



Province of the
EASTERN CAPE
EDUCATION

ASSESSMENT & EXAMINATIONS

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ASSESSMENT INSTRUCTION 54 OF 2017

**TO: DEPUTY DIRECTORS-GENERAL
CHIEF DIRECTORS
HEAD OFFICE DIRECTORS AND DISTRICT DIRECTORS
CHIEF EDUCATION SPECIALISTS
EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT OFFICERS
DEPUTY CHIEF / SENIOR EDUCATION SPECIALISTS
PRINCIPALS OF ALL PUBLIC AND INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS
(GRADE 10-12)
TEACHER UNIONS / ORGANISATIONS
SCHOOL GOVERNING BODIES**

DATE: 11 SEPTEMBER 2017

<p>MERGING THE NATIONAL SENIOR CERTIFICATE (NSC) SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION WITH THE JUNE SENIOR CERTIFICATE (SC) EXAMINATION</p>

1. The Provincial Department of Education received Circular E25 of 2017 from the Department of Basic Education (DBE).
2. The Council of Education Ministers (CEM) has endorsed the merging of National Senior Certificate (NSC) Supplementary Examination with the Senior Certificate (SC) Examination, with effect from 2019, and the Department of Basic Education (DBE) is in the process of inviting public comments on this new proposal.
3. This implies that as from 2018, Grade 12 learners who write the National Senior Certificate (NSC) examination in November 2018, who would have qualified to write the supplementary examination in February / March 2019, will write the equivalent of the supplementary examination in June 2019.
4. The main purpose of the Supplementary Examination is to afford borderline candidates that are short of one or two subjects, or short of one subject to gain entry into higher education or a specific occupation, a second chance.



5. However, the observation of the Department of Basic Education, with regards to the Supplementary examination, over the last few years has been as follows:
 - a) The short period, i.e. between the beginning of January and mid-February, that learners have available to prepare for the Supplementary examination, does not provide learners with adequate time to prepare for the Supplementary examination and hence, performance in the supplementary examination, has been very poor.
 - b) There has been high levels of 'No-shows' to each of these examinations as high as 50% per subject for the previous years consistently. This results in huge amounts of wasteful expenditure, given the amount of resources that go into the preparations for these examinations.
 - c) Learners who sit for the Supplementary Examination do not qualify for admission to tertiary institutions in the same year that they write the supplementary examination, as the results are only released in May when the first University semester is almost concluded.
6. Therefore, the Department of Basic Education (DBE) has presented a plan to the Council of Education Ministers, which will allow for the Supplementary Examination in 2019 to be merged with the June Senior Certificate Examination. This implies that candidates that would have written the Supplementary Examination in February/March 2019 can now write the June Senior Certificate Examination in 2019.
7. The advantages of merging the Supplementary examination with the June examinations are as follows:
 - a) It allows candidates more time to prepare for the June examinations and this will allow for improved performance and will also reduce the percentage of 'No Shows', given that learners will be better prepared for this examination.
 - b) The May/June Senior Certificate Examination will afford 'open access' to learners since there would be no restrictions to writing the June examinations, as is the case with the current Supplementary examination. This implies that learners that failed to meet the requirements in the November examination, together with those that passed but seek to improve their performance, may register to write the June examination.
 - c) There would be considerable saving for the Government, as the current three examination opportunities i.e. November, Supplementary and June examinations will be reduced to two i.e. November and June Examinations.
8. It is therefore important that this new proposed arrangement relating to the merging of the Supplementary examination with the June Senior Certificate examination be brought to the attention of all current Grade 11 learners, who will be affected by this new dispensation in 2019.

9. It also needs to be noted that policy has not yet been amended to accommodate this change as the Department is currently in the process of inviting comments from the public on this new dispensation. But, nonetheless, schools are being informed of this proposal, so that the Grade 11 learners can be prepared for this new arrangement, if finally approved and promulgated as policy.
10. The Heads of all Education Institutions should ensure that the contents of this Assessment Instruction are distributed to all FET schools and relevant stakeholders.



P. VINJEVOLD

(A) DDG: EDUCATION PLANNING, EVALUATION AND MONITORING

