



Introducing Outcomes - Based Education in Grades 10 - 12 (Schools)



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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

INTRODUCTION

In 1997 the Council of Education Ministers (CEM) made the decision to replace old apartheid curriculum with a new Outcomes-Based Education (OBE) curriculum in the General and Further Education and Training bands. The new curriculum was introduced in General Education and Training (GET) in 1998.

A new certificate, a Further Education and Training Certificate (FETC) replacing the Senior Certificate would then be awarded for the first time in 2005. Because of this the new curriculum became popularly known as Curriculum 2005 (C2005).

THE REVIEW OF C2005

In response to the concerns raised by members of the public and his Department's experience, Minister Kader Asmal appointed a committee to review C2005 in February 2000. The review found that:

- While there is support for outcomes-based education as for C2005, there are problems with the implementation and structure of the curriculum.

As a result the Minister appointed a committee to strengthen and streamline the curriculum. On 20 March 2002 Cabinet approved the declaration of the product produced by this process, the National Curriculum Statement for Grades R – 9 (Schools) as policy.

CURRICULUM REFORM IN FET

Several curriculum changes were introduced in FET beginning in 1994. These changes were:

- Curricula were cleansed of racist and sexist language.
- Outcomes-based curricula in subjects such as mathematics, physical science (specifically physics and chemistry), life science, technology and communication were approved and piloted.
- Learning Outcomes were developed through the Review and Modernisation (RAM) of FET Programmes.

- Languages were standardised following the recommendations made by the Committee for the investigation of the Senior Certificate.
- The Scottish Qualifications Authority found the Senior Certificate to be comparable to other reputable international examination systems and qualifications.
- Underperforming schools (with a 0 – 20% matric pass rate) were reduced by more than half.
- Continuous Assessment was introduced in FET in 2001.
- Five common national examination papers were written for the first time in the following subjects: English, Mathematics, Science, Accounting and Biology, in 2001. History will be included as the 6th subject in 2004.

These changes had two major goals:

- To improve the Senior Certificate pending the introduction of the FETC
- To improve the state of readiness of the FET band to cope with the curriculum and institutional changes

A GOOD QUALITY SENIOR CERTIFICATE HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED.

INTRODUCING OBE IN GRADES 10 – 12 (SCHOOLS)

On 15 April 2002 the Council of Education Ministers (CEM) decided that OBE will be introduced in Grades 10 – 12 (Schools) as follows:

Grade 10:	2004
Grade 11:	2005
Grade 12:	2006

A National Curriculum Statement for Grades 10 – 12 (Schools) is being prepared to be declared as policy in March 2003. The following subjects form a core curriculum for Grades 10 – 12 (Schools):

LEARNING FIELD	SUBJECTS
Communication and languages	11 Official Languages
Culture and Arts	Dance, Music, Visual Art, Speech and Drama, Design and Graphic Art
Human and social studies	Life Orientation, History, Geography
Physical, mathematical, computer and life sciences	Mathematics, Mathematical Literacy, Physical Science, Biology, Information and Communication Technology (ICT)
Agriculture and nature conservation	Agricultural Science
Business, commerce and management sciences	Accounting, Economics, Business Economics, Compu-Typing
Manufacturing, engineering and technology	Motor Mechanics, Electrician work, Technical Drawing
Services	Travel and Tourism, Hotel Keeping, Home Economics

The present curriculum consists of 124 subjects. This number grows to 265 when the division into Higher Grade and Standard Grade is introduced. These subjects are too many, too costly to provide and unmanageable.

The old curriculum will be phased out gradually beginning in 2004.

IMPLICATIONS FOR GRADE 10 LEARNERS OF 2003

The Grade 10 learners of 2003 will have experienced three years of OBE teaching and learning. It is important that these learners continue to be taught in the new way.

A Teacher Guide will be developed to prepare Grade 10 teachers in OBE approaches, methodologies and assessment. The Teacher Guide will include exemplars to help teachers deal with knowledge gaps and other possible challenges.

Thereafter teacher preparation will continue per grade until all teachers have been trained.

SOME FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is an FETC?

A new certificate that will replace the present Senior Certificate. It will be a full qualification that will allow its holder access to Higher Education or entry into the work place. The FETC will be based on the principles of access, equity and mobility.

What will happen to subjects not included in the Core Curriculum?

Schools will continue to offer these subjects during the transition phase. The core curriculum will be revised during this time.

What plans are being made for teacher preparation and the development of learner support material (LSM)?

The year 2003 will be used to prepare teachers and to finalise LSMs. The lessons for GET will be used to strengthen teacher preparation.

ENQUIRIES

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