

NEWSLETTER 6 OF 2025

1. INCREASE IN VALUE-ADDED TAX (VAT) WEF 1 MAY 2025

The Minister of Finance in the budget speech on 12 March 2025 announced a phased increase in the Value-Added Tax (VAT) rate from 15% to 15.5% effective 1 May 2025, and thereafter from 15.5% to 16%, effective 1 April 2026.

In terms of the VAT Act, Parliament has 12 months to pass the legislation. Changes required by the Minister before this process is completed, or due to be completed, must be implemented by the effective dates announced. Should the necessary legislation not be passed by Parliament within the 12-month period, the VAT rate will revert to 15%.

Please make the necessary financial provision and ensure that you are prepared for the updated rate that will apply to all invoices and transactions with effect from said dates.

If you require further clarity or wish to discuss the impact on your institution, please take the liberty to contact the SACAI office.

2. STATUS REPORT REGARDING REGISTRATION PROCESS FOR GRADES 10-12

SACAI sent out the bulk registration forms for grades 10 – 12 on 11 February 2025. Examination writing centres were indicated on the bulk registration form and institutions and candidates were requested to exercise their preferred choice.

Proof of registration for grade 12s will be sent to all institutions during the first week of May 2025.

As per our year programme, subject changes for grades 11 closed on 31 March 2025, and no more subject changes will be allowed for 2025. Subject changes for grade 10 may still be made until 30 June 2025.

3. REGISTRATIONS AND INVOICES

In terms of Financial Instruction 1 of 2025 the following invoice runs have been completed:

- **Invoice 1:** Due date: 31 January 2025
 - Registration of institutions, and
 - Subject registrations
- **Invoice 2:** Due date: 30 April 2025
 - Gr10 and 11: Learner registration fees, and
 - Gr12 Learner registration and subject registrations

Invoice 3 will be distributed on 1 July 2025 (due date 31 July 2025) and will include the following:

- Additional candidate registrations,



- Examination subject registrations, and
- Examination fees.
- Note: The cut-off date for the grade 12 examination deregistration is 13 June 2025. Any learner whose details still reflect on the system after this date, will be invoiced accordingly.

4. SBA MARKS FOR TERM 1 (GR 10-12)

It is common cause that all learners require complete and credible SBA marks to be considered for promotion to the next grade. Term 1's marksheets for grades 10 – 12 were due on 11 April 2025. A heartfelt thank you to all institutions that submitted the marksheets on time.

The marksheets are currently being scrutinised in terms of the SBA ranges that were provided earlier this year and the standard deviations. Individual meetings with institutions will commence during the next two months. Please expect an email from the SBA division regarding the arrangement of formal virtual meetings to discuss Term 1 marksheets. The envisaged meetings will commence during the latter part of May.

Kindly take note of the new institutional SharePoint links that were shared with all stakeholders. These new online links will be used for all upcoming submissions of marksheets, accommodation applications, and SBA moderation. Remember to bookmark/save the link for all future use. Once these marks are recorded, they may not be changed. If you have any problems with access to the link, please send an email to Ms Isabel Basson at isabel@sacai.org.za .

5. INVIGILATOR APP

As stated in our previous newsletter, the utilisation of the Invigilator App, or a similar instrument, is hence forth compulsory for all DEPs and online institutions. The cost of the Invigilator App is truly affordable, i.e. R80 per annum.

SACAI is in the process of developing a self-assessment instrument for institutions that will focus on the implementation or maintenance of credible assessment practices.

6. CERTIFICATION OF INVIGILATORS

The first invigilator training took place on 3 April 2025, and our first invigilators were certified. The list will be made available shortly and be augmented during the year. After due consideration, we have decided to augment our institutional-based invigilation manual to include an annexure classifying irregularities and the management thereof. We have scheduled the following dates for training throughout the year to ensure as many opportunities as possible to get all relevant stakeholders certified:

- 22 May 2025 at 14h00
- 25 June 2025 at 14h30
- 8 July 2025 at 10h00
- 24 July 2025 at 14h30
- 7 August 2025 14h00

It is important to ensure that all prospective invigilators must attend at least one training session and score above 80% in the subsequent assessment to become certified. All invigilators used during invigilation of formal assessments with effect from 2026 must be SACAI-certified.

Registration to attend the training is not required, but formal assessment is a requirement. Institutions will receive the links monthly.

7. TUTOR CENTRES

It is generally accepted that several of the SACAI registered distance education providers (DEPs) deliver their learning and teaching support material (LTSM) and assessments to learners in grades 10, 11 and 12 via tutor centres. SACAI has commenced with a process of interaction with DEPs, as well as Umalusi regarding the place, role and status of DEPs and tutor centres.

The debate is current and has not been finalised considering the complexity and sensitivity as many tutor centres purport to be registered independent schools. Such misrepresentations are a serious bone of contention for the education authorities and discredit the reputation of reputable tutor centres and the affected DEPs.

The statutory framework that applies to the FET phase is as follows:

- In terms of the SA Schools Act these learners are no longer subject to compulsory school attendance and attend schools and other educational institutions on a voluntary basis; and
- According to the national DBE policy for home schooling, tutors are admissible.

