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## GOVERNMENT NOTICES

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### DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

No. 869

26 August 2009

#### **NATIONAL EDUCATION POLICY ACT, 1996 (ACT NO. 27 OF 1996) AND THE SOUTH AFRICAN SCHOOLS ACT, 1996 (ACT NO. 84 OF 1996) AS AMENDED**

#### **AMENDMENT TO POLICY AND REGULATIONS PERTAINING TO THE NATIONAL SENIOR CERTIFICATE**

I, Angelina Matsie Motshekga, Minister of Basic Education, after consultation with the Council of Education Ministers and in terms of *Sections 3(4)(l) and 7 of the National Education Policy Act, 1996 (Act No. 27 of 1996)* and together with *section 6(A) of the South African Schools Act, 1996 (Act. No. 84 of 1996)*, hereby give my intention to call for public comment on the amendment to the "National Policy on the Conduct, Administration and Management of the National Senior Certificate: A Qualification at Level 4 on the National Qualification Framework (NQF)" as promulgated in Government Gazette, No.30048 as Government Notice, No 564 on July 2007 as set out in Schedules 1 and 2.

- (a) *National Policy on the Conduct, Administration and Management of the National Senior Certificate, a Qualification at Level 4 on the National Qualifications Framework (NQF) as promulgated in Government Gazette, No.30048 as Government Notice, No. 564 on 6 July 2007.*
- (b) *National Senior Certificate: A Qualification at Level 4 on the National Qualifications Framework (NQF), promulgated in Government Gazette No. 27819 as Government Notice, No 744 of 20 July 2005.*

The relevant policy changes are set out in the Schedule. Deletions are in square brackets [ ] and in bold, while insertions are underlined.

**SUBMISSIONS**

It would greatly assist the Department of Education if all submissions could be prepared using the specific schedule under the headings of the various Regulations or Policy Paragraphs listed in the draft Regulation and draft policy Schedules. If you do not wish to comment under a particular Regulation or Paragraph, please indicate "No comment".

**CLOSING DATE**

The closing date for the receipt of comments is set as 21 days after publication of this Notice.

**ADDRESS FOR SUBMISSIONS**

**Please send or deliver your submission to:**

**The Deputy Director-General (Further Education and Training)**

**Department of Education**

**Attention: Ms Z. Govender**

**Room 930**

**Sol Plaatje House**

**123 Schoeman Street**

**PRETORIA**

Or

**Private Bag X895**

**PRETORIA 0001**

Or

**Fax: (012) 312-5309**

**Tel: (012) 312-5303**

**E-mail: [govender.z@doe.gov.za](mailto:govender.z@doe.gov.za)**

**AM MOTSHEKGA, MP**

**MINISTER OF BASIC EDUCATION**

## **SCHEDULES**

## SCHEDULE 1

*National Policy on the Conduct, Administration and Management of the National Senior Certificate, a Qualification at Level 4 on the national Qualifications Framework (NQF)*, promulgated in *Government Gazette No. 30048* as *Government Notice, No 564* of 6 July 2007 is hereby amended by the following:

### Amendment of paragraph 18

1. Paragraph 18 of the Policy is hereby amended by-

- (a) the substitution of the introduction of paragraph 18 for the following paragraph-

“A supplementary examination will be granted under the following conditions to a full-time and repeat candidate:”

- (b) the substitution of subparagraph (1) of paragraph 18 for the following subparagraph-

“(1) If a candidate has not met the minimum promotion and certification\_requirements [in the final external examination, as contemplated in *paragraphs 11 and 12*, of the policy document, *The National Senior Certificate: A qualification at Level 4 on the National Qualifications Framework (NQF)*], but requires two subjects to obtain a National Senior Certificate, he or she may:

- (a) R[r]egister for a maximum of two subjects for the supplementary examination in the following year.
- (b) Subject to subparagraph (c), [T]he[se] two subjects registered for must be subjects that the candidate sat for in the previous end-of-year examination.

