



ASSESSMENT & EXAMINATIONS

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NSC 2011 CHIEF MARKER'S REPORT

SUBJECT	NATURAL SCIENCES
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PAPER	
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DATE OF EXAMINATION:	10/11/2011	DURATION:	
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SECTION 1:

(General overview of Learner Performance in the question paper as a whole)

The question paper was of a good standard, because it moves from simple questions to more complex questions. Learners did not prove themselves in the question paper, they lack to understand some of the questions. From my observation and the markers comments the following were reported as problematic questions for the benefit of the learning area.

- Question 1- compromising of Multiple Choice questions, True and False, and Matching Column. A great majority of the learners performed average for this question.
- Question 2- Covers Life and Living of the Unit Standard and learners did not perform that well in this section for various reasons that will be further discussed in the report.
- Question 3- Cover Energy and Change of the Unit Standard did not perform that well at all in this section.
- Question 4- based on Matter and Material was performed average for this questions.
- Question 5-

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SECTION 2:

**Comment on candidates' performance in individual questions
(It is expected that a comment will be provided for each question on a separate sheet).**

QUESTION 1
(a) General comment on the performance of learners in the specific question. Was the question well answered or poorly answered?
This question was well answered by the learners and they expressed themselves very well. The question helped the learners with the difficult questions in the question paper. Learners performed well in this question because they were given choices.
(b) Why was the question poorly answered? Also provide specific examples, indicate common errors committed by learners in this question, and any misconceptions.
This question boosted the learners to respond to the question as a whole, for example question 1.2 where the is True or False question, they guess their answers.
Question 1.3 on matching column, many of the learners had a problem with matching the right answers to the terminology placed in column A.
(c) Provide suggestions for improvement in relation to Teaching and Learning
Educators must use Unit Standards and Guidelines to train the learners in multiple choice questions and use previous question papers. They also should give them more practices in order for a learner to know how to answer the multiple choice questions.
(d) Describe any other specific observations relating to responses of learners
Learners battled to answer question 1.3 because their responses were based on guess work.
e) Any other comments useful to teachers, subject advisors, teacher development etc.
I would encourage teachers, subject advisors to expose learners to previous question papers. Teachers must teach according to the Unit Standards and Guidelines not to teach Site Based Assessment.
QUESTION 2
(a) General comment on the performance of learners in the specific question. Was the question well answered or poorly answered?
This question was fairly answered by the learners. They did not respond to the question asked by the question paper.
(b) Why was the question poorly answered? Also provide specific examples, indicate common errors committed by learners in this question, and any misconceptions.
Question 2.3.1 was to give an example of a producer, primary consumer and a carnivore in the picture that was given in question 2.3. They responded by giving their own opinions like producer was the grass, primary consumer was the cow and the carnivore was the lion which was not in the picture given.
Question 2.3.2 whereby they were suppose to write down one food chain from the food web given in the picture, they responded by giving their own food chain according to their own understanding.

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(c) Provide suggestions for improvement in relation to Teaching and Learning
Educators need to do the activities of the various food web and classes in order for the learners to become familiar with the questions like these.
(d) Describe any other specific observations relating to responses of learners
Question 2.2, in this question was to show nutrients found in different foods and the question was in a form of a table. They lack an understanding of the question because they did not write what was required by the question.
e) Any other comments useful to teachers, subject advisors, teacher development etc.
Educators must do research so that they develop themselves together with the learners. They must strictly use Unit Standards and Assessment Guidelines. Subject advisors must make sure that workshops are done for new educators of the particular learning areas.
QUESTION 3
(a) General comment on the performance of learners in the specific question. Was the question well answered or poorly answered?
This question was poorly answered. The theme energy and change was not taught well in centres. Learners lack an understanding of classifying conductors and insulators that were given in the question paper.
(b) Why was the question poorly answered? Also provide specific examples, indicate common errors committed by learners in this question, and any misconceptions.
In question 3 learners were very confused in classifying conductors and insulators although they were given in the question paper.
In question 3.3 they were suppose to give activities that occurred in energy changes.
They lack an understanding of that question and their numbering was haphazard that made them to lose marks.
(c) Provide suggestions for improvement in relation to Teaching and Learning
All Unit Standard titles must be well taught by teachers. Learners must attend classes regularly. There must be a good understanding between the learner and the educator.
(d) Describe any other specific observations relating to responses of learners
In question 3.3 most learners wrote one form of energy instead of two forms of energy that were needed by the question. They lose marks because they had to write both energy forms that were needed. There were no marks allocated for one form of energy
e) Any other comments useful to teachers, subject advisors, teacher development etc.
Previous question papers must be reviewed and implemented when they finished each every task they did.
QUESTION 4
(a) General comment on the performance of learners in the specific question. Was the question well answered or poorly answered?
The question was well answered by the learners but there are some learners who did not answered it well. They lack to understand what was required by the question.

