



CHIEF DIRECTORATE: EXAMINATIONS AND ASSESSMENT

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ASSESSMENT INSTRUCTION 53 OF 2025

**TO: DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL
CHIEF DIRECTORS
HEAD OFFICE DIRECTORS AND DISTRICT DIRECTORS
CHIEF EDUCATION SPECIALISTS
CIRCUIT MANAGERS
DEPUTY CHIEF/SENIOR EDUCATION SPECIALISTS
PRINCIPALS OF ALL PUBLIC AND INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS
TEACHER UNIONS/ORGANISATIONS
SCHOOL GOVERNING BODIES**

DATE: 24 OCTOBER 2025

REGISTRATION OF INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS, PUBLIC SCHOOLS, PART-TIME /DESIGNATED CENTERS AS EXAMINATION CENTRES FOR 2025 EXAMINATION

PLEASE NOTE: This document refers to registration of examination centres and NOT to registration of institutions wishing to offer education.

1. LEGISLATIVE POLICY FRAMEWORK

- 1.1 Regulations pertaining to the Conduct, Administration and Management of Assessment for the National Senior Certificate, published in the Government Gazette No. 31337, Volume 518 of 29 August 2008 and as amended, have reference.
- 1.2 This Assessment Instruction serves to inform Principals of schools, of the procedures regarding the registration of examination centres that will offer the National Senior Certificate Examination for Grade 10,11 and 12, Independent Schools and Designated/Part-time centres.
- 1.3 Regulations stipulate that all new public and independent schools must be audited to ensure that they have the appropriate facilities to serve as examination centres.



1.4 The Regulation also states that private providers must apply for registration as examination centres, for which the completion of a Service Contract with the Provincial Department of Education is a precondition to qualify for registration as examination centres.

2. REQUIREMENTS FOR THE REGISTRATION OF INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS AS AN EXAMINATION CENTRE

2.1 In order for an independent school to be registered as an examination centre by either an accredited private assessment body or the state, such a school, besides being registered as a school, **must also be accredited by Umalusi.**

2.2 Independent schools that have complied with registration by the relevant Provincial Education Department and accreditation by Umalusi must apply to the relevant assessment body for registration as examination centres under their own names.

2.3 The registration of independent schools as examination centres is also determined by the fulfilment of the requirements of the assessment body which is either the public or a private assessment body accredited by Umalusi.

3. ESTABLISHMENT AND REGISTRATION OF EXAMINATION CENTRES

3.1 Examination centres must be registered by the assessment body in accordance with the following criteria-

- (a) A suitable venue to accommodate candidates, i.e., enough space and appropriate furniture to be used by candidates.
- (b) Security of the venue.
- (c) Provision of proper lighting.
- (d) Availability of water and toilet facilities.
- (e) Suitably qualified teaching staff or members of the community who can be trained as invigilators.



- (f) Availability of a strong room or safe for the safekeeping of assessment material.
The capacity to assess learners experiencing barriers to learning.
 - (g) The capacity to complete the School-Based Assessment requirements, Practical Assessments Task, and Language Oral Assessment.
 - (h) Report on previous irregularities at the centre with specific reference to the nature and outcome of irregularities.
- 3.2 All examination centres must be evaluated by an official from the assessment body to verify that all necessary facilities required for conducting the examination are available at the centre. The following institutions must apply to the relevant assessment body for registration as examination centres under their own name-
- (a) Independent Schools
 - (b) Registered institutions for repeaters who do not have to comply with School-Based Assessment requirements, Practical Assessment Tasks and language oral requirements.
- 3.3 All Independent centres and registered institutions for repeaters must comply with these regulations and must be subjected to the monitoring and moderation procedures of the assessment body.
- 3.4 If the centre, institution, or a venue is approved as an examination centre, a centre number should be issued with immediate effect.
- 3.5 Centres must apply and register as examination centres on an annual basis prior to the examinations.
- 3.6 The Assessment Body must always ensure strict security in the storage of examination question papers.



4. AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN A PROVINCIAL ASSESSMENT BODY AND AN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL

- 4.1 All institutions listed in Regulation 27(3) must enter into a contractual agreement with the provincial assessment body concerned.
- 4.2 A pro forma contract between a provincial education department and an independent school is attached hereto as Annexure H.

5. PROCEDURE TO FOLLOW WHEN A CENTRE RELOCATES TO NEW PREMISES

- 5.1 Should a centre relocate to new premises, its registration as an examination centre lapses immediately, and it will be forced to seek registration at the new premises from the Department of Education.
- 5.2 In exceptional circumstances, and provided that the centre has an unblemished record as far as irregularities and administration are concerned, the Head of Department may allow the centre to continue to operate for the current final exit examination year only, during which time the centre must apply for and be granted examination centre status in respect of the new premises. Should such permission be refused, or for any other reason not be granted, the registration of the centre shall lapse forthwith:
- 5.3 Should this process run over the year-end, no new candidates may be registered until a decision has been taken on the registration of the centre. The onus is on the head of the institution (centre manager/principal) to inform the Head of Department timeously of the intention to relocate.
- 5.4 The Head of Department shall inform the chief invigilator, in writing, of the course to be followed.
- 5.5 If the application for the registration of the centre is unsuccessful, the Head of department shall inform the head of the institution (centre manager/principal) that the



5.6 The Head of the institution shall have the right to respond to the decision and furnish reasons as to why the centre should not be deregistered.

5.7 The Head of Department shall consider such representation before making a final decision. This decision must be conveyed, in writing, to the Head of the institution.

6. DEREGISTRATION OF AN EXAMINATION CENTRE

6.1 In the event of the physical relocation of the examination centre from the premises approved by the assessment body to other premises, the centre will be deregistered.

6.2 An examination centre may also be deregistered if there is evidence that the integrity of the examination is being undermined at the centre.

(a) Examination centres will be deregistered if:

- (i) Examination question papers in the care of the centre are compromised.
- (ii) Examination question papers are repeatedly opened prior to the examination time or date.
- (iii) there is fabrication of internal assessment marks; the centre allows examination imposter or
- (iv) if there is any other serious irregularity that warrants deregistration.

(b) The following procedure should be followed when it is found that irregular practices have occurred at an examination centre:

- (i) Officials of the assessment body should investigate the reported irregularities.
- (ii) If clear evidence of an irregularity emerges from such an investigation, disciplinary action should be instituted, and steps taken to deregister the centre.
- (iii) The owner or management must be informed, in writing, of the intention of the Head of the assessment body to close the centre due to the irregularities.



- (iv) The owner or management must respond to the notice within 14 days from the date of issue and furnish reasons as to why the centre should not be closed down.
- (v) The Head of the Assessment body must consider such representation before making a final decision as to whether to close the centre down.
- (vi) This decision must be communicated, in writing, to the owner or management.

7. MALADMINISTRATION

- (a) Examination centres may be deregistered if maladministration results in any advantage or disadvantage to candidates or affects the integrity or negatively impacts on the ability of the centre to render an examination service.
- (b) The following procedures should be followed when maladministration occurs at an examination centre:
 - (i) The owner or management of such examination centre must be informed within a specified period of three (3) months in writing of the situation and given an opportunity to rectify the matter.
 - (ii) If maladministration at the centre continues, the centre may be placed on probation for a period not exceeding one academic year.
 - (iii) If the owner or management again demonstrates an inability to administer the examination process adequately during the probation period, the centre may be deregistered at the end of the academic year.
 - (iv) If maladministration takes place during the conduct of an examination, the centre may be placed under the administration of the assessment body until further notice.



