



**NATIONAL SENIOR CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION
NOVEMBER 2009**

GUIDE TO RESULTS

Introduction

This booklet serves to guide you through your Statement of Results.

The National Senior Certificate (NSC) was written for the first time in 2008. It was a significant milestone in the history of democratic South Africa, namely the first time the major school-leaving examination was written using a curriculum, i.e. the National Curriculum Statements (NCS), which was reformed extensively in order to more accurately reflect the skills, knowledge and values of our democracy: skills and knowledge that our citizens require to compete globally and values that South Africans need to build a stronger democracy than we have.

Rules of subject combination

A learner must offer a minimum of seven subjects.

The approved subjects for the NSC Grades 10 – 12 (General) are grouped in two main categories, namely **Group A** (A1, A2 and A3) and **Group B** (B1 to B7 and Other Subjects). A learner must select four subjects, i.e. two official languages (at least one at Home Language level); Mathematical Literacy or Mathematics and Life Orientation from **Group A**; and a minimum of any three subjects from **Group B**. One of the three choice subjects may be selected from the Other Subjects group.

GROUP A

Table A1: Official Languages at Home and First Additional Level

Subject
Afrikaans Home Language
Afrikaans First Additional Language
English Home Language
English First Additional Language
IsiXhosa Home Language
IsiXhosa First Additional Language
IsiZulu Home Language
IsiZulu First Additional Language
Sepedi First Additional Language
Sesotho First Additional Language
Setswana First Additional Language
Siswati Home Language
Siswati First Additional Language

Table A2: Mathematical Sciences

Subject
Mathematical Literacy
Mathematics

Table A3: Human and Social Studies

Subject
Life Orientation

GROUP B**Table B1: Culture and Arts**

Subject
Dance Studies
Design
Dramatic Arts
Music
Visual Arts

Table B2: Business, Commerce and Management Studies

Subject
Accounting
Business Studies
Economics

Table B3: Official Languages at Second Additional Level and Non-Official Languages

Subject
Isizulu Second Additional Language
Arabic Second Additional Language
French Second Additional Language
German Home Language
German Second Additional Language
Gujarati Home Language
Gujarati First Additional Language
Hebrew Second Additional Language
Hindi Home Language
Hindi First Additional Language
Italian Second Additional Language
Latin Second Additional Language
Modern Greek Second Additional Language
Portuguese Home Language
Portuguese Second Additional Language
Spanish Second Additional Language
Tamil Home Language
Tamil First Additional Language
Telegu Home Language
Telegu First Additional Language
Urdu Home Language
Urdu First Additional Language

Table B4: Engineering and Technology

Subject
Engineering Graphics and Design

Table B5: Physical, Mathematical, Computer and Life Sciences

Subject
Computer Applications Technology
Information Technology
Life Sciences
Physical Sciences

Table B6: Human and Social Studies

Subject
Geography
History
Religion Studies

Table B7: Services

Subject
Consumer Studies
Hospitality Studies
Tourism

Other approved subjects

Subject
Equine Studies
Maritime Economics
Nautical Science
Associated Board of Royal Schools Practical Music Examination
Trinity College of London Practical Music Examination
Unisa Practical Music Examination

Immigrant candidate

An immigrant candidate may offer only one (1) official language on at least First Additional Language level and obtain a rating of 30% in that language, provided that another subject from Group B is offered in lieu of the one official language that is not offered.

Instead of offering another subject from Group B, an immigrant candidate may offer his or her home language in lieu of that one official language, subject to the following:

- Such language is listed on Home Language level in Table B3.
- In the absence of the Home Language of the immigrant in Table B3, such a candidate may offer his or her home language on the A level of the General Certificate of Education (GCE)

of the United Kingdom, or an examination recognised by the Department of Education as equivalent to Home Language Level for this purpose.

Information regarding the pass requirements for the National Senior Certificate (NSC)

1. Specific institutional and programme needs may have a specific language requirement or require appropriate combinations of recognised National Senior Certificate subjects and levels of achievement. Learners must check their results against specific institutional requirements for the course of study they wish to follow.

2. Pass Requirements for the NSC

2.1 To pass the NSC

A learner must pass:

- One official language at Home Language level at 40%
- 2 other subjects at 40%
- 3 subjects at 30%

Notes

2.1.1 It is compulsory for a learner to pass an official language at Home Language level, i.e. at 40% or above.

2.1.2 Immigrants are exempt from this provision. Provision as per the immigrant concession will apply in respect of the language requirements, i.e. the learner must obtain a minimum of 30% in an official language, offered at the minimum of First Additional level.

