But beside this group are relatively brilliant youngsters who fail to secure admissions because they choose to pursue courses involving subjects in which they are not sufficiently knowledgeable, in preference to those in which they are naturally gifted, because of societal and family pressures.

In addition to lacking the adequate prerequisites for the preferred field of study such as medicine, engineering, law, accounting etc, the societal preference for such fields often lead to over-subscription for the limited spaces available.

The average candidate is more often the victim because he or she cannot attain the scores to meet the cut-off marks for such fields of study in the face of stiff competition.

A young man I met last year told me that he has been writing JAMB and Post-JAMB since 2008 for Petroleum Engineering and only succeeded after changing his choice of course to Geology six years later.

Another student, very badly wanted to be a nurse but her dream has still not been realized five years later! Another young man that for ten years wanted to read

medicine finally accepted an admission offer to read Biomedical Science in the School of Science Laboratory, wasting ten years for choosing the wrong course initially. A realistic choice of course could have made all the difference!

But even the very brilliant candidates end up wasting their youthful years because they make the wrong choice of institution! Certain institutions are usually oversubscribed, and only the best gets in there.

The cut-off marks and other admission requirements are usually so high that they are nearly always a little beyond the reach of many brilliant candidates. Other federal institutions may not be so heavily subscribed for that course, and the average candidate may easily secure admission there without wasting time.

Therefore, before you fill your JAMB forms, shop around; the information is literary everywhere on the web!

Many often resort to the familiar ‘Nigerian art’ of paying huge, often mind-boggling sums of money to secure admission into fields for which they are not sufficiently competent.

Many of such have dropped out two or three years later because of poor performance. Others have managed to graduate after much effort only to face the frustration of unemployment because of their poor degree.

It is no use gaining admission into a field of study if your abilities are not sufficient to carry you through. The rule of the thumb is to seek admission into a field of study in which you can easily excel with minimal effort.

I bet you, a first class industrial chemist is more likely to secure a job in a chemical industry than a chemical engineer with a third class honors degree. This reminds me of a lady who rediscovered herself after graduating from microbiology department with a

poor degree. She later enrolled in Fine Arts where she made a first class honors degree; she lectures in the same department now!

The conclusion of the discussion is very simple; do not be misled by your emotions or societal pressures, but rather be guided by an honest assessment of your capabilities.

It is better to be an artist who would paint a fine portrait of a king than engineer that would build a pedestrian bridge that collapses under its own weight, even before anyone walks over it!

Let me also share with you the views of another prolific writer on this subject, *Chijioke E. Okolo, Author of "Admission Secrets"*.

The Easiest Way to Gain Admission into Tertiary Institutions in Nigeria

*I have been writing JAMB for the pass five (5) years now without scoring more than 202/400. I want to study accounting at the University of Lagos. My parents are no longer interested in my education since they are now tired of my constant failure in JAMB. My peers now see me as an unserious person who has no plan for her life. I am now thinking of getting married to my five months old fiancé e' who wants to marry me, but due to my university plans, I have been saying no to him. Please, I am not getting any younger, so tell me: **is there any easy way to gain admission in Nigeria?***

Seriously, that could be you saying these words, but I tell you, if the story of the girl above resonates with your present circumstance, then that circumstance is about to change for the better.

Admission in Nigeria is getting harder by the year and this even has great consequences for those who are still looking for admission since they are greeted with the ever increasing figures of both new and old competitors every year.

Now, to the question: is there any easy way to gain admission in Nigeria?

Well, to be true to you, there are no easy ways to get admitted in Nigeria.

Yes! As frustrating that may sound, we cannot hide from the obvious truth – admission in Nigeria is not easy. Thousands leading to the millions of candidates register for JAMB every year and this figure keeps increasing, and the admission spaces are limited.

The only thing you can do is to ease the process by observing some rules which if followed and believed in, it could help you get admitted into that tertiary institution of your dream. That is what this article is all about – to provide those rules for you to follow and help you ease the process to admission success.

In the 2012/2013 admission process, 1,503,889 candidates registered for JAMB and according to NUC, only 500,000 of these 1.5 million candidates were tipped to gain admission into the various Nigerian tertiary institutions.

Now tell me, what will then happen to the remaining 1,003,889 candidates, with many of them qualified for admission? Sit for JAMB again and probably suffer the same fate, year in, year out?

Or get involved in examination malpractice to save them some shame, time, and money? The truth is that, these questions can only be answered correctly by those candidates not awarded admission and nobody else, not even me; I just help with the process of answering these questions.

Ok, that is not all; let us still see more analysis from the 2012 admission process.

The Vice Chancellor of UNIZIK, Prof. Boniface Egboka said out of over 80,000 candidates who took part in the institution's Post-UTME and were qualified for admission, but only about 3,700 would be privileged to gain admission for the 2012/2013 session.

Citing an example from the school's law and medicine faculties where out of the 2,000 candidates who scored 291 in JAMB examination and should have qualified for admission but only 100 candidates would gain such.

As most candidates will always love to put the blame of their admission failure on the education system, blaming the university they applied to or the corruption in the system in general, they forget one thing - it's only failures that put the blame of their admission failures on someone else.

The university did not say you should fill them during your JAMB registration or the so-called corrupt system did not force you to decide to go to school. You just have to learn to be responsible for all your actions.

What am I trying to say here? Simple! The things I will be introducing to you very soon will put your power of judgment to test. You will be making or about to make a decision that on a normal day, you may find it hard to make such a decision.

The first paragraph of this section shows us an illustration of the pains and frustrations a female JAMB candidate is facing. Some of us may say the cause of her admission failures maybe due to the fact that: she has being glued to the normal norm of things in Nigeria (everybody must be an Accountant, a Doctor, and an Engineer), she may be applying for a course she can never get, or she may be applying to the wrong school.

If you suggest one or more of the above reasons for her failure to gain admission for the past five (5) years, then you are right.

However, that is not all. If I may ask, what do you see or find in common between the three reasons above? ... I am waiting ... I am still waiting. Ok! For the sake of time, let me tell you in one word; it is “**competition**” . Competition you said? Yes! You heard me right, competition. Let me explain.

Firstly, she has been applying to a very competitive course (Accounting) and a very competitive school (University of Lagos). A lot of candidates are so fascinated when they hear courses like: Medicine & Surgery, Accounting, Pharmacy, Economics, Mechanical Engineering and Nursing.

But little did these candidates know about the competition level of these courses - these courses are very marketable courses which most people wouldn't mind paying close to N500, 000 just to get one of these courses.

Many candidates fill courses they know nothing about. Just because they hear people talking about the hotness (marketability) of these courses, they just feel like; if I should get this course, my life will be hot.

But I have one simple question for these candidates; is your life still going to be hot by the time you spend and waste your life looking for a hot life? Well, I guess there wouldn't even be a life left in you to get the hot life you day dream for. Take a second to think about that.

Let just now assume that after five (5) years of staying at home, you now decide to use malpractice to get this competitive course in a very competitive school and the next challenge you then have to face is how to graduate from this hot school.

The question now is; after all these, can you cope in that department and school? I tell you, you can never do well in that school studying that course you bribed your way just to study. Take my word for it.

It struck a chord in me when students say; guy, anything they give me, I go graduate with am. Candidly, this is laughable but it's a very serious issue which needs to be addressed. The ideology of these kinds of youths has to be reformed, if we are to compete with or even get close to our counterparts overseas.

If you can't see yourself getting a first class or a second class upper from that department and school you wish to do your studies, then you should forget that course or university.

Competition into tertiary institutions in Nigeria is on the rise and we don't see this trend sliding down soon. If you really want the easy way to get admitted, then you must be ready to make the hard decisions and take the tough road. Making the hard decisions and taking the tough roads will be our quest in this article.

"Beside Law and Medicine & Surgery, getting employed in any of the other profession could just be a matter of earning a good first degree, corresponding 2nd degree and professional certifications. The Labor market is biased towards grade than course of study, a good grade appears better than a good course." (Source: www.Statisense.com)

Ok, if this is true which I personally think it is, then our focus should be on how to get good grades no matter the course we are studying. So, this means we can choose any course to study as long we are convinced we are going to make some good grades from it.

This can also be interpreted as: simply choose a course and tertiary institution that is not competitive and try to get a first class or a second class upper from this chosen course/department and tertiary institution.

But, why apply to an already populated course and institution with so much competition, while you can do a little research and get a very less populated and competitive course and institution that is more likely to grant you admission without much tussle?

Seriously, I have come to understand that to gain admission without much stress is to go for the less competitive courses and schools and try to become the best there. Hope you understand this concept? Because, this is one of the general rules for getting easy

admission into Nigerian tertiary institutions - Observe the competition and apply to less competitive courses and tertiary institutions.

A school of thought believes 'it doesn't matter what you study, just get a good grade and jobs will find you out'. The other believes the only courses worth studying are '**professional courses**'.

Now, if you have to know my own view on this, I will gladly go for the first school of thought. To back my reason for choosing the first school of thought, let me ask a question: how many professionals from these professional courses are graduated every year from all the tertiary institutions in Nigerian and still looking for employment?

The answer to this question will be so discouraging for those who still believe that the only courses worth studying are 'professional courses'. We still have graduates from these professional courses being the ones most unemployed due to the competitions they face both inside and outside school (labor market).

Note: *This doesn't mean you shouldn't go for the professional courses, even I; I'm studying a professional course. But all I am trying to say is that, if gaining admission by all means without getting involved in examination malpractice is what you seek, then you should forget about the professional courses due to their high competitiveness. Alternatively, another way to get admitted to a professional course is to apply to a less competitive school that offers that professional course you chose.*

Take a look at the JAMB 2012 Statistics below:



Joint Admissions And Matriculation Board
Unified Tertiary Matriculation Examination 2012
Statistics of Choice of Institutions

