

A History of St Johns

St John's Seminary Bible School was started in 1985 by the Diocese of Central Tanganyika. The secondary school was added initially to assist the pastors studying at the Bible school to gain their secondary education. As this need faded the Secondary school changed focus and joined a government initiative to educate girls. As this need also faded St. John's secondary school became co-ed and as it is today. Throughout the whole of this history the Bible school has continued to give theological training to pastors, Catechists and Evangelists.

Secondary education in Tanzania is taught in English whereas primary education is provided in Swahili and includes English as a subject taught. Secondary education is provided across four years of education with students taking national exams after the second and fourth years. Tanzania follows the 'O' level system for secondary education and a student's final grade is a division, Division 1, being high and Division 4, being low. The division is worked out by averaging the student's exam results across 7-10 subjects. At the end of the 4th year all of a student's exam results from that year are averaged to give them one grade called a division. Students who attain divisions 1 and 2 are very able to go onto study A' levels. Students with division 3 may be able to study A' levels or to go on to a vocational course such as nursing or teaching. Division 4 students can also look at the vocational options available to them but they find that they have less choice. The syllabuses are academic that combined with teaching in English makes this level of education inaccessible for many students. For this reason we also run a growing stream of vocational courses including Mechanics and Tailoring.