



ASSESSMENT AND EXAMINATIONS DIRECTORATE

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ASSESSMENT INSTRUCTION 35 of 2012

**TO: DEPUTY DIRECTORS-GENERAL
CHIEF DIRECTORS
HEAD OFFICE DIRECTORS AND DISTRICT DIRECTORS
CHIEF EDUCATION SPECIALISTS (DISTRICTS)
EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT OFFICERS
DEPUTY CHIEF EDUCATION SPECIALISTS
SENIOR EDUCATION SPECIALISTS
DEPUTY DIRECTORS
ASSISTANT DIRECTORS
PRINCIPALS OF PUBLIC AND INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS (GRADES 1-6 AND 9)
TEACHER ORGANISATIONS/ UNIONS
SCHOOL GOVERNING BODIES**

DATE: 15 JUNE 2012

**DISSEMINATION OF ANNUAL NATIONAL ASSESSMENT (ANA) EXEMPLARS AND
QUALITATIVE ANALYSIS REPORT OF 2011**

1. BACKGROUND:

The improvement of the quality and levels of educational outcomes in the schooling system is a top priority of both Government and the Department of Basic Education (DBE). The extent to which these outcomes are achieved will be monitored through the administration of the Annual National Assessment (ANA). ANA is an assessment tool supporting *Action Plan to 2014, Towards the Realization of Schooling 2025*.

A key problem in the past has been the absence of a standardised measurement of the quality of teaching and learning below Grade 12 except in samples of schools and learners. The ANA written in February 2011 involving almost six million learners in primary schools throughout South Africa, represents one of the most significant proactive interventions by Government to strengthen the foundational skills of Literacy and Numeracy among South African learners.

The purpose of ANA is to make a decisive contribution towards better learning in schools. Under-performance in schools, especially schools serving the poorest communities is a widely acknowledged problem. Several interventions by Government and other organizations are currently in place to promote quality schooling. The 2012 wave of ANA to be conducted in September 2012, will serve as a critical instrument to monitor the degree to which national learner workbooks, CAPS and initiatives targeting specific areas of weakness for schools/teachers/learners in Literacy and Numeracy, have had an impact on learning.

2. ANNUAL NATIONAL ASSESSMENT EXEMPLARS:

In preparation for the administration of ANA the Department of Basic Education has developed exemplars for Grades 1 - 6 and 9 on Languages and Mathematics.

These exemplars contain assessment activities as well as marking tools (Memoranda, Checklists and Rubrics). The intention of these exemplars is to prepare learners for ANA that will be administered in September 2012. The teachers are expected to make reference (in terms of the format and style of questioning) to these exemplars when they develop their own Assessment Tasks. These exemplars will be delivered in two tranches, the first tranche will focus on work to be covered in Quarter 1 and the second tranche will cover work for Quarter 2 and 3.

3. QUALITATIVE ANALYSIS REPORT ON ANA 2011:

The Department of Basic Education conducted a qualitative item analysis of learner performance in the test that was written for ANA of 2011, and formulated a report on areas where teaching and learning should focus on Language and Mathematics in the Foundation and Intermediate Phases. This report should be used by District Officials and schools in the crafting of improvement plans for Languages and Mathematics.

4. ADMINISTRATION:

The Assessment and Examinations Directorate will make available to the district offices, one CD containing sets of test exemplars in Language and Mathematics for the Intermediate Phase and a set of hard copies for each school and another one containing the qualitative analysis report. The content will be based on work that should have been covered in Term 1. The E-Learning staff in the districts will make CDs available to each school. In a school where there is more than one teacher teaching a class of Languages and Mathematics in Grades 4-6, they must ensure that copies are made from either the CD or from the hard copies. Teachers must utilize the exemplars.

5. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

5.1 Provincial Head Office

- The Assessment and Examinations Directorate will collect the exemplars from Department of Basic Education (DBE).
- The Assessment and Examinations Directorate will provide a CD and Hard copies of the exemplars to each of the 23 district offices.
- The Assessment and Examinations Directorate will print a set of exemplars for each school.
- The Assessment and Examinations Directorate must ensure that all district curriculum support staff, Principals of schools and teachers receive the qualitative analysis report on ANA of 2011.
- The Directorate Curriculum ECD & GET Programmes will mediate these exemplars to the Subject Advisors for Languages and Mathematics and Lead teachers of Grades 1-6 and 9.

5.2 District Offices

- The District offices must disseminate the exemplars to all schools, in the following sequence :

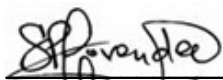
- the first tranche focuses on work to be covered for Grades 4, 5 and 6 in Quarter 1.
- the second tranche focuses on work to be covered for Grades 4, 5 and 6 in Quarter 2 and 3.
- exemplars for Foundation Phase and Grade 9 will be forwarded by the Department of Basic Education shortly and shall be distributed in July 2012 to districts and schools.
- The Chief Education Specialists (CESs) for Curriculum to ensure that the district E-Learning personnel provide copies of the CDs to each school offering Grades 1-6 and 9.
- The Chief Education Specialists (CESs) for Curriculum to ensure that the district E-Learning personnel provide copies of the CDs of the qualitative analysis report on ANA 2011 to each school
- Subject Advisors are to utilize the report as a resource tool to develop improvement plans for teaching and learning, given the specific literacy and numeracy challenges identified in the report.
- Subject Advisors for Languages and Mathematics for Grades 1-6 and 9 should monitor the availability and utilization of the exemplars and the analysis report in schools.
- Subject Advisors should support teachers on the development of their own assessment activities, understanding the level of content knowledge required and the utilization of the marking tools (Memoranda, Checklists and Rubrics).

5.3 Schools

- School Management Teams are expected to ensure that teachers receive copies of the ANA exemplars and the qualitative analysis report of 2011
- Teachers are expected to develop their own Assessment Tasks in a similar format as the exemplars in order to familiarize learners both in terms of the format and the level of content knowledge required
- In order to prepare learners for the writing of the ANA in September 2012, teachers are expected to engage learners in the writing of these assessment activities and mark the responses using the tools provided.
- Teachers should utilize the qualitative analysis report on ANA 2011 as a resource tool to develop improvement plans for Languages and Mathematics in the affected grades.

6. CONCLUSION:

This Assessment Instruction is intended to bring clarity to districts and schools in the improvement of learner performance in Mathematics and Languages for Grades 1- 6 and 9. Districts must support the schools in ensuring that the ANA exemplars and the qualitative report be utilized effectively in preparation of learners for the ANA to be written in September 2012. The co-operation of all education stakeholders in this important national initiative is both anticipated and appreciated.



S. P. GOVENDER
(A) DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL

