Province of the
EASTERN CAPE
EDUCATION

iphondo leMpuma Kapa: Isebe leMfundo
Provinsie van Oos Kaap: Department van Onderwys
Provense ya Kapa Botjhabela: Letapha la Thuto

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ASSESSMENT INSTRUCTION 33 OF 2026

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

DATE: **23 JULY 2026**

GRADE 12 NATIONAL SENIOR CERTIFICATE – PREPARATORY EXAMINATION 2026 FINAL TIMETABLE

1. The 2026 NSC Grade 12 Preparatory Examination plays a crucial role in the preparation of learners for the final NSC Grade 12 October/November 2026 Examination. It provides an opportunity for learners, educators, and other role players to measure their readiness. The setting and roll-out of the **preparatory examination resembles the final NSC examination**, therefore this prepares the candidates for the final examination.

2. The FINAL timetable for the 2026 NSC Grade 12 Preparatory examination is attached as **ANNEXURE A**. It is important to note that the examination will take place during a period designated by the DBE. The examination is thus scheduled for:

Examination	Commencement date	End date
Grade 12 Preparatory	20 August 2026	18 September 2026

3. The Life Orientation (LO) Common Assessment Task will be written on **Tuesday, 1 September 2026,** with its rewrite (i.e. LO Common Assessment Task) scheduled for **Monday, 12 October 2026.**

4. Schools are reminded to set their own question papers for the subjects which do not appear on this timetable and find a suitable slot within the existing timetable. Question papers set at school level, must be moderated by expert teachers/district subject advisors.

5. The timetable was developed keeping in mind various factors, for example, inclusion of versioned papers – printing, packing and delivery, as well as other variables. Various logistics and provincial dynamics were considered.

6. Schools and other educational institutions are also reminded that this Examination provides an opportunity to test and evaluate the procedures and systems for the final examination.

7. It is imperative that all the protocols regarding the security of the question papers are observed to protect the integrity of the examination.

8. The heads of educational institutions should ensure that the content of this assessment instruction is distributed to all Grade 12 teachers, learners, subject advisors, and other relevant stakeholders.

MR TZJ MTYIDA
DDG: CURRICULUM MANAGEMENT AND DELIVERY

27. 07. 2026
DATE

ANNEXURE A

2026 GRADE 12 PREPARATORY EXAMINATION: FINAL TIMETABLE

WEEK 1	09:00	14:00
Thursday 20/08/2026	CAT P1 (PRACTICAL) (3hrs)	
Friday 21/08/2026	Information Technology P1 (3 hrs) PRACTICAL	Religion Studies (P1) (2½hrs)
WEEK 2	**09:00**	**14:00**
Monday 24/08/2026	Agricultural Sciences P1(2½ hrs)	Afrikaans HL P3 (3 hrs) Afrikaans FAL P3 (2½ hrs)
Tuesday 25/08/2026	Geography (Climate and Weather Geomorphology and Mapwork) P1 (3 hrs)	
Wednesday 26/08/2026	IsiXhosa HL P3 (3hrs) IsiXhosa FAL P3 (2½ hrs) Sesotho HL P3 (3 hrs)	Engineering Graphics and Design P1 (3 hrs)
Thursday 27/08/2026	Business Studies P1 (2 hrs)	English HL P3 (3hrs) English FAL P3 (2½ hrs)
Friday 28/08/2026	Mathematics P1 (3 hrs) Mathematical Literacy P1 (3 hrs) Technical Mathematics P1 (3 hrs)	Information Technology P2 THEORY (3hrs)
WEEK 3	**09:00**	**14:00**
Monday 31/08/2026	Mathematics P2 (3 hrs) Mathematical Literacy P2 (3 hrs) Technical Mathematics P2 (3 hrs)	
Tuesday 01/09/2026	Life Orientation (LO CAT) (DBE) (2½ hrs)	Computer Applications Technology (P2) (3hrs) THEORY
Wednesday 02/09/2026	Afrikaans HL P2 (2½ hrs) Afrikaans FAL P2 (2½ hrs)	Agricultural Sciences (P2) (2½hrs)
Thursday 03/09/2026	Economics P1 (2 hrs)	IsiXhosa HL P2 (2½hrs) IsiXhosa FAL P2 (2½ hrs) Sesotho HL P2 (2½ hrs
Friday 04/09/2026	Physical Sciences (Physics) P1 (3 hrs) Technical Sciences P1 (3 hrs)	Tourism (3 hrs)

WEEK 4	09:00	14:00
Monday 07/09/2026	Physical Sciences (Chemistry) P2 (3 hrs) Technical Sciences P2 (1½ hrs)	Economics P2 (2 hrs)
Tuesday 08/09/26	History P1 (3 hrs)	Engineering Graphics and Design P2 (3 hrs)
Wednesday 09/09/2026	Accounting P1 (2 hrs)	English HL P2 (2½hrs) English FAL P2 (2½hrs)
Thursday 10/09/2026	Geography (Rural and Urban Settlements, Economic Geography of South Africa and Mapwork) P2 (3 hrs)	Afrikaans HL P1 (2 hrs) Afrikaans FAL P1 (2 hrs)
Friday 11/09/2026	Life Sciences P1 (2½ hrs)	Electrical Technology (3 hrs)
WEEK 5	**09:00**	**14:00**
Monday 14/09/2026	Life Sciences P2 (2½ hrs)	IsiXhosa HL P1 (2 hrs) IsiXhosa FAL P1 (2 hrs) Sesotho HL P1 (2 hrs)
Tuesday 15/09/2026	Business Studies P2 (2hrs) Mechanical Technology (3 hrs)	Religion Studies P2 (2hrs)
Wednesday 16/09/2026	History P2 (3 hrs)	English HL P1 (2 hrs) English FAL P1 (2 hrs)
Thursday 17/09/2026	Consumer Studies (3 hrs)	Accounting P2 (2 hrs)
Friday 18/09/26	Civil Technology (3 hrs)	
23/09/2026	**SCHOOLS CLOSE**	

- **Schools are reminded to set their own question papers for the subjects which do not appear on this timetable and find a suitable slot within the existing timetable.**
- **Marking guidelines will be provided a day after a subject has been written.**
- **Any examination irregularity must be reported via the appropriate channels.**