



# NATIONAL SENIOR CERTIFICATE Information Booklet 2016

*Celebrating*  
20 years of the Constitution

A system on the rise.



**basic education**  
Department:  
Basic Education  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



Read to Lead

A Reading Nation is a Leading Nation





# CONTENTS

|  |    |
|--|----|
| MINISTER'S MESSAGE                                       | 4  |
| 1. REPORT CARD – CLASS OF 2016                           | 6  |
| 2. RE-CHECKING AND RE-MARKING OF SCRIPTS                 | 10 |
| 3. WITHHELD EXAMINATION RESULTS                          | 11 |
| 4. SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATIONS                            | 12 |
| 5. SECOND CHANCE MATRIC PROGRAMME                        | 14 |
| 6. HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTION REQUIREMENTS AND SUPPORT | 15 |
| 7. FINANCIAL AID   | 17 |
| 8. CONCLUSION  | 17 |





## *Minister's Message*

In 2016, we celebrated the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the South African Constitution. The cornerstone of education within the Constitution has been an impervious goal to profit the children of South Africa with knowledge and skills that translate into economic freedom within a democratically transformed society. Noting that the education enterprise is a highly complex activity where the outcome is based on a multiplicity of factors, the National Senior Certificate examination results is used as one of the barometers to evaluate our success. Within this context, I am pleased to release the National Senior Certificate Examination Report (NSC) for the Class of 2016.

The class of 2016 is the third cohort of candidates to write the NSC examination that is aligned with the internationally benchmarked national Curriculum and Assessment Policy Statement (CAPS). The rise in achievement rates from 70.7% in 2015 to 72.5% in 2016 must be seen in context of a maturing and stabilising system in which teachers and district officials are now more familiar with the required pedagogical content knowledge of CAPS and the need to expose learners to questions of high cognitive demand. It is also underpinned by systemic gains at lower levels of the system as indicated by higher achievement patterns in the recent cycles of TIMSS and SACMEQ.



The DBE constantly works towards improving the performance of learners in all subjects and this can be confirmed by the intervention programmes that are managed across all Provincial Education Departments, under the umbrella of the National Strategy for Learner Attainment (NSLA). In 2016, there was increased investment in the education sector to bring about an improvement in the participation of school communities in the strategic interventions that are driven by the National Strategy for Learner Attainment (NSLA). Provinces and districts intensified the support and monitoring of the differentiated subject interventions throughout the year to ensure optimal participation and quality output.

The NSC is a gateway qualification that allows learners access to higher education institutions and the world of work. It allows learners to apply the knowledge and skills obtained in the NSC, at higher education institutions and the workplace. Further support for those who did not achieve the NSC can be accessed through the Second Chance Matric Programme that was launched by the DBE in 2016.

The purpose of this Information Booklet is to provide members of the public with the most important statistics relating to performance of the Class of 2016 and also to provide parents, learners and other interested persons with other important information relating to the NSC. I would like to thank parents, teachers, principals, teacher unions, communities, district and provincial officials, and social partners for the support they have given to learners who sat for the 2016 NSC Examination. Your efforts have been justly rewarded. Well done to the Class of 2016!

*Working together, South Africans can create a better life for all through the power of education.*



