



File no.: 20/3/6/1/Timetable notifications to schools  
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Circular: 0017/2025  
Expiry date: 27 November 2025

To: Deputy Directors-General, Chief Directors, Directors (Head Office and district offices), Deputy Directors, Chief Education Specialists, Heads: Curriculum Support, Subject Advisers, Circuit Managers, Heads: Management and Governance, Deputy Chief Education Specialists and Heads of institutions that prepare candidates for the National Senior Certificate examinations

Short summary: *Final timetable for the November 2025 National Senior Certificate examinations.*

**Subject: Final timetable for the November 2025 National Senior Certificate examinations**

1. The November 2025 National Senior Certificate (NSC) examinations will commence on **Tuesday, 21 October 2025**, and conclude on **Thursday, 27 November 2025**.
2. Enclosed is a copy of the **final** timetable (**Annexure A**) for the November 2025 NSC examinations.
3. The November 2025 NSC examinations timetable will follow the same format as in 2024.
- 3.1 The November 2025 NSC examinations will commence officially on **Tuesday, 21 October 2025**, with Computer Applications Technology Practical (Paper 1) and Information Technology Practical (Paper 1) that are scheduled to be administered on **Tuesday, 21 October 2025**, and **Wednesday, 22 October 2025**, respectively.
- 3.2 In week 1, English Home Language (HL) Paper 3, English First Additional Language (FAL) Paper 3 and English Second Additional Language (SAL) Paper 3 will be written on **Thursday, 23 October 2025**. Afrikaans HL Paper 3, Afrikaans FAL Paper 3 and Afrikaans SAL Paper 3 will be written on **Friday, 24 October 2025**. Paper 3 (**Creative Writing**) for the African languages, namely isiZulu, isiXhosa, isiNdebele, Sesotho, Setswana, Sepedi, Siswati, Tshivenda, Xitsonga and South African Sign Language HL Paper 3 on **Monday, 27 October 2025**, and **Tuesday, 28 October 2025**. **Candidates must be reminded that Paper 3 will be written before Papers 1 and 2.**

4. The examinations will conclude on **Thursday, 27 November 2025**, but candidates must be available until the last day of the school term (**12 December 2025**), in case it should be necessary, for whatever reason, to reschedule the writing of a particular subject/paper. Principals must maintain a database of the contact details of all their candidates and their next of kin as part of the contingency plans to reach candidates easily, if needed.
5. Normal classes must continue until **Tuesday, 14 October 2025**, to ensure as much teaching time as possible.
6. Principals/centre managers are requested to arrange a pledge ceremony during the week of **13 to 17 October 2025** at their schools to allow candidates to commit to behaviour in line with the examination rules. The pledge certificate must be signed by all candidates to create awareness about the examination rules and the consequences if they are transgressed.
7. Two sessions are scheduled for each day of the examinations. The morning session will commence at 09:00 and the afternoon session at 14:00.
8. Principals are to inform all full-time candidates writing the examinations that they must wear their school uniforms when writing the examination.
9. Candidates who miss a subject paper for any reason during the November 2025 NSC examinations, will have to write all the subject papers for that specific subject in the subsequent May/June examination of the following year.
10. The national minister will announce the November 2025 NSC examinations results on **Monday, 12 January 2026**, and the provincial education departments will release the results of candidates on **Tuesday, 13 January 2026**.
11. The Life Orientation Common Assessment Task will be written on **Monday, 01 September 2025**.
12. The Performing Arts Practical is scheduled for **Thursday, 14 August 2025**, to **Friday, 24 October 2025**, and the Visual Arts and Design Practicals are scheduled for **Tuesday, 14 October 2025**, to **Friday, 24 October 2025**.
13. Please note that the recommended date for the start of the Grade 12 trial examinations is **Friday, 05 September 2025**, as published in the Western Cape Education Department (WCED) school calendar.
14. It is envisaged that the marking of the November 2025 NSC examinations will commence **on 29 November 2025**. The WCED is awaiting final confirmation from the Department of Basic Education.

15. Kindly bring the contents of this circular to the attention of all candidates who intend to write the November 2025 NSC examinations.

**SIGNED:** B WALTERS

**HEAD: EDUCATION**

**DATE:** 2025-05-23