8. REGISTRATION PROCESS

- 8.1 In order to ensure that **ALL** examination centres comply with the minimum criteria for registration, **the status of ALL** the existing Independent Schools will be reviewed on the system and reactivated on the system upon receipt of the relevant application forms. Public schools that have introduced an approved new curriculum for Grades 10, 11, or 12 are requested to complete a checklist (Annexure A) and the application form (Annexure C), and to submit both documents on or before **14 November 2025** to the district office: Examinations Section.
- 8.2 The district will complete the form as required (in the case of a designated centre) and return it to the Chief Directorate Examinations & Assessment by **21 November 2025** at the Provincial Office.
- 8.3 Schools that are applying for a new grade should note that implementation of grades is done incrementally, i.e., one grade per year.
- 8.4 Only those centres whose application forms have been received on or before the due date (**21 November**) will be considered for registration as examination centres. Independent schools are registered at the address where the inspection takes place.
- 8.5 If The centre relocates without informing the District Office, such centre will be deemed to be deregistered. A registered examination centre may under no circumstances establish a subsidiary or satellite centre. **ONLY SCHOOLS WITH THE EDUCATION MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM (EMIS) NUMBER WILL BE CONSIDERED FOR REGISTRATION AS AN EXAMINATION CENTRE.**
- 8.6 The maximum number of candidates at an examination centre for NSC may not exceed 500 unless written approval is granted by the Head of Department.
- 8.7 If a repeat candidate offers a new subject that will require internal assessment, specific permission to offer this must be obtained from the Examinations and Assessment Directorate.
- 8.8 The registration and management of part-time centres is the responsibility of the District Head of Examinations.



8.9 Kindly note that any centre that is not registered as an examination centre will not be supplied with examination materials.

9. CONCLUSION

The registration of an independent school, a new public school and the issuing of an **EMIS** number do not give the institution the right to offer public examinations. **The institution must register as an examination centre as soon as there are learners offering Grades 10, 11, or 12, irrespective of the fact that a valid EMIS number was obtained.**


77 DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL: CURRICULUM MANAGEMENT
MR R TYWAKADI

3/11/2025
DATE



CHECKLIST TO ENSURE THAT EXAMINATION CENTRES COMPLY WITH THE REQUIREMENTS TO CONDUCT EXAMINATIONS FOR GRADES 10,11,12

NOTE: CHECKLIST TO BE COMPLETED BY PRINCIPAL AND VERIFIED BY THE DELEGATED OFFICIAL

Tick in the appropriate box(es) for the examination centre registration applying for:

GRADE 12 NSC	GRADE 11 NSC	GRADE 10 NSC	EMIS NO.		
NAME OF INSTITUTION			DISTRICT		
NAME OF PRINCIPAL			CONTACT TEL NO		
RESIDENTIAL ADDRESS OF INSTITUTION (Same as on the registration certificate)			NAME & CONTACT NO OF CIRCUIT MANAGER		
Kindly complete the checklist by making a cross in the applicable blocks. Please ensure that the necessary documentation, as requested, is attached.					
1	Is the centre registered with the Eastern Cape Department of Education (ECDoE) as an institution offering CAPS Grades 10 – 12 NSC?			YES NO	
Please provide the EMIS registration number of the institution and attach registration certificate					
2	FOR INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS: Is the institution registered with Council for Quality Assurance in General and Further Education and Training (Umalusi) as a service provider offering the CAPS Grades 10 - 12?			YES NO	
Please attach accreditation certificate or proof of progress for accreditation by Umalusi					
3	Does the centre have adequate space to accommodate the number of candidates the centre intends to register?			YES NO	
Please indicate the number of candidates the centre will host during the NSC exam. In the case of full-time learners this must correspond with the institution's 10 th school day enrolment, and for part-time and repeaters, please indicate the maximum number that the centre will accommodate.					
		Full Time	Part Time	Repeat	
	Grade 10				
	Grade 11				
	Grade 12				
	ABET L4				
3a	Please indicate whether the school has sufficient and appropriate furniture to accommodate the number of candidates indicated above in an examination environment? (District to verify)			YES NO	
3b	Where the facilities are shared by full-time and part-time learners during the day or evening, will the furniture be sufficient without disturbing the rest of the learners during the examinations?			YES NO	
3c	Please indicate whether the centre has the necessary equipment and infrastructure to offer subjects where specialised equipment is needed (e.g. CATN & INFT) (District to verify)			YES NO	
		OFFERED	EQUIP	OFFERED EQUIP	
Please tick the subjects offered at the centre for which equipment is available		CAT		TRTM	
		INFT		CIVL TECH	
		EGD		DRAM ART	
		DANCE		MECH TECH	
		ELEC TECH		CON STUD	
		MUSIC		HOSP	
		VISUAL ART			