## 1. REPORT CARD – CLASS OF 2016

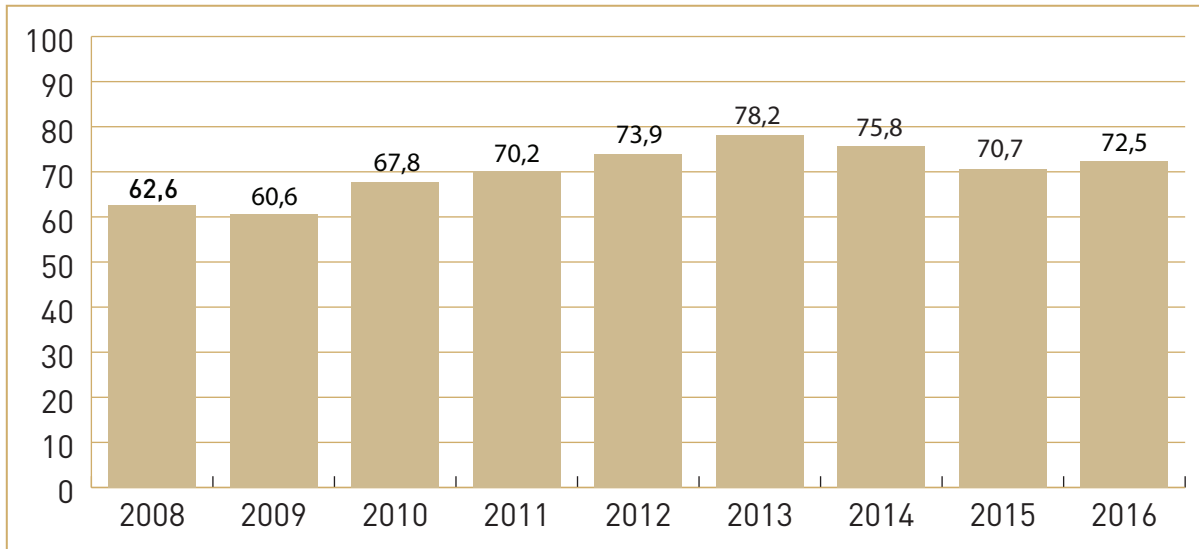
Table 1: Overall performance of candidates

| Province        | 2016           |                |             |
|-----------------|----------------|----------------|-------------|
|                 | Total Wrote    | Total Achieved | % Achieved  |
| Eastern Cape    | 82 902         | 49 168         | 59,3        |
| Free State      | 26 786         | 23 629         | 88,2        |
| Gauteng         | 103 829        | 88 381         | 85,1        |
| Kwazulu-Natal   | 147 648        | 98 032         | 66,4        |
| Limpopo         | 101 807        | 63 595         | 62,5        |
| Mpumalanga      | 54 251         | 41 801         | 77,1        |
| North West      | 32 045         | 26 448         | 82,5        |
| Northern Cape   | 10 041         | 7 902          | 78,7        |
| Western Cape    | 50 869         | 43 716         | 85,9        |
| <b>National</b> | <b>610 178</b> | <b>442 672</b> | <b>72,5</b> |



**Figure 1: Comparison of NSC performance 2008 to 2016**

| 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 62,6 | 60,6 | 67,8 | 70,2 | 73,9 | 78,2 | 75,8 | 70,7 | 72,5 |



**Table 2: Performance of the Class of 2016 by type of qualification**

| Province             | Total Wrote    | Bachelor       |             | Diploma        |             | Higher Certificate |             | NSC       |            | Total Achieved | % Achieved  |
|----------------------|----------------|----------------|-------------|----------------|-------------|--------------------|-------------|-----------|------------|----------------|-------------|
|                      |                | Achieved       | % Achieved  | Achieved       | % Achieved  | Achieved           | % Achieved  | Achieved  | % Achieved |                |             |
| <b>Eastern Cape</b>  | 82 902         | 15 645         | 18,9        | 19 996         | 24,1        | 13 520             | 16,3        | 5         | 0,0        | 49 168         | 59,3        |
| <b>Free State</b>    | 26 786         | 9 596          | 35,8        | 10 244         | 38,2        | 3 767              | 14,1        | 1         | 0,0        | 23 629         | 88,2        |
| <b>Gauteng</b>       | 103 829        | 37 582         | 36,2        | 37 121         | 35,8        | 13 615             | 13,1        | 0         | 0,0        | 88 381         | 85,1        |
| <b>Kwazulu-Natal</b> | 147 648        | 36 139         | 24,5        | 39 507         | 26,8        | 22 347             | 15,1        | 39        | 0,0        | 98 032         | 66,4        |
| <b>Limpopo</b>       | 101 807        | 18 762         | 18,4        | 23 544         | 23,1        | 21 281             | 20,9        | 7         | 0,0        | 63 595         | 62,5        |
| <b>Mpumalanga</b>    | 54 251         | 12 420         | 22,9        | 18 447         | 34,0        | 10 918             | 20,1        | 16        | 0,0        | 41 801         | 77,1        |
| <b>North West</b>    | 32 045         | 8 820          | 27,5        | 11 177         | 34,9        | 6 450              | 20,1        | 0         | 0,0        | 26 448         | 82,5        |
| <b>Northern Cape</b> | 10 041         | 2 606          | 26,0        | 3 278          | 32,6        | 2 015              | 20,1        | 0         | 0,0        | 7 902          | 78,7        |
| <b>Western Cape</b>  | 50 869         | 20 804         | 40,9        | 16 305         | 32,1        | 6 573              | 12,9        | 0         | 0,0        | 43 716         | 85,9        |
| <b>National</b>      | <b>610 178</b> | <b>162 374</b> | <b>26,6</b> | <b>179 619</b> | <b>29,4</b> | <b>100 486</b>     | <b>16,5</b> | <b>68</b> | <b>0,0</b> | <b>442 672</b> | <b>72,5</b> |





