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**ASSESSMENT INSTRUCTION 27 OF 2024**

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

**DATE: 30 MAY 2024**

**GRADE 12 MULTILINGUAL PREPARATORY EXAMINATIONS (ISIXHOSA AND SESOTHO)  
VERSIONING OF SELECTED QUESTION PAPERS)**

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 NSC Preparatory Examinations for 2024. The schools that are earmarked are mainly quintiles 1-3 schools. The NSC Grade 12 learners in these schools will be offered the Question papers in the Preparatory Examinations in six selected subjects in English and IsiXhosa or English and Sesotho.
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 development Plan (Chapter 15)
- National Language Policy Framework
- Department of Education Language Policy (1997)

#### 4. **SELECTED SUBJECTS IN 2024.**

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

- Accounting P1 and P2
- Agricultural Sciences P1 and P2
- Physical Sciences P1 and P2
- History P1 and P2
- Life Sciences P1 and P2
- Mathematics P1 and P2

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

- isiXhosa and English
- Sesotho and English

#### 6. **PROJECT TARGET QUINTILE SCHOOLS FOR 2024**

- The following learners and quintiles will be targeted in 2024 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.
- Learners will however be allowed to switch between languages - that is write one question in one language for example in isiXhosa /Sesotho and then write 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 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. The 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.



17/07/2023

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**MR R. TYWAKADI**  
**DDG: CURRICULUM MANAGEMENT AND DELIVERY**

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**DATE**