



EXAMINATIONS AND ASSESSMENT CHIEF DIRECTORATE

Steve Vukile Tshwete Complex, Zone 6 Zwelitsha, 5608, Private Bag X0032, Bisho, 5605 REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA:
Enquiries: Ms PE Japhta : 060 523 8658 Email: Penelope.Japhta@ecdoe.gov.za Website: www.eceducation.gov.za

ASSESSMENT INSTRUCTION 09 OF 2026

**TO: DEPUTY DIRECTORS-GENERAL
CHIEF DIRECTORS
HEAD OFFICE DIRECTORS AND DISTRICT DIRECTORS
CHIEF EDUCATION SPECIALISTS
EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT OFFICERS
DEPUTY CHIEF / SENIOR EDUCATION SPECIALISTS
PRINCIPALS OF PUBLIC AND INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS
TEACHER UNIONS / ORGANISATIONS
SCHOOL GOVERNING BODIES**

DATE: 29 JANUARY 2026

EXTENSION OF THE SHELF LIFE OF THE 2021 NATIONAL SENIOR CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION GUIDELINES (NSC) TO 2026

1. The National Senior Certificate (NSC) Examination Guidelines were approved by UMALUSI and released for implementation from 2021 to 2025.
2. The 2021 Examination Guidelines are currently under review, and this process will be concluded during 2026. It is anticipated that the revised Examination Guidelines for all subjects will be released for implementation in 2027.
3. During the review period, the Examination Guidelines introduced in 2021 and currently in use will remain valid and applicable for implementation in 2026 in all schools offering the Grade 12 National Senior Certificate.
4. Accordingly, the question papers for the May/June 2026, October/November 2026 and May/June 2027 NSC Examinations will be based on the 2021 Examination Guidelines.
5. The 2021 Examination Guidelines are available on the Department of Basic Education website.



6. District Heads of Examinations are requested to disseminate this circular to all schools offering the NSC.
7. Your continued support is sincerely appreciated

MRS CN XUNDU – BULA
(A)DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL: CM&D

03/02/2026
DATE