2.1.3 If the learner offers two official languages, both at Home Language level, and gets 40% or more in one of the languages but less than 40% in the other, the learner will qualify for a pass in Home Language.

2.1.4 Learners may fail one subject, except for the official language at Home Language level, and still pass the examination, provided all other criteria are met. The learner must have completed a portfolio in the subject failed.

2.1.5 The learner may fail any one of the other fundamental subjects (a second official language, Mathematics or Mathematical Literacy, or Life Orientation) and still pass the examination as a whole, provided a portfolio in the subject failed has been completed and all other criteria are met.

Please note:

- Mathematics Paper III (Probability, Data Handling and Geometry) is not considered as a separate subject for promotion requirements and hence will not be taken into account when determining whether a learner has met the minimum requirements. However, the subject will be listed on the Statement of Results and the final National Senior Certificate issued by Umalusi.
- Advanced Programme Mathematics and Advanced Mathematics are not registered NSC subjects and hence will not be taken into account when determining whether a learner has met the minimum requirements. The IEB will issue a separate statement of results and a separate IEB certificate for these subjects.

2.2 To pass the NSC with entry to Higher Certificate study

A learner must:

- Pass the NSC (See 1.1).
- Meet the language requirement for further study at a South African institution.

2.2.1 Language requirement for entry to further study

- One of the two official languages offered by the learner must be either English or Afrikaans. To meet the language criterion to qualify for entry to study at a tertiary education institution, the learner must pass either English or Afrikaans at the First Additional level, i.e. at 30% or more.
- A learner who offers 2 official languages at Home Language level, one of which is English or Afrikaans, and the other one of the other official languages, e.g. Zulu, and obtains between 30 and 39% in English or Afrikaans (i.e. does not pass it but obtains 30% or above) and passes the other language, qualifies for entry to further study at a tertiary institution.

2.2.2 Specific institutional and programme needs may have a specific language requirement or require appropriate combinations of recognised National Senior Certificate subjects and levels of achievement. Learners must check their results against specific institutional requirements for the course of study they wish to follow.

2.3 To pass the NSC with entry to Diploma study

A learner must:

- Pass one official language at Home Language level at 40%
- Pass 3 other subjects at 40% (excluding Life Orientation)
- Pass 2 subjects at 30%
- Meet the language requirement for further study at a South African institution. (See 2.2.1)

The key difference between qualifying for entry to diploma study rather than higher certificate study is that the learner must achieve 40% or more in 4 subjects (including the official language at Home Language level, but excluding Life Orientation) rather than just 3 subjects.

2.4 To pass the NSC with entry to Degree studies

A learner must:

- Pass one official language at Home Language level at 40% or more.
- Pass 4 subjects from the designated list at 50% or more. (See 2.4.1 below for the designated list)
- Pass 2 subjects at a minimum of 30%
- Meet the language requirement for entry to further study. (See 2.2.1)

2.4.1 The list of designated subjects which will be in place for 3 years from 2008 is as follows:

- Accounting
- Agricultural Sciences
- Business Studies
- Dramatic Arts
- Economics
- Engineering Graphics and Design

- Geography
- History
- Consumer Studies
- Information Technology
- Languages (one language of learning and teaching at a higher education institution and two other recognised language subjects)
- Life Sciences
- Mathematics
- Mathematical Literacy
- Music
- Physical Sciences
- Religion Studies
- Visual Art

2.4.2 In respect of Music, it is only the National Senior Certificate Music course that is considered a designated subject. Other music courses, (e.g. UNISA Music) are recognised as NSC subjects but are not considered to be 'designated' for the purpose of qualification for degree studies.

2.4.3 Non-designated subjects may contribute towards the Admission Points Score (APS) and may be recognised as an institution or faculty specific entry requirement. Learners must check their results against specific institutional requirements.

2.4.4 **If you have not met the minimum statutory requirements or are short of one requirement for degree studies, you should contact the Admissions Office at the institution you are interested in studying at. The Admissions Office will then advise you of possible options.**

2.5 Immigrant status

2.5.1 Learners with immigrant status have a concession in respect of their language requirements.

2.5.2 To pass the NSC, in respect of their language provision, the immigrant learner must offer one official language on at least First Additional Language level and obtain at least a rating of 30% in that language. To qualify for the NSC, the remaining criteria for the qualification must be met.