- (c) Register for Life Orientation, which is internally assessed, as one of the two subjects to be registered for the supplementary examination in subregulation (a). The re-assessment of Life Orientation must be completed within the period in which the supplementary examination is conducted.
- (d) A supplementary examination in a maximum of two subjects may only be exercised once by a candidate. A candidate may, however, spread the two subjects allowed over a maximum of two supplementary examinations of one subject each.
- (e) Candidates that repeat one or more subjects must be allowed to combine their subjects based on the current National Senior Certificate requirements to obtain a National Senior Certificate.
- (f) In combining these subjects contemplated in subparagraph (e), the performance in the best seven (7) subjects would be taken into consideration."

- (c) the substitution of subparagraph (8) of paragraph 18 for the following subparagraph-

"(8) A candidate who did not write or complete the end-of year examination [or part thereof due to the reasons stated in paragraph 2(b) and (d), [may be granted permission to write the supplementary examination only in the paper or papers that] with a valid reason, has the opportunity to write the supplementary examination for the specific examination question paper he or she did not write in the end-of-year-examination. However, should the candidate select to write the entire subject, even though he or she has been absent for one or more examination question papers, the candidate should be allowed to exercise this option."

- (d) the addition after subparagraph (9) of the following subparagraph-

"(10) Candidates who have failed the School-Based Assessment and Practical Assessment Task components, may be

allowed to improve their marks obtained in these two components, subject to satisfactory arrangements being made with the relevant accredited assessment body."

#### **Amendment of paragraph 42**

2. Paragraph 42 of the Policy is amended by the addition of a new subparagraph following subparagraph (3)-

"(4) A condonation of a maximum of one (1) subject will be applied if a candidate requires a maximum of 2%, either to obtain a pass at 30% or 40%. Such a condonation will be applied only in one subject, if the application of such a condonation changes the status of the qualification."

#### **Amendment of paragraph 2 of Annexure B**

3. Annexure B of the Policy is amended by the substitution of paragraph 2 of the following paragraph-

##### **"2. INCOMPLETE RESULTS**

A learner's results are regarded as incomplete if he or she did not offer any component of the School-Based Assessment **[SBA]** and/or a Practical Assessment Task mark and no valid reason was provided. This implies that the learner did not submit a specific assessment task specified for **[internal assessment in the Subject Assessment Guidelines.]** School-Based Assessment and Practical Assessment in the policy document, An addendum to the policy document, the National Senior Certificate: A qualification at Level 4 on the National Qualifications Framework (NQF), regarding the National Protocol for Assessment (Grades R – 12) and Subject Assessment Guidelines. In such an event, the code **["999"] "444"** is indicated on the mark sheet. In such **[a case]** an event the candidate cannot be resulted, since he or she has not satisfied the requirements of the National Senior Certificate. Such a candidate

must **[re-register for the subject to complete the SBA requirements.]**  
be given three months from publication of the results to submit School-Based Assessment tasks and/or Practical Assessment Tasks for evaluation. If a candidate fails to do this, he or she will not qualify for a National Senior Certificate."

#### **Amendment of paragraph 3 of Annexure B**

4. Annexure B of the Policy is amended by the substitution of paragraph 3 of the following paragraph-

#### **"3. OUTSTANDING MARKS**

A mark is regarded as outstanding if, during the capturing process, the reason for the outstanding mark is not **[completely]** established. **[A]**The code, "777", is used to indicate an outstanding mark. An outstanding [internal assessment] mark must be resolved as soon as possible and the "777" code replaced with either a mark or ["999"] a "444" code (absent). In [a case] the event where the learner was absent based on valid reasons, the outstanding School-Based [a]Assessment tasks and/or Practical Assessment Tasks must be submitted within the stipulated three-month period. Should the candidate not submit the School-Based [a]Assessment tasks and/or Practical Assessment Tasks in the stipulated period, the code of "777" will be changed to["999"] "444", which will then be regarded as [an incomplete result] a failed subject."

#### **Amendment of paragraph 4 of Annexure B**

5. Annexure M of the Policy is amended by the substitution of paragraph 4 of the following paragraph-

“4. Chief examiners must submit detailed plans **[in respect of how the marking will be handled in order to]** with regard to the marking procedure and with special emphasis on:

- (a) **[ensure]**the flow of examination answer scripts through the marking teams;
  - (b) the mechanisms for controlling the flow of examination answer scripts;
  - (c) the moderation by senior markers;
  - (d) the checking of totals;
  - (e) the final mark is rounded down if the first decimal is less than 5 and rounded up if the decimal is 5 and above e.g. a final mark of 70,3 will be rounded down to 70 and a final mark of 70.6 is rounded up to 71.
- [(e)](f)** the completion of mark sheets; and
- [(f)](g)** the dispatching of completed examination answer scripts.”