**Table 3: Full-time candidates' performance at 30% and above in key subjects, 2015 to 2016**

| Subjects (Full-Time)         | 2015    |                      |            | 2016    |                      |            |
|------------------------------|---------|----------------------|------------|---------|----------------------|------------|
|                              | Wrote   | Achieved 30% & Above | % Achieved | Wrote   | Achieved 30% & Above | % Achieved |
| <b>Accounting</b>            | 140 474 | 83 747               | 59,6       | 128 853 | 89 507               | 69,5       |
| <b>Agricultural Science</b>  | 104 251 | 80 125               | 76,9       | 106 454 | 80 225               | 75,4       |
| <b>Business Studies</b>      | 247 822 | 187 485              | 75,7       | 234 924 | 173 215              | 73,7       |
| <b>Economics</b>             | 165 642 | 112 922              | 68,2       | 155 927 | 101 803              | 65,3       |
| <b>Geography</b>             | 303 985 | 234 209              | 77,0       | 302 682 | 231 641              | 76,5       |
| <b>History</b>               | 154 398 | 129 643              | 84,0       | 157 661 | 132 504              | 84,0       |
| <b>Life Orientation</b>      | 660 202 | 658 308              | 99,7       | 664 159 | 662 087              | 99,7       |
| <b>Life Sciences</b>         | 348 076 | 245 164              | 70,4       | 347 813 | 245 157              | 70,5       |
| <b>Mathematical Literacy</b> | 388 845 | 277 594              | 71,4       | 361 948 | 257 926              | 71,3       |
| <b>Mathematics</b>           | 263 903 | 129 481              | 49,1       | 265 912 | 136 011              | 51,1       |
| <b>Physical Science</b>      | 193 189 | 113 121              | 58,6       | 192 710 | 119 467              | 62,0       |



## 2. RE-CHECKING AND RE-MARKING OF SCRIPTS

- 🔥 Candidates who are not satisfied with their subject results for the National Senior Certificate have until 19 January 2017 to register for re-marking, re-checking or viewing of the script.
- 🔥 Application forms for re-checking and re-marking are available at schools where candidates sat for the examination or District offices.
- 🔥 The fees for the above processes are as follows:
  - Re-mark: R92
  - Re-Check: R21
  - Viewing: R180
- 🔥 Candidates from no-fee schools, as well as learners whose parents have applied for and been granted a concession on the payment of schools fees, are exempted from payment of fees for re-marking and re-checking.
- 🔥 Viewing of scripts may be done only after a re-mark or re-check of results. The closing date for applications is 7 days after the release of re-mark or re-check results.



### 3. WITHHELD EXAMINATION RESULTS

#### Why are my results withheld?

Candidates' results are normally withheld due to irregularities, but those candidates whose results have been blocked or withheld have the right to appeal. When a candidate is informed that the results are withheld, they can do the following:

- Enquire, preferably in writing, and request reasons for the withholding of the results. Candidates may also contact the district office or their school for assistance.
- You can visit the nearest office of the Department of Education in your area to enquire about your results or make any other examination-related enquiries you may have.
- The following contact persons for each province will assist you.

| PROVINCE      | OFFICIAL        | TELEPHONE NUMBER             |
|---------------|-----------------|------------------------------|
| Eastern Cape  | Ms N Lehlakane  | (043) 604 7709               |
| Free State    | Mr K Basjan     | (051) 404 8318               |
| Gauteng       | Mr B Ngubane    | (011) 355 0307               |
| KwaZulu-Natal | Dr B Mthembu    | (031) 327 0245/(031) 327 044 |
| Limpopo       | Mr NW Mphahlele | (015) 290 7627               |
| Mpumalanga    | Mr C Manyabeane | (013) 766 0006               |
| Northern Cape | Ms P Phuzi      | (053) 839 6302               |
| North West    | Mr B Nothnagel  | (018) 388 0803               |
| Western Cape  | Ms T Singh      | (021) 467 2945               |



## 4. SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATIONS

A supplementary examination may be granted to an unsuccessful NSC candidate, provided he/she meets specific criteria.

