



CHIEF DIRECTORATE: EXAMINATIONS AND ASSESSMENT

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ASSESSMENT INSTRUCTION 46 OF 2023

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

DATE: 27 OCTOBER 2023

SPECIAL MARK ADJUSTMENT/CONDONATION DISPENSATION FOR LEARNERS IN GRADES 4–9

1. This Assessment Instruction has the reference to National Assessment Circular 02 of 2023.
2. The purpose of this Assessment Instruction serves to inform school principals and other education managers that National Assessment Circular 5 of 2022 pertaining to Special Mark Adjustment and Condonation Dispensation for Learners in Grades 4 – 9 (Circular is attached) will be applicable for learners in Grades 4 – 9 in 2023 and in subsequent years.
3. The Department of Basic Education (DBE) has through its various research initiatives confirmed that the learning losses emanating from the disruptions caused



by COVID-19 are still prevalent in the system and therefore the Special Mark Adjustment and Condonation Dispensation for Learners in Grades 4 – 9, needs to be applied in 2023, and until the National Policy Pertaining to Programme and Promotion Requirements of the National Curriculum Statement is reviewed.

4. National Assessment Circular 5 of 2022 will apply in its entirety and the only clarification that is added, is that the adjustment dispensation only applies where the pass requirement of 40% and 50% are not met. This implies that a mark between 25% and 29%, cannot be adjusted.
5. The table below provides four scenarios of the most common examples of marks presented by learners, that require an adjustment and/or condonation. These scenarios will assist in clarifying the application of National Assessment Circular No. 5 of 2022. It needs to be noted that these scenarios do not cover all possibilities.
6. The following four scenarios are the most common examples of marks presented by learners, that require an adjustment and/or condonation are presented. These scenarios will assist in clarifying the contents of the above circular. It needs to be noted that these scenarios do not cover all possibilities.

Scenario 1:

Subject	Original	Adjusted	Adjustment	Motivation
Afrikaans FAL	37 %	40 %	3 %	The three subjects are below 40% as per requirement and the rest meet the requirement. An adjustment of between 1 and 5 marks will be done only on these subjects to a mark of 40%. The adjusted mark should not exceed 40 %
Social Sciences	35 %	40 %	5 %	
Technology	39 %	40 %	1 %	



Scenario 2:

Subject	Original	Adjusted	Adjustment	Motivation
EMS	37 %	40 %	3 %	In the case, the four subjects are below 40 %. The learner's marks in other three subjects will be adjusted. The learner will then be condoned in Mathematics.
Social Sciences	35 %	40 %	5 %	
Technology	39 %	40 %	1 %	
Mathematics	25 %	25 %	No adjustment	

Scenario 3:

Subject	Original	Adjusted	Adjustment	Motivation
Mathematics	35 %	40 %	5 %	In this case, three (3) subjects below 40 % include Mathematics. The learner's marks will be adjusted. The Mathematics marks will be adjusted to 40 %. Mathematics mark will not be condoned.
Social Sciences	36 %	40 %	4 %	
Technology	38 %	40 %	2 %	

Scenario 4:

Subject	Original	Adjusted	Adjustment	Motivation
Home Language	46 %	None	No Adjustment	In this case, the learner does not meet the requirements in three (3) subjects. However, the learner can be adjusted in two of the three subjects since subjects below 30 % are not considered for adjustment. In this
Social Sciences	37 %	None	No Adjustment	
Technology	28 %	None	No Adjustment	



				case, the learner will fail the entire examination, despite the adjustment in two subjects. Therefore, the learner should not be adjusted in any subject.
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7. The information in this Assessment Instruction must be timeously disseminated to schools. Districts and Circuit Managers must ensure that the above adjustment and condonation dispensation is applied accurately across all schools.
8. Co-operation in ensuring that compliance in examination related policies and regulations is always appreciated.