Date Printed: Tuesday, September 11, 2012

Institution	First Choice			Total	Second Choice			Total
	Most Preferred	More Preferred	Preferred		Most Preferred	More Preferred	Preferred	
1 Abia State University, Uturu	14,849	107	16	14,972	27,422	125	15	27,562
2 Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University, Bauchi	9,826	694	524	11,044	9,749	722	459	10,930
3 Achievers University Owo	62	2	3	67	97	4	6	107
4 Adamawa State University State, Mubi	5,122	1,428	199	6,749	7,174	1,480	200	8,854
5 Adekunle Ajasin University, Akungba-akoko	22,822	153	25	23,000	32,135	190	34	32,359
6 Adeleke University, Ede, Osun State	119	4	2	125	246	5	2	253
7 Adeniran Ogunsanya College Of Education, Oton/Ijanikin, Lagos (affiliated To University	106	11	10	127	275	13	10	298
8 Adeyemi College Of Education, (affiliated To Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Osun	3,222	55	25	3,302	5,594	93	24	5,711
9 Afe Babalola University, Ado-ekin	767	4	1	772	1,337	9	3	1,349
10 Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria	56,714	2,621	1,356	60,691	41,200	2,813	1,326	45,339
11 Ajayi Crowther University, Oyo	96	2	2	100	228	2	3	233
12 Akwa Ibom State University, Ikot-akpaden	1,491	110	7	1,608	4,851	134	12	4,997
13 Al- Hakmah University, Ilorin	131	8	0	139	384	10	2	396
14 Alvan Ikoku College Of Education, (affiliated To University Of Nigeria, Nsukka)	2,521	18	9	2,548	3,492	17	10	3,519
15 Ambros Alli University, Ekpoma	21,563	76	14	21,653	21,152	92	17	21,261
16 American University Of Nigeria, Yola	382	3	15	400	435	6	39	480
17 Anambra State University, Uli	5,617	43	10	5,670	31,090	67	13	31,170
18 Archbishop Virgin College Of Technology, Akure (affiliated To University Of Ibadan, Oyo	0	0	2	2	6	0	1	7
19 Babcock University, Ilishan-remo	1,467	2	0	1,469	2,636	5	1	2,642
20 Bauchi State University, Bauchi	963	224	144	1,331	1,614	252	151	2,017
21 Bayero University, Kano	33,882	3,358	650	37,890	25,590	3,968	640	30,198
22 Baze University, Fct, Abuja	147	1	1	149	237	0	0	237
23 Bells University Of Technology, Ota	170	1	0	171	434	3	0	437
24 Benson Idahosa University, Benin City	244	0	0	244	611	1	2	614
25 Benue State University, Makurdi	29,804	600	463	30,927	27,451	697	400	28,608
26 College Of Education, Ikere Ekin (affiliated To University Of Nigeria, Nsukka, Enugu Sta	584	0	0	584	1,168	3	2	1,173
27 College Of Education, Warri (affiliated To Delta State University, Abraka, Delta)	1	1	0	2	7	1	1	9
28 Covenant University, Canaan Land, Ota	3,229	3	0	3,232	3,624	4	1	3,629
29 Crawford University Of Apostolic Faith Mission Faith City, Igbesa	68	1	1	70	157	2	1	160
30 Crescent University, Abeokuta	41	0	1	42	122	2	0	124
31 Cross Rivers University Of Technology, Calabar	7,180	160	84	7,424	11,266	183	86	11,535
32 Delta State University, Abraka	36,071	97	9	36,177	75,518	114	18	75,650
33 Dominican Institute, Samonda, Ibadan (affiliated To University Of Ibadan, Oyo State)	38	1	0	39	16	0	0	16
34 Ebonyi State University, Abakaliki	13,080	300	55	13,435	22,481	303	61	22,845
35 Ecwa Theological Seminary, Igbaja (affiliated To University Of Ibadan, Oyo State)	3	0	0	3	6	0	0	6
36 Ekiti State University, Ado-ekin	24,391	324	56	24,771	37,415	430	47	37,892
37 Emmanuel Alayande College Of Education, Oyo (affiliated To University Of Ado-ekin)	171	9	2	182	296	8	2	306
38 Enugu State College Of Education, (technical), Enugu (affiliated To Nasamdi Azikiwe Uni	8	0	0	8	31	0	0	31
39 Enugu State University Of Science And Technology, Enugu	8,305	73	18	8,396	28,674	124	34	28,832
40 Evan Ewurem University, Owerri	43,353	123	27	43,503	58,709	135	36	58,880
41 Evangel University, Akaeze, Ebonyi State	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1
42 Fed. Col. Of Educ., Umuozue (affl. Umuozue)	69	3	0	72	137	2	0	139
43 Federal College Of Education (technical) P.m.b 60, Gombe, Gombe State. (affiliated To U	18	32	8	58	20	31	6	57
44 Federal College Of Education (technical), Asaba (degree)	10	0	0	10	18	0	0	18
45 Federal College Of Education (technical), Omoku (degree)	76	2	2	80	64	1	0	65
46 Federal College Of Education, (technical), Ponskum (affiliated To Federal University Of T	12	23	41	76	10	26	42	78
47 Federal College Of Education, Kano (affiliated To Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, Kadur	26	2	3	31	63	7	0	70
48 Federal College Of Education, Katsina (affiliated To Bayero University, Kano State)	85	4	1	90	157	2	0	159
49 Federal College Of Education, Koutagora (affiliated To Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, I	0	1	1	2	2	0	1	3
50 Federal College Of Education, Pankshin (affiliated To University Of Jos, Plateau State)	1,751	553	181	2,485	2,342	512	195	3,049
51 Bigard Memorial Seminary, Enugu (affiliated To University Of Ibadan, Oyo State)	38	0	1	39	73	0	0	73
52 Bingham University, Karu	185	0	0	185	386	2	1	389
53 Bowen University, Iwo	605	2	0	607	1,398	4	1	1,403
54 Caleb University, Imota	43	3	1	47	168	3	0	171
55 Caritas University, Amorji-nike, Enugu	321	2	0	323	476	2	0	478
56 Catholic Institution Of West Africa, Port Harcourt (affiliated To University Of Calabar, Cr	3	0	0	3	3	0	0	3
57 Claretian Institute Of Philosophy, Nekede (affiliated To Evan University, Owerri, Imo Stat	8	1	0	9	22	0	0	22
58 College Of Education, Agbor (affiliated To Delta State University, Abraka, Delta State.)	3	0	0	3	14	0	1	15
59 College Of Education, Akwanga (affiliated To Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, Kaduna St	12	2	1	15	19	2	1	22
60 College Of Education, Azare (affiliated To University Of Maiduguri, Borno State)	104	13	4	121	123	12	4	139

36	College Of Education, Ikere Ekiti (affiliated To University Of Nigeria, Nsukka, Enugu Sta	584	0	0	584	1,168	3	2	1,173
37	College Of Education, Warri (affiliated To Delta State University, Abraka, Delta)	1	1	0	2	7	1	1	9
38	Covenant University, Canaan Land, Ota	3,239	3	0	3,232	3,624	4	1	3,629
39	Crawford University Of Apostolic Faith Mission Faith City, Igbesa	68	1	1	70	157	2	1	160
40	Crescent University, Abeokuta	41	0	1	42	122	2	0	124
41	Cross Rivers University Of Technology, Calabar	7,180	160	84	7,424	11,266	183	86	11,535
42	Delta State University, Abraka	36,071	97	9	36,177	75,518	114	18	75,660
43	Dominican Institute, Samonda, Ibadan (affiliated To University Of Ibadan, Oyo State)	38	1	0	39	16	0	0	16
44	Ebonyi State University, Abakaliki	13,080	300	55	13,435	22,481	303	61	22,845
45	Ekwa Theological Seminary, Igbaja (affiliated To University Of Ibadan, Oyo State)	3	0	0	3	6	0	0	6
46	Ekiti State University, Ado-ekiti	24,391	324	56	24,771	37,415	430	47	37,892
47	Emmanuel Alayande College Of Education, Oyo (affiliated To University Of Ado-ekiti)	171	9	2	182	296	8	2	306
48	Enugu State College Of Education, (technical), Enugu (affiliated To Nasamdi Azikiwe Uni	8	0	0	8	31	0	0	31
49	Enugu State University Of Science And Technology, Enugu	8,305	73	18	8,396	28,674	124	24	28,822
50	Evan Eawerem University, Owerri	43,353	123	27	43,503	58,709	135	26	58,880
51	Evangel University, Akaeze, Ebonyi State	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1
52	Fed. Col. Of Educ., Umuze, (affl. Umizik)	69	3	0	72	137	2	0	139
53	Federal College Of Education (technical) P.m.b 60, Gombe, Gombe State. (affiliated To U	18	32	8	58	20	31	6	57
54	Federal College Of Education (technical), Asaba (degree)	10	0	0	10	18	0	0	18
55	Federal College Of Education (technical), Omoku (degree)	76	2	2	80	64	1	0	65
56	Federal College Of Education, (technical), Ponskum (affiliated To Federal University Of T	12	23	41	76	10	26	42	78
57	Federal College Of Education, Kano (affiliated To Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, Kadu	26	2	3	31	63	7	0	70
58	Federal College Of Education, Katsina (affiliated To Bayero University, Kano State)	85	4	1	90	157	2	0	159
59	Federal College Of Education, Kontagora (affiliated To Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, I	0	1	1	2	2	0	1	3
60	Federal College Of Education, Pankshu (affiliated To University Of Jos, Plateau State)	1,751	553	181	2,485	2,342	512	195	3,049
61	Federal College Of Education, Zaria (affiliated To Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, Kadu	4	3	2	9	13	3	4	20
62	Federal University Of Agriculture, Makurdi	11,494	192	44	11,730	10,462	214	46	10,722
63	Federal University Of Petroleum Resources, Effurun	2,902	6	0	2,908	2,853	3	0	2,856
64	Federal University Of Technology Minna	14,757	377	103	15,237	15,925	383	66	16,374
65	Federal University Of Technology, Akure	20,274	239	13	20,526	18,998	234	17	19,249
66	Federal University Of Technology, Owerri	31,654	131	7	31,792	25,890	110	8	26,008
67	Federal University, Dutse, Jigawa State	1,976	223	8	2,207	3,039	266	11	3,316
68	Federal University, Dutsin-ma, Katsina State	1,026	33	9	1,068	3,160	53	15	3,228
69	Federal University, Kashere, Gombe State	966	89	35	1,090	2,390	128	55	2,573
70	Federal University, Lafia, Nasarawa State	5,040	243	86	5,369	9,061	235	113	9,409

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71	Federal University, Lokoja, Kogi State	2,507	37	11	2,555	5,349	56	17	5,422
72	Federal University, Ndufu-akike, Ebonyi State	4,937	131	11	5,079	9,239	152	20	9,411
73	Federal University, Otuoke, Bayelsa State	2,340	3	0	2,343	6,902	13	3	6,918
74	Federal University, Oye-ekiti, Ekiti State	6,465	109	8	6,582	14,642	152	12	14,806
75	Federal University, Wukari, Taraba State	4,867	119	262	5,248	6,198	122	209	6,529
76	Fountain University, Osogbo	50	2	1	53	112	2	0	114
77	Godfrey Okoye University, Uguwoma-Nike	29	1	0	30	65	1	0	66
78	Gombe State University, Tudum Wada, Gombe,	7,129	1,049	312	8,490	7,334	982	291	8,607
79	Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida University, Lapai	11,387	280	277	11,944	10,926	258	303	11,487
80	Igbinedion University, Okada, Benin City	272	1	0	273	605	0	0	605
81	Immanuel College Of Technology And Christian Education , Samonda, Ibadan (affiliated T	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
82	Joseph Ayo Babalola University, Ikeji-arakeji	65	1	0	66	189	1	0	190
83	Kaduna Polytechnic, Kaduna (affiliated To Federal University Of Technology, Minna Nige	48	64	6	118	56	61	6	123
84	Kaduna State University, Kaduna	17,444	2,317	930	20,691	20,920	2,270	942	24,132
85	Kano University Of Science And Technology, Wudil	2,339	135	38	2,512	9,242	248	37	9,527
86	Katsina University, Katsina	448	11	11	470	1,022	23	9	1,054
87	Kebbi State University Of Science And Technology, Airo	712	28	87	827	2,063	110	11	2,184
88	Kogi State University, Anyigba	32,715	457	163	33,335	28,535	445	154	29,134
89	Kwara State College Of Education, (technical), Lafia (affiliated To Ahmadu Bello Univer	6	0	2	8	26	0	1	27
90	Kwara State University, Malete, Ilorin	3,243	108	19	3,370	10,648	161	18	10,827
91	Kwararafa University, Wukari	33	0	1	34	50	0	0	50
92	Ladoke Akintola University Of Technology, Ogbomoso	17,986	201	25	18,212	23,550	256	30	23,838
93	Lagos State University, Ojo	7,054	145	26	7,225	19,183	214	30	19,427
94	Landmark University, Omu-aran, Kwara State	105	0	0	105	264	0	0	264
95	Lead City University, Ibadan	110	3	1	114	313	5	0	318
96	Madonna University, Okija	964	2	1	967	1,923	3	2	1,928
97	Michael Okpara University Of Agriculture, Umudike	13,988	67	6	14,061	17,338	86	9	17,433
98	Michael Otedola College Of Primary Education, Noforja, Epe, Lagos (affiliated To Unive	20	1	0	21	53	0	0	53
99	Modibbo Adams University Of Technology, Yola	11,756	1,105	435	13,296	10,286	925	503	11,714
100	Nasarawa State University, Keffi	36,852	1,532	1,389	39,773	39,641	1,530	1,382	42,563
101	National Missionary Seminary Of St-paul, Gwagwalada (affiliated To University Of Port F	2	0	0	2	1	0	0	1
102	National Open University Of Nigeria	117	6	0	123	387	8	0	395
103	Niger Delta University - Wilberforce Island	24,579	34	3	24,616	29,900	46	10	29,956
104	Niger State College Of Education, Minna (affiliated To Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, E	2	0	0	2	3	0	0	3
105	Nigeria Turkish Nile University , Abuja	181	1	0	182	327	1	0	328