### **Who may apply for registration for the supplementary examination?**

- ♦ A candidate who has not met the minimum promotion and certification requirements in the final external examination, but requires a maximum of two subjects to obtain the NSC.
- ♦ A candidate who was medically unfit and, as a result, was absent from one or more external examinations, provided documentary evidence is provided.
- ♦ A candidate who does not satisfy the minimum higher education entry requirements or requirements for a specific occupation, provided documentary evidence is provided.

### **What is the closing date for application?**

The closing date for applications to register for the supplementary examination is 19 January 2017.

### **Where and when do candidates register?**

Registration is done by a candidate immediately after receiving his/her results and at the centre where he/she sat for the examination.

### **Where could the NSC Supplementary Examination Timetable be accessed?**

The timetable could be downloaded from the DBE website: [www.education.gov.za](http://www.education.gov.za).



### What can I do if I do not qualify to write the supplementary examination

Candidates, who do not qualify to write the supplementary examination, have the following options:

- 🔥 Re-enroll for the NSC at a school without delay, provided that the candidate is younger than 21 years of age.
- 🔥 Register as a part-time candidate at a Public Adult Education Centre, provided that the candidate is older than 21 years of age.
- 🔥 Register for vocational education and training at a Further Education and Training college.
- 🔥 Register for the Senior Certificate (SC) examination which is a school leaving qualification for adults and out-of-school learners.
- 🔥 Alternatively, candidates that were not successful in their examinations could consider vocational education and training. There are 50 Public Further Education and Training (FET) colleges across all provinces of South Africa comprising over 300 campuses or teaching sites.

The Senior Certificate as an option to consider

The policy on the Senior Certificate (SC)(amended) for adults and for out-of-school learners was published in August, 2014. In line with the requirements of this qualification, adults who are 21 years and older and who either have credits from the old SC or have no previous credits, are allowed to write the Senior Certificate examination. The subjects for the SC are based on the Curriculum and Assessment Policy Statement (CAPS), that is currently being offered in schools. The following categories of learners will qualify for admission to the SC:



- 🌱 **Category 1**  
Adult learners who are 21 years and older, who have a General Education and Training certificate (GETC) for Adult Basic Education and Training (ABET); or a Grade 9 (Standard 7) school report, stating that they have passed Grade 9; or a recognised equivalent qualification obtained at NQF level 1.
- 🌱 **Category 2**  
Adult learners who are 21 years and older with previous credits from the old SC.
- 🌱 **Category 3**  
Adult learners who are 21 years and older with an incomplete NSC.
- 🌱 **Category 4**  
In exceptional cases, out of school youth who are 18-21 years old and who could not complete their school education due to circumstances beyond their control, as verified by the Head of Department in their provinces.

## 5. SECOND CHANCE MATRIC PROGRAMME

The aim of the Second Chance Matric Programme is to provide support to learners who have not met the requirements for the NSC or the Senior Certificate (SC). The Second Chance Programme will ensure that more learners attain the exit qualification thus allowing them to access higher education and the world of work.

**The following categories of learners can be supported by the Programme :**

- 🌱 **Supplementary Exam Candidates:** Learners who wrote the NSC the previous year and qualify to write a maximum of 2 subjects to meet the requirements of the NSC Examination which are written in February-March. Face to Face Classes will take place in February and March for a period of 12 hours.



- 🔥 **Progressed Learners:** Learners who wrote the NSC in the previous year but did not complete all 7 subjects (multiple examination option) and will write the examination for the outstanding subjects in June. Face to Face Classes will take place in April and June for a period of 30 hours.
- 🔥 **Senior Certificate Examination Candidates:** Learners registered to write the Senior Certificate (amended) examinations in June. Face to Face Classes will take place in April and June for a period of 30 hours.
- 🔥 **NSC Examinations - Part-time candidates:** Learners who attempted the NSC examinations post-2008 and will write the examinations in November. Face to Face Classes will take place in August and September for a period of 30 hours.

## 6. HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTION REQUIREMENTS AND SUPPORT

The minimum requirements for a candidate to obtain an NSC are that a candidate should:

- (a) Achieve 40% in three subjects, one of which is an official language at Home Language level and 30% in three subjects; and
- (b) Provide full evidence of the SBA component in the subjects offered.

