

CHIEF DIRECTORATE: EXAMINATIONS AND ASSESSMENT

Steve Vukile Tshwete Complex, Zone 6 Zwelitsha, 5608, Private Bag X0032, Bisho, 5605 REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA:

Enquiries: **Mr H. West**. Tel: 040 602 7031. Fax: 040 602 7295. E-mail: Hadley.West@ecdoe.gov.za

Website: www.ecdoe.gov.za

Ref. no. 13/P
Enquire: Mr H. West

Tel.: (040) 602 7031/082 083 5502
Fax: 040 602 7295

ASSESSMENT INSTRUCTION 25 OF 2021

TO: DEPUTY DIRECTORS-GENERAL
CHIEF DIRECTORS
HEAD OFFICE DIRECTORS AND DISTRICT DIRECTORS
CHIEF EDUCATION SPECIALISTS
CIRCUIT MANAGERS
DEPUTY CHIEF EDUCATION SPECIALISTS
SENIOR EDUCATION SPECIALISTS
PRINCIPALS OF PUBLIC AND INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS (GRADE 12)
TEACHER UNIONS/ORGANISATIONS
SCHOOL GOVERNING BODIES

DATE: 01 JULY 2021

GRADE 12 MULTILINGUAL PREPARATORY EXAMINATIONS

1. Around 25 different languages are spoken in South Africa, of which 11 have been granted official status in terms of section 6 of the Constitution (Act No. 108 of 1996), on the grounds that their usage includes about 98% of the total population.
2. In continuation of the pilot project that was launched in 2020 to promote the use of previously marginalised indigenous African Languages in all schools, the Eastern Cape Department of Education will again offer question papers for selected subjects in Grade 12 for the Preparatory Examinations for 2021. The schools that are earmarked are mainly quintiles 1–3 schools. The NSC Grade 12 learners in these schools will be offered the choice to write the Preparatory Examinations in six selected subjects in either English or isiXhosa or Sesotho. These languages form the mother tongue for most learners in the Eastern Cape.
3. Listed below are some of the legislations that underpin and guide the implementation of multilingual education in schools:
 - South African Constitution (Clause 29)
 - *National Education Policy Act* (Act no. 27 of 1996)
 - *South African Schools Act* (Act no. 84 of 1996)
 - National Curriculum Statement
 - National Develop Plan (Chapter 15)
 - National Language Policy Framework
 - Department of Education Language Policy (1997).

4. **SELECTED SUBJECTS IN 2021**

The following are selected six (6) subjects that will be offered for multilingual question papers for the September Preparatory Examinations:

- Accounting P1 and P2 (*first time in 2021*)
- Agricultural Sciences P1 and P2 (*first time in 2021*)
- Physical Sciences P1 and P2 (*first time in 2021*)
- History P1 and P2
- Life Sciences P1 and P2
- Mathematics P1 and P2

5. The above subjects' papers will be made available for the NSC Grade 12 Preparatory Examinations in the following language format:

- isiXhosa and English
- Sesotho and English

6. **PROJECT TARGET QUINTILE SCHOOLS FOR 2021**

- The following learners and quintiles will be targeted in 2021 for the Preparatory Examinations:
- Grade 12 learners in Quintile 1 schools
- Grade 12 learners in Quintile 2 schools
- Grade 12 learners in Quintile 3 schools

7. **LANGUAGE CHOICE OF WRITING PREPARATORY EXAMINATIONS**

The following conditions must be adhered to:

- A learner may select isiXhosa/Sesotho as a preferred language during the Preparatory Examinations when answering questions.
- Learners are allowed to read questions in two languages as the papers will be in a bilingual format.
- Learner will however be allowed to switch between languages – that is write one question in one language for example in isiXhosa/Sesotho and then write a following question in English if deemed necessary to do so.
- A learner may not be penalised in any manner for using different languages in answering questions within the same answering script/answer book.
- The ultimate aim is to ensure that the learners' language needs are accommodated.

8. MARKING OF ANSWER SCRIPTS

Schools in conjunction with the Curriculum Section in districts must draft a plan to mark the scripts of learners in these multilingual examinations in the six selected subjects.

- In the event that a teacher is unable to mark any of the scripts of a particular subject in a particular subject, schools within the same cluster can be approached for assistance.
- The moderation of the scripts must also be catered for.
- Any plans made must ensure that the credibility of the marking process and the examination process is not compromised.

9. MONITORING AND REPORTING

Districts and schools will be required to monitor the implementation of the goals of the project and provide feedback. The feedback is vital as it will provide the means to do a diagnostic analysis of the success of the project as well as the areas that need to be improved. The appropriate diagnostic and monitoring tools will be made available to schools before the Preparatory Examination commences.

10. The ultimate goal of the project is to initiate a fresh approach to multilingualism in South Africa and to strongly encourage the utilisation of the African indigenous languages as official languages in order to foster and promote national unity. It takes into account the broad acceptance of linguistic diversity, social justice, the principle of equal access to public services and programmes, and respect for language rights.
11. Heads of educational institutions should ensure that the content of this assessment instruction is distributed to all Grade 12 teachers, learners, subject advisors and other relevant stakeholders.
12. Heads of educational institutions are also at liberty to contact the Education Language Policy and Exams Directorates for any relevant clarity in the process of administering the content of this assessment instruction.



MR R TYWAKADI
DDG: CURRICULUM MANAGEMENT AND DELIVERY

09/07/2021

DATE