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106	Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka	82,148	204	32	82,384	36,374	181	36	36,591
107	Novena University Ogunme	56	1	0	57	138	0	0	138
108	Nwafor Oziem College Of Education, Nnugbo (affiliated To University Of Nigeria, Nsukka	147	2	3	152	333	3	3	339
109	Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-ife	64,702	844	107	65,653	38,883	736	106	39,725
110	Obong University, Obong, Ntak	23	1	0	24	63	1	0	64
111	Oduduwa University, Ipefemodu	58	2	0	60	160	4	2	166
112	Olabisi Onabanjo University, Ago-iwoye	10,552	430	69	11,051	24,679	466	67	25,212
113	Ondo State University Of Science And Technology, Okitipupa	362	5	0	367	1,553	0	0	1,553
114	Osun State College Of Education, Ila-orangun (affiliated To University Of Uyo, Akwa-ibom	249	15	5	269	587	19	9	615
115	Osun State College Of Education, Ilesa (affiliated To University Of Ibadan, Oyo State)	197	35	10	242	428	37	11	476
116	Osun State University, Osogbo	8,202	220	34	8,456	21,386	281	30	21,697
117	Paul University, Awka	44	0	0	44	85	0	0	85
118	Plateau State University, Bokkos	706	113	52	871	2,670	145	65	2,880
119	Pope John Major Seminary, Okpim, Awka (affiliated To Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awk	51	0	0	51	29	0	0	29
120	Redeemers University	391	1	0	392	987	4	1	992
121	Renaissance University, Ojigbo-agbani, Enugu	7	1	0	8	27	1	0	28
122	Rhema University, No 153-155 Aba-owerri Road, Abia State	5	0	0	5	20	0	0	20
123	Rivers State University Of Education, Port Harcourt	1,356	26	5	1,387	2,051	25	7	2,083
124	Rivers State University Of Science And Technology, Port Harcourt	9,808	150	21	9,979	18,476	202	30	18,708
125	Salem University, Lokoja	96	1	1	98	209	3	1	213
126	Samuel Adegboye University, Ogwa, Edo State	15	0	0	15	38	0	0	38
127	Seat Of Wisdom Seminary, Owerri (affiliated To Evan University, Owerri, Imo State)	74	0	0	74	41	0	0	41
128	Seminary Of All Saints, Ushiele, Ekpoma, Edo State (affiliated To University Of Benin)	35	0	0	35	33	0	0	33
129	Shehu Shagari College Of Education, Sokoto (affiliated To Ahmadu Bello University, Zari	3	0	1	4	6	0	1	7
130	St. Augustine's College Of Education, Akoka, Lagos (affiliated To University Of Ibadan, C	3	1	0	4	10	0	0	10
131	St. Peter And Paul Seminary Bodija, Ibadan (affiliated To University Of Ibadan)	22	0	0	22	27	0	0	27
132	St-Joseph Major Seminary, Ikot-alpene (affiliated To University Of Uyo, Akwa-ibom Stat	70	0	1	71	34	0	0	34
133	Tai Solarin University Of Education, Ijagan,	4,568	251	53	4,872	11,676	368	63	12,107
134	Tansan University, Oba, Anambra State	28	1	0	29	69	2	1	72
135	Taraba State University, Jalingo	4,670	444	1,024	6,138	5,300	416	1,084	6,800
136	The University Of Education, Ikere-ekiti	18	0	0	18	74	1	0	75
137	Umar Ibn Ibrahim El-kanemi College Of Education, Science And Technology, Bama (affi	1	2	0	3	3	5	0	8
138	Umar Suleiman College Of Education, Gashua, Yobe State (affiliated To University Of Mi	192	10	3	205	116	8	4	128
139	Umaru Musa Yaradua University, Katsina	9,641	235	120	9,996	10,023	218	102	10,343
140	Umca, Ilorin (affiliated To University Of Ibadan, Oyo State)	10	0	0	10	7	1	0	8
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141	University Of Abuja, Abuja	22,344	622	147	23,113	28,036	654	159	28,849
142	University Of Agriculture, Abeokuta	24,779	691	64	25,534	26,419	720	62	27,201
143	University Of Benin, Benin City	80,048	151	17	80,216	34,134	118	16	34,268
144	University Of Calabar, Calabar	33,105	939	147	34,191	36,997	1,043	142	38,182
145	University Of Ibadan, Ibadan	40,011	431	105	40,547	33,303	421	100	33,824
146	University Of Ilorin, Ilorin	76,277	1,808	180	78,265	50,748	1,620	165	52,533
147	University Of Jos, Jos	31,463	1,692	621	33,776	26,404	1,627	621	28,652
148	University Of Lagos	83,866	403	57	84,326	38,234	367	61	38,662
149	University Of Maiduguri	16,142	1,785	722	18,649	15,434	1,689	578	17,701
150	University Of Mkar, Gboko	87	5	3	95	239	8	2	249
151	University Of Nigeria Nsukka	79,398	311	133	79,842	36,512	244	99	36,855
152	University Of Port-harcourt	48,439	362	49	48,850	38,408	304	43	38,755
153	University Of Science And Technology, Ife-eki	84	6	1	91	249	6	0	255
154	University Of Uyo, Uyo	44,397	1,324	130	45,851	28,502	1,349	146	29,997
155	Usmanu Danfodio University, Sokoto	22,034	455	237	22,726	22,311	610	59	22,980
156	Veritas University, Abuja	10	3	3	16	31	1	0	32
157	Wellspring University, Iruhi/Ogbaneki, Benin City	14	1	0	15	46	1	0	47
158	Wesley University Of Science And Technology, Ondo	18	0	0	18	55	1	0	56
159	Western Delta University, Oghara, Delta State	48	0	0	48	122	0	0	122
160	Yaba College Of Technology, Yaba (affiliated To University Of Nigeria, Nsukka, Enugu S	42	12	3	57	152	19	3	174
161	Yobe State University, Damanuru	1,672	468	670	2,810	1,856	465	684	3,005

From the images above, you can see clearly the institutions with the highest competition. What I mean by competition here, is the amount of applicants for a particular institution. Now, you can use the data presented above to decide on the institutions to apply to.

Below is a list that shows the top ten (10) most competitive first choice universities in Nigeria:

University - Number of Applicants (Competition)

1. UNILAG - 84,326
2. NAU - 82,384
3. UNIBEN - 80,216
4. UNN - 79,842
5. UNILORIN - 78,265
6. OAU - 65,653
7. ABU - 60,691
8. UNIPORT - 48,850
9. UNIUYO - 45,851
10. EVANS - 43,503



Below Are Top Ten (10) Most Competitive First Choice Polytechnics with Highest Patronage

NEKEDE, YABA, AUCHI, OKO, KADUNA, RIVERS, IBADAN, NASARAWA, AKWAIBOM, KWARA

Below Are Top Ten (10) Most Competitive First Choice Colleges of Education with Highest Patronage

ALVAN-IKOKU, ADEYEMI, ADENIRAN, AKOKA, PH, ZARIA, AKWA-IBOM, ZUBA, EKIADOLO, NSUGBE

2012 Application by Course: Top 14 Courses with Highest Patronage

1. Med. & Surgery - 116,037
2. Accounting - 101,877
3. Economics - 98,967
4. Law - 87,385
5. Business Admin - 82,551
6. Mass Comm. - 69,836
7. Political Sci. - 69,047
8. Computer Sci. - 67,996
9. Microbiology - 47,097
10. Biochemistry - 37,318
11. Nursing - N/A
12. Pharmacy - N/A
13. Mechanical - 32,493
14. Civil Engineering - 32,223

Now, you have seen the various most competitive courses and tertiary institutions in Nigeria, so, let us now see the guidelines to follow in order to get easy admission in Nigeria.

Guidelines to Easy Admission in Nigeria

1. Only apply to less competitive courses.
2. Only apply to less competitive tertiary institutions (no too much applicants).
3. Don't apply for a professional course, but if you have to apply for a professional course, then you should go for a less competitive tertiary institution that offers this professional course.
4. Don't apply to any of the top ten (10) most competitive first choice institutions above, but if you have to apply to one of these top ten (10) most competitive first choice institutions, then you have to go for a very less competitive course e.g. Education and Agriculture courses.
5. Don't apply to any of the top 14 Courses with highest patronage above, but if you have to apply to any of these courses, then you have to go for a very less competitive tertiary institution where that course is offered.

Referenced Material - *Admission Secrets EBook* by **Chijioke E. Okolo**

*Note: These guidelines are for candidates who are desperate for admission and candidates who have been looking for admission for a very long time without any success. But, if you are a young student who just graduated from secondary school and you are seeking for admission into any of the tertiary institutions here in Nigeria, I advice that you use the methods I illustrated in my **Free EBook on JAMB Success Secrets to secure admission for your desired course and into your desired institution.***

JAMB List of Most Sought after Universities in Nigeria 2015

Out of the over 180 universities in Nigeria, University of Ilorin (UNILORIN) has the highest number of JAMB UTME applicants with over 85,945 candidates seeking admission into the institution. This is followed by the University of Benin (UNIBEN)

with over 60,020 applicants, and Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka (UNIZIK) with over 58,410 UTME applicants.

The 4th, 5th, and 6th most popular higher institutions are the University of Nigeria, Nsukka - UNN (57,539 applicants), Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria - ABU (52,785 applicants), and the University of Lagos - UNILAG (49,059 applicants) respectively.

The full list can be seen below:



Nigerian Scholars



Joint Admissions And Matriculation Board

Unified Tertiary Matriculation Examination 2015

Statistics of Choice of Institutions

Date Printed: Tuesday, January 27, 2015

Institution	1st Choice	2nd Choice	3rd Choice	4th Choice	Total
1 Abia State University, Umuahia	7,361	40	3	0	7,404
2 Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University, Bauchi	8,043	1,297	115	0	9,455
3 Achievers University Owo	21	1	0	0	22
4 Adamawa State University State, Mubi	326	13	5	0	344
5 Adekunle Ajasin University, Akungbo-Akoko	16,802	112	14	1	16,929
6 Adeleke University, Ede, Osun State	51	7	0	0	58
7 Adeniran Ogunsanya College Of Education, Ono Ijanikin, Lagos (Affiliated To Ekiti State University)	97	4	1	0	102
8 Adeyemi College Of Education, (Affiliated To Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Osun State)	2,247	59	10	0	2,316
9 Afe Babalola University, Ado-Ekiti	1,227	4	0	0	1,231
10 Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria	49,604	2,146	1,020	15	52,785
11 Ajayi Crowther University, Oyo	41	0	0	0	41
12 Akwa Ibom State University, Ikot-Akpada	4,149	498	62	1	4,710
13 Al-Fikmah University, Ilorin	221	4	0	1	226
14 Al-Qalam University, Katsina	351	1	1	0	353
15 Alvan Ikoku College Of Education, (Affiliated To University Of Nigeria, Nsukka)	2,643	7	2	0	2,652
16 Ambros Alli University, Ekpoma	21,468	105	7	0	21,580
17 American University Of Nigeria, Yola	167	1	0	0	168
18 Anambra State University, Uli	5,268	20	2	0	5,290
19 Auchi Polytechnic, Auchi (Affiliated To Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Osun State)	15	0	0	0	15
20 Babcock University, Ilishan-Remo	1,868	1	0	1	1,870
21 Bauchi State University, Gadau, Bauchi State	3,121	1,221	71	0	4,413
22 Bayero University, Kano	38,032	952	191	0	39,175
23 Baze University, Fct, Abuja	329	1	0	0	330
24 Bells University Of Technology, Ota	144	1	0	0	145
25 Benson Idahosa University, Benin City	277	0	0	0	277
26 Benue State University, Makurdi	26,805	205	101	2	27,203
27 Bingham University, Karu	302	1	0	0	303
28 Bowen University, Iwo	512	0	0	0	512
29 Caleb University, Imota	38	0	0	0	38
30 Caritas University, Amorji-Nike, Enugu	118	1	1	0	120
31 Catholic Institution Of West Africa, Port Harcourt (Affiliated To University Of Calabar, Cross River St)	2	0	0	0	2
32 Christian Institute Of Philosophy, Nkese (Affiliated To Evan University, Owerri, Imo State)	32	0	0	0	32
33 College Of Arabic And Islamic Legal Studies, Ilorin (Affiliated To Bayero University, Kano)	11	1	0	0	12
34 College Of Education, Agbor (Affiliated To Delta State University, Abraka, Delta State)	66	0	0	0	66
35 College Of Education, Akwanga (Affiliated To Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, Kaduna State)	8	5	2	0	15

