

# EXAMINATIONS, TESTS & REPORTS

## ASSESSMENT

Assessment in the GET and FET phases is based upon both examinations and a range of other activities including class and standardized tests, projects, activities and assignments required for the SBA (school based assessment) mark. Grade 9 assessment is expected to include national English and Mathematics exams.

Examinations are taken very seriously. After all, one of the main functions of the School is to prepare the grade 12s for their final, external examinations. SBA work is also important since failure to complete these activities could lead to pupils being required to spend more time in a grade. For the grade 12s, failure to complete the SBA requirements could lead to incomplete results in the external finals, i.e. the WCED does not issue the candidate's mark for that subject.

### Work submission policies

SBA work is most cases not optional. In general, pupils are expected to complete and hand in **all** tasks. Pupils who miss a first deadline will be given a 48 hour extension (and a penalty of 10% per day). Failure to meet the second deadline will result in detention and nought for the activity. The English Department, however, has a different policy: on missing a deadline, the pupil receives nought immediately, but the work may be submitted later, to count for the end of year only. Where the outstanding work is the foundation of later assessments, non-submission will not be accepted.

Some elements of SBA are done during school hours, e.g. standardised tests and practical assessment tasks (PATs).

As is the case with examinations, absence from any SBA, PAT activity or exam without a medical certificate will result in nought for that item.

## PASS REQUIREMENTS

### General Education & Training (GET)

There will be changes to the curriculum in 2014 for Grade 12 with the introduction of CAPS (Curriculum Assessment Policy Statement). The new curriculum and standards are being phased in from 2012, starting with grades 7 and 10.

In 2012 & '13, **Grade 8 pupils** should progress to grade 9 in their age cohort but might be required to spend more time in the grade if they are unable to make sufficient progress, despite interventions by the School and parents. Likewise, the pass requirements for Grade 9s will remain unchanged for the next two years. **Grade 9s** will have to achieve a minimum of 40% (level 3) in a Language (LLC), Mathematics (MLMMS) and at least four other learning areas.

However, as of 2014 the State proposes to raise the pass requirements drastically. Not only will the final exams become more important than at present (60% as compared to the current grade 9 standard of 25%) but the marks required to pass will be higher than at present. In all the GET grades (7, 8 & 9) pupils will be expected to achieve at least 50% for their Home Language (English at this School), at least 40% for Mathematics, a First Additional Language (Afrikaans) and three other subjects. Of the remaining three subjects they must achieve better than 30% in two.

### Further Education & Training (FET)

Although no minimum aggregate is now required, a pupil must achieve 40% in their Home Language and two other subjects. At least 30% is required in three of the remaining subjects. In effect, a pupil may fail one subject, provided that all the CASS work must have been done.

The pass requirements are very different from those of the GET phase, as the following table shows:

<b>Contribution to the Final Mark</b>		
	<b>Year's SBA work</b>	<b>Final Examinations</b>
GET (Grade 9)	40%	60%
FET ( Grades 10 -12)	25%	75%

Matriculation exemption is now known as “admission to a bachelor’s degree”. The minimum requirements are 50% in four subjects (other than Computer Applications Technology, Hospitality, Tourism and Electrical Technology) and at least 30% in the language of the tertiary institution concerned. In reality, competition imposes higher standards.

## **EXAMINATIONS AND TESTS**

In the first term, standardised tests take the place of exams in all grades.

The whole School writes comprehensive papers in the second and fourth terms.

While the matrices write full trial exams in September, the other grades write mini-exams. The matrices start their final exams early in October.

## **REPORTS**

Reports, either with Comment Clips or an alpha-numeric rating, are prepared each term and sent home by hand, usually on the last day of term. Please make sure that you receive the reports and the accompanying material. In recent years the Parents' Evenings have been held at the start of the new term. These are opportunities to meet the staff and discuss your child.