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## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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**Date:** 10 March 2026

**TO: CHIEF DIRECTORS  
DIRECTORS  
DISTRICT DIRECTORS  
CES: DISTRICT EXAMINATIONS AND ASSESSMENT  
CES: DISTRICT CURRICULUM COORDINATION  
CES: PROVINCIAL CURRICULUM COORDINATION  
CIRCUIT MANAGERS  
PRINCIPALS AND STAFF OF HIGH AND COMBINED SCHOOLS  
PRINCIPALS AND STAFF OF SCHOOLS WITH LEARNERS WITH SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL  
NEEDS  
SCHOOL GOVERNING BODIES  
TEACHER UNIONS**

### EXAMINATION INSTRUCTION E28/2026

#### TIMETABLES FOR THE 2026 MAY/JUNE AND OCTOBER/NOVEMBER EXAMINATIONS

1. At the Council of Education Ministers (CEM) meeting held on **Friday 23 January 2026**, the timetables for the 2026 May/June Senior Certificate/National Senior Certificate Examinations (**Annexure A**) and October/November National Senior Certificate Examinations (**Annexure B**) and the dates for the release of the results were discussed and approved.
2. The May/June 2026 Examinations are scheduled to be written from **Monday 11 May 2026** to **Wednesday 24 June 2026**, and the October/November 2026 Examinations are scheduled to be written from **Tuesday 13 October 2026** to **Thursday 26 November 2026**.
3. **May/June 2026 Senior Certificate/National Senior Certificate Examinations**
  - 3.1 The May/June Examinations can be written by both the National Senior Certificate (NSC) and Senior Certificate (SC) candidates.
  - 3.2 Senior Certificate candidates can also register if they are able to produce a minimum of a Grade 9/National Qualifications Framework (NQF) Level 1 qualification.
  - 3.3 The rewrite opportunity for Computer Applications Technology (CAT) Paper 1 and Information Technology (IT) Paper 1 will take place at **09:00** on **Wednesday 24 June 2026**.



#### 4. October/November 2026 National Senior Certificate Examinations

- 4.1 The October/November 2026 National Senior Certificate (NSC) Examinations timetable follows a similar format as previous years. It starts with Computer Applications Technology (CAT) Paper 1 and Information Technology (IT) Paper 1 written in the first week of the examinations. CAT and IT are scheduled to be administered on **13 and 14 October 2026** respectively.
- 4.2 In the case of the October/November 2026 timetable, three non-examination days were included, i.e. **3–5 November 2026**, to accommodate the Local Government Elections. The exact date of the elections still needs to be officially announced by the President. In addition, **9 November 2026** also had to be scheduled as a non-examination day to accommodate Diwali, a religious observance.
- 4.3 This year in **Week 1**, only Paper 3 for English will be written on **Thursday 15 October 2026**, whereas isiZulu, isiXhosa, isiNdebele and Siswati (**Monday 19 October 2026**), Afrikaans (**Tuesday 20 October 2026**) and Sesotho, Setswana, Sepedi, Tshivenda and Xitsonga (**Wednesday 21 October 2026**) will be written in **Week 2**. Paper 3 in all the Languages comprises of Creative Writing. **Candidates must be reminded that Paper 3 will be written before Paper 1 and Paper 2.**
- 4.4 The Life Orientation Common Assessment Task (LO CAT) will be written at **09:00** on **Tuesday 1 September 2026**, with the rewrite for LO CAT scheduled for **Monday 12 October 2026**. Candidates must be reminded that absence in the Life Orientation Common Assessment Task will result in the candidate's results remaining incomplete. Principals must ensure that candidates attend school and sit for the LO CAT on the scheduled date.
- 4.5 The rewrite opportunity for Computer Applications Technology (CAT) Paper 1 and Information Technology (IT) Paper 1 will take place at **09:00** on **Thursday 26 November 2026**.
- 4.6 The Minister will announce the results of the October/November 2026 Examinations on **Monday 11 January 2027** and the Northern Cape Department of Education (NCDoE) will release the results of candidates on **Tuesday 12 January 2027**.
5. The Chief Directorate: Examinations and Assessment will communicate the release date of the October/November 2026 NSC Examinations results through their normal communication channels.
6. For any enquiries relating to this Examination Instruction, please contact the Director: Examinations and Assessment, Mr Sello Maketlo, e-mail: [sellomaketlo@gmail.com](mailto:sellomaketlo@gmail.com).
7. All managers are requested to ensure that all teachers and officials acknowledge receipt of this Examination Instruction.

Kind regards



**DR MI ISHMAIL**  
**HEAD OF DEPARTMENT: EDUCATION**

