



## basic education

Department:  
Basic Education  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

**CHIEF DIRECTORATE: NATIONAL ASSESSMENT AND PUBLIC EXAMINATIONS**  
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TO: HEADS OF EXAMINATIONS  
HEADS OF CURRICULUM  
DISTRICT DIRECTORS  
PRINCIPALS (SECONDARY SCHOOLS THAT OFFER SASL HL)  
SUBJECT ADVISORY SERVICES  
TEACHER UNIONS  
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### EXAMINATION INSTRUCTION NO.20 OF 2023

#### PREPARATIONS FOR THE CONDUCT AND ADMINISTRATION OF SOUTH AFRICAN SIGN LANGUAGE HOME LANGUAGE (SASL HL) OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2023 EXAMINATIONS

1. In order to ensure that the National Senior Certificate (NSC) Examinations in South African Sign Language Home Language (SASL HL) is conducted in a credible and reliable manner, the Department of Basic Education (DBE) requests all stakeholders to adhere to the procedures outlined in this examination instruction.
2. The *Guidelines for the Implementation and Conduct of Examinations in South African Sign Language Home Language* is attached and all stakeholders need to be familiar with the contents thereof.
3. Schools and provincial education departments (PEDs) are requested to conduct an examination readiness audit to ensure that they are completely ready for the administration of the October/November 2023 examinations. **Annexure A** in the attached guidelines should be used for this purpose. The PED must ensure that schools submit the completed and signed tools by 25 July 2023.

4. **Annexure C** of the attached guideline needs to be completed by the Head of Examinations in the PED and submitted to Mr C Thurston at [Thurston.C@dbe.gov.za](mailto:Thurston.C@dbe.gov.za) by no later than 8 August 2023. This annexure serves as a declaration by the PED that all challenges identified in the audit conducted have been resolved.
5. The school principal/chief invigilator must verify that the software and hardware used for the SASL HL examination complies with the set Information Technology requirements outlined in the *Guidelines for the Implementation and Conduct of Examinations in South African Sign Language Home Language*.
6. PEDs must support schools offering SASL HL to acquire software licences where necessary.
7. **Procedures TWO weeks prior to the examination:**
  - a) Schools must ensure that all equipment needed for the examination is serviced and in working order.
  - b) Schools must provide evidence to the PED that equipment was tested and working properly. Schools must make provision for a backup system to cater for a possible equipment failure.
  - c) PEDs must provide schools with TWO (2) DVDs/USBs per candidate on which candidates' responses will be recorded.
  - d) The local municipal authorities should be informed about the examination timetable at least TWO weeks prior to the examination to ensure that load shedding is not applied.
  - e) Provision must be made to ensure that candidates will be seated in chairs without armrests, because armrests interfere with the signing of responses.
8. **Procedures ONE day prior to the examination:**
  - a) The examination venue must be prepared and all pictures, posters and all other material not part of the examination process must be removed.
  - b) The lighting in the examination venue must be conducive for examination conditions. This implies that:
    - i) There are no windows in the background.
    - ii) No light shines from the background of the recording space

- iii) Lighting is consistent for the full duration of the examination
- iv) There are no reflections that could cast shadows into the recording space
- c) The school must ensure that they have backup power in case of power failure. All electronic equipment in respect of SASL HL at the school should be inspected prior to the examination, e.g. electricity cables and wall connections must be in working order.
- d) The folders and the documents on the DVD/USB must be loaded on each candidate's computer.
- e) The recycle bin on each computer must be cleaned.

## 9. Procedures on the day of the examination

9.1 It is the responsibility of **the chief invigilator to ensure** the following:

- a) TWO HOURS prior to the examination, the chief invigilator will receive the passwords to access the question papers saved on the DVDs. Therefore, the chief invigilator must be at the examination venue at 06:30.
- b) All equipment is tested again TWO HOURS prior to the commencement of the examination session.
- c) All examination material is loaded and accessible TWO HOURS prior to the commencement of the examination.
- d) ALL files/folders of the question paper are opened to ensure that candidates will be able to access the paper to be written on that day.
- e) Each candidate must complete the required information on the cover sheet of the rough work booklet.
- f) The rough work booklet for SASL HL may be used for planning answers for all papers.
- g) The backup DVD/USB of each candidate's responses is made immediately after the examination session and it is verified that the files/folders can be accessed.
- h) Any problem with accessing the files/folders must be reported to the PED IMMEDIATELY.
- i) Attendance registers and mark sheets must be completed and must accompany the DVDs/USBs. These DVDs/USBs must be packaged in a sealed bag which will be placed in the PED secure box/envelope/bag for transporting scripts.

9.2 The Chief invigilator must:

- a) Hand out the printed booklet issued by the DBE for rough work to each candidate.
- b) Collect the booklets for rough work and ensure that each candidate completed his/her details on the cover.
- c) Submit the rough work booklets together with the candidates' recorded responses (DVDs/USBs) to the PED. No written responses will be considered during the marking process.

10. **Procedures during the examination.**

**The chief invigilator must ensure that:**

- i) In addition to the invigilator, the SASL HL teacher and an IT technician are present to provide support if necessary and in accordance with the regulations set out in the *Guidelines for the Implementation and Conduct of Examinations in South African Sign Language Home Language*.
- ii) All parties involved adhere to the invigilation requirements. In particular, it must be ensured that the SASL HL teacher, invigilators and monitors do not cause any disturbance/interference during the recording of candidates' responses.
- iii) Invigilators and monitors must be positioned in front of the candidates and may not move around during the recording of responses.
- iv) The correct procedures are followed in case of a power failure.
- v) All laptops/computers are connected to power supplies for the full duration of the examination.

