



## **CHIEF DIRECTORATE: EXAMINATIONS AND ASSESSMENT**

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### **ASSESSMENT INSTRUCTION 55 OF 2025**

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

**DATE:** 02 NOVEMBER 2025

#### **GUIDELINES ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE GRADE 4 MOTHER TONGUE BASED BILINGUAL EDUCATION TESTS**

#### **PREPARATIONS FOR THE END OF THE YEAR EXAMINATIONS**

1. The Department of Basic Education (DBE) has disseminated the MTbBE National Assessment exemplars in preparation for the Grade 4 end of the year examinations.
2. The exemplars are meant to provide examples of the end of year tests with the 80: 20 percentage language split.

Teachers are therefore encouraged to:

- (a) use the exemplars to prepare learners for the end of year examination;
- (b) assist learners how to respond i.e answering various types of questions and how to answer on the question paper.

#### **ADMINISTRATION AND MARKING OF THE TESTS**

3. The following are guidelines for the administration and marking of the MTbBEtests:

- a The tests must be administered in a controlled environment on the dates stipulated in the National Assessment Circular S11 of 2025.
- b Although the tests follow the 80:20 percentage language split, learners are allowed to respond in any of the TWO languages included in the test. This means that in section A, a learner may answer in:

- I) English only;
- II) An African Language only; or
- III) A combination of English and the African Language.

This may also apply to Section B

- a. The focus is on assessing the learners understanding and use of the concept of demonstration of the skills assessed and not necessary the language.
  - b. If the learner's response is in a language that is not the regular language of teaching and learning in the school, the teacher must obtain the assistance of a teacher who is proficient in that language. Also note that marking guidelines are available in all African Languages. If one needs it for a certain language that a school may not have, they are available on request from DBE.
  - c. **There will be no National Marking Guideline discussions.** Provincial Education departments are encouraged to conduct provincial marking guideline discussions utilising officials who were involved in the setting of the or quality assurance of the MTbBE tests.
4. Heads of Examinations in each district must please communicate the contents of this Assessment instruction to all Grade 4 schools,
  5. Enquiries on the MTbBE Assessments can be directed to Mrs PE Japhta at 0605238658 or email: [Penelope.Japhta@ecdoe.gov.za](mailto:Penelope.Japhta@ecdoe.gov.za)

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MR R. TYWAKA  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: CURRICULUM MANAGEMENT  
AND DELIVERY

04 Nov 2025  
DATE

CIRCULATION SHEET: ASSESSMENT INSTRUCTION 54 OF 2025

**GUIDELINES ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE GRAE 4 MOTHER TONGUE  
BASED BILINGUAL EDUCATION TESTS**

**SUPPORTED**

~~NOT SUPPORTED~~



MS N MBELEKI  
DIRECTOR: EXAMINATION AND ASSESSMENT  
MANAGEMENT SERVICES

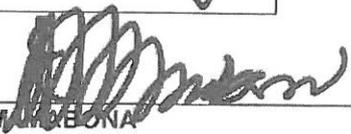
03/11/2025  
DATE

Comments:

These guidelines must reach schools as urgently as possible.

**SUPPORTED** ✓

~~NOT SUPPORTED~~



MR E.M. MBEONA  
CHIEF DIRECTOR: EXAMINATIONS AND  
ASSESSMENT

3/11/2025  
DATE

Comments:

**APPROVED** ✓

~~NOT APPROVED~~

PP   
MR R. TYWAKADI  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: CURRICULUM MANAGEMENT  
AND DELIVERY

04 Nov 2025  
DATE