

National Senior Certificate

Information Booklet

2015



basic education

Department:
Basic Education
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



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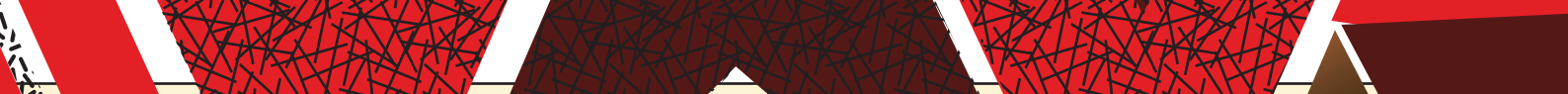
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Minister's Message

As we celebrate 20 years of public examinations in South Africa, I am pleased to release the National Senior Certificate Examination report on the Class of 2015. This cohort entered the education system in 2004 at the onset of our journey into the second decade of free citizenry in South Africa.

The Class of 2015 is the largest cohort of Grade 12 learners to participate in public examinations in South Africa, since the inception of the democratic dispensation. The significant increase of 117 798 candidates in the 2015 enrolment confirms a higher throughput rate of learners, a challenge which the sector has been dealing with during the last few years. The increase in the number of learners achieving the NSC, from 403 874 in 2014 to 455 825 in 2015, (an increase of 51 951 learners), attests to an improved efficiency of the system. The increase in the number of learners qualifying for admission to Bachelor Studies, from 150 752 to 166 263, is also extremely encouraging and points to quality improvements in the system.



Despite the increase in the number of learners that have passed, the failure rate in certain subjects such as Mathematics, Physical Science, Geography and Accounting are still high. To those learners who did not obtain the marks they expected in these or other subjects, a second chance is available to improve on their results. The Supplementary Examinations provide you with the opportunity to focus on the one or two subjects that you need to improve. Supplementary Examinations commence on 10 February 2016 and conclude on 17 March 2016 and you should dedicate the next few weeks in preparing for these examinations. To those who were unsuccessful in the examination, there are also various options available. You should seek advice from your school or district regarding the options available to you.

Congratulations to the Class of 2015! I encourage you to see this achievement as an important milestone that would lead to even greater success in furthering your life opportunities in higher education, the workplace and as valuable citizens in a democratic South Africa. I also thank parents, teachers, principals, teacher unions, communities, district and provincial officials, and social partners for supporting the Class of 2015. We urge the Class of 2016 to strive for improved quality of teaching and learning. This is the only way to a better life for all.

1. REPORT CARD - CLASS OF 2015

Table 1: Overall performance of candidates in the 2015 NSC examination

Province	2015		
	Total Wrote	Total Achieved	% Achieved
Eastern Cape	87 090	49 475	56.8
Free State	31 161	25 416	81.6
Gauteng	108 442	91 327	84.2
KwaZulu-Natal	162 658	98 761	60.7
Limpopo	101 575	66 946	65.9
Mpumalanga	54 980	43 229	78.6
North West	33 286	27 118	81.5
Northern Cape	11 623	8 064	69.4
Western Cape	53 721	45 489	84.7
National	644 536	455 825	70.7

FIGURE 1: NSC performance, 2008-2015

Figure 1 Comparison of NSC performance, 2008 to 2015								
Year	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Percentage	62.6	60.6	67.8	70.2	73.9	78.2	75.8	70.7