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36 College Of Education, Ankpa (Affiliated To Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University, Bauchi)	1	0	0	0	1
37 College Of Education, Azare (Affiliated To University Of Maiduguri, Borno State)	310	452	9	0	771
38 College Of Education, Ikeri Ekiti (Affiliated To University Of Nigeria, Nsukka, Enugu State)	288	3	0	0	291
39 College Of Education, Warri (Affiliated To Delta State University, Abraka, Delta)	38	17	1	0	56
40 Covenant University, Canaan Land, Ota	2,731	2	0	0	2,733
41 Crawford University Of Apostolic Faith Mission Faith City, Igbesa	42	0	0	0	42
42 Crescent University, Abeokun	35	1	0	0	36
43 Cross Rivers University Of Technology, Calabar	4,880	69	7	0	4,956
44 Delta State University, Abraka	23,075	229	11	1	23,316
45 Dominican Institute, Samonda, Ibadan (Affiliated To University Of Ibadan, Oyo State)	40	0	0	0	40
46 Ebonyi State University, Abakaliki	9,730	192	28	1	9,951
47 Ecwa Theological Seminary, Igbaja (Affiliated To University Of Ibadan, Oyo State)	1	0	0	0	1
48 Ekiti State University, Ado-Ekiti	9,764	153	18	0	9,935
49 Elizade University, Ilan-Mokin, Ondo State	41	0	0	0	41
50 Emmanuel Alayande College Of Education, Oyo (Affiliated To Ekiti State University)	93	0	1	0	94
51 Enugu State College Of Education, (Technical), Enugu (Affiliated To Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Aw)	37	1	0	0	38
52 Enugu State University Of Science And Technology, Enugu	6,531	27	8	0	6,566
53 Evangel University, Akaza, Ebonyi State	11	0	0	0	11
54 Fed College Of Educ. (Special), Oyo	132	4	1	0	137
55 Fed College Of Educ. (Tech.) Ununze, Affiliated To (Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka)	78	3	0	0	81
56 Fed College Of Educ. (Tech.), Omoku, Omoku - Affiliated To (University Of Nigeria, Nsukka, Enugu)	85	2	1	1	89
57 Fed. College Of Educ. (Tech.), Bichi (Affiliated To Afen)	2	1	0	0	3
58 Federal College Of Education (Technical) P.M.B 60, Gombe, Gombe State. (Affiliated To Abubakar T)	1	0	0	0	1
59 Federal College Of Education (Technical), Asaba (Affiliated To University Of Benin, Benin City)	24	0	0	0	24
60 Federal College Of Education (Technical), Asaba, (Affiliated To Federal University Of Technology, M)	2	0	0	0	2
61 Federal College Of Education, (Technical), Poniokun (Affiliated To Federal University Of Technology)	4	1	2	0	7
62 Federal College Of Education, Abeokun (Affiliated To University Of Ibadan)	67	7	2	0	76
63 Federal College Of Education, Kano (Affiliated To Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, Kaduna State)	20	12	0	0	32
64 Federal College Of Education, Katsina (Affiliated To Bayero University, Kano State)	258	17	3	0	278
65 Federal College Of Education, Kontagora (Affiliated To Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, Kaduna Sta)	1	0	1	0	2
66 Federal College Of Education, Obudu, Cross River State, (Affiliated To University Of Calabar, Calab)	243	105	19	0	367
67 Federal College Of Education, Okene (Affiliated To University Of Ibadan)	35	2	0	0	37
68 Federal College Of Education, Pankshin (Affiliated To University Of Jos, Plateau State)	2,109	155	44	1	2,309
69 Federal College Of Education, Yola (Affiliated To University Of Maiduguri)	95	42	5	0	142
70 Federal College Of Education, Zaria (Affiliated To Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, Kaduna State)	10	11	0	0	21

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71 Federal University Of Agriculture, Makurdi	12,523	43	26	0	12,592
72 Federal University Of Petroleum Resources, Effurun	3,341	9	0	0	3,350
73 Federal University Of Technology Minna	12,821	220	38	1	12,880
74 Federal University Of Technology, Yola	6,156	73	52	0	6,281
75 Federal University Of Technology, Akure	12,493	177	10	1	12,681
76 Federal University Of Technology, Owerri	20,055	79	3	0	20,137
77 Federal University, Birnin-Kebbi, Kebbi State	2,577	21	3	0	2,601
78 Federal University, Dutse, Jigawa State	4,092	178	40	0	4,310
79 Federal University, Dutse-Ma, Katsina State	2,530	77	18	0	2,625
80 Federal University, Gashua, Yobe State	482	41	37	0	560
81 Federal University, Gusau, Zamfara State	1,457	73	2	0	1,532
82 Federal University, Kashere, Gombe State	2,588	214	26	0	2,828
83 Federal University, Lafia, Nasarawa State	4,348	83	45	1	4,477
84 Federal University, Lokoja, Kogi State	3,570	23	7	0	3,600
85 Federal University, Ndufu-Alike, Ebonyi State	4,990	156	19	0	5,165
86 Federal University, Omoke, Bayelsa State	2,267	5	1	0	2,273
87 Federal University, Oye-Ekin, Ekin State	3,027	48	6	0	3,081
88 Federal University, Wukari, Taraba State	4,137	40	14	1	4,192
89 Fountain University, Osogbo	30	0	1	0	31
90 Godfrey Okoye University, Uguwuomu- Nike	83	1	0	0	84
91 Gombe State University, Tudun Wada, Gombe	9,881	1,181	97	0	11,159
92 Gregory University, Unuru, Abia State	19	1	0	0	20
93 Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida University, Lapai	8,972	249	45	0	9,266
94 Igboinedion University, Okada, Benin City	290	0	1	0	291
95 Ignatius Ajuru University Of Education, Port Harcourt	2,260	18	0	0	2,278
96 Immanuel College Of Technology And Christian Education, Samonda, Ibadan (Affiliated To University Of Lagos)	1	0	0	0	1
97 Imo State University, Owerri	29,828	111	13	1	29,953
98 Jigawa State College Of Education, Gumel (Affiliated To Bayero University, Kano)	109	5	4	0	118
99 Jigawa State University, Kafin Hausa, Jigawa State	1,375	70	13	0	1,458
100 Joseph Ayo Babalola University, Ikeji-Arankeji	63	0	1	0	64
101 Kaduna Polytechnic, Kaduna (Affiliated To Federal University Of Technology, Minna Niger State)	27	12	2	2	43
102 Kaduna State University, Kaduna	21,869	1,483	701	40	24,073
103 Kano University Of Science And Technology, Wudil	3,565	48	15	0	3,628
104 Kebbi State University Of Science And Technology, Aliro	710	40	10	0	760
105 Kogi State University, Anyigba	21,753	274	77	3	22,107

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106 Kwara State College Of Education, (Technical), Lafia (Affiliated To Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, I)	2	1	0	0	3
107 Kwara State University, Malete, Ilorin	2,341	110	5	1	2,457
108 Kwararafa University, Wukari	4	0	0	0	4
109 Ladoko Akintola University Of Technology, Ogbomosho	12,378	163	10	1	12,552
110 Lagos State University, Ojo	8,332	142	10	0	8,484
111 Landmark University, Omu-Aran, Kwara State	218	0	0	0	218
112 Lead City University, Ibadan	53	0	0	0	53
113 Madonna University, Okija	603	3	0	1	607
114 Mcpherson University, Seriki Sotayo, Ogun State	24	0	0	0	24
115 Michael Okpara University Of Agriculture, Umudike	14,904	79	2	0	14,985
116 Michael Otedola College Of Primary Education, Noforija, Epe, Lagos (Affiliated To Ekin State Univer	5	0	0	0	5
117 Nasarawa State University, Keffi	30,355	1,157	565	2	32,079
118 National Film Institute, Jos (Affiliated To University Of Jos, Jos)	10	1	0	0	11
119 National Open University Of Nigeria	147	19	2	0	168
120 National Open University Of Nigerian - Elearning	9	2	0	0	11
121 Niger Delta University, Wilberforce Island	18,246	26	0	1	18,273
122 Niger State College Of Education, Minna (Affiliated To Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, Kaduna Stat	3	3	0	0	6
123 Nigerian Turkish Nile University, Abuja	228	0	0	0	228
124 Nigerian Defence Academy, Kaduna, Kaduna State	17,748	54	5	0	17,807
125 Nigerian Police Academy, Wudil, Kano State	6,442	13	2	0	6,457
126 Naamdi Azikiwe University, Awka	58,277	118	13	2	58,410
127 NorthWest University, Kano, Kano State	3,383	109	21	0	3,513
128 Novena University Ogunme	51	0	0	0	51
129 Nwafor Orizu College Of Education, Nsugbe (Affiliated To University Of Nigeria, Nsukka, Enugu Sta	117	0	0	0	117
130 Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife	34,409	625	81	11	35,106
131 Obong University, Obong, Nnak	12	0	0	0	12
132 Oduduwa University, Ipelegu	105	1	0	0	106
133 Olabisi Onabanjo University, Ago-Iwoye	8,291	221	27	0	8,539
134 Ondo State University Of Science And Technology, Okitipupa	236	1	0	0	237
135 Osun State College Of Education, Ila-Orangun (Affiliated To University Of Uyo, Akwa-Ibom State)	11	1	0	0	12
136 Osun State College Of Education, Ilesa (Affiliated To University Of Ibadan, Oyo State)	267	20	2	0	289
137 Osun State University, Osogbo	6,216	272	22	1	6,511
138 Pan-Atlantic University, Ahmed Onibudo Street, Victoria Island, Lagos	51	0	0	0	51
139 Paul University, Awka	13	0	0	0	13
140 Plateau State University, Bokkos	3,021	173	77	0	3,271

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141 Pope John Major Seminary, Oâpun, Awka (Affiliated To Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka, Anambra)	61	0	0	0	61
142 Redeemers University	172	0	0	0	172
143 Renaissance University, Ojigun-Agbani, Enugu	6	0	0	0	6
144 Rhema University, Obesama, Rivers State	6	0	0	0	6
145 Rivers State University Of Science And Technology, Port Harcourt	16,569	229	10	2	16,840
146 Saadam Rimi College Of Education, Kumboto (Affiliated To Bayero University, Kano)	128	12	2	0	140
147 Salem University, Lokoja	37	0	0	0	37
148 Samuel Adegboye University, Oguwa, Edo State	8	0	0	0	8
149 Seat Of Wisdom Seminary, Owerri (Affiliated To Evan University, Owerri, Imo State)	43	0	0	0	43
150 Seminary Of All Saints, Uniele, Ekpoma, Edo State (Affiliated To University Of Benin, Benin City)	4	0	0	0	4
151 Shehu Shagari College Of Education, Sokoto (Affiliated To Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, Kaduna)	1	0	0	0	1
152 Sokoyo State University, Sokoto	1,487	15	0	0	1,502
153 Southwestern University, Okun-Owa, Ogun State	4	0	0	0	4
154 Spiritan School Of Philosophy, Isiteau, Nsukka, (Affiliated To University Of Nigeria, Nsukka, Enugu)	34	0	0	0	34
155 St-Joseph Major Seminary, Ibot-Ekpene (Affiliated To University Of Uyo, Akwa-Ibom State)	24	0	0	0	24
156 St. Augustine's College Of Education, Akoka, Lagos (Affiliated To University Of Ibadan, Oyo State)	3	0	0	0	3
157 St. Peter And Paul Seminary Bodija, Ibadan (Affiliated To University Of Ibadan)	3	0	0	0	3
158 Tai Solarin University Of Education, Ijagan	3,439	168	16	0	3,621
159 Tansain University, Oba, Anambra State	47	0	0	0	47
160 Taraba State University, Jalingo	5,011	472	168	24	5,675
161 Umar Suleiman College Of Education, Gasbus, Yobe State (Affiliated To University Of Maiduguri, Bc)	64	6	6	0	76
162 Umaru Musa Yaradua University, Katsina	11,267	529	283	9	12,118
163 Umca, Ilorin (Affiliated To University Of Ibadan, Oyo State)	7	0	0	0	7
164 University Of Abuja, Abuja	10,365	286	58	1	10,710
165 University Of Agriculture, Abeokuta	16,717	521	41	7	17,286
166 University Of Benin, Benin City	59,849	169	6	0	60,024
167 University Of Calabar, Calabar	23,473	246	46	1	23,766
168 University Of Ibadan, Ibadan	38,520	416	74	3	39,013
169 University Of Ilorin, Ilorin	84,197	1,607	139	2	85,945
170 University Of Jos, Jos	36,720	878	382	5	37,965
171 University Of Lagos	48,802	228	22	4	49,056
172 University Of Maiduguri (- Eleaming), Maiduguri	30	5	1	0	36
173 University Of Maiduguri,	15,984	1,075	299	44	17,382
174 University Of Mkar, Gboko	101	0	2	0	103
175 University Of Nigeria Nsukka.	57,361	141	36	1	57,539

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176 University Of Port-Harcourt,	28,254	158	11	1	28,424
177 University Of Uyo (- Eleaming), Uyo	94	0	0	0	94
178 University Of Uyo,	33,267	1,152	190	4	34,643
179 Usmanu Danfodiyo University, Sokoto	17,159	167	41	0	17,367
180 Usmanu Danfodiyo University (- Eleaming), Sokoto	61	4	1	0	66
181 Veritas University, Abuja	58	0	0	0	58
182 Wellspring University, Irhihi-Ogbaneki, Benin City	6	0	0	0	6
183 Wesley University Of Science And Technology, Ondo	18	2	0	0	20
184 Western Delta University, Oghara, Delta State	24	0	0	0	24
185 Yaba College Of Technology, Yaba (Affiliated To University Of Nigeria, Nsukka, Enugu State)	59	10	1	1	71
186 Yobe State University, Damaturu	1,129	451	339	0	1,919

This list should give you an idea of where everyone wants to go and how you can select the best choice of tertiary institution that will give better chances of gaining admission and still not regretting the choice. Evaluate wisely.