**“National Senior Certificate: A Qualification at Level 4 on the National Qualifications Framework (NQF), promulgated as Government Notice No.27819 in *Government Gazette No. 744* of 20 July 2005.”**

The National Senior Certificate: A Qualification at Level 4 on the National Qualifications Framework (NQF) policy, promulgated in Government Gazette No. 27819 as Government Notice, No 744 of 20 July 2005 is hereby amended as follows:

#### **Amendment of paragraph 6**

6. This Policy is amended by the substitution of paragraph 6 of the following paragraph-

##### **“6. Changing subjects in Grades 10, 11 and 12**

(1) A learner may change [**one or more**] a maximum of **two** subjects in [**his or her**] Grade 10[**year.**], subject to the approval of the Principal of the school where the learner is registered.

(2) [**Learners**]A learner may change [a subject] **two** subjects in Grade 11[**or 12 if the school deems it is in the best interests of the learner to change a subject. The school may take such a decision only after consultation with the Head of Department or his/her delegate.**], subject to the approval of the Principal of the school where the learner is registered.

(3) In exceptional cases a learner may change **one** subject in Grade 12, provided it is done before 31 January of the Grade 12-year.

(4) Approval for changing a subject in Grade 12 must be obtained from the Head of the assessment body, provided the following are furnished:

- (a) a letter of motivation from the learner's parent or guardian;
- (b) a letter from the Principal, either supporting or providing reasons for not supporting the change; and
- (c) a letter from the subject teacher, outlining the programme to be followed to assist the learner in covering those aspects of the curriculum statements for the previous grade that were not covered.

(5) The closing date for changing a subject or subjects in Grade 10 and 11 must be determined by the Head of the assessment body, based on the impact of the change on the internal assessment programme."

#### **Amendment of paragraph 11**

7. This Policy is amended by the substitution of paragraph 11 of the following paragraph-

"11. Promotion and certification requirements

(1) Subject to the provisions of *Paragraph 16(4)(d) and (e) of the General and Further Education and Training Quality Assurance Act, 2001 (Act No. 58 of 2001)*, and subject to *paragraph 9* of this document, [an NSC]a National Senior Certificate shall be issued to a candidate who has complied with the following promotion requirements:

- (a) Achieved [Obtained at least] 40% in [the required]three subjects, one of which is an official language at Home Language level[as contemplated in *paragraph 9(2)(a)(i) above.*], and 30% in three subjects, provided the school-based assessment component is submitted in the subject failed.
- (b) [Obtained at least 30% in the other required language on at least First Additional Language level as contemplated in *paragraph 9(2)(a)(i) above.*]A condonation of a maximum of one

(1) subject will be applied if a candidate requires a maximum of 2%, either to obtain a pass at 30% or 40%. Such a condonation will be applied only in one subject, if the application of such a condonation changes the status of the qualification.

- (c) **[Obtained at least 30% in Mathematical Literacy or Mathematics as contemplated in *paragraph 9(2)(a)(ii)* above.]**Learners who offer a Music programme from the Associated Board of Royal Schools Practical Music Examination or Trinity College of London Practical Music Examination or Unisa Practical Music Examination, must obtain the following ratings:

(i) the Associated Board of Royal Schools Practical Music Examination: at least 65%.

(ii) Trinity College of London Practical Music Examination: at least 65%.

(iii) Unisa Practical Music Examination: at least 50%.

- (d) **[Obtained at least 40% in Life Orientation as contemplated in *paragraph 9(2)(a)(iii)* above.]**To obtain a National Senior Certificate with distinction, a candidate must pass the National Senior Certificate; and obtain at least 80% in any **three of the six externally examined subjects** provided that the candidate obtains a minimum of at least 60% in the other three subjects that are externally examined.