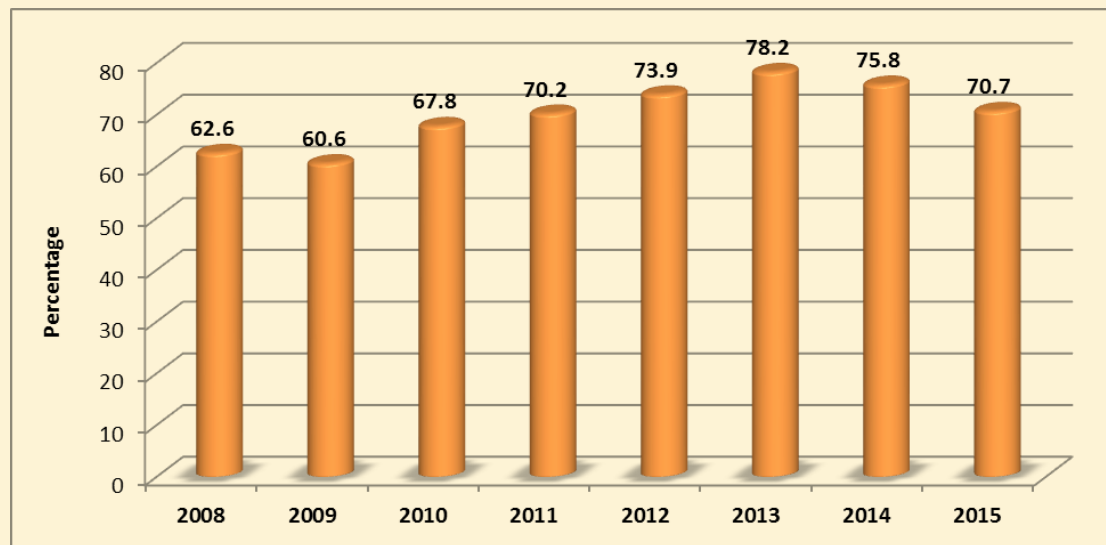


Table 2: 2015 NSC performance by the type of qualification

Province	Total Wrote	Bachelor		Diploma		Higher Certificate		NSC		Total Achieved	% Achieved
		Achieved	% Achieved	Achieved	% Achieved	Achieved	% Achieved	Achieved	% Achieved		
Eastern Cape	87 090	15 291	17.6	20 055	23.0	14 119	16.2	10	0.0	49 475	56.8
Free State	31 161	9 277	29.8	11 026	35.4	5 102	16.4	11	0.0	25 416	81.6
Gauteng	108 442	38 760	35.7	37 375	34.5	15 191	14.0	1	0.0	91 327	84.2
KwaZulu-Natal	162 658	34 751	21.4	39 799	24.5	24 180	14.9	31	0.0	98 761	60.7
Limpopo	101 575	20 992	20.7	25 434	25.0	20 513	20.2	7	0.0	66 946	65.9
Mpumalanga	54 980	13 497	24.5	18 675	34.0	11 046	20.1	11	0.0	43 229	78.6
North West	33 286	8 865	26.6	11 554	34.7	6 699	20.1	0	0.0	27 118	81.5
Northern Cape	11 623	2 451	21.1	3 306	28.4	2 306	19.8	1	0.0	8 064	69.4
Western Cape	53 721	22 379	41.7	16 496	30.7	6 614	12.3	0	0.0	45 489	84.7
National	644 536	166 263	25.8	183 720	28.5	105 770	16.4	72	0.0	455 825	70.7

Table 3: Candidates' performance at 30% and above in selected subjects, 2014-2015

Subjects (Full-Time)	2014			2015		
	Wrote	Achieved 30% & Above	% Achieved	Wrote	Achieved 30% & Above	% Achieved
Accounting	125 987	85 681	68.0	140 474	83 747	59.6
Agricultural Science	78 063	64 486	82.6	104 251	80 125	76.9
Business Studies	207 659	161 723	77.9	247 822	187 485	75.7
Economics	137 478	94 779	68.9	165 642	112 922	68.2
Geography	236 051	191 966	81.3	303 985	234 209	77.0
History	115 686	99 823	86.3	154 398	129 643	84.0
Life Orientation	542 956	540 810	99.6	660 202	658 308	99.7
Life Sciences	284 298	209 783	73.8	348 076	245 164	70.4
Mathematical Literacy	312 054	262 495	84.1	388 845	277 594	71.4
Mathematics	225 458	120 523	53.5	263 903	129 481	49.1
Physical Science	167 997	103 348	61.5	193 189	113 121	58.6

2. RE-CHECKING OR RE-MARKING OF EXAMINATION SCRIPTS?

- Candidates may apply for re-checking or re-marking of examination answer scripts immediately after receiving their results.
- The closing date for application for a re-check or re-mark is Wednesday, 20 January 2016.
- Application forms for re-checking or re-marking of examination answer scripts are available from schools or examination centres. The fees of R19 for re-checking, R86 for re-marking and R172 for viewing of an examination script. Viewing of a script can only be done after re-checking and re-marking have been done.
- Candidates from no-fee schools and learners whose parents have applied and have been granted a concession on the payment of school fees, are exempted from payment of re-checking and re-marking fees.