2.5.3 To obtain entry for study at a higher education institution, the immigrant learner must meet the language requirement to qualify for further study.

2.6 Qualifications offered at tertiary institutions

HESA has informed us as follows:

All universities are entitled to offer degrees, diplomas and higher certificates but this will only happen once the Higher Education Qualification Framework (HEQF) is implemented. This is unlikely to happen in at least 5 years from next year. Thus, the universities will continue to offer programmes (be it diplomas and or degrees) as they have been doing.

Universities of Technology mainly offer diplomas and some B Tech degrees and National Certificates. The Higher Certificate, just like other programmes as outlined in the HEQF, has not yet been developed. What seems to be coming to the fore though is that some

comprehensive universities and some Universities of Technology are positioning themselves to move away from offering courses that were traditionally offered by Technikons only, i.e. they want to all offer degrees just like traditional universities.

3. Tick box checks

3.1 Have you passed the NSC?

- 3.1.1 Have you passed an official language on the Home Language level, i.e. 40% or more?
- 3.1.2 Have you passed any 2 other subjects with 40% or more?
- 3.1.3 Have you passed an additional 3 subjects with 30% or more?

If the answer to all three questions is 'Yes', then you have passed the NSC.

3.2 Have you passed the NSC with entry to Higher Certificate study?

- 3.2.1 Have you passed an official language on the Home Language level, i.e. 40% or more?
- 3.2.2 Have you met the language requirement to qualify for further study? (See 2.2.1)
- 3.2.3 Have you passed any 2 other subjects with 40% or more?
- 3.2.4 Have you passed an additional 3 subjects with 30% or more?

If the answer to all four questions is 'Yes', then you have passed the NSC with entry to Higher Certificate study.

3.3 Have you passed the NSC with entry to diploma study?

- 3.3.1 Have you passed an official language on the Home Language level, i.e. 40% or more?
- 3.3.2 Have you met the language requirement to qualify for further study? (See 2.2.1)
- 3.3.3 Have you passed any 3 other subjects with 40% or more (excluding Life Orientation)?
- 3.3.4 Have you passed an additional 2 subjects with 30% or more?

If the answer to all four questions is 'Yes', then you have passed the NSC with entry to Diploma study.

3.4 Have you passed the NSC with entry to bachelor degree studies?

- 3.4.1 Have you passed an official language on the Home Language level, i.e. 40% or more?
 - 3.4.2 Have you met the language requirement to qualify for further study? (See 2.2.1)
 - 3.4.3 Have you achieved 50% or more in at least 4 designated subjects? (See 2.4.1)
- Note: If you have achieved over 50% in your official language on the Home Language level (3.4.1), it will also qualify as one of the designated subjects.
- 3.4.4 Have you passed an additional 2 subjects with 30% or more?

If the answer to all four questions is 'Yes', then you have passed the NSC with entry to bachelor degree study.

NB: Decisions about admission to a tertiary institution are the prerogative of the institution. The fact that you have achieved the minimum requirements does not necessarily mean that the institution will accept you. Please see 2.2.2 and 2.4.4 above.

Reading your Statement of Results

The following certification codes apply:

- BD – Minimum requirements met for Bachelor's Degree Studies
- D – Minimum requirements met for Diploma Studies
- HC – Minimum requirements met for Higher Certificate Studies
- NSC – Minimum requirements met for a National Senior Certificate
- DNQ – Did not qualify

Re-marks/Re-checks

The closing date for re-marks/re-checks is 15 January 2010. Please refer to your Statement of Results for further information.

Entry to subsequent National Senior Certificate Examinations

1. Candidates who have failed the examination and wish to qualify for a school leaving certificate, or who have passed and wish to improve their symbols, may enter subsequent IEB National Senior Certificate Examinations, which are written annually in October/November.
2. Entry forms are available from the Assessment Controller from January each year, and together with the prescribed entry fee, must reach the Assessment Controller on or before **31 March** of the year in question.

Despatch of National Senior Certificates

National Senior Certificates will be issued by Umalusi by June/July 2010, and will be distributed by the IEB as arranged with schools.

Please note: The IEB office will be open until 13h00 to answer queries on Wednesday 30 December 2009. The IEB office will then close for the New Year break and will re-open on Monday 4 January 2010.

For any queries regarding your results, please call 011 483 9700; 011 483 9727; 011 483 9736 or 011 483 9768.