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Assessment Management Minute: 0007/2025

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

**Subject: Introduction of customised answer booklets for Mathematics Paper 1, Technical Mathematics Paper 1, and Mathematical Literacy Papers 1 and 2 in the 2025 May/June and October/November National Senior Certificate (NSC) examinations**

1. The Western Cape Education Department received Circular E07 of 2025, dated 08 April 2025, from the Department of Basic Education (DBE) to inform schools of the implementation of customised answer booklets for Mathematics Paper 1, Technical Mathematics Paper 1, and Mathematical Literacy Papers 1 and 2 for the 2025 May/June and October/November NSC examinations.
2. The DBE has previously introduced customised answer booklets for the following question papers:
  - Accounting Papers 1 and 2;
  - Music Paper 2;
  - Mathematics Paper 2; and
  - Technical Mathematics Paper 2.
3. The DBE will introduce customised answer booklets for the following additional question papers in the May/June NSC 2025 examinations:
  - Mathematics Paper 1;
  - Technical Mathematics Paper 1; and
  - Mathematical Literacy Papers 1 and 2.

4. The benefits of customised answer booklets include the following:
  - 4.1 Improved management of graphs: In all Mathematical subjects, the graph is attached to the question paper, and the candidate is responsible for detaching it after completion and attaching it to the answer book. There have been numerous instances where the graph was not detached or was lost during marking. Customised answer booklets will ensure that the graph is included in the answer booklet.
  - 4.2 Integration of addenda in Mathematical Literacy: In Mathematical Literacy, the addendum will now be incorporated into the customised answer booklet instead of being a separate document. This will avoid possible printing and packing problems.
  - 4.3 Learner responses will follow a consistent sequence: The questions in the customised answer booklets are numbered in chronological order, eliminating the need for candidates to number the questions manually. This ensures that the questions follow a consistent sequence, reducing the likelihood of errors during marking.
  - 4.4 Streamlining the marking process: At the marking centres, markers are provided with a single document to work with — the customised answer booklet — rather than having to manage additional answer sheets or graph papers. This streamlines the marking process and reduces potential confusion.
5. Exemplar answer booklets have been developed which incorporate the October/November 2024 question papers of the subjects referred to in paragraph 2. This will assist educators and learners with the preparation for the 2025 October/November examinations in these subjects. The 2025 October/November candidates will have two sets of customised answer booklets to familiarise themselves with the new format.
6. These exemplar answer booklets will be distributed with this minute and are available in Afrikaans and English.
7. Principals and district officials are requested to bring the content of this minute to the attention of staff, parents and learners.

**SIGNED:** BJ LORISTON

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

**DATE:** 2025-05-23