



## EXAMINATIONS AND ASSESSMENT CHIEF DIRECTORATE

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### ASSESSMENT INSTRUCTION NO 05 OF 2026

**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: 20 JANUARY 2026**

### SUBJECT CHOICES GRADES 10-12

1. This Assessment Instruction has reference to the Department of Basic Education Circular E 22 of 2022.
2. The National Senior Certificate Examination is administered and conducted in terms of the Regulations Pertaining to the Conduct, Administration and Management of the National Senior Certificate Examination.
3. According to 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 and as amended*: Learners in the Further Education and Training Phase follow either the Academic (General) or Technical pathway.
4. **TECHNOLOGY SUBJECTS**
  - 4.1 The Curriculum and Assessment Policy Statement (CAPS) for all Technology Subjects, including Technical Mathematics and Technical Sciences were promulgated in July 2014 and implemented for the first time in Grade 10 in 2016.



- a. During the Review visits to Provinces and district offices, the Department of Basic Education (DBE) officials discovered that there were challenges relating to the subject combination for some learners following the technical pathway in grades 10, 11 and 12.
- b. According to subject rules, these learners will not be certified or resulted when they write the National Senior Certificate (NSC) examination if there is a violation of subject combination.
- c. As a result, a special concession to deviate from the programme requirements has been granted by the Minister to Grade 12 in 2022 **only and the Grade 10 learners were advised to change the subjects in line with the required subject combination.**
- d. The Districts and Schools are reminded of the programme requirements for the technical pathway as prescribed in paragraph 28(A) of *the National Policy Pertaining to the Programme and Promotion Requirements of the National Curriculum Statement Grades R-12*, as well as the *Regulations pertaining to the National Curriculum Statement Grades R-12 regulations 4; sub-regulations (4A – 4F)*, which states:
  - (a) Learners should offer one of the following three technology subjects (specialisation):
    - (i) Civil Technology (specialisation)
    - (ii) Electrical Technology (specialisation) or
    - (iii) Mechanical Technology (specialisation)
  - AND**
  - (b) Engineering Graphics and Design.
  - (c) Mathematics or Technical Mathematics; and
  - (d) Physical Sciences or Technical Sciences

4.2 The above-mentioned requirements must be read in conjunction with the following provisos:

- (a) A learner from the technical pathway may not offer **Mathematical Literacy**.
- (b) A learner from the Academic (General) pathway may not offer **Technical Mathematics**.
- (c) A learner from the technical pathways may not offer both **Mathematics and Technical Mathematics**.





## 5. PHYSICAL SCIENCES AND MATHEMATICS

5.1 The concession was also granted to Grade 12 learners in 2022 who offered **Physical Sciences with Mathematical Literacy** for the last time and the Grades 10 and 11 will be expected to change the subject and in line with programme requirements, take Physical Sciences with Mathematics.

5.2 Furthermore, it must be understood that the concession was granted to the Grade 12 learners in 2022 for the last time, as it was clearly indicated in the Circular S7 of 2017 and Circular E18 of 2019 that the concession to deviate shall not be extended in the future and that the **“Provinces and schools are required to comply henceforth”**.

5.3 Learners who are offering Physical Sciences requesting a subject change from Mathematics to Mathematical Literacy will not be accepted and approved.

6. All Heads of Education institutions are requested to bring the contents of this Assessment Instruction to the attention of all District officials, Principals and Teachers of both public and independent schools and relevant stakeholders.

  
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(A) DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL: CURRICULUM MANAGEMENT  
MS C XUNDU BULA

23/01/2026  
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DATE