DDG: CURRICULUM MANAGEMENT AND DELIVERY
MR R. TYWAKADI

27/10/2023
DATE



basic education
Department
Basic Education
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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**TO: HEADS OF DEPARTMENT
HEADS OF PROVINCIAL EXAMINATIONS
HEADS OF PROVINCIAL CURRICULUM
DISTRICT DIRECTORS
CIRCUIT MANAGERS
AREA MANAGERS
SCHOOL PRINCIPALS
TEACHER UNIONS
SCHOOL GOVERNING BODY ASSOCIATIONS
NATIONAL ALLIANCE OF INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS ASSOCIATION**

NATIONAL ASSESSMENT CIRCULAR NO. 5 OF 2022

SPECIAL MARK ADJUSTMENT AND CONDONATION DISPENSATION FOR LEARNERS IN GRADES 4–9

1. The purpose of this circular is to outline the special mark adjustment and condonation dispensation for learners in Grades 4–9 in 2022.
2. Mark adjustments and condonations are used as a special mechanism to address any disadvantage emanating from the implementation of policy changes and other challenges that may be unique to that academic year. In 2022, due to the learning losses experienced in Grades 4–9 related to the cumulative effects of the COVID-19 pandemic that disrupted schooling in 2020 and 2021, the application of this special dispensation, as in the previous two years, is necessary.
3. In 2022, the mark adjustment and condonation dispensation will be as follows:
 - (a) Mark adjustments are applicable only to learners in Grades 4–9.

- (b) A mark adjustment of a maximum of 5% is allowed in a maximum of three subjects offered by the learner. This implies that a learner can be awarded a mark of between 1% and 5% of the mark attained by the learner, if this will give the learner an achieved status.
 - (c) Thereafter, the condonation in Mathematics must be applied. Where a learner has met all the requirements in respect of promotion from one grade to the next grade, except has not attained a level 3 or higher (40% and higher) in Mathematics and therefore has to be retained, such a learner must be condoned in Mathematics. This implies that the Mathematics mark is condoned and the learner must be promoted to the next grade, if all other pass requirements are met.
 - (d) The condonation in Mathematics is also applicable only to learners in Grades 4 to 9.
 - (e) Grade 9 learners who obtain a condonation in Mathematics have the option of continuing with Mathematics in Grade 10. They also have the option to take Mathematical Literacy in Grade 10.
4. Mark adjustments and condonations are also applicable to learners in special schools and Schools of Skill that offer technical or occupationally oriented subjects.
 5. On the mark schedule, the adjusted marks are shown. Schools may keep a record of the original marks and adjusted marks on separate sheets for internal purposes. The adjusted marks must be shown on the learner's report.
 6. However, in the case of Mathematics, the original mark attained by the learner in Mathematics must be indicated on the mark schedule, and the letter "C" must be inserted next to the mark to indicate that this mark has been condoned. The same would apply in the way the mark is reflected on the learner's report. On the learner's report, the following statement must appear:

“Mathematics mark has been condoned and the learner is promoted to the next grade.”

6. This implies that Mathematics remains a compulsory subject taken by all learners but learners may be condoned in Mathematics.
7. The above condonation dispensation does not, in any way, change the other subject progression requirements for the Intermediate and Senior Phase, as stipulated in *Paragraph 21 of the National policy pertaining to the programme and promotion requirements of the National Curriculum Statement Grades R–12*, published as *Government Notices No. 1115 and 1116 in Government Gazette No. 36042 of 28 December 2012*.
8. Please note that the adjustment/condonation dispensation and mark adjustments is applicable in 2022 for Grades 4-9.
9. The information in this circular must be timeously disseminated to schools, and circuits and districts must ensure that the above adjustment and condonation dispensation is applied accurately across all schools in 2022.

Enquiries regarding this circular can be directed to Dr M Chetty from the National Assessment unit at the Department of Basic Education via email at chetty.m@dbe.gov.za or to provincial assessment coordinators.

Your support in ensuring compliance with the contents of this circular will be greatly appreciated.



MR HM MWELI
DIRECTOR-GENERAL
DATE: [05/10/2022](#)