

ASSESSMENT INSTRUCTION 40 of 2009

TO: DEPUTY DIRECTORS-GENERAL
CHIEF DIRECTORS
HEAD OFFICE DIRECTORS AND DISTRICT DIRECTORS
CHIEF EDUCATION SPECIALISTS
EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT OFFICERS
DEPUTY CHIEF / SENIOR EDUCATION SPECIALISTS
PRINCIPALS OF ALL PUBLIC AND INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS:
GRADES 10 - 12
TEACHER UNIONS / ORGANISATIONS
SCHOOL GOVERNING BODIES

DATE: 18 AUGUST 2009

CLARIFICATION OF POLICY RELATING TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL SENIOR CERTIFICATE IN 2009 : RESULTING PROCESS

1. Department of Education Circular E22 of 2009 dated 2009-08-14 and received in the Province on 14 August 2009, has reference.
2. This Assessment Instruction serves to establish a common understanding regarding the following items relating to the National Senior Certificate (NSC), which have already been approved as policy:
 - Criteria for merit and distinction rates (Top 10 schools)
 - Merits and distinctions rates and resulting
 - Condonation
 - Designated subjects
 - Statements for part time candidates repeating the NSC
3. **Criteria for merit and distinction rates (Top 10 schools)**
 - 3.1. The Heads of Education Committee (HEDCOM), in 2008, approved criteria to be used in determining the top 10 schools, that include the following:
 - Merit / Distinction rates
 - Number of passes
 - Number of candidates who qualify for admission to Higher Education (HE)

- Quintile rankings

3.2 The criteria relating to merit / distinction rates were not included in the determination of the top 10 schools in the Province in the 2008 examination. Instead the number of subject passes with 80% was used. In 2009 this will be replaced by the merit and distinction rates as approved by HEDCOM in 2008.

4. Merit and distinction

The approved criteria for the 2009 NSC examination for the awarding of the NSC with distinction and the NSC with merit have been approved as indicated below:

Pass with distinction

To obtain a National Senior Certificate with distinction, a candidate must achieve the NSC; and obtain at least 80% in any **three of the six externally examined subjects** provided that the candidate obtains a minimum of at least 60% in the other three subjects that are externally examined.

Pass with merit

To obtain a National Senior Certificate with merit, a candidate must achieve the NSC; and obtain at least 60% in any **three of the six externally examined subjects** provided that the candidate obtains a minimum of at least 50% in the other three subjects that are externally examined.

In applying the above policy, the following needs to be noted:

- 4.1. In determining the NSC with distinction and with merit, only the six externally examined subjects will be taken into consideration. This implies that Life Orientation will not be one of those subjects.
- 4.2. In cases where candidates register for more than seven subjects, performance in the best six subjects will be considered, excluding Life Orientation.
- 4.3. Mathematics Paper 3 is excluded in determining merit and distinction.

5. Condonation

The approved principle of subject condonation where a candidate requires a maximum of 2 % to obtain an achieved rating, at either 30% or 40%, to qualify for the NSC will be applied as follows.

- 5.1. A condonation will be applied only in one subject, if the application of such a condonation changes the status of the qualification from non-achievement of the NSC to achieving the NSC (to meet the minimum requirements of 3 subjects at 30% and 3 subjects at 40%). Condonation will therefore not be applied where a candidate does not qualify for the NSC.

- 5.2. In cases where a candidate qualifies for a condonation in more than one subject, the condonation will be applied only in one subject, to allow the candidate to achieve the NSC.
- 5.3 The order of condonation as implemented programmatically on the Integrated Examination Computer System (IECS) will be as follows.
- 5.3.1. Home Language
 - 5.3.2. First Additional Language
 - 5.3.3. Mathematics / Mathematical Literacy
 - 5.3.4. Any other subject – first from the designated list and then any other subject
 - 5.3.5. Life Orientation.
- (In the case of 5.3.4., if there are two subjects that qualify for condonation, the system will apply the condonation in alphabetical sequence, using the full subject name).
- 5.4 The condonation dispensation process will be applied at the end of the resulting process i.e. after standardisation and the language compensation has been applied.
- 5.5 Condonation will not be applied for candidates that have already achieved an NSC and want to improve subjects at the 40% or 50% to achieve Higher Education Admission.
- 5.6 External subjects as well as Mathematics Paper 3 are excluded from condonation.
- 5.7 Condonation will be indicated on the Statement of Results (SOR) with an indicator next to the subject, printing the condoned mark and rating.
- 5.8 On the IEC System the actual percentage (i.e. the original mark obtained in the subject) will be recorded with an indication that the subject is condoned. (C).
- 5.9. In the request for certification the actual mark and rating obtained by the candidate with an indication that the subject was condoned will be submitted to UMALUSI.
- 5.10. In cases where more than one subject qualifies for condonation, and where the computer selection has been applied, and if the candidate, based on sound reasons, requires the condonation to be changed, such requests will be considered subject to a written motivation being provided to the Provincial Department of Education.

6. **Designated subjects**

Modern Greek Second Additional Language

NSC Modern Greek Second Additional Language is a recognised NSC language (externally assessed) and therefore a designated subject in terms of the Minimum HE Admission Requirements for the NSC. It is however not yet listed as an approved subject in the Government Gazette of 11 July 2008, but will be regarded as a designated subject for the 2009 NSC examination (Group B subject).

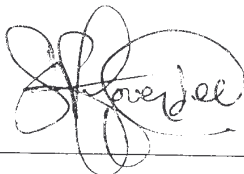
7. **Statement of Results (SOR)**

Candidates repeating the NSC or a subjects/s for the NSC will receive a statement of results (SOR) reflecting the results for the specific examination. In addition, a statement at the bottom of the SOR will be printed indicating that the candidate achieves the NSC based on his/her current and previous examination sittings.

The statement will read as follows:

'The minimum requirements for the NSC were achieved. The Provincial Education Department can be contacted for a combination of results and the issuing of the National Senior Certificate once the certificates for the examination have been issued.'

8. School Managers are kindly requested to ensure that this Assessment Instruction is carefully read and the contents conveyed to School Governing Bodies, parents and Grade 12 learners. Your co-operation in ensuring strict adherence to the above policy will be greatly appreciated.



S. P. GOVENDER
CHIEF DIRECTOR: CURRICULUM MANAGEMENT