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<p>(b) Why was the question poorly answered? Also provide specific examples, indicate common errors committed by learners in this question, and any misconceptions.</p>
<p>Question 4.1 learners were asked to classify whether the following were mixtures or solutions, (a) cold drinks, (b) air and (c) fruit salads. They wrote ingredients for fruit salad also in cold drink they responded by giving the soda drinks for an example Twizza's and dilutable drinks.</p>
<p>(c) Provide suggestions for improvement in relation to Teaching and Learning</p>
<p>Unit Standard ID's, specific outcomes and assessment criteria's must be met by all educators during teaching and learning in the centres. All educators must try to motivate the importance of high attendance by learners.</p>
<p>(d) Describe any other specific observations relating to responses of learners</p>
<p>Instead of answering the questions they were asked for example in question 4.2 and 4.4 and that resulted in them losing marks. The learners lack understanding as results of language barriers.</p>
<p>e) Any other comments useful to teachers, subject advisors, teacher development etc.</p>
<p>Teachers can encourage learners to continue learning outside the classroom. Teachers, subject advisors and learners should understand that Natural Sciences is and always will be an affecting factor in everyday life</p>
<p>QUESTION 5</p>
<p>(a) General comment on the performance of learners in the specific question. Was the question well answered or poorly answered?</p>
<p>This question was answered by others some learners did not read the questions properly.</p>
<p>(b) Why was the question poorly answered? Also provide specific examples, indicate common errors committed by learners in this question, and any misconceptions.</p>
<p>In question 5.3.3 learners did not understand the correct formula to use in the calculations required by the question. That resulted for them to lose marks</p>
<p>(c) Provide suggestions for improvement in relation to Teaching and Learning</p>
<p>I suggest that learners should practice their formulas regularly in order to familiarize themselves with them.</p>
<p>(d) Describe any other specific observations relating to responses of learners</p>
<p>In question 5.4 as a whole learners did not refer to the picture given when attempting to answer the question, instead they gave their own answers that were not related to the question asked.</p>
<p>e)Any other comments useful to teachers, subject advisors, teacher development etc.</p>
<p>Educators should regularly include cartoons and pictures in their teaching and learning. They must review the previous examination papers and even textbook activities in order for the learners to be more comfortable with this kind of question. Subject advisors must conduct workshops for new educators in order for them to get knowledge of this learning area.</p>

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QUESTION 6
(a) General comment on the performance of learners in the specific question. Was the question well answered or poorly answered?
(b) Why was the question poorly answered? Also provide specific examples, indicate common errors committed by learners in this question, and any misconceptions.
(c) Provide suggestions for improvement in relation to Teaching and Learning
(d) Describe any other specific observations relating to responses of learners
e) Any other comments useful to teachers, subject advisors, teacher development etc.
QUESTION 7
(a) General comment on the performance of learners in the specific question. Was the question well answered or poorly answered?
(b) Why was the question poorly answered? Also provide specific examples, indicate common errors committed by learners in this question, and any misconceptions.
(c) Provide suggestions for improvement in relation to Teaching and Learning
(d) Describe any other specific observations relating to responses of learners
e) Any other comments useful to teachers, subject advisors, teacher development etc.

SIGNATURE OF CHIEF MARKER: _____