



To: ALL DISTRICT DIRECTORS

DISTRICT CHIEF EDUCATION SPECIALISTS

DEPUTY CHIEF EDUCATION SPECIALISTS

DISTRICT SENIOR EDUCATION SPECIALISTS

DISTRICT DEPUTY DIRECTORS

DISTRICT ASSISTANT DIRECTORS

SCHOOL PRINCIPALS

DEPUTY SCHOOL PRINCIPALS

SCHOOLS DEPARTMENTAL HEADS

RECOGNISED TEACHER UNIONS

SCHOOL GOVERNING BODIES

CIRCULAR NO. 77 of 2022

WARNING AGAINST MASS COPPYING DURING THE EXAMINATIONS

The Department of Education wishes to thank all Chief Invigilators, Invigilators who have been defending the integrity public examinations and the credibility of the National Senior Certificate over the years. This includes the 2021 National Senior Certificate examinations.

On 30 January 2015 the South African Press Association (SAPA) wrote as follows:

“More than 2 800 matric pupils and 34 Teachers and Principals in KwaZulu Natal were allegedly involved in mass cheating. A total of 2 089 pupils in KwaZulu Natal were implicated in cheating during the 2014 matric examinations. The decision has been taken to further block all results.”



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There were other articles released by various media houses countrywide about a threat of examination mass cheating becoming a permanent feature of KwaZulu Natal after 2014.

In spite of the 2014/2015 embarrassment there are still few schools where suspicions of group copying are raised by Monitors and Markers even in 2021. Such schools will be tightly monitored in the 2022 National Senior Certificate examinations so as to save the future of learners.

The article by SAPA also indicates that the **BLOCKING OF RESULTS** of learners is one of the consequences of cheating in examinations. Teachers are officials entrusted with a responsibility of teaching learners so that they succeed and have a bright future. They cannot be orchestrators of the future frustration of candidates.

Learners whose answer books show evidence of having been assisted will be barred from writing the public examination for a minimum of 1 year and a maximum of 3 years. Obviously no parent (including departmental officials) will want to see her/his child staying at home doing absolutely nothing for such a long period of time because of the negligence of the Invigilators.

Nyamangwe, Ondima and Onderi in 2013 (*Elixir Psychology Journal (Vol.56) page 13519-13524*) contend that cheating is caused by ***inadequate learner preparation, performance pressure, stiff competition and poor invigilation***. Other scholars who share the same view are ***Wade and Richards (1993), Kipoech & Rambei (2011), Mach (2015), Media (2016), Kang (2016), Madara & Namago (2016), Al-Zuwaini (2017), Andrew (2017), Diego (2017), Taylor & Francis (2017), Tate, Reinstein & Churyk (2017) and Kennedy (2018)***.

The following must be noted by all Chief Invigilators, Assistant Invigilators, Relief Invigilators, Subject Teachers and Examination Monitors.

1. Candidates **must be seated properly in the examinations room** to minimise chances of collusion.



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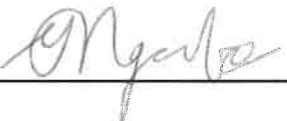
2. Invigilators must check all the examination time-tables against the identity documents of the candidates.
3. **Candidates must not be denied their right to read the question paper** prior to the commencement of the examination session.
4. Candidates **must not bring unauthorised material** (crib notes, books, smart watches, tablets, laptops etc.) into the examination room.
5. **Subject Teachers must not agree to Invigilate sessions in which their subjects are written** regardless of the grade at which they are teaching the subject.
6. **Invigilators must not move the question papers and answer books out of the examination room** during the session.
7. **Chief Invigilators must not compel Subject Teachers to answer the question paper during the examination session. Teachers have a right to report this to the department of education.**
8. **Subject Teachers must not request the Invigilators to give them copies of the question paper/s** during the examination session.
9. **Candidates must not accept assistance in the form of dictated answers or smuggled notes** during the examination session.
10. **No person is allowed to make a photocopy or photocopies of the examination question paper or sections thereof** during the examination session.
11. **Chief Invigilators must account for all question papers and answer books collected** from the nodal point.
12. **Invigilators must check the identification of each candidate during the session and complete the mark-sheets correctly.**
13. **Monitors must ensure that all examination centres comply with examination rules and regulations at all times.**
14. **Chief Invigilators must ensure that NO ANSWER SCRIPT is lost** as this is an irreplaceable document.



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The examination prayer is attached to this memorandum for use by schools. The use of the examination prayer is not compulsory but it is a good idea to “Work and Pray”.

Mr. G.N. Ngcobo: 

Head of Department: Education

Date: 7/7/22



UNIVERSAL DAILY EXAMINATION PRAYER

Prayer

**Almighty God, We come before you,
And ask that you calm our nerves.**

**Inspire our thoughts,
Strengthen our memories,**

And guide our pens

So that we will be able to make maximum use of all

That we have been taught

And all that we have learnt.

Let us be honest in our work

And guard us from the temptation to be dishonest.

All-knowing and Merciful God,

We place ourselves in your hands

In the full knowledge that your Powerful Presence is

**With us at all times as we write this all-important
examination.**

AMEN!!!!