3. WITHHELD EXAMINATION RESULTS

- Candidates' results are normally withheld due to irregularities, but those candidates whose results have been blocked or withheld have the right to appeal. When a candidate is informed that the results are withheld, they can do the following:
 - Enquire, preferably in writing, and request the reasons for the withholding of the results. Candidates may also contact the district office or their school for assistance.
- You can visit the nearest office of the Department of Education in your area to enquire about your results or make any other examination-related enquiries you may have. The following contact persons per province will point you in the right direction:

PROVINCE	OFFICIAL	TELEPHONE NUMBER
Eastern Cape	Ms N Lehlakane	043 604 7709
Free State	Mr K Basjan	051 404 8318
Gauteng	Mr B Ngubane	011 355 0307
KwaZulu-Natal	Dr B Mthembu	031 327 0245/031 327 0444
Limpopo	Mr NW Mphahlele	015 290 7627
Mpumalanga	Mr C Manyabeane	013 766 0006
Northern Cape	Ms P Phuzi	053 839 6302
North West	Mr B Nothnagel	018 388 0803
Western Cape	Ms T Singh	021 467 2945

4. SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION REGISTRATION

Who may apply to register for the supplementary examination?

- Candidates that have not met the minimum promotion and certification requirements, but who require a maximum of two subjects to obtain the NSC.
- Candidates who could not sit or finish the examination due to medical reasons, a death in the family, or some other special reason, provided documentary evidence is provided; and
- Candidates who do not satisfy the minimum higher education entry requirements or higher education faculty requirements for a specific occupation with one subject, provided documentary evidence is provided.

How do I register for supplementary examination?

- Candidates who qualify for a supplementary examination can register at the centres where they sat for the examination immediately after receiving their results.
- The closing date for application for the supplementary examination is Wednesday, 20 January 2016.

Where can I access the NSC supplementary timetable?

- If candidates meet the requirements, they should download the supplementary examination timetable at <http://www.education.gov.za> and begin with their preparations immediately.
- The Department has also made available the NSC past examination question papers and study guides, and provinces will be offering support programmes where feasible.

What can I do if I do not qualify to write the supplementary examination?

- Those who have not succeeded in their examinations and do not qualify for the supplementary examination must re-enrol at a school without delay, as long as they meet the age requirement (which is under 21 years of age).
- Grade 12 learners, who failed and who are over 21, should register as part-time candidates or enrol at Public Adult Education Centres. Participation in programmes at these centres is free and is available for young people and adults who have not completed their formal schooling.
- If you were not successful in achieving the NSC, you may want to consider registering for the Amended Senior Certificate, which is a school-leaving qualification for adults and out-of-school learners.
- Alternatively, candidates that were not successful in the examinations could consider vocational education and training. There are 50 Public Further Education and Training (FET) colleges across all provinces of South Africa comprising over 300 campuses or teaching sites.

- Public Further Education and Training (FET) colleges offer vocational training courses and qualifications at various levels of study for learners who have a Grade 9 pass/certificate, an NQF level 1 qualification or a Grade 12 certificate. FET colleges also offer courses (the NATED or “N” courses) which, when combined with practical work, lead to a qualification as an artisan in a wide variety of desperately needed skills in South Africa.

The amended Senior Certificate as an option to consider

- A new policy for the Amended Senior Certificate for adults and out-of-school learners was published in August 2014. This policy allows adults, who are 21 years and older, who have no previous credits, to write the Senior Certificate examination, which will be based on the Curriculum and Assessment Policy Statement (CAPS), the curriculum that is currently being offered in schools.
- The first examination based on the Amended Senior Certificate was written in June 2015. The following categories of learners will qualify for admission to the amended Senior Certificate:
- Category 1:
Adult learners who are 21 years and older, who have a General Education and Training Certificate (GETC) for Adult Basic Education and Training (ABET); or a Grade 9 (Standard 7) school report, stating that they have passed Grade 9; or a recognised equivalent qualification obtained at NQF Level 1 which requires two official languages.
- Category 2:
Adult learners who are 21 years and older.

