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## **ASSESSMENT & EXAMINATIONS**

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### **ASSESSMENT INSTRUCTION 19 OF 2016**

**TO: DEPUTY DIRECTORS-GENERAL  
CHIEF DIRECTORS  
HEAD OFFICE DIRECTORS AND DISTRICT DIRECTORS  
CHIEF EDUCATION SPECIALISTS  
EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT OFFICERS  
DEPUTY CHIEF EDUCATION SPECIALISTS  
SENIOR EDUCATION SPECIALISTS  
PRINCIPALS OF SCHOOLS WITH FET PHASE  
TEACHER UNIONS / ORGANISATIONS**

**DATE: 7 APRIL 2016**

**PROMULGATION OF AMENDMENT TO POLICY AND REGULATION PERTAINING TO  
THE NATIONAL CURRICULUM STATEMENT: GRADES R-12**

1. The Department of Education received Circular S15 of 2015 from the Department of Basic Education (DBE) and Circular S1 of 2016, which is giving more clarity on the contents of S15 of 2015.
2. The Minister of Basic Education has promulgated amendments to policy and regulations pertaining to the National Curriculum Statement Grades R-12 and the Conduct, Administration and Management of the National Senior Certificate Examination.
3. The amendments have been published in Government Notice 1161 published in Government Gazette 39435
4. The amendments are on the following:
  - 4.1 **Special dispensation for FET learners regarding a change in the offering of subjects in Grades 10-11 and in Grade 12:**
    - 4.1.1 A learner may change a maximum of two subjects in Grade 10, provided this is done by the end of the second term, subject to the approval of the Principal of the school where the learner is registered. Such change must be done before 30 June of the Grade 10 year.

- 4.1.2 A learner may change two subjects in Grade 11, provided this is done before 31 March, subject to the approval of the Principal of the school where the learner is registered.
- 4.1.3 In exceptional cases, a learner may change one additional subject in Grade 11, after the release of his/her Grade 11 end of the year results. This must be done before 15 December of the Grade 11 year. This means that no subject change will be done by schools in Grade 12 from 2016.

**4.2 The offering of Mathematics as a compulsory subject with either Accounting or Physical Sciences as the one of the major subject:**

4.2.1 Learners offering Physical Sciences and Accounting as one or more of their optional subjects selected from Group B in the policy document, *National policy pertaining to the Programme and Promotion Requirements of the National Curriculum Statement Grades R-12*, must offer Mathematics as a compulsory subject selected from Group A in the said document.

4.2.2 Circular S15 of 2015 was issued at a stage when school plans for the 2016 year were already finalized, the implementation dates have been deferred as follows:

- 2017 in Grade 10;
- 2018 in Grade 11; and
- 2019 in Grade 12.

4.2.3 Schools that have already implemented this change with effect from 2016 should not alter their subject combinations. The extension is granted to accommodate schools that were not able to implement the change in 2016.

**4.3 The implementation of Technology subjects with specialisation:**

4.3.1 With regard to the implementation of the amendments, the implementation dates are as follows:

4.3.2 The Technology subjects with specialisation, namely, Civil Technology, Electrical Technology and Mechanical Technology, as well as Technical Mathematics and Technical Science:

- Grade 10 in 2016
- Grade 11 in 2017; and
- Grade 12 in 2018.

4.3.3 The Technology subjects without specialisation, namely, Civil Technology, Electrical Technology and Mechanical Technology will be phased out as follows:

- Grade 10 in 2016;
- Grade 11 in 2017; and
- Grade 12 in 2018.

4.3.4 Schools currently offering both academic and technical pathways but do not meet the requirements of a technical school may, however, for a transitional period of three years commencing on 1 January 2016, continue offering the technical pathway of their choice. However, such schools must, before the expiry date of this transitional



arrangement in 2018, either comply with the requirements for a technical school as contemplated in the definition of a technical school or revert to an academic pathway.

**4.4 The implementation dates of South African Sign Language at Home Language Level are as follows:**

- Grades R, 1, 2, 3 and 9 in 2015
- Grades 4, 5, 6 and 10 in 2016
- Grades 7, 8, 11 in 2017; and
- Grade 12 in 2018.

**4.5 Accommodation of independent schools by means of provisos in the Regulations Pertaining to the National Curriculum Statement Grades R-12 as identified by NAISA**

4.5.1 Independent schools must comply with the minimum outcomes and standards regarding the programme requirements of the subjects listed in sub-regulation (5)(1)(b A), namely, the overview of the relevant subject content, as contemplated in section 2 of the applicable Curriculum and Assessment Policy Statement, provided they have comparable content sequencing principles in place as listed in sections 2 and 3 of the said policy document.

4.5.2 Should an independent school's performance not meet the required performance targets as stipulated by the relevant authority, such a school must comply with all subject requirements as stipulated in sections 2 and 3 of the Curriculum and Assessment Policy Statements.

4.5.3 These provisos are applicable with effect from 2016.

5. Both Circular S15 of 2015 and S1 of 2016 should be read in conjunction with the following policy documents:

- *National Policy Pertaining to the Programme and Promotion Requirements of the National Curriculum Statement Grades R-12;*
- *Regulations Pertaining to the National Curriculum Statement Grades R-12;*
- *National Policy Pertaining to the Conduct, Administration and Management of the National Senior Certificate examination;*
- *Curriculum and Assessment Policy Statements (CAPS).*

The above National policy documents and Regulations are available on the National Department website: [www.education.gov.za](http://www.education.gov.za) under Documents Library-Policies.

All Heads of Education Institutions should ensure that the contents of this Assessment Instruction are brought to the attention of all relevant district officials, principals and teachers of both public and independent schools



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**DDG: INSTITUTIONAL OPERATIONS MANAGEMENT**