

Reference: 20240313-2444

File no.: 22/2/6/1

Curriculum FET Minute: DCF 0004/2024

To: Deputy Directors-General, Chief Directors, Directors, Chief Education Specialists, Heads: Curriculum Support, Circuit Managers, Heads: Management and Governance, Deputy Chief Education Specialists, Assessment and Examination Coordinators, Subject Advisers for Economics, Accounting, Mathematics and Life Orientation, and Principals of schools offering Grades 10 to 12

**Subject: Western Cape Essay Writing Bursary Competition for Grade 11 learners offering Economics, Accounting and Mathematics (2024/25)**

1. The Western Cape Provincial Treasury, in collaboration with Nedbank and the Western Cape Education Department (WCED), invites schools to enter for the 2024/2025 Western Cape Essay Writing Bursary Competition.
2. The competition offers Grade 11 learners in the Western Cape who take a combination of Economics, Mathematics and Accounting as subjects, the opportunity of obtaining bursaries and other incentives to further their studies in these fields at a university.
3. A maximum of twelve bursaries, as well as a cash prize as financial assistance during their Grade 12 year, will be awarded to learners who intend obtaining a degree in Economics (e.g. BCom (Economics)), Accounting (e.g. BAcc, BCompt), Commerce (e.g. BBusSc) or Mathematics at a Western Cape university.
4. The bursaries are for Grade 11 learners who excel (minimum of 60%) in at least two of the subjects – Economics, Mathematics and Accounting, and who qualify for entrance to a university in 2026. Entrants must be South African citizens, residing in the Western Cape and have a good command of spoken and written English.

5. The bursary competition aims to:
  - promote enthusiasm for Economics, Mathematics, Accounting and career possibilities in these fields;
  - promote knowledge and skills in Economics, Mathematics and Accounting;
  - develop problem-solving and analytical abilities;
  - expose learners to research methods and essay-writing skills;
  - provide learners with access and links to the world of work;
  - raise awareness of socio-economic issues in South Africa;
  - develop future leaders in the fields of Economics, Mathematics and Accounting; and
  - encourage and reward excellence.
6. Please consult the following attached documents:
  - Annexure A: Additional important information
  - Annexure B: Essay topic (supplied only in English) with its marking rubric
  - Annexure C: Entry form
7. Schools should choose promising learners to participate in the competition. They will be required to write an essay of approximately 2 200 words. The rest of the Grade 11 Economics class may write an essay on the same topic to a maximum of 600 words, which will count as part of the research project for the School-Based Assessment.
8. A team of teachers at the school will use the assessment rubric provided to choose the top two performers who fulfil the minimum requirement of 60% (essay and oral presentations combined) to go through to the next round of the competition. The essays and mark sheets of the **top two** performers must be submitted to the district office for assessment at level 2 (district level) by no later than **08 November 2024**.
9. An assessment panel in each district will assess the qualifying essays from schools and choose the finalists. The ten best essays per district will be chosen by this panel and sent through to the final level (provincial level) by **22 November 2024**.
10. The best essays from the total number submitted will be chosen by the final selection panel, consisting of representatives from Nedbank, the Western Cape Provincial Treasury and the WCED.
11. Finalists will be invited to attend the final selection in Cape Town in March/April 2025 – on a Friday afternoon and Saturday morning. They will be required to give an oral presentation on their research findings and to respond to questions put to them by the selection panel. The Economics teachers of the finalists will be invited to accompany them. The district panel members will be invited to attend the awards ceremony on the Saturday evening.
12. Enquiries about the essay writing and marking must be directed to the district's Economics subject adviser.

13. Principals are requested to bring the contents of this minute to the attention of all Grade 11 Economics, Mathematics, Accounting, English and Life Orientation teachers.

**SIGNED:** BJ LORISTON

**DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: CURRICULUM AND ASSESSMENT MANAGEMENT**

**DATE:** 2024-04-04