

## BASIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT IS READY TO ADMINISTER THE NATIONAL SENIOR CERTIFICATE EXAMINATIONS

25 OCTOBER 2021

The 2021 National Senior Certificate (NSC) examination will officially commence on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2021, with the writing of English Home Language (124 065 candidates), English First Additional Language (609 830 candidates) and English Second Additional Language (4 candidates) and conclude on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2021.

A total of 897 786 candidates will sit for the November 2021 NSC examinations, comprising 735 677 full-time candidates and 162 109 part-time candidates. These candidates will be sitting for the examinations at 6 326 public examination centres, 526 independent centres and 326 designated centres.

The national examination system is ready to administer a credible public examination and it is geared to accommodate any change that may be warranted by the current environment.

It should be noted that despite the abnormal context, the Class of 2021 will be subjected to the same high quality examination that previous cohorts were subjected to, and the Quality Assurance Council, Umalusi, has confirmed that the national examination system is ready to administer the 2021 NSC examination.

The Department of Basic Education has learnt valuable lessons from the previous examinations and is therefore more confident in administering this examination. Candidates that demonstrate COVID-19 symptoms as well as candidates that test positive will be allowed to write their examination at special isolation venues that have been arranged.

To accommodate the negative effects of Covid19, measures such as the provision of supplementary material, vacation classes, after-school programmes, teacher content training and placement of volunteer teachers were implemented. The education sector at large placed strong emphasis on the areas of psychosocial support for learners and teachers, curriculum coverage monitoring, extra school based tuition such as morning or afternoon and weekend classes, ICT utilisation in the form of TV, Radio, online and web-based platforms, peer-led study groups and the provision of additional LTSM.

The Department of Basic Education urges South Africans to rally behind the class of 2021 ahead of the start of the final grade 12 examinations this week. Parents are requested to be extra vigilant to ensure that learners do not resort to engaging in any activity relating to examination irregularities. Parents and learners across the country have signed a Commitment Agreement where they bind themselves to the conditions listed in the Commitment Agreement. These are the key conditions of the Commitment Agreement:

#### Media Enquiries:

**Elijah Mhlanga** - Head of Communication: 083 580 8275 | **Hope Mokgathe** - Spokesperson to Minister: 079 817 0427

**Terence Khala** - Media Liaison Officer: 081 758 1546

- (a) Any deviation from or contravention of the Regulations by a candidate registered to sit for the 2021 National Senior Certificate examination will compromise the integrity of the examination and the **results** of the candidate could be **declared null and void and the candidate could be barred from writing one to three subsequent examinations**. Criminal prosecution could be imposed should it be found that the candidate is involved in the leakage of any examination question paper.
- (b) The candidate must report any information or rumour regarding examination irregularities to the examination hotline established for this purpose. The examination hot-line will be a 24hour service. In addition, to reporting to the examination hotline, this information must be brought to the attention of the school principal. The number of the WhatsApp hotline is 069 335 2818. The information provided on this WhatsApp line will be treated with confidentiality.
- (c) In cases where a question paper, or part(s) of a question paper, is forwarded to a candidate via e-mail, SMS, WhatsApp or through any other electronic means, and the candidate fails to report such an incident to the school principal or the WhatsApp hotline, he/she will be deemed as being complicit.
- (d) All candidates will be required to complete the Electronic Devices' Register, which will be managed by the school. The Electronic Devices' Register will require all candidates to record all details of the cell phone or any other electronic device that they will be using during the examination period
- (e) The candidate and the parent/guardian must be aware that should the candidate agree to any assistance, irrespective of who provided the assistance (i.e. the educator, invigilator or fellow learner), they shall be considered to have colluded with the person who provided the assistance, and therefore the appropriate sanction will be imposed.
- (f) A candidate who is alleged to have had access to the question paper or parts of the question paper, prior to the examination, will be required to submit his/her cell phone or any other electronic device to the Department for further investigation.

The Department is fully aware that the majority of our learners are honest and will comply with these rules so that we eradicate any irregular practice that may rear its head in this examination.

The Department would like to commend all learners, teachers and SMTs **for the resilience** they have shown in braving the pandemic with a single goal of ensuring that the Class of 2021 receives optimum support.

The Department would like to further extend sincere gratitude to Provinces, Partners, Educational Stakeholders, Parents and Civil Society (NGOs) for going beyond the call of duty to assist and support Grade 12 learners.

The Department wishes all candidates who will sit for the 2021 NSC examination the very best in their endeavours to ensure success in this very important examination.

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