Part 4:

Study Secrets

And Reading Tips



Understanding Your Memory

Have you ever wondered how we learn and why some people are able to achieve tremendous results while others achieve mediocre results, even though, both groups receive the same learning materials?

Is it because these successful people have better brains than the rest of us? Actually, it's not. Some of us lament that these so called 'lucky' ones just have better memories than the rest of us. Others lament that they may have been created with a bad memory. There is nothing like a bad memory, we can only have a trained and an untrained memory.

Our memory is made up of billions of neuron cells. Although very small, each neuron has a processing power equivalent to that of a personal computer. The storage capacity of one neuron is unbelievable.

Each one contains the entire genetic blueprint necessary to recreate another human being like us. This shows that we have tremendous brain power in our possession and it further tells us that it is not our inherent ability that has prevented us from building a retentive memory, rather, it is the learning strategies we adopt that set us apart.

Classification of Memories

We know that some memories last for only a few seconds, whereas, others last for hours, days and even years. For the purpose of discussing this, we will use a common classification of memories that divides memories into three:

1. Short-Term Memory:

It is a memory that lasts for few seconds to minutes at a time and lasts only as long as the person continues to think about the information. Pictures, words, actions are stored in the short-term memory as soon as they appear.

They are stored here for remembering as in the registration stage – which I will talk about shortly – but as this information gets here, you must do something active (e.g. say it aloud, draw a picture, write it down) to make it a permanent memory.

Your short-term memory has an average capacity of seven items most times; it can range from as little to a maximum of ten. This category includes memories that last for seconds or at most minutes unless they are converted into long-term memories.

2. Intermediate Long-Term Memory:

This kind of memory may last for many minutes, days or even weeks but then fade away afterwards. They will eventually be lost unless the memory traces are activated enough to become more permanent, then they are classified as long-term memories.

Experiments that were carried out in primitive animals have demonstrated that memories of the intermediate long-term kind can result from temporary chemical or physical changes that can persist for a few minutes up to several weeks.

3. Long-Term Memory:

A long-term memory once stored, can be recalled up to years later. There is no obvious demarcation between the more prolonged types of intermediate long-term memory and true long-term memory.

The true long-term memory includes a large amount of information which once stored can be recalled up to years or even up to a lifetime later.

Two factors are responsible for long-term memories: **repetition and intense emotion**. If a child keeps on repeating the multiplication table every day, he or she will commit it to long-term memory.

Also, strong emotional attachment to some memories such as one's first time in a foreign country makes those memories long-term.

To transfer information to your long-term memory, always make deliberate efforts to rehearse and review the information you just received. The more often you do this, the greater will be your chances of being able to recall it quickly and easily.

In addition to this general classification of memories, we also have another type of memory called **Working Memory**, which includes mainly short-term memories that are used during the course of intellectual reasoning but are terminated as each stage of the problem is resolved.

Memories are frequently classified according to the type of information that is stored. One of these classifications divides memory into **Declarative Memory and Skill Memory**, as follows:

1. Declarative Memory:

This basically means memory of the various details of an integrated thought, such as memory of an important experience which includes: *memories of the surroundings, time relationships, causes of the experience, meaning of the experience and one's deductions*, which were impressed upon the mind of the person.

2. Skill Memory:

This is frequently associated with motor activities of the person's body, such as all the skills developed for hitting a tennis ball, including automatic memories to: *sight the ball, calculate the relationship and speed of the ball to the racket, and deduce rapidly the motions of the body, the arms, and the racket required to hit the ball as desired*.

All of these automatic memories are activated instantly based on previous learning of the game and are forgotten almost as quickly when moving on to the next stroke.

How to Convert Short-Term Memory into Long-Term Memory

We have now been made to understand how memories are classified basically into **short-term, intermediate long-term and long-term memory**. It has also been established that forgetting occurs when new knowledge acquired in the short-term memory is not rehearsed or is not associated with strong emotion and great interest.

Let us now examine together some of the ways memories can be consolidated so that short-term memory can be converted to long-term memory for retention.

Consolidation of Memory

For short-term memory to be converted into long term memory that can be recalled weeks or years later, it must become "consolidated". That is, the short-term memory if activated repeatedly will initiate chemical, physical and anatomical changes in the synapses that are responsible for the long-term type of memory.

This process requires 5 to 10 minutes for minimum consolidation and 1 hour or more for strong consolidation. For instance, if a strong sensory impression is made on the brain but is then followed within a minute or so by an electrically induced brain convulsion, the sensory experience will not be remembered.

Likewise, brain concussion, sudden application of deep general anesthesia, or any other effect that temporarily blocks the dynamic function of the brain can prevent consolidation.

Psychological studies have shown that rehearsal of the same information again and again in the mind accelerates and potentiates the degree of transfer of short-term memory into long-term memory and therefore accelerates and enhances consolidation.

The brain has a natural tendency to rehearse new found information that catches the mind's attention. Therefore, over a period of time, the important features of sensory experiences becomes progressively more and more fixed in the memory stores.

This explains why a person can remember small amounts of information studied in depth far better than large amounts of information studied only superficially. It also explains why a person who is wide awake can consolidate memories far better than a person who is in a state of mental fatigue.

One of the most important features of consolidation is that new memories are codified into different classes of information. During this process, similar types of information are pulled from the memory storage bins and used to help process the new information.

The new and old are compared for similarities and differences, and part of the storage process is to store the information about these similarities and differences, rather than to store the new information unprocessed.

Thus, during consolidation, the new memories are not stored randomly in the brain but are stored in direct association with memories of the same type. This is necessary if one is able to "search" the memory store at a later date to find the required information.

Three Stages of Committing Information to Memory

The memory is a fascinating and vital aspect of the human make-up. Your memory is as old as you are and the habits you've formed over-time. Your habits and experiences make up your memory and it grows with daily habits and practices.

Take for example; a one-year old child will not know how to drive a car because he or she has never driven one at that age. The child doesn't know where the door handle is, correct sitting position, buttons for controlling gadgets in the vehicle and their various

functions. All for the fact he has not grown to have that habit. As long as it is not yet his practice to drive, the information cannot be in his memory, at least not yet.

In contrast to that, the older guy who has been driving for about six years, with the slightest efforts will simply recall the necessary information because it has been embedded in his memory by practice. It goes on to show that your memory grows with constant application of the learned skill, habit, association, etc.

According to Mahesh Kapadia in *'Increasing your memory power'*, memories are neural traces created in the brain. There are linkages for connection between the neurons that constitute the chemical bond caused by strong association.

These chemical links are created by several different kinds of action, the most common being an initial sensory or emotional event and sustained repetition of that event. There are three stages of committing information to memory:

Stage 1: The Registration Stage

This is the stage where something comes to your attention and makes meaning to you as it comes to your memory. At this stage, whether it will be retained by or discarded from your memory depends on you and your next actions. If it's something that's important such as a password, pin number, you'd want to retain it in your memory for easy recall.

Stage 2: The Retention Stage

At this stage, your brain has the next challenge of retaining the information that you have just received in your memory. This will take a deliberate act on your part to do so.

At this stage, if you are able to retain the received information in your memory, then it will surely be very easy to remember or recall them. I will talk about powerful ways to commit new facts to memory for easy recall shortly.

Stage 3: The Recall Stage

This is the stage where information gathered can easily be recalled. For you to be able to recall the information, you must have taken some actions in the retention stage that will help you commit the facts to memory for quick and recall when the information is needed.

Seven Powerful Ways to Commit Information to Memory

It is important that we be reminded that we have brains so capable that we've barely used 10% of their capacity. You don't forget what you read because your brain is incapable of the information you give to it.

It often surprises us how we forget things we thought we had committed so much time to memorizing when we have barely left the library or our reading table for up to a few minutes and we ask ourselves why we forget these things we intended to remember after committing so much time to study.

There is no one that was born with a bad memory (except in cases of birth defects), there can only be an untrained memory. You need to train and exercise your memory so that you can maximize its potential.

Here, you will discover seven powerful "*association strategies*" that will help commit more easily new facts to memory:

1. Associate more senses with the information.

It's a proven biological fact that the memory is essentially a visual mechanism. The more senses are associated with the new data received, the more your memory improves.

You do not have to be a genius or visionary to be able to visualize something you will see in the future. If on your return from a vacation trip, you were asked to give a colorful description of what you encountered, I'm sure it would be pretty easy for you. Visualize, share with others and possibly act out what you want to remember.

2. Associate strong and positive emotions with the information.

Strong memories are also created from strong emotional association. These emotional connections could be the day you left off for the university, the moment you made so many promises to your family that you wouldn't let them down in school, the day you saw in person someone you hold in high regard for his or her achievements and so on.

3. Apply intensity to these associations.

The factor that makes the sensory and emotional associations to create more lasting impressions is their intensity. When they are more intense, they will produce strong bonds that are retained in the brain quickly and cause you to recall the information easily. These are known as memory evacuators.

4. Associate the new information with meaning.

Another effective way to commit a new fact to memory is to associate it with meaning. When something has meaning for you, it's very likely that you'll remember it easily. Association with visual mental pictures and emotion are great ways but when they are not making meaning to you, it becomes a problem. A way you can create meaning is in the use of language patterns.

For instance, if you can create an acronym out of a total list of words you need to remember, they will take on a new meaning. Let's say you need to remember the names of mineral constituents and nutrients in a meal, say calcium, iron, protein,

vitamins, carbohydrate, and magnesium, you may give it an acronym like P.I.M.V.I.C, pronounced *peem-veek*, with each letter standing for the first letter of each mineral.

If you prefer to make this into a sentence that has more meaning, then you can say something like: Please, Inside My Van Is Cool. It will thus, be easier to remember it has formed a sentence that makes meaning to you.

5. Associate the information with a weirdness effect.

The weirdness effect is an important factor in association. People tend to remember things that are outrageous, out of place or unusually weird. Assuming we had a list of words to be committed to memory and words like Rambo, Zigzag or Kalakuta were included to the list, you would be able to recall them even if they did not fit into the category.

The reason is that the words are unique or stand out and that makes them memorable. A good way to commit a new fact to memory is to add a weirdness effect to them.

6. Associate the information with specificity.

When words, names, dates are specific, unequivocal or definite, it is easy to recall them than it is for those that lack easy definition or finality. As an instance, remembering names of prominent people like Nelson Mandela will be easier than a thousand words of history.

7. Repeat the information as often as possible.

Definitely, you remember things or words better when you repeat them often. They are easily embedded in your long-term memory where you easily access them a long time later.

Every association effect discussed above won't be very effective if you don't discipline yourself to add the repetition effect to the information you wish to commit to memory.