- (e) **[Obtained at least 40% in one of the remaining three subjects and at least 30% in two subjects as contemplated in *paragraph 9(2)(a)(iv)* above.]**To obtain a National Senior Certificate with merit, a candidate must pass the National Senior Certificate; and obtain at least 60% in any **three of the six externally examined subjects**

provided that the candidate obtains a minimum of at least 50% in the other three subjects that are externally examined."

- [(f) A condonation of a maximum of one subject per grade with a rating of 'Not Achieved' will be allowed for either a Group A or a Group B subject, and such a subject will be deemed to have been obtained with a rating of 30%, provided that a condonation is applied only once.**
- (g) Learners who offer a Music programme from either the Associated Board of Royal Schools Practical Music Examination or Trinity College of London Practical Music Examination or Unisa Practical Music Examination, must obtain the following ratings:**

  - (i) The Associated Board of Royal Schools Practical Music Examination: at least 65%.**
  - (ii) Trinity College of London Practical Music Examination: at least 65%.**
  - (iii) Unisa Practical Music Examination: at least 50%."]**

#### **Amendment of paragraph 12**

8. This Policy is amended by the substitution of subparagraph (1) of paragraph 12 of the following subparagraph-

"12. Concessions

(1) Immigrants

(a) An immigrant candidate is:

- (i) a child or a dependent of a diplomatic representative of a foreign government accredited in South Africa; or
- (ii) a person who:
  - (aa) first enrolled at and entered a South African school in Grade 7 or a more senior grade, or
  - (bb) having begun his or her schooling at a school in South Africa, has attended school outside South Africa for two or more consecutive years after Grade 6 or its equivalent.
- (iii) An immigrant candidate as contemplated above 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, provided further that the immigrant candidate complies with the promotion requirements as contemplated in *paragraph 11(1)(e)*.
- (iv) Instead of offering another subject from Group B in lieu of the one official language that is not offered, an immigrant candidate may offer his or her home language in lieu of that one official language, subject to the following:
  - (aa) such language is listed on Home Language level in Table B4 at Annexure B.
  - (bb) **[In the absence of the home language of the immigrant in Table B4 at Annexure A, 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.

- (cc) The marks as supplied by the concerned assessment body will be taken into account, or if the actual marks are not available the results will be converted in accordance with the table below, with the proviso that the candidate may not offer two similarly named languages.

#### PROGRAMME REQUIREMENTS

A-Level		National Policy		Marks
Symbol	%	Symbol	%	
A	70-100	B	70	280
B	60-69	C	60	240
C	55-59	D	55	220
D	50-54	D	50	200
E	40-49	E	40	160
	30-39	F	35	140

- (v) To be classified as an immigrant candidate, such a candidate must be in possession of:
- (aa) the relevant official documentation issued by the Department of Home Affairs; and
  - (bb) the relevant official documentation issued by the school where the learner entered the South African school system for the first time.

#### Amendment of paragraph 16

9. This Policy is amended by the substitution of paragraph 16 of the following paragraph-

“16. Supplementary examinations

[(1)]A supplementary examination will be granted under the following conditions to a full-time and repeat candidate:

[(a)](1) If a [**Grade 12 full-time**] candidate has not met the minimum promotion and certification requirements [in the final external examination, as contemplated in *paragraphs 11 and 12*], but requires a maximum of two subjects to obtain a National Senior Certificate, he or she may:

- (a) Register for a maximum of two subjects for the supplementary examination in the following year.
- (b) [**If a Grade 12 part-time candidate or a private candidate has not met the minimum promotion and certification requirements as contemplated in *paragraphs 11 and 12* in his or her final external examination, but requires only one subject to obtain a National Senior Certificate, he or she may register for a maximum of one subject in the supplementary examinations in the following year. This subject must be a subject that the candidate sat for in the previous October/November examination.**]Subject to subparagraph (c),[T]he[se] two subjects registered for must be subjects that the candidate sat for in the previous [October/November] end-of-year examination.
- (c) [**In exceptional cases, candidates who are medically unfit and as a result are absent from one or more external examinations, may have the supplementary examination regarded as part of the same sitting.**]Register for Life Orientation, which is internally assessed, as one of the two subjects to be registered for the supplementary examination in subparagraph (a). The re-assessment of Life Orientation must

be completed within the period in which the supplementary examination is conducted.

