



**CHIEF DIRECTORATE: EXAMINATIONS AND ASSESSMENT**

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**ASSESSMENT INSTRUCTION NO 49 OF 2025**

**TO: DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL  
CHIEF DIRECTORS  
HEAD OFFICE DIRECTORS AND DISTRICT DIRECTORS  
CHIEF EDUCATION SPECIALISTS  
CIRCUIT MANAGERS  
DEPUTY CHIEF/SENIOR EDUCATION SPECIALISTS  
PRINCIPALS OF ALL PUBLIC AND INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS  
TEACHER UNIONS/ORGANISATIONS  
SCHOOL GOVERNING BODIES**

**DATE: 02 OCTOBER 2025**

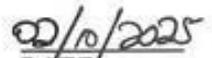
**COMMITMENT AGREEMENT, PLEDGE SIGNING AND OTHER IMPORTANT MATTERS  
RELATING TO THE 2025 NATIONAL SENIOR CERTIFICATE (NSC) EXAMINATION.**

1. Following the number of irregularities reported during the writing of the NSC examinations, the Council of Education Ministers (CEM) decided in 2018 to get learners writing the NSC examination together with their parents to sign a Commitment Agreement, where parents and learners are informed of the rules and regulation relating to the examinations and where they commit to ensuring compliance to these rules and regulations.
2. The National Senior Certificate Examination is administered and conducted in terms of the Regulations on the Conduct, Administration and Management of Assessment for the National Senior Certificate examination, across all provinces in the country.
3. The November /December examinations will commence on Tuesday, 21 October 2025 and conclude on Friday, 28 November 2025.
4. All schools will be participating in the Pledge Signing Ceremony on **Friday, 17 October 2025**. In addition to the Pledge Signing, learners and parents are required to **sign a Commitment Agreement (Annexure C)**, which must be signed prior to the commencement of the examination.

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5. In addition to the signing of the Commitment Agreement, Heads of Examinations (HOEs), District Directors, School Principals and Chief Invigilators are reminded of the following important matters that have not been adhered to in a few examination centres in previous years:
- (a) The Chief invigilator, invigilators must in accordance with the Regulations pertaining to the conduct, management and administration of the National Senior Certificate examination, be trained on an annual basis, irrespective of the number of times they have been trained or involved in the management and conduct of examinations.
  - (b) Under no circumstances must a subject teacher collect question papers from the distribution point or invigilate the examination when the subject they teach is being written.
  - (c) A question paper or answer book may not be taken out of the examination room before the end of the session, except in a case where, due to illness or other approved circumstance, a candidate must write the examination in a separate room.
  - (d) Chief invigilators and officials are required to be vigilant during the writing of the entire examination so that irregularities in the examination room can be eradicated.
  - (e) The case of a missing script is a serious violation and therefore, script control protocols must be strictly adhered to.
  - (f) The total number of candidates at an examination centre may not exceed 500 for any one examination session, unless prior approval has been obtained from the Head of Department.
  - (g) A candidate cannot be denied the opportunity to write the examination because of non-payment of school fees or any other matter relating to school discipline.
  - (h) Candidates are not allowed to bring their cellphones into the examination room. Therefore, should they be found to be in possession of a cellphone, this will be confiscated and only returned after the investigation is concluded.
  - (i) Provincial Education Departments (PEDs) to ensure that the invigilator reads the instructions to candidates at the start of each examination session.
6. Find three Annexures:
- (a) **Annexure A:** Guidelines on the administration of the National **Pledge Signing** Ceremony by the 2025 National Senior Certificate candidates.

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- (b) **Annexure B:** The pledge that must be signed **by the 2025 Grade 12 class.**
- (c) **Annexure C:** The Commitment Agreement, which contains declarations that must be noted by the learners, parents, chief invigilators and invigilators.
- 6.1. The candidates and parents must sign the declaration (annexure C), and the principal must attest that the declaration has been signed in his/her presence.
- 6.2. The Provincial Education Department (PED) is requesting schools to invite parents to schools to sign the commitment agreement before the commencement of the 2025 Grade 12 National Senior Certificate examination.
- (a) The commitment agreement must be signed from **Monday, 06 October 2025, to Friday, 17 October 2025.**
- (b) The school can utilise any date for the signing of the Commitment Agreement within the indicated timeframes.
7. The contents of this Assessment Instruction should be brought to the attention of all relevant stakeholders.

