



CHIEF DIRECTORATE: EXAMINATIONS AND ASSESSMENT

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ASSESSMENT INSTRUCTION 54 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: 02 NOVEMBER 2021

SPECIAL MARK ADJUSTMENT/CONDONATION DISPENSATION FOR LEARNERS IN GRADES 4–9

1. This Assessment Instruction has the reference to National Assessment Circular 03 of 2021.
2. The purpose of this circular is to outline the special condonation dispensation for learners in Grades 4–9 in 2021.
3. Mark adjustments and condonations are used as a special mechanism to address any disadvantage emanating from the implementation of policy changes and other challenges that may be unique to that academic year. In 2021, due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic disruptions and related learning losses experienced in Grades 4–9, the application of this special dispensation, as in 2020, is necessary.



4. In 2021, the mark adjustment/condonation dispensation will be as follows:
 - a. Mark adjustments are applicable to Grades 4–9.
 - b. A mark adjustment of 5% is allowed in a maximum of three subjects. This implies that a mark adjustment of 5% can be applied in three (3) different subjects.
 - c. Thereafter, the condonation in Mathematics must be applied. Where a learner has met all the requirements in respect of promotion from one grade to the next grade, except has not attained a level 3 or higher (40% and higher) in Mathematics and therefore has to be retained, such a learner must be condoned in Mathematics. This implies that the Mathematics mark is condoned and the learner must be promoted to the next grade, if all other pass requirements are met.
 - d. The condonation in Mathematics is applicable to Grades 4 to 9.
 - e. Grade 9 learners who obtain a condonation in Mathematics have the option of continuing with Mathematics in Grade 10. They also have the option to take Mathematical Literacy in Grade 10.
5. On the mark schedule, the adjusted marks are shown. Schools may keep a record of the original marks and adjusted marks on separate sheets for internal purposes. The adjusted marks must be shown on the learner's report.
6. On the mark schedule, the original mark attained by the learner in Mathematics must be indicated and the letter "C" must be inserted next to the mark to indicate that this mark has been condoned. The same would apply in the way the mark is reflected on the learner's report. On the learner's report, the following statement must appear: *"Mathematics mark has been condoned and the learner is promoted to the next grade."*



7. This implies that Mathematics remains a compulsory subject taken by all learners, but learners may be condoned in Mathematics.
8. The above condonation dispensation does not, in any way, change the other subject progression requirements for the Intermediate and Senior Phase, as stipulated in *Paragraph 21 of the National Policy pertaining to the programme and promotion requirements of the National Curriculum Statement Grade R-12 published as Government Notices No. 1115 and 1116 in Government Gazette No. 36042 of 28 December 2012.*
9. Please note that the adjustment/condonation dispensation and mark adjustments is applicable in 2021 for Grades 4-9.
10. The information in this Assessment Instruction must be timeously disseminated to schools and circuits and districts must ensure that the above adjustment /condonation dispensation is applied accurately across all schools in 2021.
11. Your support in ensuring compliance with the contents of this circular will be greatly appreciated

DDG: CURRICULUM MANAGEMENT AND DELIVERY
MR R. TYWAKADI

02 November 2021
DATE