Emanating from the discussions with some DEPs, it is evident that the standard of learning and teaching varies from one tutor centre to the next. On a moral and educationally accountable level it is imperative to ensure that all role players, must ensure that the standard of learning and teaching is beyond reproach. Therefore, it is essential that DEPs must ensure that tutor centres that make use of their LTSM are fully aware of the following and will also adhere to our non-negotiable objectives, i.e.:

- a. SBA credibility is of vital importance.
- b. Learners and tutors must complete “integrity undertakings”.
- c. All centres must be subjected to the authority of the relevant DEP’s/ online school’s Assessment Integrity Committee, i.e. that all assessment irregularities will be considered, and the appropriate sanctions will be applied.
- d. Tutor centres must ensure exam writing conditions by means of the following:
 - i. Strict invigilation, i.e.
 1. Via the Invigilator App for online assessments, or
 2. To follow strict physical invigilation processes.
 - ii. Strict security regarding common assessment/ exam question papers.
 - iii. SBA marks will fall within the SBA range provided by SACAI to all institutions.
 - iv. To ensure realism and manage parental expectations regarding all learners’ academic prowess.
- e. The quality of learning and teaching by well qualified staff is non-negotiable.
- f. Centres will submit their credible SBA marks timeously to DEPs and in accordance with educationally accountable principles.

- g. Centres may not issue report cards as only the registered DEP may do so.
- h. Centres may not present themselves as registered independent schools.

8. DESIGNATED EXAM CENTRES FOR MAY/ JUNE 2025

The following centres are available for the May/June 2025 NSC exam:

Eastern Cape

Sacai Port Elizabeth

Freestate

Sacai Bloemfontein

Gauteng

Sacai East Rand

Sacai Pretoria East

KZN

Sacai Durban Morningside

Limpopo

Sacai Polokwane Eduan Park

Mpumalanga

Sacai Witbank

Northern Cape

Sacai Newpark

Sacai Western Cape

Sacai George

Sacai Rondebosch

9. SUMMARY OF 2025 EXAM INSTRUCTIONS

The following examination instructions have been released for 2025:

[EXAM INSTRUCTION 1 OF 2025.pdf](#) - ATPs, Common Assessments, PATS, VSLA & DRMA, 2025 Timetables

[EXAM INSTRUCTION 2 OF 2025.pdf](#) - Tourism PAT

[EXAM INSTRUCTION 3 OF 2025.pdf](#) - TSG file and updates, Moderation instruments, Nov 2024 Feedback

[EXAM INSTRUCTION 4 OF 2025.pdf](#) - AMP PAT

[EXAM INSTRUCTION 5 OF 2025.pdf](#) - INFT and CSTD additions and changes

[EXAM INSTRUCTION 6 OF 2025.pdf](#) - Release of NSC papers

[EXAM INSTRUCTION 7 OF 2025.pdf](#) - Corrections: BSTD, ENGL, CAT & IT PAT

[EXAM INSTRUCTION 8 OF 2025 .pdf](#) - Gr 10 & 11 Breakdowns and final timetable

Please note that all exam instructions, assessment instructions and newsletters are regularly uploaded in your institutional assessment and communication folder.

10. TIMETABLES

Examination	Timetable
Midyear: Grade 10 & 11	FINAL Gr 10 & 11 June.pdf
Midyear: Grade 12	FINAL Gr 12 June.pdf
Prelim: Grade 12	FINAL Prelim.pdf
End of year: Grade 10 & 11	FINAL Gr 10 & 11 Nov.pdf
NSC exam (October/ November)	The draft timetable is under review, and will be shared with all institutions during June '25 to obtain feedback.
NOTE: Please take note that the common exams will NOT cover all subjects. Institutions must set their own question papers for those subjects not covered by the common exam.	

11. FEEDBACK ON QUESTIONNAIRE

A disappointing 20 responses were captured for the above needs analyses. According to the responses:

1. 25% requested more information regarding the condonation of grade 12 subjects.
2. 85% of the respondents indicated that they are aware of the policy for subject changes in grade 10 and 11.
3. 90% of the respondents indicated that they are aware of the policy for subject changes in grade 12.
4. 85% of the respondents indicated that they advise learners on possible subject choices.
5. 5% of the respondents indicated that they are not aware of certain subject combinations not allowed.
6. 70% of respondents were not aware of the prescribed works for Dramatic Arts.
7. 5% of respondents need more information with regard to learning accommodations.
8. 5% of respondents have no knowledge of ATPs.
9. A few subject specific questions were received.

12. **FEEDBACK ON APRIL EDUCATOR TRAINING**

SACAI records sincere appreciation to all institutions for their participation in the educator workshops held on 1 and 2 April 2025.

The training focused on:

- Gr 12 content with an overview of Term 1,
- Term 2 planning and midyear preparations,
- Term 3 planning and preliminary exam preparations,
- Cognitive levels and an analysis grid when setting an assessment.

The attendance was commendable, and the feedback received thus far was highly encouraging. Please take note that all the documents, recordings and presentations were shared with institutions on 9 April 2025.

13. **NOVEMBER 2024 NSC UMALUSI CERTIFICATES**

Please note that SACAI has received the Umalusi certificates for November 2024. All institutions have already been notified that the certificates will be delivered to the institutions.