  
77 DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL  
CURRICULUM MANAGEMENT AND DELIVERY  
MR R TYWAKADI

  
DATE



**GUIDELINES ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE NATIONAL PLEDGE SIGNING CEREMONY BY THE 2025 NATIONAL SENIOR CERTIFICATE CANDIDATES**

1. The National Pledge Signing Ceremony should take place on **Friday, 17<sup>th</sup> October 2025** at **10:00 am** at all participating schools.
2. Schools must make copies of the Pledge for each Grade 12 candidate, all Educators at the school, Principal, Part Time Invigilators.
3. Schools must inform Grade 12 candidates that the signing of the Pledge is voluntary. No candidate should be coerced into signing the pledge against their will.
4. The signing of the Pledge by Educators, Principals, and Part time Invigilators is compulsory.
5. On the **17<sup>th</sup> October 2025**, a formal assembly of all Grade 12 candidates must be convened by the principal as part of their orientation and preparation for the conduct of the November/December examination.
6. During the principal's address the examination rules on the reverse side of the Admission Letter must be read out to candidates, Educators, Part time Invigilators.
7. All candidates should be asked to read the Pledge aloud and in unison with each other. After the Pledge has been taken by all candidates, they should be allowed to sign it.
8. Where possible, copies of the signed Pledge should be made so that a copy can be retained by the school as part of the candidate's; educators' , part time invigilators records.
9. Where it is NOT possible to make photocopies of the signed Pledges, then the original should remain with the Grade 12 candidates so that they can keep it in the same folder as their Admission Letter which must be in their possession for the duration of the 2025 October/ November examination, so that it is a reminder of their commitment to conduct themselves with honesty and integrity during the 2025 October /November examination.
9. The part time candidate who may not be able to participate during the pledge signing ceremony must be given an opportunity before the examination to sign the pledge as well.



# basic education

Department:  
Basic Education  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

## ANNEXURE B

### NATIONAL SENIOR CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION PLEDGE

I ..... hereby solemnly pledge:

- (a) To do my best in the forthcoming examinations so that I can achieve the personal and academic goals I have set for myself.
- (b) To focus on my studies and devote all my time to revise the work that I have covered during the year and strengthen all the skills that I need to be successful in these examinations.
- (c) I will also be supportive of my peers as we prepare in earnest for these examinations.
- (d) I will not be deterred by personal or other circumstances as I strive to achieve my National Senior Certificate qualification.
- (e) I pledge to uphold the principles of honesty and integrity in this examination by:
  - (i) Complying with all the rules and regulations relevant to the National Senior Certificate, November/December examinations.
  - (ii) Following the lawfully recognised instructions of the invigilator during the taking of the examinations.
  - (iii) Not being influenced, in any way, to cheat in the examinations by any person including the invigilator.
  - (iv) Not participating in any wrongdoing which includes, but is not limited to copying, being in possession of unauthorised material or electronic devices (example cellphone), accepting or providing assistance to another candidate, writing on behalf of another candidate or any other unauthorised action.
  - (v) Reporting any form of wrongdoing that I am aware of to the school principal.
  - (vi) Ensuring that I do not have a cellphone or any other electronic device in my possession during the examinations.
  - (vii) Ensuring that should I receive any information relating to the question paper that is still to be written, I will immediately inform my subject teacher and the principal.
- (f) I solemnly make this promise and acknowledge that this pledge is binding on my conscience.

<b>Name:</b>	
<b>Examination No.:</b>	
<b>Centre Name:</b>	
<b>Signature:</b>	
<b>Date:</b>	



**BYLAE A**

**NASIONALE SENIORSERTIFIKAAT-EKSAMEN-ONDERNEMING**

Ek ..... onderneem plegtig:

