



basic education

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Basic Education
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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TO

HEADS OF PROVINCIAL EXAMINATION

HEADS OF PROVINCIAL CURRICULUM

HIGHER EDUCATION SOUTH AFRICA (HESA)

UMALUSI

INDEPENDENT EXAMINATIONS BOARD (IEB)

SOUTH AFRICAN COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT INSTITUTE (SACAI)

SOUTH AFRICAN QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY (SAQA)

SOUTH AFRICAN DEMOCRATIC TEACHERS UNION (SADTU)

NATIONAL PROFESSIONAL TEACHERS' ORGANISATION OF SOUTH AFRICA (NAPTOSA)

SUID AFRIKAANSE ONDERWYSER UNIE (SAOU).

EXAMINATION CIRCULAR NO.17 OF 2014

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AMENDED SENIOR CERTIFICATE, A QUALIFICATION FOR ADULTS AND OUT OF SCHOOL LEARNERS

1. The last Senior Certificate examination based on the policy document, *A Résumé of instructional programmes in schools (Report 550)*, which allowed learners with incomplete Senior Certificate credits, as well as adult learners of 21 years and older, was conducted in June 2014.
2. However, based on the need for a qualification for adults that is equivalent to the current National Senior Certificate (NSC), the Minister of Basic Education has approved the revision of the current Senior Certificate qualification such that it can be offered by learners who will have no alternative route to follow post June 2014. The amended Senior Certificate, retains its qualification structure but will utilise the National Curriculum Statement (NCS) subjects to support the qualification. This implies that the Curriculum and Assessment Policy Statement (CAPS) subjects will be offered as part of the amended Senior Certificate. The first examination based on the amended Senior Certificate will be written in June/July

2015. All Senior Certificate subjects that were passed prior to June 2015, at Higher Grade and Standard Grade levels, excluding Lower Grade conversions, will be recognized.

3. Admission to the amended Senior Certificate

The following learners will qualify for admission to the amended Senior Certificate:

- (a) Adult learners who are 21 years and older who have:
 - (i) a *General Education and Training Certificate (GETC)*; or
 - (ii) a Grade 9 school report (or the old standard seven), stating that they have passed Grade 9 or Standard 7; or
 - (iii) a recognised equivalent qualification obtained at NQF Level 1 which requires two official languages.
- (b) Adult learners who are 21 years and older with an incomplete Senior Certificate qualification.
- (c) Adult learners who are 21 years and older with an incomplete National Senior Certificate and whose School-Based Assessment (SBA) validity has expired.
- (d) Only 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 the Provincial Education Department.

4. Subjects to be Offered

The subjects listed below which are part of the Curriculum and Assessment Policy Statement of the National Senior Certificate, will be offered as part of the amended Senior Certificate. The subjects will in essence be the Curriculum and Assessment Policy Statements of the National Senior Certificate, excluding the School-Based Assessment (SBA) component. Each candidate must offer six subjects in order to qualify for the amended Senior Certificate. Adults who have approved Senior Certificate subject credits, but do not comply with the required six-subject package, must select the remaining required subjects from the following list of 14 adapted National Senior Certificate subjects:

TABLE A: OFFICIAL LANGUAGES AT HOME AND FIRST ADDITIONAL LEVEL

SUBJECT	NUMBER
Afrikaans Home Language	13300019
Afrikaans First Additional Language	13310029
English Home Language	13300039
English First Additional Language	13310049
IsiNdebele Home Language	13300059
IsiNdebele First Additional Language	13310069
IsiXhosa Home Language	13300079
IsiXhosa First Additional Language	13310089

IsiZulu Home Language	13300099
IsiZulu First Additional Language	13310109
Sepedi Home Language	13300119
Sepedi First Additional Language	13310129
Sesotho Home Language	13300139
Sesotho First Additional Language	13310149
Setswana Home Language	13300159
Setswana First Additional Language	13310169
SiSwati Home Language	13300179
SiSwati First Additional Language	13310189
Tshivenda Home Language	13300199
Tshivenda First Additional Language	13310209
Xitsonga Home Language	13300219
Xitsonga First Additional Language	13310229

TABLE B1: AGRICULTURE

SUBJECT	NUMBER
Agricultural Sciences	10320239

**TABLE B2: BUSINESS, COMMERCE AND MANAGEMENT
STUDIES**

SUBJECT	NUMBER
Accounting	12320249
Business Studies	12320259
Economics	12320269

TABLE B3: HUMAN AND SOCIAL STUDIES

SUBJECT	NUMBER
Geography	16320279
History	16320289
Religion Studies	16320299

**TABLE B4: PHYSICAL, MATHEMATICAL, COMPUTER AND LIFE
SCIENCES**

SUBJECT	NUMBER
Computer Applications Technology	19320309
Information Technology	19320319
Life Sciences	19320329
Mathematical Literacy	19320339
Mathematics	19320349
Physical Sciences	19320359

The Curriculum and Assessment Policy Statements for the above-listed Senior Certificate subjects are available on the Department of Basic Education's website, www.education.gov.za under CAPS, FET Phase on the Home Page.

5. Subjects to be recognized

Senior Certificate subjects credits that were passed prior to June 2015, at Higher Grade and Standard Grade levels, excluding Lower Grade conversions, will be recognized.

With the exception of Business English N3, Second Language, and/or Sakeafrikaans N3, Second Language, no N3 subjects will be recognised.

In the case of learners, who have attempted the National Senior Certificate examination, but were unable to complete all the subject requirements, and have exhausted the three year validity period allowed for the School Based Assessment (SBA), such candidates will have all their previous credits recognised.

6. Examinations

Candidates that qualify to write the amended Senior Certificate examination will write the examination in June/July 2015. Candidates writing the amended Senior Certificate will be exempt from School Based Assessment, and this implies that the examination in the subject will constitute 100% of the final mark. Examinations will be administered at designated examination centres determined by the Provincial Education Department. The examination may also be offered by the independent assessment bodies accredited by Umalusi.

7. Registration for the 2015 Senior Certificate Examination

Adults that qualify to write the 2015 Senior Certificate examination must register for the examination not later than **31 January 2015**. Learners may register at any provincial education office which includes the

provincial head office, the district office or a circuit office. The Registration Form that needs to be completed by candidates is attached (ANNEXURE A)

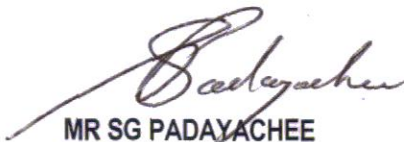
8. Preparation for the 2015 Senior Certificate Examination

Learners that intend to write the 2015 Senior Certificate examination must commence with preparations for the examinations immediately, given that the curriculum is a year programme. Learners may obtain the Curriculum and Assessment Policy Statement (CAPS) for the relevant subject from the DBE website or the nearest provincial education office. The Department of Basic Education (DBE) will also make available an Examination Guideline, which provides a framework on the structure and format of the examination. Exemplar question papers based on CAPS are also available on the DBE website.

Provincial Education Departments are kindly requested to bring the contents of this Circular to the attention of all officials, key stakeholder bodies and learners involved.

For any enquiries please contact Dr RR Poliah at tel. 012 357 3909, or e-mail poliah.r@dbe.gov.za

Your support in the implementation of the contents of this circular is greatly appreciated.



MR SG PADAYACHEE

DDG: PLANNING, INFORMATION AND ASSESSMENT

DATE: 2014/09/19