



## **basic education**

Department:  
Basic Education  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

### **CHIEF DIRECTORATE: NATIONAL ASSESSMENT AND PUBLIC EXAMINATIONS**

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**TO: HEADS OF PROVINCIAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENTS  
HEADS OF PROVINCIAL EXAMINATIONS  
HEADS OF CURRICULUM SECTIONS  
DISTRICT DIRECTORS  
NATIONAL ALLIANCE OF INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS ASSOCIATIONS  
PRINCIPALS OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS OFFERING THE GRADE 12 EXAMINATIONS  
TEACHER UNIONS  
SCHOOL GOVERNING BODY ASSOCIATIONS  
UMALUSI**

### **CIRCULAR E17 OF 2025**

#### **EXTENSION OF THE SHELF LIFE OF THE 2021 NATIONAL SENIOR CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION GUIDELINES (NSC) TO 2026**

1. The National Senior Certificate (NSC) Examination Guidelines were approved by Umalusi and released for implementation from 2021 to 2025.
2. The 2021 Examination Guidelines are currently under review, and this process will be concluded during the course of 2026. It is anticipated that the revised Examination Guidelines for all subjects will be released for implementation in 2027.
3. During this review period, the Examination Guidelines introduced in 2021 and currently in use will remain valid and applicable for implementation in 2026 in all schools offering the Grade 12 National Senior Certificate.
4. Accordingly, the question papers for the May/June 2026, October/November 2026 and May/June 2027 NSC Examinations will be based on the 2021 Examination Guidelines.
5. The 2021 Examination Guidelines are available on the Department of Basic Education's website.
6. Provincial Education Departments (PEDs) are requested to disseminate this circular to all schools offering the NSC.

7. Should you have any queries on matters relating to this circular, please contact Ms P Ogunbanjo at [Ogunbanjo.P@dbe.gov.za](mailto:Ogunbanjo.P@dbe.gov.za), Mr C Thurston at [Thurston.C@dbe.gov.za](mailto:Thurston.C@dbe.gov.za) (Examination Guidelines for Languages) or Ms N Nobongoza at [Nobongoza.E@dbe.gov.za](mailto:Nobongoza.E@dbe.gov.za) (Examinations Guidelines for Non-Languages).
8. Your continued support is sincerely appreciated.



**MR HM MWELI**  
**DIRECTOR-GENERAL**  
**DATE: 06/12/2025**