- (a) Om my bes te doen in die komende eksamen sodat ek die persoonlike en akademiese doelwitte kan bereik wat ek vir myself gestel het.
- (b) Om te fokus op my studie en al die tyd tot my beskikking te gebruik vir hersiening van die werk wat deur die jaar behandel is om al die vaardighede wat ek nodig het om sukses in die eksamen te behaal, te verbeter.
- (c) Ek sal ook my mede-skoliere ondersteun tydens ons voorbereiding vir die eksamen.
- (d) Ek sal nie deur persoonlike of ander omstandighede van stryk gebring word in my strewe om my Nasionale Senior Sertifikaat-kwalifikasie te verwerf nie.
- (e) Ek onderneem om die beginsels van eerlikheid en integriteit in hierdie eksamen te handhaaf deur:
  - (i) Te voldoen aan al die reëls en regulasies wat op die Nasionale Senior Sertifikaat-eksamen van toepassing is.
  - (ii) Die wettig erkende instruksies van toesighouers gedurende die skryf van die eksamens uit te voer.
  - (iii) My nie deur enige persoon, die toesighouer ingesluit, te laat beïnvloed om op enige manier tydens die eksamen oneerlik te wees nie.
  - (iv) Nie aan enige oneerlike praktyke deel te neem nie, wat insluit, maar nie beperk is tot, afskryf, besit van ongeoorloofde materiaal of elektroniese toestelle (bv. selfoon), aanbied (of aanvaar) van hulp aan/van ander kandidate, skryf namens ander kandidaat of enige ander ongeoorloofde optrede nie.
- (v) Enige vorm van oneerlikheid waarvan ek bewus is aan die skoolhoof te rapporteer.
  - (vi) Te verseker dat ek nie 'n selfoon of enige elektroniese toestel gedurende die eksamen in my besit het nie.
  - (vii) Te verseker dat, indien ek enige inligting met betrekking tot 'n vraestel wat nog geskryf moet word, ontvang, ek onmiddellik my vakonderwyser en die skoolhoof sal inlig.
- (f) Ek maak hierdie belofte plegtig, uit eie keuse en erken dat dit bindend op my gewete is.

<b>Naam:</b>	
<b>Eksamennommer:</b>	
<b>Sentrumnaam:</b>	
<b>Handtekening:</b>	
<b>Datum:</b>	



- (iii) The candidate is at all times in possession of the admission letter and his/her Identity Document and have all the necessary stationery for the paper.
- (iv) Candidates are expected to be attired in school uniform when writing the examination.

4. Candidates must note the following:

- (a) Candidates are bound in all matters relating to the examination to obey the instructions of the invigilator and the chief invigilator.
- (b) Candidates are expected to respond to the questions in the question paper, on their own, without the assistance of their peers or educators. In cases where assistance is offered by an educator or invigilator, or a learner, it is the responsibility of the candidate to bring this to the attention of the chief invigilator. Failure to report such assistance will result in the candidate being implicated in the examination irregularity.
- (c) It is the responsibility of the candidate to report any information or rumour regarding examination irregularities to the examination hotline established for this purpose. The examination hot line will be a 24hour service. In addition, to reporting to the examination hotline, this information must be brought to the attention of the school principal. Failure to do so will be considered to be collusion for which the candidate will be held accountable.
- (d) In cases where a candidate is forwarded, via email, SMS, WhatsApp or through any other electronic means, a question paper, or part(s) of a question paper and fails to report such an incident to the invigilator/chief invigilator, he/she will be regarded as being complicit.
- (e) All candidates will be required to complete the Electronic Device's Register, which will be managed by the school. The Electronic Device's Register will require all candidates to record all details of the cell phone or any other electronic device that they will be using during the examination period, commencing **Tuesday, 21 October 2025** and concluding on **Friday, 28 November 2025**. If the cell phone or any other device is changed during the examination period, this must be brought to the attention of the school principal. (The telephone number and related details of the cell phone are regarded as personal information as contemplated in section 1 of the Protection of Personal Information Act, 2013 (Act No 4 of 2013) (POPIA). By signing this agreement, the candidate provides in terms of section 11(c) of the POPIA his/her consent that the personal information of the candidate may be used for the purposes of writing and administration of the National Senior Certificate Examination).
- (f) Once in the examination room, the candidate must ensure the following:
  - (i) No notes or any other material that is not allowed in the examination room is on his/her person. Being found in possession of any notes or material in the examination room is regarded as an irregularity.
  - (ii) No cellular phones, or any other device must be brought into the examination room. Any such device found in their possession, even though not used during the examination, also constitutes an irregularity and an appropriate sanction will be imposed.
- (g) It is the responsibility of the candidate to check that they receive the paper and/or subject for which they are registered.
- (h) No examination answer book (or part of an answer book/answer sheet), whether used or unused, may be removed from the examination room. Should this occur, it will be considered an irregularity and the candidate will receive **NO** credit for the examination in that question paper.
- (i) Should a candidate write the wrong subject or wrong language level (in the case of a language paper), this will be considered to be a technical irregularity and will lead to the candidate's results being blocked/cancelled/delayed.

