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DEPARTMENT OF BASIC EDUCATION

NO. 7553 **5 June 2026**

DEPARTMENT OF BASIC EDUCATION
NATIONAL EDUCATION POLICY ACT, 1996 (ACT NO. 27 OF 1996)

REPEAL OF THE PROVISO ON THE PRACTICAL MUSIC PROGRAMME OFFERED BY EXTERNAL EXAMINATION BODIES

1. I, Siviwe Gwarube, Minister of Basic Education, hereby, in terms of *Section 3(4)(l)* of the *National Education Policy Act, 1996 (Act No. 27 of 1996, call for comments on the proposed amendment to the following Policies:*

   (a) National Policy Pertaining to the Programme and Promotion Requirements of the National Curriculum Statement Grades R – 12 published as Government Notices No. 1115 and 1116 in Government Gazette No. 36042 of 28 December 2012 and amended.

   (b) National Policy Pertaining to the Conduct, administration and management of the National Senior Certificate examination published as Government Notice No. 564 in Government Gazette No. 30048 of 6 July 2007 as amended.

2. The proposed amendments to the policies referred in paragraphs 1(a) and 1(b) are set out in the attached Schedules.

3. The full document shall be made available on the Departmental website: www.education.gov.za under **Curriculum**, **National Curriculum Statement Grades R-12**, **NCS documents**.

4. The call for comments will open for 30 days from the day of publication in the Government Gazette.

5. There has been a transitional arrangement to allow the affected institutions to continue offering the Practical Music Programme for the period (2024-2026) as a phase-out period to accommodate current learners in the system. The last year of certification of learners in the system will be in 2026.

6. The repeal of the Proviso on Practical Music Programme will become effective from 1 January 2027.



MS S GWARUBE, MP
MINISTER OF BASIC EDUCATION

NEPA SCHEDULE 1

REPEAL OF THE PROVISO ON THE PRACTICAL MUSIC PROGRAMME

In this Schedule "the policy" means the *National Policy Pertaining to the Programme and Promotion Requirements of the National Curriculum Statement Grades R – 12 published as Government Notices No. 1115 and 1116 in Government Gazette No. 36042 of 28 December 2012 and amended*

GENERAL EXPLANATORY NOTE

[ ] Words in bold in square brackets indicate omissions from the existing policy.

Amendment to Paragraph 28: Proviso

1. Paragraph 28(c) is amended as follows:

[(7) The Practical Music programme of one of the Music examination bodies, listed in Table C2 of Annexure C, namely the Associated Board of Royal Schools Practical Music Examination, Trinity College of London Practical Music Examination and Unisa Practical Music Examination may be offered in terms of the following conditions:

(a) The External Music programmes listed in Table C2 of Annexure C may be offered only as an eighth National Senior Certificate subject.

(b) A learner may only enrol for the selected External Music programme in his or her Grade 12-year.

(c) The selected External Music programmes must be offered at Grade 7 Music level.

(d) The submission of the final examination marks obtained by the candidates must be determined by the three External Music Examination Bodies.

(e) The External Music Examination Bodies' final results based on the theory and practical components will be accepted as the final mark obtained by the candidate.

(f) The prerequisite theory component for the three External Music Examination Bodies' Practical Music Examination, Grade 7 is as follows:
  (i) Associated Board of Royal Schools of Music: Grade 6 Theory.
  (ii) Trinity College of London: Grade 6 Theory; and
  (iii) UNISA: Grade 5 Theory.

(g) The practical component must be completed by the candidate not later than June of the Grade-12 year.

(h) The theory must be completed by the candidate, not earlier than October of the Grade 11-year.

(i) The marks supplied by the three External Music Examination Bodies will be indicated on the National Senior Certificate as a subject passed by an approved and accredited assessment body in terms of the requirements as determined by that body. The actual mark obtained by the candidate will be reflected on the National Senior Certificate with an asterisk denoting that this subject was offered by an external assessment body in terms of that body's requirements.

(j) A learner will be restricted to a maximum of one of the Associated Board of Royal Schools of Music, or Trinity College of London, or the UNISA Practical Music Examinations.

(k) A learner who offers Music listed in Table B2 of Annexure B as a subject and one of the Associated Board of Royal Schools of Music, or Trinity College of London, or the UNISA Practical Music Examination, Grade 7, as an eighth subject, may not offer the same main instrument as a first and second instrument.

(l) A learner who offers one of the Associated Board of Royal Schools of Music, or Trinity College of London, or the UNISA Practical Music Examination, Grade 7 as an eighth subject may not offer a Music programme, comprising a combination of components of the Music programmes of the three External Music Examination Bodies.

(m) The Music programmes of the Associated Board of Royal Schools of Music, or Trinity College of London, or UNISA may not be offered during official school hours, but only as an extra-curricular subject.

(n) A learner who offers one of the Associated Board of Royal Schools of Music, or Trinity College of London, or the UNISA Practical Music Examination, Grade 7 as an eighth subject may not replace a failed subject offered by the learner in terms of the seven-subject package of the National Senior Certificate.**]**

Amendment to Paragraph 29: Promotion Requirements for Grades 10-12

2. Paragraph 29(c) is amended as follows:

[29(c) Subject to *paragraph 28(7)* learners who offer a Music programme from the Associated Board of Royal Schools of Music or Trinity College of London or UNISA, must obtain the following ratings:

(i) the Associated Board of Royal Schools Practical Music Examination Grade 7: at least 65%.
(ii) Trinity College of London Practical Music Examination Grade 7: at least 65%.
(iii) UNISA Practical Music Examination Grade 7: at least 50%.**]**

Amendment to Annexure C2: Culture and Arts

3. Annexure B is amended by the removal of Table C2: Culture and Arts

TABLE C2: CULTURE AND ARTS

SUBJECT	**SUBJECT NUMBER**
	GRADE 12
Associated Board of Royal Schools of Music Practical Music Examination Grade 7	11361034
Trinity College of London Practical Music Examination Grade 7	11361104
UNISA Practical Music Examination Grade 7	11361184

NEPA SCHEDULE 2

REPEAL OF THE PROVISO ON THE PRACTICAL MUSIC PROGRAMME

In this Schedule "the policy" means the *National Policy Pertaining to the Conduct, administration and management of the National Senior Certificate examination published as Government Notice No. 564 in Government Gazette No. 30048 of 6 July 2007 as amended.*

GENERAL EXPLANATORY NOTE

[ ] Words in bold in square brackets indicate omissions from the existing policy.

ANNEXURE B1: REQUIREMENTS FOR THE OFFERING OF MUSIC PROGRAMMES OF ACCREDITED ASSESSMENT BODIES

1. Annexure B is hereby repealed in its entirety-
[A learner at a public or independent school may offer one of the following external music programmes as an additional subject, i.e. as an eighth or ninth subject for the National Senior Certificate-
(a) Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music (ABRSM);
(b) Trinity College of London (TCL): and (c) Unisa.

2. The external music programmes listed in paragraph 1 may be offered in terms of the conditions contemplated in *paragraph 28(7)* of the policy document, *National policy pertaining to the programme and promotion requirements of the National Curriculum Statement Grades R – 12.* **]**

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