Please note that if the centre does not have the necessary equipment, then learners may not be accepted for these subjects at this examination centre.								
4	Does the centre have adequate facilities to safeguard examination material?						YES	NO
	Indicate	Strong Room				YES	NO	
		Safe				YES	NO	
		Other				YES	NO	
	If other, specify							
5	Do the exam rooms that will be utilised have adequate ventilation and lighting?						YES	NO
6	Please check compliance in relation to fire hydrants, access doors, etc. <u>Private institutions must attach a copy of the local health and fire services clearance certificate.</u>						YES	NO
7	Does the centre have adequate toilet facilities available?						YES	NO
8	Is there clean running water in the premises?						YES	NO
9	Is the venue quiet and safe enough to be used as an examination centre?						YES	NO
10	Does the venue qualify to be classified as an educational institution in terms of general norms and standards?						YES	NO
11	Are suitably qualified invigilators available for examinations?						YES	NO
12	Are all educators employed at the institution registered with SACE?						YES	NO
13	Proof of SACE certification attached.						YES	NO
14	The school principal will be appointed as the Chief Invigilator for the examination.						YES	NO
	Indicate	NAME				DESIGNATION		
	CONTACT NO DURING SCHOOL HOURS			CONTACT NO AFTER SCHOOL HOURS				
15	Does the centre have an examination policy, invigilation guidelines, and all relevant examination Assessment Instructions available?						YES	NO
The school principal verifies that the information is correct and that other documents are attached as proof, as requested.								
<p>Name: <input type="text"/></p> <p>School Principal: <input type="text"/></p>								
<p>Other documents attached as evidence as required.</p>								
<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 150px; height: 80px; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> <p>SCHOOL STAMP</p> </div>								



For office use only.														
Proposed venue visited by an Official from:	District Office	YES	NO	Provincial Office										
District Office														
Details of the official who visited the centre:		Name: _____												
		Designation: _____												
The Proposed Examination Centre, detailed overleaf, meets the criteria as outlined above.														
Recommended <input type="checkbox"/>		Not Recommended <input type="checkbox"/>												
Signature: District Director		Please verify that other documents have been attached as evidence as requested		Official District Stamp										
Surname & Initials (Block Letters)		Date												
<hr/>														
Provincial Office (Directorate: Examinations and Assessment)														
Details of the official who visited the centre:		Name: _____												
		Designation: _____												
Recommendations: _____														
Signature _____														
Approved <input type="checkbox"/>		Not Approved <input type="checkbox"/>												
If approved, Examination Centre Number		<table border="1"> <tr> <td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td> </tr> </table>												Name of Centre
Signature of Director: Examinations and Assessment														
Surname & Initials (Block Letters)		Date												



ANNEXURE H

**PRO FORMA SERVICE CONTRACT ENTERED
INTO BY,
AND BETWEEN,
THE
EASTERN CAPE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
AND AN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL IN RESPECT OF
REGISTRATION AS AN EXAMINATION CENTRE
FOR THE COMMON AND ASSESSMENT POLICY
STATEMENT (CAPS) EXAMINATION,
GRADE 10, 11 AND 12 FINAL EXAMINATION FOR YEAR 2025**

This is Only Valid for the year of examination (inclusive of the supplementary examination)

(NAME OF THE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL)

The name of the Independent School should be the same as the one that appears in Umalusi database