- (j) Candidates are strongly advised not to use different styles of handwriting in their answer books, as this may be misconstrued by the marker as a response written by another individual resulting in an investigation which may delay the release of the results.
  - (k) The conduct of the candidate before, during and after the writing of the question paper is important. Disruptive and unruly behaviour will not be tolerated, and the candidate could be barred from writing the examination.
  - (l) In the event of a candidate being implicated in an examination irregularity, the parent/guardian and candidate must avail themselves for a hearing, as failure to do so will lead to further delays in the results of the candidate being released.
5. The key types of irregularities that may occur during the examination are listed on page 5.
6. In the event that a candidate is found to have contravened any of the rules and regulations as specified above, the Department of Basic Education reserves the right to nullify the candidate's results and they could be barred from writing **one to three subsequent examinations** (as stipulated in the *Regulations in Government Gazette* No. 31337 of 29 August 2008). Criminal prosecution could be imposed should it be found that the candidate is involved in the leakage of any examination question paper.
7. The candidate and the parent/guardian must be aware that should the candidate agree to any assistance irrespective of who provided the assistance (i.e., the educator, invigilator, or fellow learner) they shall be considered to have colluded with the person who provided the assistance, and therefore the appropriate sanction will be imposed.
8. Parents/Guardians and candidates must be aware that should it be discovered that the question paper has leaked (i.e. parts of the question paper or the full question paper has been accessed prior to the examination), the Director General in conjunction with Umalusi, will decide whether the question paper/s needs to be written.
9. A candidate who is alleged to have had access to the question paper or parts of the question paper, prior to the examination, will be required to submit his/her cell phone or any other electronic device to the Department for further investigation. The candidate hereby provides in terms of section 11(c) of the POPIA his/her consent that the information on the cell phone may be utilised for the purpose of the investigation.
10. Parents/Guardians and candidates must be aware that if a candidate is found to be in possession of a cell phone, his/ her cell phone will be confiscated and will only be returned once the investigations are concluded.
11. Disciplinary action will also be taken against officials who are involved in irregularities at their examination centres.

**DECLARATION BY PARENT/GUARDIAN**

I, \_\_\_\_\_ parent/guardian of \_\_\_\_\_  
(Full Name of Parent/Guardian) (Full Name of Learner)

state that I have read and understood the rules and regulations pertaining to the conduct of the National Senior Certificate Examination and the consequences should my child/ward contravene any of the regulations. I hereby commit to ensuring that my son/daughter/ward will comply fully with the rules and regulations as outlined in this Commitment Agreement.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

**DECLARATION BY LEARNER**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_  
(Full Name of Learner) (Examination Number)

state that I have read and understood the rules and regulations pertaining to the conduct of the National Senior Certificate Examination and the consequences should I contravene any of the regulations. I hereby commit that I will comply fully with the rules and regulations as outlined in this Commitment Agreement and I will bring to the attention of the school principal/chief invigilator/teacher, if I am aware of any information that contravenes these rules and regulations.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

**COMMISSIONED BY PRINCIPAL (*Ex Officio*)**

I, \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name of Principal) (Name of School)

attest that the abovementioned declaration has been signed in my presence on:

\_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_  
(Date) (Name of School)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of Principal)

School Stamp:

This Commitment Agreement should be kept until all the examination irregularities have been resolved and the subsequent appeal processes have been concluded. A copy should be handed over to the candidate, while the original is kept at the school.

## TYPES OF IRREGULARITIES THAT MAY OCCUR

NO	NATURE OF IRREGULARITY
1.	Late coming (candidates will not be allowed to write if they arrive more than an hour after the commencement time and no extra time will be given to candidates who arrive late)
2.	Bringing unauthorised material into the examination room (crib notes, cellphones, other electronic devices etc.)
3.	Copying (from another person/any other source)
4.	Allowing other candidates to copy from them
5.	Ghost writers (any other person writing on behalf of candidate(s))
6.	Removing pages from the answer book or damaging the answer book (all rough work to be done in the answer book in pencil, a line put across it and "rough work" written)
7.	Writing the incorrect examination number on answer book
8.	Accepting answers from invigilators or any other official
9.	Failing to submit the answer script and loose answer sheets to the invigilator at the end of the examination session
10.	Being drunk or under the influence of any illegal substance and disorderly behaviour by candidate
11.	Any form of intimidation
12.	Getting the question paper from another source prior to the stipulated writing date and time and distributing the question paper in hardcopy or electronically using social media (e.g. WhatsApp etc.)
13.	Writing the examination outside the examination venue
14.	Failing to check with the invigilator about the correctness of the paper (number of pages, number of questions, duration of paper, correcting errata – if any)
15.	Any act or behaviour on the part of the candidate or any other person that will allow him/her to gain an unfair advantage during the writing of the examination
16.	Failing to report any knowledge or possession of a leaked paper or gaining direct or indirect access to a leaked paper
17.	Failing to report direct or indirect access to a leaked paper through WhatsApp and failing to reveal the source thereof.