How to Improve the Retentive Ability of Your Memory

Forgetting is an aspect of life and our memories and it often costs us a lot. We forget appointments and in turn lose relationships, connections and opportunities; we forget names and lose contact and communication with new friends; we forget people's requests and lose their trust and confidence in us.

For students, the loss is usually very evident when they enter examination halls and totally forget all that they thought they had read, memorized and understood earlier.

New knowledge or facts gathered can be easily forgotten if conscious efforts are not made to commit them to memory.

It's this issue that causes you to bitterly realize that you've forgotten most of what was taught in class even when you were seemingly very attentive during the lectures and couldn't imagine that you would forget those things that were mentioned.

In order to help you understand how you can improve your memory's retentive ability, I will share with you four effects:

1. Multi-Sensory Effects:

During the review and rehearsal of new facts, try engaging more of your senses together with your intelligence and you will discover that it will help you remember or recall them easily afterward. This multi-sensory method gives you a better chance of embedding materials in your long-term memory. You need to know that:

You remember

20% of what you read,

30% of what you hear,

40% of what you see,

50% of what you say,

60% of what you do,

90% of what you read, hear, see, say and do.

2. Recent and Primary Effects:

When you have used a set of items for an activity, chances are that the items you will easily remember are those near the beginning or near the end. Studies have proven that these recent and primary effects exist.

The result of these studies tell us that you tend to remember the things that happened at the beginning of an event or those things that took place most recently. In studying, therefore, it would be beneficial to have the things of most importance that you want to remember and at the end of your study schedule.

3. Similarity Effects:

When items or a variety of things are grouped together or similar, they become easier to remember than when they are not grouped. Let's say we have a list of fifteen words.

The words are written down then you are asked to look at them just once before they are covered. If you try to remember them, you will discover that you may not be able to recall more than six to ten words. On the other hand, when they are categorized or grouped in different headings, then it will be easier for you to remember them.

Look at this list of words once, turn your head away and try to recall them:

Jug	Truck	Cars	Bus
Van	Trousers	Cargo	Canvass
Helicopter	Boots	Shoes	Gown
Slippers	Jet	Suit	Pot
Shirt	Mug	Kettles	Airplanes

As much as you try, you won't be able to recall more than ten to fifteen items. But when these items are placed in groups and categorized, it becomes to do so.

- Things that can hold water: **jug, kettles, mug, and pot.**
- Vehicle: **van, truck, cars, and bus.**
- Planes: **helicopter, jet, cargo, and airplanes.**
- Foot wears: **canvass, boot, slippers, and shoes.**
- Body wears: **shirt, trousers, suit, and gown.**

This is a simplified method of organizing a long list of words into categories or groups making it easier to remember them when the items are categorized into groups.

This principle of organization can improve the capacity of your memory and have a dramatic effect on how you remember information that you want to commit to memory for an exam.

4. Association Effects

A way of enhancing the memory is by linking things that are similar when committing those things to memory. Association patterns work well because you are linking things you wish to remember to what already in your brain.

A great way of improving your memory's retentive ability is by making associations which could be linking the things you want to remember to pictures in your memory, strong emotions, and maybe funny and weird memories.

The Student Problem - The Reading and the Thinking Process

To tackle a problem effectively, the root of that problem must first be discovered. Attempting to tackle a problem without first discovering the root is like treating a symptom of a virus instead of the virus itself.

This can only provide temporary relief and not a permanent relief. Many students waste precious time reading so much but remembering so little. This is basically the reason for student's failure in an exam.

They thoroughly read and learn a whole chapter of a book, but are totally blank when asked questions on that chapter. The reason for this problem which many students face has to do with the fact that when reading, two processes are working within which are:

1. The Reading Process

2. The Thinking process.

We read with our eyes while also thinking in our mind and when these two processes do not work in unison, we will lack concentration as our mind will be veering off the subject we are studying and no impression will be left on our mind.

Our eyes may be moving but our mind will be elsewhere with other thoughts occupying it. This usually results in inability to recall what we've read and this is because our eyes and minds have not been moving in a coordinated manner.

We feel that we've read everything when in actuality we've read nothing. Other thoughts have kept the same minds that were supposed to be assimilating the material busy.

For example, if a student has seen a movie or watched a football match the previous night, the next day, he or she would find it difficult to concentrate in class because the moving pictures he saw yesterday will keep replaying in his mind - pictures are usually imbued with much stronger bonds in the mind than words talk less of when they are backed with great interest.

At the end of the class, the student becomes absolutely blank and soon finds it difficult to remember what was taught.

You may have experienced some instances in your daily life when a friend passed by while you were walking on the street and you did not notice him. When he stopped by and called your name, you still didn't recognize him for a moment and then suddenly, you became aware of the person.

It so happens that sometimes our mind is somewhere else while we are walking on the street and therefore do not hear or see those who are passing by us even though our eyes and ears are wide open.

This is the reason it is often said that, we look and listen with our eyes and ears but we see and hear with our minds.

This student problem has been discussed here mostly as it relates to academics but we have seen in the last example that it can also affect other aspects of life. In other words, *whenever any action is carried out by us without the efforts of our minds in cooperation with our body, we most often do not remember that action.*

In order to overcome this student problem, the reading and thinking processes must be more in unison whenever you study. Let us now discuss three key words and unveil techniques we can use to minimize distractions and develop interest in the subject we're studying which will bring the reading and thinking process in unison when we read:

1. Concentration:

The best way you can develop interest in any subject and have your mind glued to it when reading is to concentrate on that subject.

Full concentration - direction of thought and focus - on a subject while reading about that particular subject helps keep your mind thinking only thoughts about it and even though some of those thoughts may digress a little from what you're reading, it will remain in the context of that subject.

This is your brain's way of organizing the information in it, by associating what you're presently learning with previous knowledge and past experiences.

2. Observation:

If you love clothes for example, whenever you see a person, your attention will immediately go to the clothes the person is wearing, certain questions will arise in your mind and you will quickly observe the tailoring designs and as a result, your curiosity may lead you into a conversation with the person.

At other occasions, whenever you come across someone else wearing similar clothes, the picture of the other one you saw the other day will most likely flash across your mind. If your observation can make you retain those things, then don't you think it can do the same in your studies?

Once you've chosen the subject or topic you want to read, read the first paragraph of the first chapter and after reading, ask yourself some questions like: What has been said in this paragraph? For who was it said? Why was it said? When was it said? You should answer these questions yourself and engage you mind actively.

Similarly, proceed to the next chapter and do the same. The more questions, you ask, the deeper the impression will be on your mind and the more captivated you'll become by the subject.

3. Understanding:

For you to develop interest in any subject you are reading, you must first understand what that subject is talking about. If the understanding is clear, then retention too will be clear and recalling will be pretty easy.

Do you due diligence, research about the subject, then understand and get interested first in what the whole scope of the subject is all about.

When studying, we should read the objectives, title paragraphs, topic sentences, lessons and exercises - which we can only find by first skimming the material - and understand it from all angles.

With this method, we will be able to retain it properly and this will lead to easy and proper recall when the need arises.

Six Major Reasons Why You Forget What You Read

You need to always remind yourself that you have a brain so capable that you've barely used 10% of its capacity. You don't forget what you read because your brain is incapable of the information you give to it.

It often amazes us how we forget things we thought we had committed so much time to memorizing when we have barely left the library or reading hall probably a few minutes ago and we ask ourselves why we forget these things we intended to remember after committing so much time to study.

There are six reasons I want to share with you that cause us to forget what we read.

Reason 1: Inadequate attention to what you wish to remember

The first cause of forgetfulness is lack of proper attention to what we wish to remember. The result is that the experience does not make a strong enough impression on us.

We forget because we do not pay sufficient attention to what we want to remember in order to imprint it firmly on our mind. A good memory therefore depends upon attention to what is to be remembered. Since one cannot attend to more than one thing at a time, give your full attention to what you wish to remember.

Reason 2: Lack of revision or rehearsal

It is normal to forget most of what is learned within a few days after learning it unless it is constantly revised to keep it fresh in mind. Much of what we learn is forgotten almost as soon as we have learnt it. The little that remains after that is forgotten more gradually.

Research has proven that after one hour, 56 percent of the material which we have read such as the one you are reading right now will be forgotten, but after nine hours, only a further 8% will have been forgotten; after two days, only a further 6 percent and only a further 7 percent after as long as one month.

In other words, about 70 percent of the amount which was forgotten in the first month was forgotten in the first hour of the month.

Reason 3: Interference of other activities during or just after study time

Research has shown that other activities we pursue after learning something interfere with our ability to retain and remember it later. In other words, we forget something we've learnt because we learnt other things subsequently.

How much you will forget actually depends on how similar the interfering activity is with what is being learnt. Interference is most helpful when the interfering materials or activities are very similar to the material being read.

Another way interference occurs is when what has happened previously interferes with what is happening now. Work which precedes learning also tends to interfere with the retention of the learned material. What happened before our study time could cause us to forget what we've read as well as what happened afterwards.

Reason 4: Repression of what is being learnt for some reasons

Repression is the act of controlling strong emotions and desires and not allowing them to be expressed so that they no longer seem to exist. It occurs in the context of forgetting what we've read when we prevent ourselves from becoming aware of some tendency active in our mind which opposes the desire to recall by a strong resistance or wish not to recall.

Oftentimes, we more easily forget a memory which conflicts with our comfort or self esteem than one which does not. This is why what is repressed may not be unpleasant in itself but may have been associated with something else which is unpleasant.

For example, it easier to forget what your lecturer said in that "seemly unending" class than it is to forget your first trip to Dubai.

Reason 5: Wrong Nutrition or Diet

It has been discovered that the kind of food we eat plays an important role in our memory. Research has proven that people suffer physically and mentally because of two things: the food they eat and the food they refuse to eat.

Eating foods such as highly seasoned dishes, much meat, salt and stale food affect our brains. Certain items like cigarettes, alcohol, and caffeine also negatively affect our brain.

These foods and items are part of a bad nutritional diet because they hamper the blood and energy circulation in the body and mind.

Reason 6: Lack of good rest and adequate sleep

For most students, one of the most neglected areas of their lives is sleep. Are you so busy studying or working that you are not getting all the sleep that your body needs?

Most adults need about 7 to 8 consecutive hours of sleep each night; children and adolescents need quite a bit more. If you aren't getting enough quality sleep, your memory is one of the first parts to suffer.

You need sleep to create important memory links and connections. When you first learn something, that information is fragile; the imprint on your brain is very delicate. When you sleep, your brain reviews that information and forges stronger pathways so it becomes a more solid part of your knowledge base.

In other words, if you don't get enough sleep, you will have memory trouble. If you have been too sleep deprived, then getting enough sleep is one of the easiest and fastest ways to improve your memory and minimize forgetfulness.

How to Stay Awake While Reading

Sometimes, it just doesn't matter how great the book is, you just can't stay awake when you pick up a book to read. In the car, on the bed, sitting on the couch or even on an uncomfortable wooden bench and so on, it doesn't matter where you are reading; you quickly fall asleep after reading a few paragraphs.

That can be most annoying when you're trying to study your academic materials and much still now that you are preparing for JAMB. You may have been advised previously to make use of caffeine products but I must tell you that while such products may keep you awake for as long as you take them, they cause long-term damages to your brain.

I will now outline some steps you can take whenever you want to read and stay awake:

Step 1: Read in a place you can stay alert.

Where you stay to read is one of the greatest determinants of how alert you can stay while reading. A lot of us like to read in bed.

When you get into bed, your body and brain register that you are in bed and start to shut down for sleep. Try reading on a quite comfortable seat or if the sleep problem is serious, maybe in public.

It would be embarrassing to fall asleep in a public place! A lot of it has to do with your mind. Read in a place you can stay alert.

Step 2: Try reading at a time you are most awake.

Reading at the proper time of the day is important. If you read just a few pages of a book and then go to sleep, you teach your brain to get ready to sleep whenever you read. Figure out a time you are most awake and read then.

For some people, they are most awake right after they wake up in the morning; others are usually wide awake in the evenings. If you're usually sleepy in the afternoons around say 3 p.m., it's not such a good idea to read at that time.

Many people like to read at night, but that is when they are most tired. Even though, it all depends on body system and how you've set your biological clock. If you must read at night, make sure it's at a time you are most awake.

Step 3: Take actions to keep your mind alert while reading.

