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To: Deputy Directors-General, Chief Directors, Directors (Head Office and district offices), Deputy Directors, Chief Education Specialists, Heads: Curriculum Support, Heads: Management and Governance, Circuit Managers, Deputy Chief Education Specialists, Assessment and Examination Coordinators, Subject Advisers and Heads of education institutions that prepare candidates for the National Senior Certificate examination

Subject: Revised Practical Assessment Tasks (PATs) for 2020 Grade 12 National Senior Certificate (NSC) Examination

1. The PATs for 2020 were developed in subjects that have a practical component and released to provincial education departments in January 2020.
2. The closure of schools due to the Covid-19 pandemic has necessitated amendments to the PATs in certain subjects. PATs allow for the assessment of skills that cannot be assessed in a written test or examination. It also requires that learners conduct the practical work either in the workshops, vegetable gardens or on farms, depending on the requirements of the specific subject.
3. The closure of schools in the first term and the loss of school days, as well as the current social distancing implications, have led to the Department of Basic Education (DBE) making certain amendments to the 2020 PATs for certain subjects. In some subjects it was not necessary to amend the PATs.
4. The main guiding principles that were considered in amending the PATs are as follows:
 - (a) The final amended PAT will still assess the core aspects of the original PAT.
 - (b) The portion of the PAT that should have been completed in Term 1 is not amended. All candidates are expected to have completed Term 1 PAT requirements.
 - (c) Amendments have been made to the portions of the PAT that were scheduled to be implemented in Terms 2 and 3.

The amendments include one or both of the following:

- (a) Amendment to a sub task to accommodate social distancing restrictions, and/or
- (b) Removal of a sub task (especially if the skill is duplicated and tested in another sub task or does not contribute critically to the final PAT). This will enable the candidates to complete the task in the reduced time.

5. PATs for the following subjects have not been amended and therefore the original PAT must be implemented as is. This is because the practical work that the candidates need to complete could still have been done after schools reopened on 08 June 2020.

The subjects are:

- Agricultural Technology,
- Electrical Technology,
- Information Technology, and
- Mechanical Technology.

6. For Dance Studies, Dramatic Arts and Music, the only change is the reduction of the tasks and removal of tasks that require group or ensemble work. For these subjects, an addendum has been developed indicating the reduced tasks and the modalities on how to conduct the practical/ performance examinations.

7. These are the subjects where new PAT documents have been issued:

- Agricultural Management Practices,
- Computer Applications Technology,
- Design Studies,
- Civil Technology,
- Consumer Studies,
- Engineering Graphics and Design,
- Hospitality Studies,
- Technical Sciences,
- Tourism, and
- Visual Arts.

8. The revised PATs are available on the DBE website. The following link can be used to access the revised PATs:

<https://bit.ly/2OUh8ae>.

9. Enquiries regarding the 2020 revised PATs should be directed to the subject advisers at the district offices.

10. Principals and education district officials are requested to bring the content of this minute to the attention of staff, parents and learners.

SIGNED: PAD BEETS

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: CURRICULUM AND ASSESSMENT MANAGEMENT

DATE: 2020-08-21