Circular 04/2009
Date: 04 February 2009

Regulations, Policy and Guideline Documents Underpinning the Offering of the National Senior Certificate in Public and Independent Schools

Annexure A: Ministerial Approved Policy Changes pertaining to the National Senior Certificate

Annexure B: Ministerial Approved Policy Changes pertaining to the National Senior Certificate regarding learners with special needs

Distribution

✓ All Chief Directors and Directors at Head Office and District Offices;
✓ The principal, staff and members of School Governing Bodies at all public and independent secondary schools;
✓ Teacher Organisations and Unions; and
✓ Relevant Non-Governmental Organisations.

Enquiries

Directorate: Examinations and Assessment
Tel: (011) 355-0968

On request, this circular will be made available in isiZulu, Sepedi and Afrikaans within 21 days
Also available on the GDE website at: www.education.gpg.gov.za
REGULATIONS, POLICY AND GUIDELINE DOCUMENTS UNDERPINNING THE OFFERING OF THE NATIONAL SENIOR CERTIFICATE IN PUBLIC AND INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

1. PURPOSE

To inform Head of Institutions of the Regulations, Policy and Guideline Documents underpinning the offering of the National Senior Certificate in Public and Independent Schools.

2. NATIONAL SENIOR CERTIFICATE LEGISLATIVE POLICY DOCUMENTS

Provincial and independent assessment bodies accredited by Umalusi, the Council for General and Further Education and Training Quality Assurance, are kindly requested to ensure that the schools under their jurisdiction are either in possession of, or have been duly informed of the status of the following documents:

2.1. National Senior Certificate: A qualification at Level 4 on the National Qualifications Framework (NQF) published in Government Gazette No. 27819 of 20 July 2005 stipulates the programme and promotion requirements of the National Senior Certificate. All approved subjects to be offered for the National Senior Certificate are listed in this policy document.

(a) A number of policy changes regarding promotion requirements, provisos and the addition of new subjects has been made to this document. All changes communicated by means of official circulars and accordingly effected in the policy document are contained in Annexure A.

2.2. An addendum to the policy document, the National Senior Certificate: A qualification at Level 4 on the National Qualifications Framework (NQF), regarding learners with special needs, published in Government Gazette, No. 29466 of 11 December 2006 stipulates the programme and promotion requirements for learners with special needs who cannot meet the requirements of the National Senior Certificate as offered in mainstream schools.

(a) Policy changes regarding promotion requirements and provisos made in this policy document, are contained in Annexure B.

2.3. An addendum to the policy document, the National Senior Certificate: A qualification at Level 4 on the National Qualifications framework (NQF), regarding the National Protocol for Assessment (Grade R – 12), published in Government Gazette, No. 29467 of 11 December 2006 has been developed with the aim of standardising recording and reporting processes of assessment in schools (Grade R – 12) across all nine provinces within the framework of the National Curriculum Statements for Grade R – 12. The policy document also provides a regulatory frame work for the management school assessment records and basic
requirements for learner profiles, teacher and learner portfolios, report cards and schedules.

2.4. **National policy on the conduct, administration and management of the National Senior Certificate:** A qualification at Level 4 on the National Qualifications Framework (NQF) in Government Gazette, No. 30048 provides the necessary policy support for developing, organising, structuring and implementing an assessment framework for the National Senior Certificate. The policy stipulated in this document is only applicable to public schools and those independent schools that write the National Senior Certificate examination set by the Department of Education.

2.5. **Regulations pertaining to the conduct, administration and management of assessment for the National Senior Certificate,** published in Government Gazette No. 31337 of 29 August 2008 regulate and control the administration, management and conduct of the National Senior Certificate examination and assessment process. These Regulations apply to both public and independent assess bodies.

2.6. **Subject Statements** for the various approved subjects listed in the *National Curriculum Statement, Grades R-12* form the national education policy frameworks for these subjects and stipulate the learning outcomes, assessment standards and content required for each subject.

2.7. **Learning Programme Guidelines** for the various approved subjects listed in the *National Curriculum Statement, Grade R-12* assist teachers with the interpretation of the Subject Statements, especially with regard to the conduct of School-Based Assessment.

2.8. **Subject Assessment Guidelines** for the various approved subjects listed in the *National Curriculum Statement, Grades R-12* assist teachers with the composition of the School-Based Assessment of all subjects as outlined in the Subject Assessment Guidelines.

2.9. **Minimum requirements for higher Certificate, Diploma and Bachelor’s Degree programmes requiring a National Senior Certificate,** published in Government Gazette, No. 31231 of 7 July 2008 outline the statutory minimum admission into higher Education based on the achievement of a National Senior Certificate.

### 3. NATED REPORT 550 SENIOR CERTIFICATE be (Legislative Policy documents)

In view of the fact that the Senior Certificate examination will conducted until May/June 2011, the following policy documents are still relevant and should therefore clearly be distinguished from the regulations and policy and guideline documents of the National Senior Certificate listed above in paragraphs 2.1 to 2.9:


3.3. Regulations for the conduct, administration and management of the assessment of the Senior Certificate regulate and control the administration, management and conduct of the Senior Certificate examination and assessment process.


LEN DAVIDS
ACTING HEAD OF DEPARTMENT
1. PROVISOS

1.1. A candidate may offer more than the required minimum of seven subjects provided that he or she complies with the following requirements:

(a) the additional subjects must be offered for all three years of the National Senior Certificate programme, namely Grades 10-12.

