



EXAMINATIONS & ASSESSMENT CHIEF DIRECTORATE

Steve Yikile Tshwete Building, Zone 6, Zwelitsha, 5608 * Private Bag 4571* KWT * 5600 * REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA
Website: ecprov.gov.za * Email: funiwe.bikitsha@edu.ecprov.gov.za

Ref: 13/P

Tel: 040 602 7039 / 072 378 2817

Enquiries: Mrs F. Bikitsha

ASSESSMENT INSTRUCTION NO 36 OF 2019

TO:

**DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL
CHIEF DIRECTORS
HEAD OFFICE DIRECTORS AND DISTRICT DIRECTORS
CHIEF EDUCATION SPECIALISTS
CIRCUIT MANAGERS
DEPUTY CHIEF EDUCATION SPECIALISTS
SENIOR EDUCATION SPECIALISTS
PRINCIPALS OF ALL PUBLIC AND INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS:
GRADES 1 – 9
TEACHER UNIONS / ORGANISATIONS
SCHOOL GOVERNING BODIES**

DATE: 12 SEPTEMBER 2019

**MARK ADJUSTMENTS AND SPECIAL CONDONATION DISPENSATION FOR
LEARNERS IN THE SENIOR PHASE (GRADE 7-9)**

1. INTRODUCTION

The implementation of the Curriculum and Assessment Policy Statement (CAPS) is fully implemented in all Phases and Grades. Therefore, all learners are directed to use the provisions of the current policies:

- *National policy pertaining to the programme and promotion requirements of the national Curriculum Statement Grades R – 12,*
- *National Protocol for Assessment Grades R – 12*
- *Curriculum and Assessment Policy Statement (CAPS) for all approved subjects.*
- *Approval of the amendment policy pertaining to the National Curriculum Statement Grades R – 12.*
- *National policy pertaining to the programme and promotion requirements of the National Curriculum Statements Grades R – 12 published as government notices no. 115 and 116 in Government Gazette no 36042 of 28 December 2012.*

1.2 RECORDING AND REPORTING SENIOR PHASE: (GRADES 7 – 9)

The national codes, together with either the descriptors or the percentages provided in the Table shown below, should be used for recording and reporting learner performance in the Senior Phase (Grades 7– 9).

RATING CODE	DESCRIPTION OF COMPETENCE	PERCENTAGE
7	Outstanding Achievement	80 – 100
6	Meritorious Achievement	70 – 79
5	Substantial Achievement	60 – 69
4	Adequate Achievement	50 – 59
3	Moderate Achievement	40 – 49
2	Elementary Achievement	30 – 39
1	Not Achieved	0 – 29

Comments should be used to qualify learner performance.

1.3 PROMOTION REQUIREMENTS

Learners in Grade 7 – 9 will be promoted from grade to grade if they have complied with the promotion requirements in eight (8) of the nine (9) subjects offered, provided the School Based Assessment (SBA) component of the ninth subject has been completed. The final marks for a subject must be calculated from SBA (40%) and end of year examination (60%).

- Adequate Achievement (Level 4: 50% - 59%) in one language at Home Language level,
- Moderate Achievement (Level 3: 40% - 49%) in the second required official language at First Additional Language level,
- Moderate Achievement (Level 3: 40% - 49%) in Mathematics,
- Moderate Achievement (Level 3: 40% - 49%) in any three (3) of the required subjects, and
- At least an Elementary Achievement (Level 2: 30% - 39%) in any two (2) of the other required subjects.

2. MARK ADJUSTMENTS AND SPECIAL CONDONATION DISPENSATION

- The purpose of this Assessment Instruction is to clarify the application of the mark adjustments and the special condonation dispensation learners in the Senior Phase (Grade 7-9) in 2019.