(d) **[A candidate who wishes to improve his/her performance in the end-of-year examinations may register for supplementary examinations in a maximum of two subjects.]**A supplementary examination in a maximum of two subjects may only be exercised once by a candidate. A candidate may, however, spread the two subjects allowed over a maximum of two supplementary examinations of one subject each.

(e) **[Admission to the supplementary examination is at the discretion of the Head of Department.]**Candidates that repeat one or more subjects must be allowed to combine their subjects based on the current National Senior Certificate requirements to obtain a National Senior Certificate.

(f) **[In cases (a) to (e) above the internal assessment of the Grade 12 year will be used, including practical/oral assessment marks where applicable.]**In combining these subjects contemplated in subparagraph (e), the performance in the best seven (7) subjects would be taken into consideration.

(2) If a candidate is medically unfit and, as a result, is absent from one or more external examinations, he or she may register for the supplementary examination.

(3) A candidate that does not satisfy the minimum higher education, higher education faculty requirements or the requirements for the specific occupation in the end-of-year examination may be allowed in terms of the following to register for the supplementary



examination in the year following the end-of-year National Senior Certificate examination, in a maximum of two subjects:

- (a) a candidate who is one requirement short in meeting the minimum admission requirements for Higher Certificate, Diploma and Bachelor's degree programmes requiring a National Senior Certificate; or
- (b) a candidate that provides documentary evidence that he or she qualifies for admission to a higher education institution or for an occupation, but does not satisfy the higher education faculty requirements or the requirements for the specific occupation. For this purpose, the end-of-year and the supplementary examinations will be regarded as one examination sitting.
- (4) If there is a death in the immediate family of a candidate, or other special reasons for the candidate's absence, he or she may register for the supplementary examination.
- (5) In cases contemplated in subparagraphs (1) to (4) above, the internal assessment of the Grade 12-year will be used, including practical or oral assessment marks where applicable, in order to meet the internal assessment and external examination requirements.
- (6) In a case where an irregularity is being investigated, provisional enrolment for the supplementary examination may be granted to the candidate concerned, pending the outcome of the investigation.
- (7) A candidate who did not write or complete the end-of year examination with a valid reason, has the opportunity to write the supplementary examination for the specific examination question

paper he or she did not write in the end-of-year-examination. However, should the candidate select to write the entire subject, even though he or she has been absent for one or more examination question papers, the candidate should be allowed to exercise this option.

(8) Candidates who have failed the School-based Assessment and Practical Assessment Task components, must be allowed to improve their marks obtained in these two components, subject to satisfactory arrangements being made with the relevant accredited assessment body.”

#### **Amendment Annexure C**

10. This Policy is amended by the substitution of Annexure C of the following Annexure:

#### **“ANNEXURE C**

#### **RECOGNITION OF SUBJECTS NOT LISTED IN THE NATIONAL CURRICULUM STATEMENT GRADES 10-12**

#### **[(GENERAL)]**

#### **C.1 THE STATUS OF SUBJECTS OFFERED BY OTHER ASSESSMENT BODIES**

**[Candidates]**Learners may offer a maximum of one subject developed by accredited assessment bodies other than the Department of Education, provided that such a subject is accommodated in national education policy. A maximum of 20 credits may be allocated to such subjects. Accredited providers that wish to offer their subjects as part of the National Curriculum Statement Grades 10-12 may do so, subject to the approval of the Department of Education.

The subjects listed in *paragraph C2* are approved subjects from other accredited assessment bodies [during the interim period].\_Only in exceptional cases will additional subjects in this category be considered by the Department of Education.

Since the rating scale of the external examining body is not in accordance with that of the National Senior Certificate – the rating (1 – 7) will not be indicated on the statement of results and on the final certificate issued by Umalusi.

The actual mark obtained by the candidate will be reflected on the Statement of Results, with an asterisk denoting that this subject was offered by an external examining body and that the pass mark in this subject is as stipulated by the assessment body.

