

15 August 2025

## COMPULSORY EXAM WRITING CONDITIONS

### PRESCRIBED WORKS: SELECTION PROCESS FOR 2027

#### 1. PRELIMINARY EXAMINATIONS: COMPULSORY EXAM WRITING CONDITIONS

The preliminary examinations are due to commence with effect from 18 August 2025. All institutions are reminded that adherence to non-negotiable exam writing conditions is compulsory. This implies the following:

- Proctoring/ Invigilation according to the following prescriptions:
  - Independent schools and learning centres: Physical invigilation by “certified invigilator(s)”; and
  - Online examinations: Utilisation of all the functions of the Invigilator App;
- The behaviour of learners during the exam must be concomitant with that which is expected of them during the NSC examination;
- Strict adherence to the SACAI examination timetable and the session times;
- If in a physical venue, the same seating plans that apply to the NSC exam, i.e. at least 1.5m apart;
- Application of the SACAI policy regarding assessment irregularities; and
- Strict security and access the question papers.

#### 2. PRESCRIBED WORKS: SELECTION PROCESS FOR 2027

The process of selecting prescribed works for languages is not an easy process. Indeed there is a plethora of variables to consider when selecting prescribed literary works. It stands to reason that not all institutions will always be satisfied with a final list, hence the option of providing a selection of titles. However, it is important to follow a transparent process to ensure that our institutions are afforded the opportunity to provide feedback regarding possible options to select from.

Emanating from discussions with our institutions and the other assessment bodies, it is evident that there is no easy answer for the process of selecting prescribed works and the duration of the selection once completed. If the offerings of the other assessment bodies are considered, it is evident that it ranges from historical works to more modern works. Currently the SACAI offering is leaning towards a more classical approach.

The process to follow with the aim to select the prescribed works with effect from 2027 will among other issues, consider the following guidelines:

- A combination of classical and contemporary poetry;
- Social and historical context;
- Inclusivity;
- Prescriptiveness;
- Language varieties;
- The living world of Grade 12 students; and
- Self-selection by teachers – to allow schools to nominate poems from a predetermined list.



Considering the above guidelines, the envisaged process may unfold as follows:

1. The SACAI also considers the lists of the other assessment bodies.
2. Consultations with appointed examination panels.
3. Garner the input of the markers from the SACAI ecosystem.
4. Consult nominated language experts from the SACAI institutions.
5. Establish working committees from the ranks of the SACAI institutions, examiners and marking panels to make recommendations to the SACAI Academic Advisory Committee (AAC).
6. The AAC will then consult SACAI institutions on the proposed lists for the respective languages and subjects.
7. Once institutions have been afforded the opportunity to submit comment, the AAC will compile a final list.
8. The AAC will then make a final recommendation to the SACAI Council for submission to Umalusi for approval.

The following table displays the proposal in terms of the number of works per language:

Language	Novel	Drama	Short Stories	Poetry
Afrikaans HT	2 works	2 works	N/A	12
Afrikaans EAT	2 works	2 works	1 Work	10
English HL	2 works	2 works	N/A	12
English FAL	2 works	2 works	1 Work	10
Indigenous HL	2 works as per DBE directives	2 works as per DBE directives	N/A	12
Indigenous FAL	2 works as per DBE directives	1 work as per DBE directives	1 work as per DBE directives	10

**SURVEY:** Considering the afore mentioned and as stated in Newsletter 15/25, a survey is conducted to ascertain institutions' input regarding the current prescribed literature list, as well as to assist SACAI in making informed recommendations to the AAC for the new 2027 list: <https://forms.office.com/r/PYaK10s4Mp>.

Please note that the closing date for feedback is before or on Friday, 29 August 2025.

**CONFIRMATION OF COMMUNICATION RECEIVED**

Institutions are requested to click on the following link to affirm that you have received this newsletter: <https://forms.gle/8m7L95MaCbmQSNd67>

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