



## **EASTERN CAPE**

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Assessment and Examinations Directorate \* P. O Box 4571 King William's Town \* 5600 \*  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA \* REFERENCE: 13/P  
Enquiries: Mrs. P. M. Edley Tel: +27 (0)43 604 7708 \* Fax 0866330345  
Website: [ecprov.gov.za](http://ecprov.gov.za) \* Email: [pat.meyer@edu.ecprov.gov.za](mailto:pat.meyer@edu.ecprov.gov.za)

### **ASSESSMENT INSTRUCTION 03 of 2008**

**TO: DEPUTY DIRECTORS-GENERAL  
CHIEF DIRECTORS  
DIRECTORS AND DISTRICT DIRECTORS  
CHIEF EDUCATION SPECIALISTS  
EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT OFFICERS  
DEPUTY-CHIEF EDUCATION SPECIALISTS AND SENIOR  
EDUCATION SPECIALISTS  
PRINCIPALS OF SCHOOLS WITH GRADES 9 - 12  
TEACHER ORGANISATIONS**

**DATE: 18 JANUARY 2008**

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

### **MATHEMATICS VS 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.

## **MATHEMATICS PAPER 3**

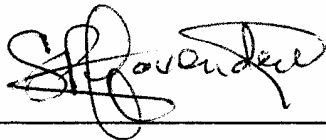
The National Senior Certificate examinations in Mathematics will consist of two compulsory papers, **Paper 1** and **Paper 2**.

**Paper 3** 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 12 from 2008 – 2010. It is anticipated that the Optional Assessment Standards will become compulsory after 2010.

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

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.



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**S.P. GOVENDER**  
**CHIEF DIRECTOR: CURRICULUM MANAGEMENT**