



CHIEF DIRECTORATE: EXAMINATIONS AND ASSESSMENT

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ASSESSMENT INSTRUCTION 58 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: 07 NOVEMBER 2025

**SPECIAL MARK ADJUSTMENT AND CONDONATION DISPENSATION FOR
LEARNERS IN GRADES 4 - 9**

National Assessment Circular No.1 of 2025 has reference.

1. This Assessment Instruction serves to inform school principals and all education managers that National Assessment Circular 5 of 2022 and National Assessment Circular 2 of 2023, pertaining to **Special Mark Adjustments and Condonation Dispensation for learners in Grades 4 -9, will be applicable to learners in Grades 4—9, in 2025 and in subsequent years.**
2. A mark adjustment of a maximum of 5% is allowed in a maximum of three subjects offered by the learner. This implies that a learner can be awarded a mark between 1% to 5% of the mark attained by the learner if this will give the learner an achieved status.
3. The attention of school principals and education managers is specifically drawn to paragraph 3 of National Assessment Circular 2 of 2023. **Mark adjustments must also be applied to marks between:**
 - (i) 25% and 29%.
 - (ii) 35% and 39%
 - (iii) 45% and 49%

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4. **where necessary. This implies that the mark adjustments of between 1% and 5% will be applicable** to marks that are between 25% and 29% for learners in Grades 4 — 9 in 2025. It is also important to note that the mark adjustments will be applicable to a **maximum of three subjects** that need to be adjusted their School-Based Support Teams (SBST), they identify early in the year learners who are at risk of retention.
 5. 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 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 must be condoned and the learner must be promoted to the next grade, if all pass requirements are met.
 - (a) The condonation in Mathematics is also applicable only to learners in Grade 4 to 9.
 - (b) Grade 9 learners who obtain a condonation in Mathematics have the option of continuing with Mathematics in Grade 10. They also have the to take Mathematical Literacy in Grade 10.**
 - (c) Mark adjustments and condonation are also applicable to learners in special schools and Schools of Skills that offer technically or occupationally oriented subjects.
 6. 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 mark may be shown on the learners' report.
 7. However, in the case of Mathematics the original mark attained by the learner in Mathematics must be indicated on the mark schedule, 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 learners' report. On the learners report the following statement must appear: "*Mathematics mark has been condoned and the learner is promoted to the next grade*". This implies that mathematics remains a compulsory subject taken by all learners, but learners may be condoned in Mathematics.
 8. School principals are reminded to work closely and collaboratively with their School Based Support Teams (SBST) to ensure that supporting evidence for learners who have been identified as being at risk of retention from the beginning of the 2025 academic year is available and verifiable when the promotion and progression of learners are being determined. This includes verifiable evidence that parents /guardians have been kept fully informed and that the support required was provided to these learners throughout the school year.

9. In the case of paragraph (4) above, the mark obtained by the learner in the subject must be reflected in the mark schedule and the letter "C" must be inserted next to the mark, to indicate that the 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:

"(List the name of the subject) mark has been condoned and the learner has progressed to the next grade."

10. Scenarios on the adjustment of marks and the condonation of marks are included in Annexure A.

11. 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 Grades R—12, published as Government Notices No. 1115 and 1116 in Government Gazette No. 36042 of 28 December 2012.***

12. Enquiries regarding this Assessment Instruction can be directed to **Ms T Mabengu** at **thandiswa.mabengu@ecdoe.gov.za**. Your support in ensuring compliance with the contents of this Assessment Instruction will be greatly appreciated.

ANNEXURE A: APPLICATION OF MARK ADJUSTMENT/CONDONATION

Scenario 1

Subject	Original	Adjusted/ Condoned	Adjustment/ Condonation	Comment
Afrikaans FAL	37	40%	3%	The three subjects are below 40%. An adjustment of between 1% and 5% will be made only on these subjects to a mark of 40%. The adjusted mark should not exceed 40%
Social Sciences	35	40%	5%	
Technology	39	40%	1%	



Scenario 2

Subject	Original	Adjusted/ Condoned	Adjustment/ Condonation	Comment
Afrikaans FAL	37	40%	3%	In this case, four subjects are below 40%, including Mathematics. The learner's marks in three of the subjects will be adjusted. In addition, learners' marks in Mathematics will be condoned.
Social Sciences	35	40%	5%	
Technology	39	40%	1%	
Mathematics	25% ©	25%	Condoned	

Scenario 3

Subject	Original	Adjusted/ Condoned	Adjustment/ Condonation	Comment
Mathematics	35%	40%	5%	In this case, the 3 subjects below 40% include Maths. The learner's marks in all three subjects will be adjusted. The Maths mark will be adjusted to 40% and not condoned.
Social Sciences	36%	40%	4%	
Technology	38%	40%	2%	

Scenario 4

Subject	Original	Adjusted/ Condoned	Adjustment/ Condonation	Comment
Home Language	45%	45%	5%	In this case, the Home Language is below 50% and three other subjects are below 40%. The Home Language must first be adjusted to 50% and only two other subjects can be adjusted. The fourth subject cannot be adjusted, given the limit of three subject adjustments.
Economics Management Sciences	37%	40%	3%	
Social Sciences	38%	40%	2%	
Technology	35%	None	None	

Scenario 5

Subject	Original	Adjusted/ Condoned	Adjustment/ Condonation	Comment
First Additional Language	36%	40%	4%	In this scenario, four subjects do not satisfy the pass requirement. Given that First Additional Language (FAL) is a compulsory requirement, the FAL must first be adjusted to 40%, together with the two other subjects, i.e., Social Sciences and Technology, that must be adjusted to 30%. Mathematics will be condoned.
Social Sciences	27%	30%	3%	
Technology	25%	30%	5%	
Mathematics	2%	Condoned		

Scenario 6

Condonation of First Additional Language

Subject	Original	Condonation	Comment
English Home Language	61%	61%	In this scenario, the learner does not qualify for a mark adjustment or a Maths condonation. The learner has failed two subjects and one of them is Afrikaans FAL, which is a compulsory requirement. The learner must be condoned in Afrikaans FAL and be promoted to the next grade.
Afrikaans FAL	29%	29%(Condonation)	
Mathematics	43%	43%	
Creative Arts	60%	60%	
EMS	46%	46%	
Life Orientation	65%	65%	
Natural Sciences	20%	20%	

Scenario 7

Condonation in one other subject:

Subject	Original	Condonation	Comment
English Home Language	61%	61%	In this scenario, the learner does not qualify for a mark adjustment or a Maths condonation. The

Afrikaans FAL	63%	63%	learner has failed two subjects and needs one subject to be promoted to the next grade. The learner must be condoned in Natural Sciences or Social Sciences (not both) and promoted to the next grade.
Mathematics	43%	43%	
Creative Arts	60%	60%	
EMS	46%	46%	
Life Orientation	65%	65%	
Natural Sciences	20%	20%	
Social Sciences	22%	22%	
Technology	48%	48%	



MR R TYWAKADI
DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL: CURRICULUM MANAGEMENT
AND DELIVERY

18/11/2025
 DATE