11. **Procedures after the examination is completed.**

**The chief invigilator must ensure that:**

- i) Candidates have checked that all files are saved in their examination folders and labelled with the correct examination number and examination centre number.
- ii) The teacher retrieves all candidates' folders from their computers/laptops and copies the folders onto a DVD/USB, per learner.

- iii) Each candidate's DVD/USB is clearly marked with the candidate's examination number.
- iv) One DVD/USB is submitted to the PED and the backup DVD/USB is stored safely at the school. The copying of the files onto the DVDs/USBs must be done under the supervision of the chief invigilator.
- v) Candidates may NOT leave the examination room until all administrative processes regarding the examination have been completed.

12. **After the examination is completed**

**The SASL HL teacher must:**

- i) Retrieve all candidates' folders from their computers and copy folders onto a DVD/USB, per learner for the purpose of submission for marking.
- ii) Label each candidate's DVD/USB clearly with the candidate's examination number.
- iii) Write a backup DVD/USB for each candidate in the event that the first DVD/USB is faulty at any point.
- iv) Ensure that all files in the candidate's examination folder can open, before the DVDs/USBs are packed and handed over to the chief invigilator.
- v) Ensure that the number of DVDs/USBs correlate with the number of candidates on the mark sheet. For example, if five candidates registered for the examination, then five DVDs must be submitted (one per candidate) to the PED and five backup DVDs/USBs must be kept at the school.
- vi) Complete and sign the checklist provided by the provincial examination directorate. A sample of this checklist is included as **Annexure B** in the attached *Guidelines for the Implementation and Conduct of Examinations in South African Sign Language Home Language*.

13. PEDs are requested to ensure that schools have access to DVD writers/USB ports and that the SASL HL teachers know how to save on DVDs/USBs before the SASL HL NSC examinations commence.

14. A full report on any technical irregularities or problems that might have occurred during the examination must be submitted to the PED (e.g. missing/damaged files, time lost due to power outages, faulty equipment, and deviation from instructions).
15. The following signing time frames must be followed. It must be noted that a special concession is granted to SASL HL candidates with regard to the time allocation. Candidates must be seated by 8:30.

ACTION	TIME ALLOCATION	DURATION
Reading time	20 minutes	08:40 to 09:00
Signing of Paper 1	Maximum 4 hours	09:00 to 13:00
Signing of Paper 2	Maximum 4 hours	09:00 to 13:00
Signing of Paper 3	Maximum 3 hours	09:00 to 12:00
Saving folders to DVD	Approximately 120 minutes (depending on number of candidates)	Paper 1 and Paper 2: 13:00 to 15:00 Paper 3: 12:00 to 14:00

16. If there are any queries relating to the procedures for the conduct of the examination, it should be directed to the examinations directorate of the PED.

**17. Procedures in the event of a power failure or loadshedding**

17.1 All candidates' computers/laptops must be connected to a backup power system such as a UPS. If a power failure occurs during the examination, the following procedures should be followed:

- a) Candidates are to remain in the examination room until the power supply has been restored or two hours have elapsed.
- b) Candidates may NOT communicate with one another while waiting for the power supply to be restored.
- c) The time lost during the power failure should be allowed as additional examination time.
- d) If the power supply has not been restored after two hours, the examination should be rescheduled.

- e) When a power failure occurs, the school principal should inform the local authorities immediately and also ascertain the duration of the power failure.
- f) The PED must be informed immediately.

**18. Procedures in the event of a computer breakdown**

- a) There should be at least TWO additional computers available as backup.
- b) In the case of a technical problem with the computer, the candidate/s must be moved to the backup equipment immediately and appropriate additional time must be provided to the candidate/s concerned.
- c) Candidates must complete the examination question paper within the allocated duration of the question paper.
- d) Only the saving of candidates' work to a DVD/USB and the testing of DVDs/USBs will be allowed after the allocated time has elapsed.
- e) Invigilators must take all precautionary measures to ensure that the candidates' files are written to DVDs/USBs and files/folders can be accessed.

**19. Returning candidates' responses (DVD/USB) to the PED**

- a) The examination DVD/USB should either be collected from the examination centre by a PED official or delivered to the PED by the chief invigilator.
- b) A register should be kept at all points where DVDs/USBs are being transferred. Officials involved in the transfer of examination DVDs/USBs should sign this register and indicate the time of transfer. The register should be kept at the regional or district office until the end of the examination and then transferred to the PED.
- c) Under NO circumstances should DVDs/USBs be kept overnight at an examination centre.
- d) DVDs/USBs should also be sealed in a special envelope/bag provided for this purpose to prevent them from being tampered with.
- e) When DVDs/USBs are received at the PED they should be checked against the relevant mark sheet before being transferred to the marking centre. A record should be kept of all DVDs/USBs transferred to the marking centre and the marking centre manager must sign for the receipt of these DVDs/USBs.

20. Enquiries regarding this circular on the conduct and administration of SASL HL examinations should be directed to Mr C Thurston at [Thurston.C@dbe.gov.za](mailto:Thurston.C@dbe.gov.za) or telephone 012 357 4510.

21. Your support is highly appreciated.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Poliah', with a horizontal line underneath the name.

**DR RR POLIAH**

**CHIEF DIRECTOR: NATIONAL ASSESSMENT AND PUBLIC EXAMINATIONS**

**DATE: 19/06/2023**