

EPREUVE ORALE D'ANGLAIS

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4. A Pressing Need for a Competent Workforce

Globally, the pandemic of graduate unemployment is rising. According to an International Labour Organisation (ILO) report cited in the 2013 edition of the Economist, 75 million young people were looking for jobs. International Labour Organisation indicates that the unemployment rate in Ghana was 13.7 per cent in 2018. Studies suggest that unemployment is higher among the educated youth than the uneducated.

The question is how are universities contributing to producing an educated workforce who are competitive, market-driven and industry-relevant? Efforts by universities to fill the critical gap between academia and industry, theory and practice with professionally competent workforce are, therefore, commendable.

The University of Professional Studies Accra (UPSA), in keeping faith with its parliamentary mandate as the only public university in Ghana accredited to run professional diploma, degree and postgraduate programmes, has been producing industry-relevant graduates with competitive edge and competencies sought for both the local and international job markets.

According to the Deputy Director of the Institute of Professional Studies (IPS) Dr. Frederick Doe, a unit of the University of Professional Studies (UPSA), exercised this mandate by integrating professional causes into the mainstream degree programmes to ensure that students were equipped with the skills, competencies, knowledge and practical know-how to function effectively in industry.

In recognition of the robust professional training given to UPSA students, Dr. Frederick Doe disclosed that when students enrolled for professional courses, they were exempted from levels one and two of the Chartered Institute of Marketing (CIM) and the Certified Chartered Accountants (ACCA) programme, enabling them to leapfrog in their professional development.

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