

12 September 2025

## TO REWRITE, OR NOT TO REWRITE

Examination Instruction 16/2025, released on 10 September 2025, informed institutions of a question paper leakage regarding Afrikaans Eerste Addisionele Taal, Vraestel 2, written on 9 September 2025. Due to the gravity of this matter, in addition to the June 2025 incident related to a break in, SACAI has instructed that the paper must be rewritten on 19 September 2025.

It must be stated unambiguously that these breaches of examination protocols are condemned in the strongest possible way and that the culprits will face the consequences of their actions.

### LEGAL PRECEDENT

After due consideration of the requests and submissions from institutions, parents, candidates and affected parties, about the rewriting of the question paper, SACAI reconsidered the approach after making a thorough study of the Court judgement by Judge Norman Davis on 11 December 2020 when the Mathematics Paper 2 and Physical Science Paper 2 question papers of the Department of Basic Education, were leaked. The essence of the judgement focused on objective proof if the credibility of candidates' answers were compromised. The decision of the DBE to rewrite both subjects was subsequently set aside as only a very limited leak could be proved. However, if the leak was wider, then a rewrite would have been justified.

### TO REWRITE, OR NOT TO REWRITE

Following the above precedent, SACAI resolved as follows:

#### 1. Not to rewrite:

- a. If, based on objective proof, the institution can prove that the institution's candidates did not have access to the leaked question paper and were not involved in the breach in any way, the institution may resolve to not rewrite the paper;
- b. Further, that the institution –
  - i. Will formally inform SACAI of its resolution regarding the aforementioned at [exams@sacai.org.za](mailto:exams@sacai.org.za), and;
  - ii. Include objectively proven reasons for such decision in the email before or on Tuesday, 16 September 2025;
- c. That the marking and comprehensive moderation processes will be based on very strict investigative marking to confirm that the institution's candidates were not involved in any way whatsoever (SACAI will also randomly moderate samples from institutions and reserves the right to amend marks);



- d. That the institution must review the final marks of the question paper and must ensure that the results fall within the SBA tolerance range for the institution as shared at the beginning of the 2025 academic year.

2. To rewrite:

- a. If the institution is uncertain about the credibility of candidates' answers, then the question paper must be rewritten on 19 September 2025 at 14:00; and
- b. Inform SACAI of the decision at [pieter@sacai.org.za](mailto:pieter@sacai.org.za). SACAI will then provide the institution with the new question paper.

### REVISION OF INTERNAL PROCESSES

The respectful contention is that it is abundantly clear that some institutions do not understand the principle of non-negotiable adherence to examinations protocols. Therefore, the serious request is that institutions must review their internal processes regarding the handling of examination material and keep a detailed register of who is receiving examination material at what time.

### AMENDMENT OF EXAMINATION PROTOCOL AND AFFIDAVIT

Considering that this is the second breach of examination protocols in 2025, all institutions are further notified of the following:

- The current protocol will be reviewed and amended for the November 2025 common examinations for grades 10 and 11;
- Question papers will according to the timetable only be uploaded in each institution's Google Drive folder at 16:00 the day before the examination is scheduled.
- Subsequently, passwords will be made available at 07:00 on the day of writing for session 1 and 12:00 for session 2. The password will only be sent to the nominated Assessment Coordinators on a dedicated **WhatsApp group**.
- If your institution has not yet completed the nomination process, please ensure that you nominate an Assessment Coordinator as requested in Examination Instruction 15. The link to the nomination form is <https://forms.gle/EXSsu15YBe72iiqY7>.
- Affidavit: SACAI will provide an affidavit template to every institution that must be completed and returned prior to the 2025 common examinations, i.e. that the institution (and if relevant, the learning centre(s)) will strictly adhere to said examination protocol.
- **To ensure the integrity** of SACAI's assessments, **no exceptions** will be made for any institution.

SACAI deeply appreciates those institutions that truly comprehend the gravity of adherence to protocols and record our gratitude for your support and understanding in upholding the integrity of any common examination paper on behalf of SACAI.