**Assessment Instruction 53 of 2025
Provincial Assessment Instruction**



1. The conclusion of this contract confirms that the independent centre has met the following minimum preliminary requirements for registration as an examination centre:
 - (i) sufficient space and appropriate furniture for the seating of candidates.
 - (ii) adequate general security.
 - (iii) a lock-up facility for the storage of examination material.
 - (iv) Clearance - in terms of the applicable municipal by-laws - from the local fire and health services;
 - (v) provision of proper lighting;
 - (vi) access to sufficient water, acceptable and adequate toilet facilities.
 - (vii) Teaching staff suitably qualified and sufficient numbers, to be trained and utilised as invigilators;
 - (viii) And clear evidence of the ability to meet any and all costs relating to electricity, water, taxes and/or rental for the premises for the duration of the examination.
2. The Head of Department retains the right to re-evaluate the independent centre at any time in respect of any or all of the above-mentioned criteria.
3. **The Department of Education retains the right to monitor the conduct of the National Senior Certificate examination and related assessment processes at the independent centre at any time, without prior warning.** This includes the appointment of a monitoring invigilator at the assessment centre for the duration of the Common and Assessment Policy Statement (CAPS) examination and Grade 11 final examination.
4. The independent centre, in concluding this service contract, commits itself to abide unquestionably by all regulations in respect of the conducting, administration and management of the Common and Assessment Policy Statement and Grade 11 final examination and assessment and related assessment processes, as well as procedures contained in the applicable national and provincial regulations.
5. Where, in the opinion of the Head of Department, and as a result of a preliminary investigation, developments at the independent centre may adversely affect the interests of candidates or the integrity of the examination or related assessment processes, the Department of Education reserves and retains the right to take control of the conducting, administration and management of the examination centre with immediate effect.
6. Failure to abide by any of the regulations or other reasonable requests in respect of the conducting, administration and management of the Common and Assessment Policy Statement examination and Grade 11 final examination and Grades 9 common assessment and related examination processes, as well as procedures contained in the national or provincial regulations, may result in the deregistration of the independent centre as an examination centre by the Department of Education.
7. All examination centres are required to operate on premises that were approved for this purpose by the Head of Department. Where relocation does occur, the new premises must again be inspected by the relevant provincial education department for evaluation as an examination centre.
8. No examination centre may consider relocation within or less than sixty (60) days before the commencement of the final Common and Assessment Policy Statement examination and Grade 11 final examination, Grade 10 and Grade 9 common assessment.



9. Where relocation of an independent centre is unavoidable, due to external factors (e.g., a natural disaster), the following procedure must be strictly adhered to.
 - 9.1 The Head of Department must immediately be informed in writing of the enforced relocation.
 - 9.2 Learners and their parent(s) or guardian(s) must be informed.
 - 9.3 The independent centre is obliged to ensure the presence of proper notices at the old centre, clearly indicating, *inter alia*, the location of the new venue, the name of a contact person and a telephone number for the contact person.
 - 9.4 The relevant provincial education department will ensure the publication of such information in the printed/electronic media.

10. Procedure to follow when a centre relocates to new premises

- 10.1 Should any centre relocate to new premises, their registration as an examination centre lapses immediately and it will be forced to seek registration at the new premises from the Department of Education.
- 10.2 In exceptional circumstances, and provided that the centre has an unblemished record as far as irregularities and administration are concerned, the Head of Department may allow the centre to continue to operate for the current final exit examination year only, during which time the centre must apply for, and be granted examination status in respect of the new premises. Should such permission be refused, or for any other reason is not granted, the registration of the centre shall lapse forthwith.
- 10.3 Should this process run over the year-end, no new candidates may be registered until a decision has been taken on the registration of the centre.
- 10.4 The onus is on the head of the institution (centre manager/principal) to inform the Head of Department timeously of the intention to relocate.
- 10.5 The Head of Department shall inform the chief invigilator, in writing, of the course to be followed.
- 10.6 If the application for the registration of the centre is unsuccessful, the Head of Department shall inform the head of the institution (centre manager/principal) that the registration of the centre has elapsed.
- 10.7 The Head of the institution shall have the right to respond to the decision and furnish reasons as to why the centre should not be deregistered.
- 10.8 The Head of Department shall consider such representation before making a final decision. This decision must be conveyed, in writing, to the Head of the institution. This decision is final.



OWNER(S) OF INDEPENDENT SCHOOL:

Initials & Surname	Capacity	Date
Signature		
Witness I	Signature	Date: _____
Witness II	Signature	Date: _____

MANAGEMENT OF INDEPENDENT SCHOOL (IF DIFFERENT FROM OWNER(S)):

Initials & Surname	Capacity	Date
Signature		
Witness I	Signature	Date: _____
Witness II	Signature	Date: _____

