



File no.: 9/3/2/1  
Reference: 20250129-163

Assessment Management Minute: 0005/2025

**To:** Deputy Directors-General, Chief Directors, Directors (Head Office and district offices), Chief Education Specialists, Deputy Directors, Deputy Chief Education Specialists, Subject Advisers, and Heads of education institutions that prepare learners for the National Senior Certificate examinations

**Subject:** **Extension of the validity period of the 2021 National Senior Certificate (NSC) examination guidelines**

1. This minute must be read in conjunction with the following Western Cape Education Department (WCED) minutes and circulars:

Minute/Circular	Description	Date published
Circular 0017 of 2021	Implementation of the abridged version of <i>Curriculum and Assessment Policy Statement</i> (CAPS) Section 4 amendments in Grade 12	13 April 2021
Curriculum and Assessment Minute 0002 of 2021	2021 Examination Guidelines for Grade 12	11 May 2021
Assessment Management Minute 0013 of 2021	Errata on the Grade 12 examination guidelines for 2021: NSC examinations	24 August 2021

2. The NSC examination guidelines which were approved by Umalusi, were released for implementation in 2021, 2022 and 2023. This follows the amendment of Section 4 of the CAPS.

3. The examination guidelines are scheduled to be reviewed on a three-year cycle to keep abreast with amendments to policies that affect curriculum and assessment/examinations. Given the conclusion of the three-year cycle, the examination guidelines were scheduled to be reviewed, but were subsequently released for implementation in the 2025 academic year. Since the process of strengthening the curriculum is currently unfolding, it is considered appropriate to await the finalisation of that process before any amendments to the examination guidelines are made.
4. The WCED received Circular E1 of 2025, dated 24 January 2025, from the Department of Basic Education to inform schools of the extension of the validity period of the 2021 NSC examination guidelines. Therefore, the examination guidelines that were introduced in 2021 remain valid and must be implemented in 2025 in all the schools offering Grade 12 NSC subjects. There are no changes to the CAPS for 2025.
5. The 2021 examination guidelines may be accessed via the following link: <https://www.education.gov.za/2021Grade12ExamGuidelines.aspx>
6. Please note that subjects that have specific topics and content areas that are being taught and assessed over a three-year cycle, will maintain the 2021 topics. These topics and content areas will be taught and assessed during the 2025 academic year.
7. Kindly bring this information to the attention of all Grade 12 subject educators and learners.

**SIGNED:** BJ LORISTON

**DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: CURRICULUM AND ASSESSMENT MANAGEMENT**

**DATE:** 2025-02-13