If the location and time you read seem not to be the problem, and you still find yourself falling asleep while reading, try this one. Sometimes when we read, our minds wander off and we lose focus from the book.

Try getting a highlighter and use it to highlight parts of the book while you read without mutilating it. It will also make your mind stay alert to develop adequate interest in what you're reading.

Also, you can try taking down notes or looking up words you don't understand in a dictionary. This method is great especially when you're studying and not just reading. The main idea, is to keep your mind alert while reading.

Step 4: Train your brain to know when it's time for reading.

Training your brain is one of the best ways to teach yourself to stay awake while reading. If you begin to fall asleep each time you pick up a book to read, it means that your brain has registered that and assumes that's the way it's meant to be.

You need to make it think otherwise by letting it know that you aren't reading so that you can fall asleep, you're reading because you want to know what the book talks about. Read more often books of interest to you to train your brain to think this way.

Step 5: Never let yourself fall asleep while reading.

Another step you can take is to never allow yourself fall asleep while reading. If you start to feel yourself drifting off, stop reading immediately and wake yourself up. Do a few jumping jacks, drink some coffee, preferably decaffeinated, or take a cold shower.

Doing these things teach your brain that reading time is not sleep time. Eventually, your brain will learn this and stop triggering the getting-ready-to-sleep mechanism each time a book is in your hands.

Step 6: Sit up straight when reading.

Another way to stay awake is to sit up straight when reading. It's very difficult to stay awake when you're lounging in your bed because your brain thinks a bed is for sleeping in.

It is also very difficult to stay awake when lying on the sofa which is supposed to be for relaxing. Find a not-too-comfy chair with a straight back and sit in it or if need be, stand.

I know a few people who can do it but falling asleep while standing takes quite a bit of work. You don't have to read this way always, but doing it for a while will teach your brain that staying awake and alert when it's time to read is what it's supposed to do.

Step 7: Develop interest in what you're reading.

It is important as well to read books that are interesting to you and capture your attention. It is difficult for your brain to shut down for sleep if it is consumed with what is being read.

At least until you get over the habit of falling asleep while reading, read books that really interest you. Pay close attention to each word and don't allow your eyes to skim the page.

Think about what you are reading. Consider it. Meditate on it. Be an active and not a passive reader. Teach your brain to think about whatever it is doing. Reading is an activity and so many of us tend to forget that when reading. Your brain should be involved in mental gymnastics while you read.

If you want to read a book that seems to be boring to you, research about interesting things about the subject and why you need to be knowledgeable in that area and intrigue yourself with them.

Step 8: You may want to read aloud if everything else refuses to work.

If you still fall asleep while reading after trying out the other steps, you may want to read aloud. Yes, it sounds quite silly but reading aloud triggers a different section of your brain, especially if the learning style you adopt is auditory.

Try reading the book aloud to yourself in front of a mirror and it will be impossible for you to fall asleep. Of course, you'll have to do this in a location where you'll not disturb others.

Aids to Prepare Your Memory for Studying

Studying is a two way thing that involves not just reading only but thinking also as I have tried to explain earlier. It is both passive and active. Reading is when you are

passive and are trying to acquire new information while thinking on the other hand is an active process you carry out to digest and assimilate the information as well as make it your own.

Your brain therefore has to be in the right mode whenever you want to read for optimum performance and service to you. Here are some ways you can prepare your memory for studying:

1. Relax.

Never go into studying an important material for examination or any other when you are tensed or stressed; ease up. Get yourself relaxed and free from stress before you plunge in.

From studies, it has been observed that the brain functions better when you're relaxed. Even if you use a thousand memory tricks and techniques, you won't make any headway when you try to force yourself by sheer determination to get the materials into your head.

It's better to relax first, get yourself loosened up then proceed to enjoy your learning and remembering.

2. Prepare your study place.

Believe it or not, where you choose to study plays a vital role in determining how much you can learn and remember. To battle the problems of low self-esteem, poor concentration and distractions, improve your learning environment.

Studying in a campus coffee shop, or in a cafeteria, or in front of a television or radio, will only get you struggling to learn and understand making you function at a level far below your potential.

Finding a study place:

Establishing a study place for your study is a crucial step you will have to take. Any place is not a good study place. A study place is a place with little or no distraction, free from disturbing association and conducive for study.

It is a place that should always remind you of study. It should be quiet, comfortable and relaxing. It should **never be on your bed, on the kitchen table, in the living room or in a cafeteria.**

The messages from these places, though some may be sublime, will never allow you get down to work. It's definitely not what you have in mind. These places are specifically designed for relaxation and food munching, and not work.

Some of the best places are a desk in your bedroom, in the basement or somewhere relatively free from distraction and competing association. You can also try the library or an empty class room in school if you're away from home.

Establishing a study place is the first foundation of your study program and should always precede study. Ensure you have a primary and one or two secondary places for study.

3. Make the place comfortable and positive.

Having a sense of purpose in making your study place comfortable is important. It shouldn't be comfortable enough to make you feel sleepy when studying.

Studying entails that you sit in a chair for a long period and for that reason, you'll surely need to make the chair comfortable but the kind of comfort here should only be such that your body is supported in a way that will not cause pain or discomfort that can get in the way of concentration.

Your chair should be well padded on its seat and back; if it's not, you can make it comfortable by placing a pillow on the seat and a blanket over the back.

Also, the study place should be well ventilated and the quality of air coming into the room should be considered. It shouldn't be stale or dead since fresh air is vital for your brain's effectiveness.

Remember that the brain constitutes 2% of the body's weight but it uses 20% of the oxygen taken in by the body. The temperature of your study place should be properly balanced.

Extreme conditions of hot and cold temperatures could cause distractions or discomfort. Air that is too warm may make you feel drowsy, lose focus and concentration.

Ensure you check the lighting in the room. Natural light is better than artificial light. Your study place should be well lighted. Incandescent light is better than fluorescent because the latter tends to strain the eyes and therefore impairment for effective studying.

Have your books and reading materials well-arranged and easily accessible in your study place and **paste a lot of positive messages around the place.**

The Six Laws of Learning

Many people have not come to realize that their memory can recall tens of thousands of words and their uses in the form of language. For me, I think that's definitely a prodigious feat.

Your memory is doing great if you can speak any language at all and find it easy to remember the nouns, verbs, pronouns and so on of that language whenever you speak in it. This same memory can help you function in any area or field in the society as well

secure an outstanding performance in JAMB if you can maximize it. Moreover, we only use a fraction of our memory's capacity per time.

Have you ever wondered why a student who started out as someone who enjoyed reading would later become somebody that hated to read? Despite the fact that he or she knows that their future is anchored on the books they read, they still do not want to read.

It has been discovered that even a good number of the so-called not-so-good students don't necessarily hate to read; they just do not find the motivation to read. My guess is that the reason for this lack of motivation is that they have not developed a reading culture.

Many students assume a reading culture to be the ability to read for a whole day. A person that reads the whole day doesn't have a healthy reading habit; he or she must be a book worm.

Let us now discuss here the six laws of learning which if well understood and applied are capable of helping you maximize your study time and develop a healthy reading culture and habit that will be beneficial to you for life even after you have long written JAMB and entered the university:

Law 1: The Law of Recitation and Repetition

This law states that *we remember anything that we learn more rapidly when we recite it to ourselves at frequent intervals during learning*. When we recite the material to ourselves, the amount of it that will be remembered is increased.

Instead of continued re-reading of a material, it is better to recite to yourself what you have learned as you continue reading the material. Interrupt your reading in order to run over what you have learned either by mentally recapitulating the main point or preparing a written summary.

Why is it important to repeat the material aloud than to rely exclusively on silent reading? There are four reasons:

1. It makes the work more interesting,
2. It makes us pay more attention to it,
3. It enables us to test ourselves, and
4. It utilizes the ear which is as much an aid to learning as the eye.

Law 2: The Law of Overlearning

This states that *the more thoroughly you study a material, the longer it will be remembered*. Any material that is well learned will be better remembered than the material that is poorly learned.

A very good principle to adopt while learning is to over-learn the material you are studying. Say it over and over again to yourself silently and aloud until you can repeat it several times without making mistakes.

Do not repeat what you wish to remember until you barely know it, but until you know it really well.

A helpful point in remembering a chapter of a book is to go over the outstanding facts, flows and links in one's mind after closing the book. Think about the subject matter with a view to reconciling it with what you have learned previously and logically arranging it in your mind for future reference.

You remember something better if you continue to study it even after you have thoroughly learned it. Whatever time you spend on learning something, spend half as much time again on over-learning it.

Something you learn in ten minutes will be remembered better if you repeat it for another five minutes after you know it.

Law 3: The Law of Confidence

A poor memory could be caused when we constantly tell ourselves that our memory is poor. It's just the law of attraction at work. As a man thinks in his heart, so is he.

An attitude of confidence in our memory makes it much better than it would have been when fed with negative emotions such as fear of failure, too much self-consciousness, stage fright and worry as these emotions interfere with the process of recalling.

Everyone has an understanding and retentive memory if activated. Your memory is not as bad as you think. In fact, its capability is amazing when harnessed.

When we focus on how our memory may have disappointed us in the past - maybe in an examination or oral interview or at a time when we needed it the most - then we will tend to assume that we have a poor memory, which is hardly the case.

You can improve the confidence you have in your memory by auto-suggestion and talking positively. You should try repeating to yourself twenty to thirty times when you retire to bed at night, after placing a ticking clock by your bedside, "Day by day and in every way, I remember better and better because I've got a great retentive memory".

When you grow drowsy, turn your attention to the clock and go to sleep hearing it tick the syllables - "I remember better, I remember better".

Demand good service of your memory and it will learn to respond. Learn to trust it and it will always to the occasion the moment it is needed. How can you expect your memory to give you good service when you continually speak badly of it to yourself and in the presence of others?

Your memory just as every other part of your body is very apt to accept your statements as truth; our bodies have a habit of taking us by our word in these matters.

Tell your memory what you expect it to do; then trust it and refrain from abusing it and giving it a bad name. Treat it well and it will serve you well.

Law 4: The Law of Reintegration

We remember better if certain conditions present at the time of learning are also present when we try to remember what we've learned. We tend to forget because we try to recall something in the circumstances different from those in which we learned it.

When the original conditions of learning are reinstated, remembering becomes enhanced. This is why it is often helpful when we want to recall something we have forgotten, to enhance our steps and repeat what we were doing when we originally committed the fact to memory.

For example, a man said "I find that as I lie down in bed, I recall a dream I had the previous night". He recalled because lying down in bed restated the conditions under which he originally experienced the dream.

Again, reintegration occurs when, for instance, we go from one room to fetch something from another room. On arrival there, we find that we have forgotten what we went for in order to remember we have to go back to our starting point and remind ourselves what it was we wanted.

It's easier to remember when we have reinstated the original conditions under which we learnt.

Law 5: The Law of Association

The law states that *for you to remember anything you are learning, you must associate it with something that is similar to what you are learning.*

For example, do you have difficulty in spelling the word "separate" and often spell "seperate" instead? To separate means "to part"; in other words, for you to remember separate, you can associate it with the word "part", and you will easily remember the spelling.

Another instance for one that goes to church: when you go to the altar to drop your offering, it is important that when you return, you should find the right place where you were sitting.

Since the chairs in church would usually look alike, how would you do it? You may recall that you often associate the position of your seat with something else such as the number or rows in front of it to the offering basket or a bag on a chair in the same row with the chair in which you were sitting. There are **three rules of association**:

Rule 1: The Rule of Similarity

This rule states that *two ideas may be associated if they resemble each other*. For example, the name Edison, which a man had been trying to recall for weeks was associated by similarity with the name of the famous Thomas Edison.

The name flashed back to his mind the moment he picked up a book and started to read an article about the great inventor.

Rule 2: The Rule of Contrast

This rule states that *two ideas may be associated if they contrast with each other*. For example, when the word *hunger* is mentioned, we at once think of *food*.

Rule 3: The Rule of Contiguity

This rule states that *two ideas may be associated if they have occurred together*. For example, a well-known song has the line: "moonlight and roses bring memories of you".

Moonlight and roses were associated by contiguity with the song writer's beloved because they had probably all been present on the same occasion.

