



## higher education & training

Department  
Higher Education and Training  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

### CHIEF DIRECTORATE: NATIONAL EXAMINATIONS AND ASSESSMENT

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UMALUSI

#### EXAMINATION INSTRUCTION 01 OF 2015

#### NATIONAL CERTIFICATES (VOCATIONAL) – ADMISSION AND PROGRESSION REQUIREMENTS

In 2009 the Minister of Education amended the admission and progression requirements to allow candidates to progress to the next level without successfully completing the previous level of the National Certificates (Vocational) (NC (V)) qualifications. This amendment expired on 31 December 2014.

**The following admission and progression requirements for NC (V) qualifications are to be implemented with effect from 01 January 2015 until such time the review of the NC (V) has been completed:**

#### 1. PROMOTION TO THE NEXT LEVEL

A subject must be passed on the previous level before it can be offered on the next level, i.e. a candidate cannot proceed to the next NC (V) level in a vocational or a fundamental subject unless the candidate has passed the subject on the previous level. The requirements regarding progression to the next level of a subject are as follows:

- A candidate can only ever be registered to offer a maximum of seven NC (V) subjects in an academic year, i.e. 3 fundamental subjects + 3 core vocational subjects + 1 optional vocational subject.
- Where a candidate *has met the pass requirements* of a subject in an academic year, s/he may proceed to the next NC (V) level in that subject in the following academic year, e.g. only subject(s) passed on Level 2 in 2015 can be offered on Level 3 in 2016.
- Where a candidate *has not met the pass requirements* of a subject in an academic year, s/he may not proceed to the next NC (V) level in that subject and must repeat the subject on the particular level in the following academic year, e.g. subject(s) failed on Level 2 in 2015 must be repeated on Level 2 in 2016.
- A candidate is not allowed to offer an NC (V) subject on two levels simultaneously, e.g. Mathematics Level 2 and Mathematics Level 3 cannot be offered together in the same academic year.
- A candidate can only register on two consecutive NC (V) levels in an academic year, i.e. Levels 2 and 3 OR Levels 3 and 4, but not on Levels 2 and 4 OR all three NC (V) levels simultaneously.

- The full internal continuous assessment (ICASS) component is to be completed for all subjects offered in an academic year, including any subject(s) being repeated in that academic year, e.g. ICASS tasks for Mathematics failed on Level 2 in 2015 must be repeated on Level 3 in 2016.
- The same optional vocational subject is to be offered across NC (V) Levels 2, 3 and 4.

***The above requirement will be phased in for all candidates on Level 2 in 2015, Level 3 in 2016 and Level 4 in 2017.***

## 2. ADMISSION TO SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATIONS

NC (V) candidates must meet the following sub-minimum per subject for admission to supplementary examinations:

- Vocational subjects: 45-49%
- Life Orientation and First Additional Languages: 35-39%
- Mathematics / Mathematical Literacy: 25-29%

The requirements regarding admission to the supplementary examinations are as follows:

- Where a candidate has *met the above sub-minimums* for entry to the supplementary examinations, s/he will be allowed to rewrite the affected subjects in the supplementary examination following immediately after the November examination cycle, e.g. 2016 supplementary examinations follow immediately after the November 2015 examinations.
- Where a candidate has *met the sub-minimum* for entry to the supplementary examinations and passes the affected subjects in the supplementary examinations; s/he will be allowed to progress to the next NC (V) level in the particular subjects in that academic year, e.g. subject(s) passed on Level 2 in the 2016 supplementary examinations can be offered on Level 3 in the 2016 academic year.
- Where a candidate has *met the sub-minimums* for entry to the supplementary examinations and fails any of the affected subjects in the supplementary examinations, s/he will have to repeat the failed subjects on the particular level in that academic year, e.g. subject(s) failed on Level 2 in the 2016 supplementary examinations must be repeated on Level 2 in the 2016 academic year.
- Where a candidate has *not met the above sub-minimums* for entry to the supplementary examinations, s/he will have to repeat the failed subject(s) on the particular level in the following academic year, e.g. subject(s) failed on Level 2 in the November 2015 examinations which fall below the sub-minimums for entry to supplementary examinations must be repeated on Level 2 in the 2016 academic year.

***The above requirement will be phased in for all candidates on Level 2 from the November 2015 examinations onwards, Level 3 from the November 2016 examinations onwards and Level 4 from the November 2017 examinations onwards.***

## 3. ACHIEVEMENT OF ICASS SUB-MINIMUM FOR ENTRY TO WRITTEN EXAMINATION

As per the NC (V) policy, candidates are required to achieve at least 50% in the *internal* (ICASS) and the *external* assessment (Integrated Summative Assessment Task (ISAT) and written examination) components respectively in all vocational NC (V) subjects. This 50% rule will be implemented across NC (V) Levels 2, 3 and 4 in the examination registration, resulting and certification processes.

The requirements regarding the 50% sub-minimum for the internal and external assessment components are as follows:

- A candidate who has attempted all ICASS tasks for a vocational subject and has met the 50% requirement for ICASS will be allowed admission to the November examination in that particular subject.
- A candidate who has attempted all ICASS tasks for a vocational subject and has failed to meet the 50% requirement for ICASS will not be allowed admission to the November examination in that particular subject and will have to repeat the particular subject on the particular level in the next academic year.
- A candidate *who has not attempted all ICASS tasks OR any ICASS tasks at all* for a vocational subject will not be allowed admission to the November examination in that particular subject and will have to repeat the particular subject on the particular level in the next academic year.

Similarly, the sub-minimums for the *internal* (i.e. ICASS) and the *external* assessment (written examination) components respectively for fundamental subjects are as follows:

- Life Orientation and First Additional Languages - 40%
- Mathematics and Mathematical Literacy - 30%

***The above requirement will be phased in for all candidates on Level 2 in 2015, Level 3 in 2016 and Level 4 in 2017.***

Kindly ensure that all college officials and NC (V) candidates are informed of the above admission and promotion requirements, and that these requirements are implemented in accordance with the stipulated timeframes, i.e. phased in over a 3-year period (2015 - 2017) across NC (V) Levels 2 to 4.

Kind regards



**Ms N Pote**  
**Chief Director: National Examinations and Assessment**  
**Date: 01 January 2015**