



For immediate release

18 January 2022

Umalusi approves the release of the 2022 national examinations results

Umalusi, the Quality Council in General and Further Education and Training, has approved the release of the 2021 national examinations results after successfully conducting the quality assurance of the conduct, administration, and management of exit point examinations in the following qualifications per assessment body:

- Independent Examinations Board (IEB) – NSC and GETC: ABET
- South African Comprehensive Assessment Institute (SACAI) – NSC & GETC: ABET
- Department of Basic Education (DBE) – NSC
- Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) – GETC: ABET & NC(V)

In the words of the CEO of Umalusi, Dr Mafu Rakometsi, "Umalusi is entrusted with a critical task of assuring the quality of the entire value chain of the national examination process." This is despite the adverse effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, which continued to be a significant factor during the 2021 academic year.

Regardless of the challenges presented by COVID-19, Umalusi's quality assurance process focused on the following aspects of its mandate: the external moderation of question papers for all subjects/learning areas/instructional offerings across all qualifications and assessment bodies, verification of a sample of site-based assessment (SBA) marks, monitoring of the assessment bodies' state of readiness to conduct and manage the 2021 national examinations, monitoring the conduct of examinations, monitoring and verification of marking as well as the standardisation and approval of results.

The class of 2021: The class of 2021 was the eighth Grade 12 cohort to write final examinations under the Curriculum Assessment Policy Statements (CAPS). Furthermore, the class of 2021 was the first Grade 12 cohort to experience the harsh

realities of the pandemic for two consecutive years. Consequently, this class needed more academic support compared to its predecessors. Notably, Marine Sciences offered for the first time at Grade 12 level in 2021.

Evidence-based reports: Umalusi has taken note of the evidence-based reports on interventions and improvement strategies implemented by all assessment bodies, including the Department of Basic Education and the positive impact of these on the overall assessment system as well as on teaching and learning.

Improved quality of question papers: The quality of question papers is an essential aspect of the integrity and credibility of the examination. Therefore, it is pleasing to see a marked improvement in the overall quality of question papers submitted by assessment bodies as more papers are approved after the first or second submission to external moderators.

Irregularities: Umalusi notes incidents of unauthorised/early access to question papers detected at some of the examination centres in KwaZulu Natal and Gauteng. Specifically, Life Sciences and Agricultural Sciences papers were the affected subjects in those centres. This practice can potentially compromise the integrity of examinations if it is not addressed decisively.

Once again, Umalusi appeals to all stakeholders involved in the examination process to refrain from engaging in such unscrupulous acts of dishonesty. In the meantime, the results of implicated learners will be blocked, pending further investigations by the DBE and verification by Umalusi. It is also worth noting that there are severe consequences for those found guilty of such criminal activities, regardless of whether they are learners, teachers or officials. Similarly, isolated incidents of group copying continue to plague the national examination system. These malpractices do not augur well for our examination system and the education system in general.

Standardisation of results: To mitigate the sources of variability that impact learner performance from one year to another. (e.g., cognitive demand and difficulty levels of questions, interpretation of questions and marking guidelines, curriculum changes, etc.) standardisation is employed as a necessary 'quality assurance process used the world over.'

Standardisation aims, in the main, to achieve equivalence of the standard of the examination across years, subjects and assessment bodies and to deliver a relatively constant product to the market: universities, colleges and employers.

We can expect that when standards of examinations are equivalent certain statistical mark distributions should correspond. This principle of 'correlation' forms the basis for comparing distributions with norms/historical averages developed over five years. This comparison includes qualitative data, medians, means, pass/failure and distinction rates and pairs analyses, which play a significant role in the absence of historical data. The adjustments decided by the Assessment Standards Committee (ASC) of Umalusi consistently follow certain guiding principles. The ASC consists of academics with extensive experience and expertise in statistical moderation, assessment, curriculum and education.

STANDARDISATION DECISIONS AND APPROVAL STATEMENTS – NSC EXAMINATIONS

INDEPENDENT EXAMINATIONS BOARD (IEB)

Description	2021	%
Number of subjects presented	65	
Raw marks	44	68%
Adjusted (mainly upwards)	14	21%
Adjusted (mainly downwards)	07	11%
Number of subjects standardised	65	100%

Having studied all the evidence presented, the Executive Committee (EXCO) of Umalusi Council noted that, apart from some examination irregularities identified during the writing of examinations, there were no systemic irregularities reported that might have compromised the credibility and integrity of the **November 2021 National Senior Certificate (NSC)** examinations administered by the **Independent Examinations Board (IEB)**.

