



State of Readiness to quality assure the South African Sign Language Home Language National Examinations

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Background

- The Constitution of the RSA recognises the presence of the Deaf community in the country.
- South African Schools Act also recognises the SASL as Language of Learning and Teaching.
- From 2010, DBE developed the CAPS.
- SASL Home Language was introduced in the Foundation Phase and Senior Phase in 2015 and in the Intermediate Phase and FET Phase in 2016.
- Grade 12 Deaf learners will matriculate with SASL as Home Language in 2018.
- Umalusi is required by legislation to quality assure curriculum and assessment.

Background

- In 2017 Umalusi conducted a research study to inform its quality assurance processes such as:
 - Moderation of question papers,
 - Moderation of school based assessment (SBA),
 - Monitoring and evaluation (state of readiness, writing and marking phases),
 - Verification of the appointment of markers and
 - Standardisation
- The scope of the investigation included understanding, *inter alia*, how Deaf learners are assessed and the kind of resources and material required for assessment.

Roles and Responsibilities of DBE

To:

- Develop the curriculum and submit to Umalusi for evaluation,
- Ensure that schools have qualified teachers to provide tuition,
- Ensure that schools have the necessary resources, including textbooks and literature setworks,
- Appoint the examining panel,
- Set Grade 12 question papers and submit to Umalusi for external moderation before administering the examination,
- Print, pack and distribute the question papers,
- Mark the examination scripts and
- Result the candidates.

Roles and Responsibilities of Umalusi

To:

- Evaluate and quality assure the curriculum,
- Appoint suitably qualified external moderators,
- Moderate and approve the question papers (Grade 12),
- Moderate the school based assessment (SBA),
- Monitor and report on the state of readiness to conduct the examination,
- Monitor the conduct of examination and marking of examination scripts,
- Verify the marking of the examination scripts,
- Standardise the results, and
- Approve the release of results.

Provisional registration data

Province	School	Number of candidates
Eastern Cape	St Thomas	10
Free State	Bartimea	4
	Thiboloha	2
Gauteng	Sizwile	11
	St Vincent	10
KwaZulu Natal	Fulton	3
	Kwathintwa	8
	St Martin de Porres	7
Limpopo	Setotolwane	10
Western Cape	De-la-Bat	1
	Dominican (Wittebome)	3
Total	11 schools	69

Quality Assurance Processes

Moderation of Question Papers:

- Four (4) moderators have been appointed for the external moderation of SASL HL question papers:
- Two of the four external moderators attended Umalusi's training of moderators in September 2017.
- All four moderators attended Umalusi Launch of the SASL report on 2 March 2018 at Wits University.
- All four moderators attended the Training of moderators from 22 to 24 March 2018.
- A list of literature set-works has been shared with the moderators so that they could familiarize themselves with the work before they start with moderation.

Quality Assurance Processes

Moderation of SBA

- Umalusi will conduct desktop comparison of Programmes of Assessment between English HL and SASL HL and strategise on SBA moderation.
- Moderation of Observing and Signing (Orals) to be conducted.

Verification of marking

- Umalusi will conduct an audit of the selection of markers for SASL HL and the rest of the subjects as usual.
- Recommendation to be sent to DBE to centralise the marking of SASL HL for the November 2018 NSC examinations.

Monitoring the State of Readiness to conduct SASL HL November examinations

Audit of SASL Laboratories

- Full scale independent audit of the schools that are registered to administer SASL HL in the 2018 November NSC examinations will be conducted.

Monitoring the conduct of June internal Examinations

- Umalusi will monitor the conduct, administration and management of the June 2018 internal examinations including the marking.

Report on the SOR to conduct SASL HL November Examinations

- Umalusi will present its findings on the State of readiness of DBE to conduct SASL HL 2018 Examinations to Council and the DG.

Standardisation

- ASC was informed about the unique nature of SASL HL assessment.
- Presentation on the findings of the research was shared with the ASC.
- Examples of assessment practices and the implications thereof were discussed at the ASC meeting.
- Further investigation on the standardisation of SASL HL is in process.

Conclusion

- The introduction of SASL as a Home Language is a milestone in South African history.
- We are among the first countries to introduce Sign Language as Home Language.
- According to Section 29 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa: Everyone has the right to receive education in the official language or languages of their choice in public educational institutions.
- Umalusi is ready to conduct the quality assurance processes for the 2018 SASL Home Language examinations.