Law 6: The Law of Revision

According to Mahesh Kapadia in "Increasing memory Power", "revision is the art, science and skill of learning. If you know the art, then you will be able to recall more from your mind."

He also went further to say that, if we are reading for two hours, we should divide the hours into periods of ten minutes in order to try and recall whatever we've studied within each period of ten minutes.

Then, retention will take place. Doing the second revision after 24 hours, the third revision after seven days and the fourth after 30 days will fortify the retention of the memory. If you revise your notes in this manner, your recall percentage will increase.

So, study your note like you eat food. You eat food in small bits; similarly you should study your note in small sections. We start forgetting little by little, what we have retained. So revision becomes essential.

If we do not revise a subject after an interval, we will forget it completely after a lapse of few days. Revision after an interval of few days is important.

I have observed that during examination time, students' memories are usually fresh with what they've studied and revised for the exams, but sooner or later, after the exams are over, they forget most of what they had studied for exams.

How much of what you have read you remember or forget is dependent on you. Supposing you prepared for a test and your retention of all you read initially was **100 percent**:

- After **10 days**, if you did not revise those things you read earlier, your retention would be reduced to **80 percent** and 20 percent of what you read would have been forgotten,
- After **20 days**, it would come down to **60 percent**,
- After **30 days**, it would fall down to **40 percent**,
- After **90 days**, it would come down to **10 percent**, and
- After **120 days**, you'll be left with only **5 percent** or **probably with nothing**.

If you do not revise regularly whatever you have earlier learnt, it will begin to fade and gradually vanish. Therefore, if you want to retain it for a long time, revision at intervals is very essential and compulsory.

Part 5:

Answering JAMB

Examination Questions



Seven Ways to Answer JAMB-UTME CBT Questions

In this book, I have to give you every reason not to be afraid of the new development in JAMB especially if it is your first time of writing a computer-based examination. I have also tried to point out some advantages the Computer-Based Test has over the Pencil and Paper Type.

I did not write a computer-based examination during my time but I have since then written a number of them while seeking scholarships and participating in competitions.

The first scholarship I got in school came from an aptitude test that was computer-based and from my experience, I can confidently say that computer-based exams are much better and whether we like it or not, the world is advancing everyday and Nigeria does not intend to lag behind.

Here are seven ways to answer JAMB questions, particularly a computer-based type examination. Please pay attention to each of them carefully.

1. Make sure you read the instructions very carefully.

Since this is a new system, you cannot assume you know all the rules. Go through every single instruction that appears on the screen as you proceed to take the examination and ensure you adhere to them.

Usually, in this kind of exam, those instructions are usually more like a guide giving you the details as to how you are to proceed with answering your questions. Every instruction given to you by the invigilator, the invigilator of your center and every instruction you see on your computer screen as you start must be properly and accordingly followed.

2. Ensure you fill in the necessary details and check all fields properly.

It is likely that you will first be asked to enter in your registration number which will be used to auto-generate the details which you registered with. This of course means that you must have your registration details at the tip of your fingers.

Ensure that whatever is auto-generated before you to see is well cross-checked and matches your registration details to avoid losing your result to someone else. Should there be any problems, seek the help of the supervisor or any invigilator or personnel around. Anything you are asked to fill in to the system should be typed in properly.

3. Plan how much time you will spend on each of the subjects.

This will depend on the amount of time that will be allowed for the examination. JAMB would usually give three and a half hours for their exams but who knows, this might change with the new development.

However, whatever time they give you should be well shared for the four subjects to avoid wasting much time on a particular subject. Like I have earlier mentioned, if you know what you are doing, the Use of English paper is one that you can easily finish in the shortest possible time and have more time for other subjects.

So, plan how you will spend time on each subject and be sure to adhere to it even if you have not finished by then so that you can adequately touch all subjects. Your time will display and count down on the screen before you.

4. Begin with the Use of English paper and then proceed to another subject you know best.

You will likely be asked to start with Use of English for at least thirty to forty minutes before moving on to other papers but whether you are asked to or not, I will advice you do that because if you have prepared well, you can finish it fast in about thirty minutes and bag good marks there and this will give you confidence to take on other quite difficult subjects.

When you are done with Use of English, proceed to the next subject that you are strongest in. The reason for this is that, where you have strength, you will most likely answer more correctly and quickly which will give you even more confidence to continue.

5. Don't spend more than a minute on any question.

Depending on the type of question, you may need to spend more time on some than others. Some questions are easily answered before you even finish reading the question, these kinds of questions should take you not more than thirty seconds to answer.

Others require logical reasoning and calculation and will likely take more time. No matter how much time they take, please do not allow the time you spend on them to exceed a minute, if you are going to finish your exam on time.

If the question seems to be taking more time than expected, look at the options and check if you have gotten enough information from your calculation and reasoning as the case may be to infer an answer; if you have, please the most logical answer and proceed. Speed as much as accuracy is very important I any examination.

6. Select an answer for every question as you meet them.

Had the examination been a Pencil and Paper Type, I would instead be saying start with the questions you know best and then proceed to the others afterward because from flipping through your exam paper, you will be able to easily identify these easy questions but not in a Computer-Based exam.

Here, you will only be able to see one question on the screen at a time. If you choose to answer the questions chronologically - according to how they are numbered - fine and good; if you choose to pick questions randomly as your instinct guides you and answer - also good.

Whichever way you choose, make sure you provide an answer whether you are sure or not (if you are not sure, guess logically) for every question before your screen as you meet them because you may not have all the time left after the exams to select and go back to those questions.

If you so choose, you can write down somewhere or find a way to note questions you were not sure of should you end up having enough time left to go back.

The only questions you may leave and come back are those ones you are sure you know but may take too much time to solve but when you keep doing this over and over in an attempt to find the simpler questions, you may end up solving little or no questions when the time is up.

Remember, once you run out of time, the computer will not here, "Please sir, just two more minutes" , neither will it go around collecting other people' s scripts while you quickly shade blank spaces on your answer script.

Your computer will automatically submit your exam for assessment the very moment your time is up and you will have to stop even if you have not answered a single question.

7. Guess logically by elimination answers to questions you are not sure of.

Often times, you will encounter questions you have an idea about but you are not sure of the correct answer. Some other times, they will be questions you seem to have no idea about.

Nevertheless, while many students would usually resort to ‘tum-bum tum-bum’ guessing – a haphazard pattern of guessing answers to questions with the hope that one would be lucky – that is not the best resort.

The best way to face such questions and provide very reasonable and likely answers is by ‘**logically guessing by elimination**’ .

This can be likened to the 50:50 lifeline in the “Who wants to be a millionaire” television program where the computer takes away two incorrect options and leaves two options – one being the correct answer and the other an incorrect option.

After reading the questions, if you have prepared properly, when you go over the options, you will discover at least one or two that can never be the answers, eliminate them and then work with the remaining options, that way you would have increased your chances of picking the correct answer.

Five Tips for Handling Exam Tension

As your JAMB examination begins to approach, tension becomes quite an inevitable feeling. Your ability to handle exam tension will greatly affect the outcome and performance at the end of the day.

Tension as we well know has to do with mental worry or emotional strain that makes natural relaxed behavior impossible. In other words, the more tensed-up you are, the less relaxed you will be in the exam hall and this will have great effects on how much of what you’ ve read you remember and how you answer questions.

Handling tension is therefore a skill you'd really not want to do without as a student. In order to help you develop this skill, I've enumerated from my experience and the experiences of some interviewed first-class students five time-tested tips for handling tension in exam conditions:

Tip 1: Ensure you make hay while the sun shines.

More than 70% of the students who are usually most tensed-up as exams draw closer when asked will tell you that the main reason for the worry and anxiety was that they were scared that they hadn't prepared enough.

In order to feel more relaxed about your exams, you must prepare adequately beforehand. You also need to know how to make the most of your 'injury time'.

At least a week to the exam, you should be doing a lot of revision than reading to acquire new knowledge; this is when going through and solving more past questions comes in handy. Revise those things you have previously studied and you will feel more confident and less tensed up about the exam.

Tip 2: Stop all reading at least two hours to the exam time.

I cannot over-emphasize the importance of practicing this because so many students have fallen prey to last-minute confusion and apprehension by just coming across something they had forgotten to read or some question that posed problematic to answer before they entered into the exam hall.

It is okay to revise notes and especially jotted-down points before the examinations to make last minute impressions but trying to take in new data can be disastrous.

Moreover, once your state of mind has been negatively affected before the exams, even what you already know could end up proving difficult to remember.

Tip 3: Recap those things you have read and studied.

By ‘recapping those things you have read and studied’ , I’ m trying lay more emphasis on thinking about what you’ ve studied (trying to remember things you’ ve read) and revised as well as discussing with others around – that is if you are able to make friends writing the same subject combination with you and at that center – about what you’ ve read (asking yourselves likely questions).

This helps to refresh your memory much like the way the icons that previously did not display properly on your computer desktop display well when refreshed.

Task your brain to try and recall some of the information you have gathered and memorized for the examination before the exam starts. This will put your memory in ‘exam mode’ .

Tip 4: Be confident and positive.

‘Be confident and positive.’ This sounds very easy but it has been discovered that a great number of students instead focus more what they did not read well or what was seemed difficult about the subjects that were not quite easy to understand and so many other negative thoughts and ideas.

A positive attitude is very crucial tool for handling exam tension. Being optimistic and confident that you’ ll remember what you’ ve read, you’ ll write well and that you’ ll perform well goes a long way in determining the outcome of your exams. It all begins in the mind.

Tip 5: Commit your exams to God in prayer.

A very important tip indeed but usually treated as least important. According to a popular saying, ‘prayer moves the hand that moves the universe’ . This is an indisputable and proven fact.

You will feel much more relaxed about your exams when you' ve committed them before God in the place of prayer and most especially if you' ve carried your own responsibility of preparing adequately.

God blesses the efforts of people that ask. Help yourself, ask for help from above and heaven will in turn help you because you have begun by doing so for yourself.

The truth is that a lot of students already start failing when they set their minds in a negative state of worry, tension, fear and anxiety by not doing what needs to be done.

This therefore means that if you can develop this enviable and desirable skill of handling exam tension, 40 to 50% of your success will be already guaranteed.

Part 6:

Conclusion



Dare to believe and take action

What Matters is What You Believe and Do

I have tried to make this e-book as helpful and as practical as possible but I can conclude without telling you in whose hands the key lies. The key did not lie in this book.

The secrets I have tried to reveal to you with this book have been within you and around your environment; you just didn't realize them on time.

You have tremendous potential within you and this is not just a motivational statement, it is a statement of fact. If you do not take responsibility for that potential God has created you with and maximize it, no one else will do it for.

I strongly believe that you can make it this time with an outstanding result in JAMB that will give you an express ticket into the university but it does not really matter what I believe if you do not believe you can.

You must believe you can and do not stop at believing because then it will turn to wishful thinking which will take you nowhere. Life gives you what you demand from it. What you have now and where you are is as result of what you have asked and demanded of life.

So, make strategic plans and do not just stop there because a plan that does not lead to commensurate action is a waste of time and efforts and will result in absolutely no achievement.

They say that 'he who fails to plan, plans to fail' – which means that either way, whether you like it or not, you are planning – but I will like to add that 'he who fails to act on his plan has not planned at all and has already decided on failure' .

Therefore, act on your plan with all the strength that is in you knowing that you hold your precious and bright future in your hands and nobody can make it happen except you. Be very diligent and disciplined in carrying out your plan.

Keep trying no matter how many times you fail. You understand that concept? Go over it again and again and yes, again until you grasp it because you have been created with a capable brain. Take action today as if you would have no chance to do it again tomorrow.

Finally, do not stop there, ‘Remember your Creator in the days of your youth and you would have secured not just your future but that of generations after you’ .

Seek God beyond the ‘religious, conventional and traditional’ way, seek Him in sincerity and an open heart and He will open your eyes to see and your heart to receive the kind of wisdom your mates would never dream or imagine having.

He will make you a problem solver in your nation and a solution provider in your world.

I am happy and honored to have been able to connect with you in this book and I am delighted to have been able to share with you principles of academic success that have helped me and that will surely help you if you learn them and practice them.

I know that I have just shared ideas with a great person who is going somewhere to happen and I really hope to meet you there at the top someday. God bless you.

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