The Executive Committee of Council approves the release of the **IEB November 2021 NSC** examination results based on available evidence that the examinations were administered largely in accordance with the examination policies and regulations.

The IEB is required to:

- Nullify the results of the candidate implicated in the examination irregularity; and
- Address the directives for compliance and improvement highlighted in the Quality Assurance of Assessment report and submit an improvement plan by **15 March 2022**.

The Executive Committee of Council commends the IEB for conducting a successful examination despite the challenges presented by COVID-19.

SOUTH AFRICAN COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT INSTITUTE (SACAI)

Description	2021	%
Number of subjects presented	25	
Raw marks	12	48%
Adjusted (mainly upwards)	5	20%
Adjusted (mainly downwards)	8	32%
Number of subjects standardised	25	100%

Having studied all the evidence presented, the Executive Committee (EXCO) of Umalusi Council noted that, apart from some administrative errors and omissions identified during the writing of examinations, there were no systemic irregularities reported that might have compromised the credibility and integrity of the **November 2021 National Senior Certificate (NSC)** examinations administered by the **South African Comprehensive Assessment Institute (SACAI)**.

The Executive Committee of Council approves the release of the **SACAI November 2021 NSC** examination results based on available evidence that the examinations were administered largely in accordance with the examination policies and regulations.

The SACAI is required to address the directives for compliance and improvement highlighted in the Quality Assurance of Assessment report and submit an improvement plan by **15 March 2022**. Particular attention should be paid to recurring matters of non-compliance.

The Executive Committee of Council commends the SACAI for conducting a successful examination despite the challenges presented by COVID-19.

DEPARTMENT OF BASIC EDUCATION (DBE): NSC

Description	2021	%
Number of subjects presented	67	
Raw marks	35	52%
Adjusted (mainly upwards)	28	42%
Adjusted (mainly downwards)	04	6%
Number of subjects standardised	67	100%

Having studied all the evidence presented, the Executive Committee (EXCO) of Umalusi Council noted that, apart from some examination irregularities identified during the writing and marking of the examinations, there were no systemic irregularities reported that might have compromised the credibility and integrity of the **November 2021 National Senior Certificate (NSC)** examinations administered by the **Department of Basic Education (DBE)**.

The Executive Committee of Council approves the release of the **DBE November 2021 NSC** examination results based on available evidence that the examinations were administered largely in accordance with the examination policies and regulations.

In respect of identified irregularities, the DBE is required to block the results of candidates implicated in irregularities, including the candidates involved in group copying, pending the outcomes of further DBE investigations and Umalusi verification.

In the cases where candidates had unauthorised access to question papers, the results of the implicated candidates should be blocked pending further DBE investigations and Umalusi verification.

The DBE is required to address the directives for compliance and improvement highlighted in the Quality Assurance of Assessment report, develop and submit an improvement plan to Umalusi by **15 March 2022**. Particular attention should be paid to recurring matters of non-compliance.

The Executive Committee of Council commends the DBE for conducting a successful examination despite the challenges presented by COVID-19.

STANDARDISATION DECISIONS AND APPROVAL STATEMENTS – NC(V) EXAMINATIONS ADMINISTERED BY DHET

NC(V) LEVEL 2-4

Description	2021	%
Number of subjects presented	261	
Raw marks	131	50%
Adjusted (mainly upwards)	91	35%
Adjusted (mainly downwards)	39	15%
Number of subjects standardised	261	100%

Having studied all the evidence presented, the Executive Committee (EXCO) of Umalusi Council noted that, apart from some examination irregularities identified during the writing and marking of examinations and cases of non-compliance to internal continuous assessment (ICASS) and integrated summative assessment task (ISAT) requirements by some examination centres, there were no systemic irregularities reported that might have compromised the credibility and integrity of the **November 2021 National Certificate (Vocational) [NC(V)] Level 2-4** examinations administered by the **Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET)**.

The Executive Committee of Council approves the release of the **DHET November 2021 NC(V) L2-4** examination results based on available evidence that the examinations were administered largely in accordance with the examination policies and guidelines.