(b) all the internal assessment requirements for the requirements for the required subjects, and the practical assessment where applicable, must be met for all three years of study, namely Grade 10, 11 and 12.

1.2. Not more than one language shall be offered from the same language group, namely:

(a) isiXhosa, isiZulu, Siswati and isiNdebele; and
(b) Sepedi, Sesotho and Setswana

1.3. The same language shall not be offered on Home Language and First or Second Additional Language level, or on First and Second Additional Language level.

1.4. A candidate may not offer both Mathematics and Mathematics Literacy.

1.5. A maximum of one subject developed and assessed by an accredited examination body that is not the Department of Education, and approved by the Minister for this purpose may be offered to meet the requirements of three (3) Group B subjects as contemplated in paragraph 9 (1)(a)(iv). Such subjects are listed in Annexure C from time to time.

1.6. Where a candidate has completed more than one Practical Music programme of One of the listed Music examination bodies, namely the Associated Board of Royal Schools Practical Music Examination or Trinity College of London Practical Music Examination or Unisa Practical Music Examination, only the highest level of achievement obtained by the candidate, namely Grade 6 or 7 from that examination body will be recognised for the National Senior Certificate.
1.7. Learners offering a Practical Music programme of one of the following Music Examination bodies, namely the Associated Board of Royal Schools or Trinity College of London or Unisa, comply with the requirements for the offering of music programmes of accredited examination bodies, as contemplated in the policy document, National policy on the conduct, administration and management of the National Senior Certificate: A qualification at Level 4 on the National Qualifications Framework (NQF) Government Gazette, Vol. 505, No. 30048.

1.8. A candidate may not offer both Computer Applications Technology and Information Technology.

1.9. A candidate may not offer both Consumer Studies and Hospitality Studies. (see Circular 48 of 2007).

2. PROMOTION AND CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

Subject to the provisions of Paragraph 16 (4)(d) and (e) of the General and Further Education and Training Quality Assurance Act, 2001 (Act No. 58 of 2001), and subject to paragraph 9 of this document, a National Senior Certificate shall be issued to a candidate who has complied with the following promotion requirements:

1.10.1. Achieved 40% in three subjects, one of which is an official language at Home Language level, and 30% in three subjects, provided the School-Based Assessment component is submitted in the subject failed.

1.10.2. Learners who offer a Music programme from the Associated Board of Royal Schools, Practical Music Examination or Trinity College of London Practical Music Examination or Unisa Practical Music Examination, must obtain the following ratings:

(a) the Associated Board of Royal Schools Practical Music Examination; at least 65%.

(b) Trinity College of London Practical Music Examination: at least 65%.

(c) Unisa Practical Music Examination; at least 50%
NATIONALLY APPROVED SUBJECTS THAT COMPLY WITH THE PROGRAMME REQUIREMENTS OF THE NATIONAL CURRICULUM STATEMENT GRADES 10-12

**TABLE A2: MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES**

<table>
<thead>
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<th>SUBJECT</th>
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<td>19321013</td>
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<td>19321024</td>
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**Circular 49 of 2007**

SUBJECTS OF OTHER ASSESSMENT BODIES THAT ARE APPROVED BY THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION

**TABLE C1: AGRICULTURE**

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<thead>
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**Circular 66 of 2006**

**TABLE C3: BUSINESS, COMMERCE AND MANAGEMENT STUDIES**

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**Circular 67 of 2006**
TABLE C4: NON-OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

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<td>Modern Greek Second Additional Language**</td>
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</table>

**Circular 30 of 2006

FOREIGN SUBJECTS

- Arabic Second Additional Language level
- French Second Additional Language level
- German Home- and Second Additional Language level
- Gujarati Home-, First- and Second Additional Language level
- Hebrew Second Additional Language level
- Hindi Home-, First- and Second Additional Language level
- Italian Second Additional Language level
- Latin Second Additional Language level
- Portuguese Home-, First-, and Second Additional Language level
- Spanish Second Additional Language level
- Tamil Home-, First- and Second Additional Language level
- Telegu Home-, First- and Second Additional Language level
- Urdu Home-, First- and Second Additional Language

TABLE C5: ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY

<table>
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<th>SUBJECT</th>
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<tbody>
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**Circular 29 of 2006
<table>
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<td>Sport and Exercise Science**</td>
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** Circular 20 of 2008
MINISTERIAL APPROVED POLICY CHANGES TO THE DOCUMENT, AN ADDENDUM TO THE POLICY DOCUMENT, THE NATIONAL SENIOR CERTIFICATE: A QUALIFICATION AT LEVEL 4 ON THE NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK (NQF), REGARDING LEARNERS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

1. PROMOTION REQUIREMENTS FOR THE ADENDUM TO THE POLICY DOCUMENT, THE NATIONAL SENIOR CERTIFICATE: A QUALIFICATION AT LEVEL 4 ON THE NQF

1.1. An endorsed National Senior Certificate shall be issued to a candidate who experiences special needs who has achieved 30% in five subjects, one of which is an official language on at least First Additional Language level (Circular 1 of 2008).

2. PROVISOS

2.1 Provisos as contemplated in paragraph 10 of the policy document, the National Senior Certificate: A qualification at Level 4 on the National Qualifications Framework (NQF), will also be applicable to the learners enrolling for the National Senior Certificate with Endorsement for learners with special needs (Circular 1 of 2008).