- Category 3:
Adult learners who are 21 years and older with an incomplete National Senior Certificate.
- Category 4:
In exceptional cases, out-of-school youth who are 18 - 21 years old and who could not complete their school education due to circumstances beyond their control, as verified by the Head of Department in their province.

5 HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTION REQUIREMENTS AND SUPPORT

The minimum requirements for a candidate to obtain a National Senior Certificate are:

- Achieve 40% in three subjects, one of which is an official language at Home Language level and 30% in three subjects.
- Provide full evidence in the SBA component in the subjects offered.

What are the minimum requirements for further studies relating to Higher Certificate, Diploma and Bachelor Studies?

Higher Certificate

The minimum admission requirement is a National Senior Certificate with a minimum of 30% in the language of learning and teaching of the higher education institution as certified by Umalusi, the Quality Assurance Council. Institutional and programme needs may require additional combinations or recognised NSC subjects and levels of achievement.

Diploma

The minimum admission requirement is the National Senior Certificate with a minimum of 30% in the language of learning and teaching of the higher education institution as certified by Umalusi, the Quality Assurance Council, coupled with an achievement rating of 3 (moderate achievement, 40% - 49%) or better in four (4) recognised 20-credit subjects listed from the designated list. Institution and programme needs may require additional combinations of recognised NSC subjects and levels of achievement.

Bachelor's Degree

To meet the minimum admission requirements to a Bachelor's Degree study at a higher education institution, a candidate must obtain, apart from the National Senior Certificate, an achievement rating of 4 (Adequate Achievement, 50% - 59%) or better in four (4) designated subjects chosen from the following recognised 20 credit-bearing subjects:

Accounting	Information Technology
Agricultural Sciences	Languages
Business Studies	Life Sciences
Consumer Studies	Mathematics
Dramatic Arts	Mathematical Literacy
Economics	Music
Engineering, Graphics and Design	Physical Sciences
Geography	Religion Studies
History	Visual Arts

What can I do if I need a study loan or bursary?

- The National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS) is a government agency set up to provide loans and bursaries to deserving students who need financial assistance to pay for their studies at public universities and Further Education and Training (FET) colleges in South Africa. Further information relating to the NSFAS can be obtained from the institutions where you are planning to study or at <http://www.nsfas.org.za>

How do I apply for a bursary to become a teacher?

- The Funza Lushaka Bursary Programme is a multi-year programme that promotes teaching in public schools. Full-cost bursaries are available to enable eligible students to complete a full teaching qualification in an area of national priority. Recipients of this bursary are required to teach in a public school for the same number of years for which they received the bursary. For further information on the Funza Lushaka bursaries, go to <http://www.funzalushaka.doe.gov.za>. Make the most of all the opportunities offered to you. Take advantage of all the options the Department has made available, and all the practical assistance that the provincial departments also offer. All the best!

If you are disappointed with your results, do not panic or think you must deal with it on your own. You can seek advice and support from your teachers or department counsellors. You may also wish to contact CHILDLINE on their toll-free number: 0800 055 555 and you will be redirected to the appropriate regional office.

For further assistance, please call:

National	0800 202 933
Eastern Cape	040 608 4200/043 604 7709
Free State	051 404 8000/051 404 8318
Gauteng	011 355 0000/011 355 0588
KwaZulu-Natal	033 846 5000/031 327 0444
Limpopo	015 290 7611/015 290 7627
Mpumalanga	013 766 5000/013 766 0006
Northern Cape	053 839 6302/053 839 6500
North West	018 387 3312/018 388 0803
Western Cape	021 467 2000/021 467 2057

222 Struben Street, Pretoria, 0001 Private Bag X895, Pretoria, 0001, South Africa
Tel: (012) 357 3000 • Fax: (012) 323 0601
Private Bag X9035, Cape Town, 8000, South Africa Tel: (021) 486 7000 • Fax: (021) 461 8110
Hotline: 0800 202 933

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