- 2.2 National Assessment Circular 3 of 2015 allowed for an adjustment of marks in three (3) subjects on a sliding scale in 2015,2016 and 2017, in terms of this Assessment Instruction, learners in 2019 will be allowed an adjustment of a maximum of 2% in one subject.
- 2.3 In 2017, the process of mark adjustment as set out in Assessment Instruction 65 of 2017 provided for a condonation in Mathematics. The Circular indicated that where a learner has met all requirements in respect of promotion from one Grade to the next i.e. (Grade 7,8 and 9) except has not attained a level 3 (40%) in Mathematics and therefore has to be retained such a learner must be condoned in Mathematics.
- 2.4 This implies that the Mathematics mark is condoned, and the learner must be promoted to the next grade, if all other requirements are met.
- 2.5 In 2019, the mark adjustments and special dispensation to be applied is as follows:
- (a) A mark adjustment not exceeding 2% must be applied in a maximum of 3 subjects and not in one subject as described by National Assessment Circular 3 of 2015.
 - (b) Thereafter, the condonation in Mathematics must be applied. Where a learner has met all the requirements in respect of promotion from one grade to the next grade (i.e. Grade 7,8 and 9), except has not attained a Level 3 (40%) in Mathematics and therefore has to be retained, such a learner must be condoned in Mathematics. This implies that the Mathematics mark is condoned, and the learner must be promoted to the next grade, if all other promotion requirements are met.

3. Procedure to be followed is as follows:

- Step 1: Identify all learners on the Promotion Schedule who have not met promotion requirements and place them on a possible retention list.
- Step 2: From the possible retention list, indicate all learners that qualify for mark adjustment i.e. those learners that will be promoted if a mark adjustment not exceeding 2% is applied in a maximum of 3 subjects.
- Step 3: Apply the mark adjustment of 2% in a maximum of any three (3) subjects, prioritising the fundamental subjects of Home Language, First Additional Language and Mathematics.

Example:

Subject	Original Learner mark	CAPS requirement	Adjustment to meet the CAPS requirement
Home Language	48%	50%	Adjust by 2%
First Additional Language	38%	40%	Adjust by 2%
Mathematics	38%	40%	Adjust by 2%

In the above example the learner's marks are adjusted in Home Language, First Additional Language and Mathematics. If a learner does not require adjustments in the fundamental subjects, adjustments may be applied in the elective subjects separately or in combination with fundamental subjects. If a learner requires an adjustment in Mathematics but not in Home Language and in First Additional Language, adjustments can be made in any two (2) of the remaining six (6) subjects.

Step 4: Remove from the retention list all learners who, after the mark adjustments now qualify for promotion.

Step 5: On the Promotion Schedule the adjusted mark should be indicated and an asterisk (*) should be placed next to a learner's adjusted mark where an adjustment has been made in the specific subject (e.g. *Mathematics 40% **) all learners whose marks are adjusted to a pass must be indicated on the Promotion schedule, as "passed with adjustment" in the progression column.

Step 6: Attach a list of all learners who passed with adjustment to the Promotion Schedule.

2.6 Learners that are repeating a Grade should not be excluded from the adjustment process.

2.7 In relationship to the Mathematics condonation, on the promotion schedule, the original mark obtained by the learner in Mathematics must be indicated and a letter "C" must be inserted next to the mark to indicate that this mark has been condoned. The same would apply in the way the mark is reflected on the learner's report, the following statement must appear:

"Mathematics mark has been condoned and the learner is promoted to the next grade."

2.8 Grade 9 learners who obtain a minimum mark of below 30% in Mathematics in Grade 9 after 2% adjustment has been applied will not be allowed to take Mathematics in Grade 10. They must take Mathematical Literacy.

3. **The above condonation dispensation does not, in any way change the subject programme requirements for the Senior Phase, as stipulated in Paragraph 19 of the National policy pertaining to the programme requirements of the National Curriculum Statement Grade R-12, published as Government Notices No 1115 and 1116 in Government Gazette No 36042 of 28 December 2012.**
4. This implies that Mathematics remains a compulsory subject by all learners but learners may be condoned in Mathematics.
5. **Please note that the mark adjustment and condonation dispensation is applicable in 2019 for Grade 7,8 and 9.**
6. The information in this Assessment Instruction must be disseminated to schools. Districts must ensure that the above condonation dispensation is applied accurately across all schools in 2019.

Yours in Quality Education



(A) DDG: EPPEM
MS P. VINJEVOLD

2019-09-13
DATE