### What are the minimum requirements to be admitted to a tertiary institution?

#### (a) For Higher Certificate Studies

The minimum admission requirement is a National Senior Certificate with a minimum of 30% in the language of learning and teaching of the higher education institution as certified by Umalusi. Institutional and programme needs may require additional combinations or recognised NSC subjects and levels of achievement.



**(b) For Diploma Studies**

The minimum admission requirement is the National Senior Certificate with a minimum of 30% in the language of learning and teaching of the higher education institution as certified by Umalusi, coupled with an achievement rating of 3 (moderate achievement, 40% - 49%) or better in four recognised 20-credit subjects. Institutional and programme needs may require additional combinations of recognised NSC subjects and levels of achievement.

**(c) For Bachelor Studies**

To meet the minimum admission requirements to a Bachelor's Degree study at a higher education institution, a candidate must obtain, in addition to the National Senior Certificate, an achievement rating of 4 (Adequate Achievement, 50% - 59%) or better in four designated subjects chosen from the following recognised 20-credit subjects:

|                                  |                        |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|
| Accounting                       | Information Technology |
| Agricultural Sciences            | Languages              |
| Business Studies                 | Life Sciences          |
| Consumer Studies                 | Mathematics            |
| Dramatic Arts                    | Mathematical Literacy  |
| Economics                        | Music                  |
| Engineering, Graphics and Design | Physical Sciences      |
| Geography                        | Religion Studies       |
| History                          | Visual Arts            |





## 7. FINANCIAL AID

### **What can I do if I need a study loan or bursary?**

The National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS) is a government agency set up to provide loans and bursaries to deserving students who need financial assistance to pay for their studies at public universities and Further Education and Training (FET) colleges in South Africa. Bursaries are available from NSFAS for any course of study. Further information relating to the NSFAS can be obtained from the institutions where you are planning to study. You can contact the NSFAS call centre on 08600 NSFAS (08600 67327), email [info@nsfas.org.za](mailto:info@nsfas.org.za) or visit [www.nsfas.org.za](http://www.nsfas.org.za)

### **How do apply for a bursary to become a teacher?**

The Funza Lushaka Bursary Programme is a multi-year programme that promotes teaching in public schools. Full-cost bursaries are available to enable eligible students to complete a full teaching qualification in an area of national priority. Recipients of this bursary are required to teach in a public school for the same number of years for which they received the bursary. For further information on the Funza Lushaka Bursary Programme, go to <http://www.funzalushaka.doe.go.za>.

## 8. CONCLUSION

If you are disappointed with your results, do not panic or think you must deal with it on your own. You can seek advice and support from your teachers or department counsellors. You may also wish to contact CHILDLINE on their toll-free number: 0800 055 555 and you will be re-directed to the appropriate regional office. Make the most of all the opportunities offered to you. Take advantage of all the options the Department has made available, and all the practical assistance the provincial departments also offer.



For further assistance, please call:

|               |                             |
|---------------|-----------------------------|
| National      | 0800 202 933                |
| Eastern Cape  | 040 608 4200 / 043 604 7709 |
| Free State    | 051 404 8000 / 051 404 8318 |
| Gauteng       | 011 355 0000 / 011 355 0588 |
| KwaZulu-Natal | 033 846 5000 / 031 327 0444 |
| Limpopo       | 015 290 7611 / 015 290 7627 |
| Mpumalanga    | 013 766 5000 / 013 766 0006 |
| North West    | 018 387 3312 / 018 388 0803 |
| Northern Cape | 053 839 6302 / 053 839 6500 |
| Western Cape  | 021 467 2000 / 021 467 2057 |





222 Struben Street, Pretoria, 0001  
Private Bag X895, Pretoria, 80001, South Africa  
Tel: 012 357 3000 | Fax: 012 323 0601

Private Bag X9035, Cape Town, 8000, South Africa  
Tel: 021 486 7000 | Fax 021 461 8110  
Call centre: 0800 202 933

**ISBN: 978-1-4315-2693-2**  
**Department of Basic Education**



[www.education.gov.za](http://www.education.gov.za)



[www.facebook.com/BasicEd](http://www.facebook.com/BasicEd)



[www.twitter.com/dbe\\_sa](http://www.twitter.com/dbe_sa)