**[C.2 SUBJECTS OF OTHER ASSESSMENT BODIES THAT ARE APPROVED BY THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION**

SUBJECT	NUMBER
Associated Board of Royal Schools of Music Practical Music Examination Grade 6	02070014
Associated Board of Royal Schools of Music Practical Music Examination Grade 7	02070024
Associated Board of Royal Schools of Music Practical Music Examination Grade 8	02070034
Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music Practical Music Examination Performer's Diploma	02070134
Associated Board of Royal Schools of Music Performer's Licentiate in Music	02070044

<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>NUMBER</b>
Trinity College of London Practical Music Examination Grade 6	02070054
Trinity College of London Practical Music Examination Grade 7	02070064
Trinity College of London Practical Music Examination Grade 8	02070074
Trinity College of London Performer's Certificate	02070144
Trinity College of London Associate Performer's Licentiate in Music	02070154
Trinity College of London Performer's Licentiate in Music	02070084
UNISA Practical Music Examination Grade 6	02070094
UNISA Practical Music Examination Grade 7	02070104
UNISA Practical Music Examination Grade 8	02070114
UNISA Performer's Licentiate in Music	02070124
Associated Board of Royal Schools of Music Practical Music Examination Grade 4	02070162
Associated Board of Royal Schools of Music Practical Music Examination Grade 5	02070172
Trinity College of London Practical Music Examination Grade 4	02070182
Trinity College of London Practical Music Examination Grade 5	02070192
UNISA Practical Music Examination Grade 4	02070202
UNISA Practical Music Examination Grade 5	02070212

**[C.2] SUBJECTS OF OTHER ASSESSMENT BODIES THAT ARE APPROVED BY THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION**

**TABLE C1: AGRICULTURE**

SUBJECT	SUBJECT NUMBER		
	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
Equine Studies	10361002	10361013	10361024

**TABLE C2: CULTURE AND ARTS**

SUBJECT	NUMBER
Associated Board of Royal Schools of Music Practical Music Examination Grade 4	[02070162] 11361002
Associated Board of Royal Schools of Music Practical Music Examination Grade 5	[02070172] 11361013
Associated Board of Royal Schools of Music Practical Music Examination Grade 6	[02070014] 11361024
Associated Board of Royal Schools of Music Practical Music Examination Grade 7	[02070024] 11361034
Trinity College of London Practical Music Examination Grade 4	[02070182] 11361072
Trinity College of London Practical Music Examination Grade 5	[02070192] 11361083
Trinity College of London Practical Music Examination Grade 6	[02070054] 11361094
Trinity College of London Practical Music Examination Grade 7	[02070064] 11361104

SUBJECT	NUMBER
UNISA Practical Music Examination Grade 4	[02070202] 11361152
UNISA Practical Music Examination Grade 5	[02070212] 11361163
UNISA Practical Music Examination Grade 6	[02070094] 11361174
UNISA Practical Music Examination Grade 7	[02070104] 11361184

Learners who offer the Associated Board of Royal Schools, Trinity College of London or UNISA Practical Music Examination, Grades 6[, and 7[, **8, or the Performer's Certificate, Associate (Trinity), or Performer's Licentiate in Music]** must comply with the prerequisite theoretical components as offered by the respective three institutions, namely the Associated Board of Royal Schools, Trinity College of London and UNISA, namely Grades 6 for the Theory of the Associated Board of Royal Schools and Trinity College of London, and Grade 5 for UNISA.

**TABLE C3: BUSINESS, COMMERCE AND MANAGEMENT STUDIES**

SUBJECT	SUBJECT NUMBER		
	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
Maritime Economics	12361002	12361013	12361024

**TABLE C4: NON-OFFICIAL LANGUAGES**

SUBJECT	SUBJECT NUMBER		
	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
Modern Greek Second Additional Language	13361002	13361013	13361024

**TABLE C5: ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY**

SUBJECT	SUBJECT NUMBER		
	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
Nautical Science	15361002	15361013	15361024

**TABLE C6: HUMAN AND SOCIAL STUDIES"**

SUBJECT	SUBJECT NUMBER		
	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
Sport and Exercise Science	16351122	16351133	16351144

**Short title and commencement**

11. This Policy is called the "Amendment to the National Policy on the Conduct, Administration and Management of the National Senior Certificate, a Qualification at Level 4 on the National Qualifications Framework (NQF) and Amendment to the National Senior Certificate: A Qualification at Level 4 on the National Qualifications Framework (NQF), and will come into effect on the date of publication in the *Government Gazette*.