



EASTERN CAPE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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ASSESSMENT INSTRUCTION 04 of 2009

TO: DEPUTY DIRECTORS-GENERAL
CHIEF DIRECTORS
HEAD OFFICE DIRECTORS AND DISTRICT DIRECTORS
CHIEF EDUCATION SPECIALISTS
EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT OFFICERS
DEPUTY CHIEF / SENIOR EDUCATION SPECIALISTS
PRINCIPALS OF PUBLIC AND INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS
(GRADES 10-12)
TEACHER UNIONS / ORGANISATIONS
SCHOOL GOVERNING BODIES

DATE: 05 JANUARY 2009

- MATHEMATICS PAPER 3 IN THE NATIONAL CURRICULUM STATEMENT (NCS) GRADES 10 - 12
- MATHEMATICS AND MATHEMATICAL LITERACY ADVOCACY

MATHEMATICS PAPER 3: GRADES 11 AND 12

The 2009 and 2010 National Senior Certificate examination in Mathematics will consist of two compulsory papers, **Paper 1** and **Paper 2**.

Paper 3 is optional and will not count towards the promotion and certification of National Senior Certificate (NSC) candidates. Candidates' achievement will only be determined through Paper 1 and Paper 2. Performance in Paper 3 will be indicated as a separate statement of results. Higher Education Institutions may use this statement of the results of Paper 3 in making decisions on admission to specific faculties and programmes.

Paper 3 is an optional paper which examines Optional Assessment Standards. Please note that **Paper 3** will remain optional to all learners in Grade 11 in 2009 and in Grade 12 in 2009 and 2010. The Optional Assessment Standards will then become compulsory in 2011.

Teachers are encouraged to work towards teaching the content required by the Optional Assessment Standards.

MATHEMATICS PAPER 3: COMPULSORY IN GRADE 10 IN 2009

As Mathematics Paper 3 becomes compulsory for a National Senior Certificate in 2011, schools are reminded that the Grade 10 learners in 2009 are to be taught all the assessment standards necessary to complete this paper in 2011. It is important that schools communicate this information timeously to parents and learners.

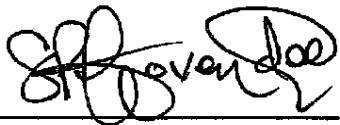
MATHEMATICAL LITERACY

The Province is concerned about the numbers of Grade 9 learners who are being advised to offer Mathematical Literacy rather than Mathematics in Grade 10. Mathematical Literacy is not to be considered as a soft option, nor is it the equivalent of standard grade Mathematics in the NATED 550 curriculum. Schools are therefore urged to consider this matter seriously and offer appropriate guidance to learners and parents.

It is expected that all schools will hold meetings with the parents of Grade 9 learners and give them a summary of the content of the new National Senior Certificate (NSC) subjects. This must include the difference between Mathematics and Mathematical Literacy. It should be noted that there is a strong link between English language skills and arithmetic in Mathematical Literacy. Many learners in the Province are disadvantaged by this connection and hence are likely to perform better in Mathematics.

While Mathematical Literacy is included on the list of designated subjects for further study, it must be noted that some university faculties such as Medicine, Engineering, Science and Commerce do not accept Mathematical Literacy.

All education stakeholders, especially Subject Advisors, Teachers of Mathematics, learners and parents, are advised to treat the contents of this Assessment Instruction with the seriousness that it deserves.



S.P. GOVENDER
CHIEF DIRECTOR: CURRICULUM MANAGEMENT