



CHIEF DIRECTORATE: EXAMINATIONS AND ASSESSMENT

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ASSESSMENT INSTRUCTION 19 OF 2026

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

DATE: 12 MARCH 2026

GRADE 12 2026 OCTOBER/NOVEMBER EXAMINATION TIMETABLE AND RELEASE OF RESULTS OF THE 2026 OCTOBER/NOVEMBER EXAMINATION

1. At the council of Education ministers (CEM) meeting held on Friday 23 January 2026, the October /November National Senior Certificate examinations (**ANNEXURE A**) timetable and the dates for the release of the results were discussed and approved.
2. Annexure A is attached as the 2026 October/November Grade 12 timetable.
3. The 2026 October/November National Senior Certificate (NSC) Examinations timetable follows a similar format as the previous years. It starts with Computer Applications Technology (CAT) P1 and Information Technology (IT) P1 written in the first week of the examinations. CAT and IT are scheduled to be administered on the 13 and 14 October 2026 respectively.
4. In the case of the October/November 2026 timetable, three non-examination days were included i.e. 3 -5 November 2026, to accommodate the Local Government Elections. The exact date of the elections still needs to be officially announced by the President. In addition 9 November 2026 also had to be scheduled as a non – examination day to accommodate Diwali, a religious observance.
5. This year in Week 1, only Paper 3 will be written on Thursday 15 October 2026, (isiZulu, isiXhosa, isiNdebele and Siswati); (Afrikaans) and (Sesotho, Setswana, Sepedi, Tshivenda and Xitsonga) will be written in Week 2 on Monday 19 October 2026, Tuesday 20 October 2026 and Wednesday 21 October 2026 respectively. Paper 3 in all the languages comprises: Creative writing. **Candidates must be reminded that Paper 3 will be written before paper 1 and Paper 2.**

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6. The Life Orientation Common Assessment Task (LO CAT) will be written on Tuesday 01 September 2026, and the rewrite for LO CAT scheduled for Monday 12 October 2026. Candidates must be reminded that absence in the Life Orientation Common Assessment Task will result in the candidates results remaining incomplete. Principals must ensure that candidates attend school and sit for the LO CAT on the scheduled date.
7. The rewrite opportunity for Computer Application Technology (CAT)P1 and Information Technology (IT) P1 will take places at 9:00 on Thursday 26 November 2026.
8. The minister will announce the 2026 October/November Examination results on Monday 11 January 2027
9. The heads of educational institutions should ensure that the contents of this Assessment Instruction are distributed to all affected teachers, learners, subject advisors and other relevant stakeholders.


DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL: CM&D
MR TJZ MTYIDA

DATE



basic education

Department:
 Basic Education
 REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2026 NATIONAL SENIOR CERTIFICATE (NSC) EXAMINATIONS TIMETABLE

WEEK 1	09:00	14:00
Monday 12/10		
Tuesday 13/10	Computer Applications Tech P1 Practical (3hrs)	Hindi, Gujarati, Tamil, Telugu, Urdu HL P1 (2hrs), FAL P1 (2hrs), SAL P1 (2hrs) Hebrew SAL P1 (2hrs) German HL, FAL, SAL P1 (2hrs)
Wednesday 14/10	Information Technology P1 Practical (3hrs)	Arabic, French, Italian, Mandarin, Modern Greek, Serbian, Spanish SAL P1 (2hrs), Latin SAL P1 (3hrs) Portuguese HL, FAL, SAL P1 (2hrs)
Thursday 15/10	English HL P3 (3hrs) English FAL P3 (2½hrs) English SAL P3 (2½hrs)	Hindi, Gujarati, Tamil, Telugu, Urdu HL P2 (2½hrs), FAL P2 (2hrs), SAL P2 (2hrs) Hebrew SAL P2 (2hrs) German HL P2 (2½hrs), FAL P2 (2hrs), SAL P2 (2hrs)
Friday 16/10	Economics P1 (2hrs) Mechanical Technology (3hrs)	Design P1 (3hrs)
WEEK 2	09:00	14:00
Monday 19/10	isiZulu, isiXhosa, siSwati, isiNdebele HL P3 (3hrs), FAL P3 (2½hrs), SAL P3 (2½hrs)	Agricultural Sciences P1 (2½hrs)
Tuesday 20/10	Afrikaans HL P3 (3hrs) Afrikaans FAL P3 (2½hrs) Afrikaans SAL P3 (2½hrs)	History P1 (3hrs) Maritime Economics (3hrs)
Wednesday 21/10	Sepedi, Sesotho, Setswana, Xitsonga, Tshivenda HL P3 (3hrs), FAL P3 (2½hrs), SAL P3 (2½hrs) South African Sign Language HL P3 (3hrs)	Information Technology P2 Theory (3hrs)
Thursday 22/10	Accounting P1 (2hrs)	Engineering Graphics and Design P1 (3hrs) Marine Sciences P1 (2½hrs)
Friday 23/10	Mathematics P1 (3hrs) Mathematical Literacy P1 (3hrs) Technical Mathematics P1 (3hrs)	Hindi, Gujarati, Tamil, Telugu, Urdu HL P3 (2½hrs), FAL P3 (2½hrs) Portuguese, German HL P3 (2½hrs) Portuguese, German FAL P3 (2½hrs)

WEEK 3	09:00	14:00
Monday 26/10	Mathematics P2 (3hrs) Mathematical Literacy P2 (3hrs) Technical Mathematics P2 (3hrs)	Sport and Exercise Science (3hrs)
Tuesday 27/10	Sepedi, Sesotho, Setswana, Xitsonga, Tshivenda HL P1 (2hrs), FAL P1 (2hrs), SAL P1 (2hrs) South African Sign Language HL P1 (2hrs)	Engineering Graphics and Design P2 (3hrs)
Wednesday 28/10	English HL P1 (2hrs) English FAL P1 (2hrs) English SAL P1 (2hrs)	Accounting P2 (2hrs)
Thursday 29/10	Geography (Climate and Weather, Geomorphology and Map Work) P1 (3hrs)	Computer Applications Tech P2 Theory (3hrs)
Friday 30/10	Physical Sciences (Physics) P1 (3hrs) Technical Sciences P1 (3hrs)	Tourism (3hrs)
WEEK 4	09:00	14:00
Monday 02/11	Physical Sciences (Chemistry) P2 (3hrs) Technical Sciences P2 (1½hrs)	Religion Studies P1 (2hrs)
Tuesday 03/11	NON-EXAMINATION DAY	
Wednesday 04/11	NON-EXAMINATION DAY	
Thursday 05/11	NON-EXAMINATION DAY	
Friday 06/11	isiZulu, isiXhosa, siSwati, isiNdebele HL P1 (2hrs), FAL P1 (2hrs), SAL P1 (2hrs)	Consumer Studies (3hrs) Hospitality Studies (3hrs)
WEEK 5	09:00	14:00
Monday 09/11	NON-EXAMINATION DAY	
Tuesday 10/11	isiZulu, isiXhosa, siSwati, isiNdebele HL P2 (2½hrs), FAL P2 (2½hrs), SAL P2 (1½hrs)	Electrical Technology (3hrs) Nautical Science P1 (3hrs)
Wednesday 11/11	Afrikaans HL P1 (2hrs) Afrikaans FAL P1 (2hrs) Afrikaans SAL P1 (2hrs)	Business Studies P1 (2hrs)
Thursday 12/11	Geography (Rural and Urban Settlements, Economic Geography of SA and Map Work) P2 (3hrs)	Religion Studies P2 (2hrs)
Friday 13/11	Life Sciences P1 (2½hrs)	Arabic, French, Italian, Mandarin, Modern Greek, Serbian, Spanish SAL P2 (2hrs), Latin SAL P2 (2hrs) Portuguese HL P2 (2½hrs), FAL, SAL P2 (2hrs) Equine Studies (3hrs)

WEEK 6		09:00	14:00
Monday 16/11	Life Sciences P2 (2½hrs)		Dramatic Arts (3hrs) Civil Technology (3hrs)
Tuesday 17/11	Sepedi, Sesotho, Setswana, Xitsonga, Tshivenda HL P2 (2½hrs), FAL P2 (2½hrs), SAL P2 (1½hrs) South African Sign Language HL P2 (2½hrs)		Agricultural Sciences P2 (2½hrs) Nautical Science P2 (3hrs)
Wednesday 18/11	Business Studies P2 (2hrs)		Visual Arts P1 (3hrs)
Thursday 19/11	English HL P2 (2½hrs) English FAL P2 (2½hrs) English SAL P2 (1½hrs)		History P2 (3hrs)
Friday 20/11	Afrikaans HL P2 (2½hrs) Afrikaans FAL P2 (2½hrs) Afrikaans SAL P2 (1½hrs)		Economics P2 (2hrs)
WEEK 7		09:00	14:00
Monday 23/11	Agricultural Technology (3hrs)		Music P1 Theory (3hrs)
Tuesday 24/11	Agricultural Management Practices (3hrs) Marine Sciences P2 (2½hrs)		Dance Studies (3hrs)
Wednesday 25/11	Music P2 Comprehension (1½hrs)		
Thursday 26/11	CAT P1 Rewrite Practical (3hrs) IT P1 Rewrite Practical (3hrs)		
Friday 27/11			
		09:00	
Friday 9 October 2026	Pledge Signing		
Tuesday 1 September 2026	Life Orientation (LO CAT) (2½hrs)		
Monday 12 October 2026	Life Orientation (LO CAT) (2½hrs) Rewrite		
3 August to 9 October 2026	Performing Arts Practical		
14 September to 13 October 2026	Visual Arts and Design Practical		

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