The DHET is required to block the results of candidates and centres that failed to comply with ICASS and ISAT requirements pending the outcomes of further investigations by the DHET and verification by Umalusi.

In respect of identified irregularities, the DHET is required to block the results of examination centres and candidates implicated in irregularities pending the outcomes of further DHET investigations and verification by Umalusi.

The DHET is required to address the directives for compliance and improvement highlighted in the Quality Assurance of Assessment report, develop and submit an improvement plan **by 15 March 2022**. Particular attention should be paid to recurring matters of non-compliance

The Executive Committee of Council commends the DHET for conducting a successful examination despite the challenges presented by Covid-19.

STANDARDISATION DECISIONS AND APPROVAL STATEMENTS – GETC ABET EXAMINATIONS ADMINISTERED BY IEB, DHET AND SACAI

INDEPENDENT EXAMINATIONS BOARD - GETC: ABET

Description	2021	%
Number of subjects presented	7	
Raw marks	6	86%
Adjusted (mainly upwards)	1	14%
Adjusted (mainly downwards)	0	00%
Number of subjects standardised:	7	100%

Having studied all the evidence presented, the Executive Committee (EXCO) of Umalusi Council noted that, apart from the challenges of non-compliance with Site-Based Assessment (SBA) instructions by some centres, Umalusi is satisfied that there were no systemic irregularities reported, that might have compromised the credibility and integrity of the **November 2021 General Education and Training Certificate: Adult Basic Education and Training (GETC: ABET)** examinations administered by the **Independent Examinations Board (IEB)**.

The Executive Committee of Council approves the release of the **IEB November 2021 GETC: ABET** examination results based on available evidence that the examinations were administered largely in accordance with the examination policies and guidelines.

The IEB is required to:

- Block the results of 2 candidates implicated in an irregularity; and
- Address the directives for compliance and improvement highlighted in the Quality Assurance of Assessment report and submit an improvement plan by **15 March 2022**.

The Executive Committee of Council commends the IEB for conducting a successful examination despite the challenges presented by Covid-19.

DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND TRAINING – GETC: ABET

Description	2021	%
Number of subjects presented	26	
Raw marks	12	46%
Adjusted (mainly upwards)	06	27%
Adjusted (mainly downwards)	08	31%
Number of subjects standardised	26	100%

Having studied all the evidence presented, the Executive Committee (EXCO) of Umalusi Council noted that, apart from some examination irregularities identified during the writing and marking of examinations, there were no systemic irregularities reported that might have compromised the credibility and integrity of the **November 2021 General Education and Training Certificate: Adult Basic Education and Training (GETC: ABET)** examinations administered by the **Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET)**.

The Executive Committee of Council approves the release of the **DHET November 2021 GETC: ABET** examination results based on available evidence that the examinations were administered largely in accordance with the examination policies and guidelines.

In respect of identified irregularities, the DHET is required to block the results of examination centres and candidates implicated in irregularities pending the outcome of further DHET investigations and verification by Umalusi.

- The DHET is required to address the directives for compliance and improvement highlighted in the Quality Assurance of Assessment report, develop and submit an improvement plan by **15 March 2022**. Particular attention should be paid to recurring matters of non-compliance.
- The Executive Committee of Council commends the DHET for conducting a successful examination despite the challenges presented by Covid-19.

SACAI – GETC: ABET

Description	2021	%
Number of subjects presented	7	
Raw marks	6	86%
Adjusted (mainly upwards)	1	14%
Adjusted (mainly downwards)	0	00%
Number of subjects standardised:	7	100%

Having studied all the evidence presented, the Executive Committee (EXCO) of Umalusi Council noted that, apart from an alleged irregularity identified during the writing of examinations involving one centre, Umalusi is satisfied that there were no systemic irregularities reported, that might have compromised the credibility and integrity of the **November 2021 General Education and Training Certificate: Adult Basic Education and Training (GETC: ABET)** examinations administered by the **South African Comprehensive Assessment Institute (SACAI)**.

The Executive Committee of Council approves the release of the **SACAI November 2021 GETC: ABET** examination results based on available evidence that the examinations were largely administered in accordance with the examination policies and guidelines.

The SACAI is required to:

- Address the directives for compliance and improvement highlighted in the Quality Assurance of Assessment report and submit an improvement plan by **15 March 2022**.

The Executive Committee of Council commends SACAI for conducting a successful examination despite the challenges presented by Covid-19.

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