



EXAMINATIONS AND ASSESSMENT CHIEF DIRECTORATE

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ASSESSMENT INSTRUCTION NO 15 OF 2026

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: 02 MARCH 2026

LIST OF SCHOOLS THAT WILL PARTICIPATE IN THE SECOND PHASE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GENERAL EDUCATION CERTIFICATE (GEC) ASSESSMENT MODEL IN 2026

1. The General Education Certificate (GEC) is hailed as one of the most important qualifications post-democracy in South Africa. This qualification will be at National Qualification Framework (NQF) Level 1. It will not only reward learners after ten (10) years of formal schooling in the General Education and Training (GET). Still, it will ultimately guide and assist learners and parents in making informed choices regarding the envisaged Three-Steams Model (TSM). Learners will be streamed into either of the three categories of vocational, occupational, OR academic streams to assist them in becoming more employable in their post-school life.
2. The GEC also shed some light on learners' inclinations through an inclination assessment, which will equip them with essential 21st-century skills and through the administration of an Integrated Common Assessment Task (ICAT). The ICAT integrates various subjects in two tasks (Project 1 and Project 2) done in the third academic year term. The third component of the GEC assessment model is the standardized curriculum tests that learners write under controlled conditions during term four in the following subjects.



- a. Home Languages
 - b. First Additional Languages
 - c. Mathematics
 - d. Natural Sciences
 - e. Economics and Management Sciences
3. The GEC Orientation will be conducted by the team of GEC provincial coordinators, consisting of the Chief Education Specialists and Deputy Chief Education Specialists, Primary Curriculum Management, Examination and Assessment, Teacher Development and Learning Institute, and Deputy Director from Education Management and Information System, who will train the GEC district coordinators.
- a. The GEC Provincial Coordinators consist of the Deputy Chief Education Specialist and Senior Education Specialist from Primary Curriculum Management, Secondary Curriculum Management, District Assessment and Examination, Education Management, and Information System. The team is expected to cascade training to all schools participating in each district.
 - b. The Examination and Assessment Chief Directorate is responsible for printing and distributing the curriculum test to all examination storage points and all participating schools will collect the question papers from these storage points.
 - c. The participating schools print the Integrated Common Assessment Task (ICAT) for all learners, and the Integrated Common Assessment Task is marked by the subject teachers, moderated by the Departmental Heads / Head of Department (HOD), and at the district or cluster level.
4. All expected schools wrote the GEC standardized curriculum tests in 2025. GET subject specialists were invited for verification of marking for 86 sampled schools from 02 - 05 December 2025. Marksheets for sampled schools were sent to the Department of Basic Education for capturing and will be sent back to districts. Item analysis was conducted by the Examination and Assessment Chief Directorate and submitted to the Department of Basic Education.
5. The Department of Basic Education has increased the number of schools that will participate in the Second Phase implementation of the General Education Certificate Assessment model pilot in 2026 from **Eight Hundred and Fifty-Seven (857) schools in 2025 to One Thousand One Hundred and twenty-five (1125) schools in 2026**. Two hundred and sixty-eight (268) schools have been added in 2026.



6. The Eastern Cape list of 2026 sampled schools is attached and all sampled schools are encouraged to participate in the second phase implementation of the General Education Certificate Assessment model in 2026.
7. All the district General Education Certificate (GEC) coordinators must:
- verify if schools on the list have Grade 9;
 - ensure that all schools that were in the programme from 2021- 2025 are participating;
 - ensure that the number of schools remains the same as indicated in the sample in the PED sample.
8. The number of schools which will participate in the Second Phase Implementation of the General Education Certificate assessment model is indicated per district below:

No	District	No. of schools
1	Alfred Nzo East	84
2	Alfred Nzo West	100
3	Amathole East	101
4	Amathole West	99
5	Buffalo City Metro	102
6	Chris Hani East	66
7	Chris Hani West	97
8	Joe Gqabi	93
9	Nelson Mandela Metro	103
10	OR Tambo Coastal	120
11	OR Tambo Inland	93
12	Sarah Baartman	67
	Total	1125

Cooperation of all districts and schools that are participating in the second phase of the implementation of the General Education Certificate assessment model is anticipated.

DDG: CM&D
MR TJZ MTYIDA

03 February 20

DATE