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National Curriculum Statement (NCS) Grade 10 – 12

Information to parents of learners who will be in Grade 10 in 2026.

The National Senior Certificate (NCS)

Jordao High School, being a secondary school, offers the general pathway to obtain a National Senior Certificate (NCS). The National Senior Certificate (NSC) became the new school-leaving qualification in 2008. It is based on a curriculum for Grades 10 to 12.

Qualifications

In the General and Training (GET) band, Grade 9 is the end of the compulsory phase of schooling. Education in this band aims at providing learners with the basic competencies or a broad foundation of knowledge, skills, values and attitudes needed for lifelong learning.

A qualification at this level must be registered on the National Qualifications Frame (NQF) at level 1 and will be quality assured by the relevant ETQA (Umalusi).

A Grade 9 qualification will be required for access to Grade 10 at a school. To qualify for the certificate, a learner needs seven subjects, of which four are compulsory and three are of their own choice. In the compulsory section, every learner will have to take two languages (one being his/her Home Language (HL) and the other, a First Additional Language, Life Orientation and either Mathematics or Mathematical Literacy.

Recording and Reporting

The Higher and Standard Grade differentiation will no longer exist and results will be reflected in percentages and numbers 1-7.

Seven levels of competence have been described for each subject in the Subject Assessment Guidelines. These descriptions will assist teachers to assess pupils and grade them at the correct level. The various achievement levels and their corresponding percentage bands are as shown in Table 1 below. Teachers/examiners may either work from mark allocation/percentages to rating codes, or from codes to percentages.

TABLE 1: SCALE OF ACHIEVEMENT FOR THE NATIONAL CURRICULUM STATEMENT GRADES 10-12 (GENERAL)

RATING CODE	RATING	MARKS %
7	Outstanding achievement	80 – 100
6	Meritorious achievement	70 – 79
5	Substantial achievement	60 – 69
4	Adequate achievement	50 – 59
3	Moderate achievement	40 – 49
2	Elementary achievement	30 – 39
1	Not achieved	0 – 29

Minimum requirements for admission to the Higher Certificate, Diploma and Bachelor's Degree

Higher Certificate

An achievement rating of 3 (Moderate Achievement, 40 – 49 %) is obtained in Life Orientation and two subjects, and a rating of 2 (Elementary achievement, 30 – 39 %) is obtained in the other four subjects, together with any institutional requirements.

3 subjects with a rating of 3 (40 – 49 %) [Life orientation plus 2]
4 subjects with a rating of 2 (30 – 39 %)
+ Institutional Requirements

Diploma

The minimum admission requirement is a National Senior Certificate (NSC) with an achievement rating of 3 (Moderate Achievement, 40 – 49 %) or better. Institutional and programme needs may require appropriate combinations of recognised NSC subjects and levels of achievements.

4 Subjects at a rating of 3 (40 – 49 %)
+ Institutional Requirements

Bachelor's Degree

The minimum admission requirement is a National Senior Certificate (NSC) as certified by Umalusi with an achievement rating of 4 (Adequate Achievement, 50 – 59 %) or better in four subjects chosen from the recognised NSC subjects.

Satisfactory Achievements in 4 designated NSC subjects provide the primary basis for admission to a Bachelor's Degree programme. A tertiary institution is entitled to specify an appropriate level of subject achievement for a particular programme.

4 Subjects at a rating of 4 (50 – 59 %)
+ Subjects from designated list
+ Institutional Requirements

Subject Combination for FET Grade 10, 11, 12 at Jordao High School

A learner must select a minimum of **seven subjects**, namely:

- The Language of Learning and Teaching (LOLT) (English)
- First Additional Language (Afrikaans)
- Mathematics OR Mathematical Literacy
- Life Orientation
- A minimum of any **three subjects**. (Two subjects must be from the same group.)

Languages:

English (Home Language)	X
Afrikaans (First Additional Language)	X

Business, Commerce and Management Studies:

Accounting	
Business Studies	

Arts and Culture:

Design	
Dramatic Arts	
Visual Arts	

Human and Social Studies:

Geography	
History	
Life Orientation	X

Physical, Mathematical, Computer and Life Sciences:

Mathematical Literacy OR	
Mathematics	
Computer Applications Technology	

Physical Sciences	
Life Sciences	

Services:

Tourism	
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Requirements of Subjects

Mathematics

Any learner not achieving at least 50% at the end of Grade 9 for Mathematics will NOT be allowed to continue with Mathematics in Grade 10.

Physical Sciences

Only learners that have qualified for Mathematics as a choice subject will be allowed to choose Physical Sciences.

Promotion and Certification requirements

A learner will be **promoted to Grade 10** only if he has satisfied the following achievement requirements:

- At least a “moderate achievement” or level 4 rating (50 – 59%) in one of the Official Languages offered and Mathematics;
- At least an “elementary achievement” or level 2 rating (30 – 39%) in the other Official Language; and
- At least a “moderate achievement” or level 3 rating (40 – 49%) in FOUR other Learning Areas.

Subject	Requirements
Language 1	≥ 50%
Mathematics	≥ 40%
Language 2	≥ 30%
4 Other subjects	≥ 40%

A **NSC** (Grade 12 certificate) shall be issued to a candidate who has complied with the following promotion requirements:

- Obtained at least 40% in the required official language at Home Language level.
- Obtained at least 30% in the other required language on at least First Additional Language level.
- Obtained at least 30% in Mathematical Literacy or Mathematics.
- Obtained at least 40% in Life Orientation.
- Obtained at least 40% in one of the remaining three subjects and at least 30% in two subjects.

Subject	Requirements
English	≥ 40%
Afrikaans	≥ 30%
Mathematics or Mathematical Literacy	≥ 30%
Life Orientation	≥ 40%
3 Other subjects	1 ≥ 40% 2 ≥ 30 %

Assessment in Grades 10 and 11

Pupils will be assessed internally according to the requirements as specified in the Subject Assessment Guidelines. The internal assessment mark allocated to assessment tasks completed during the school year will be 25% and the end-of-year assessment mark will count 75% of the total mark.

The end-of-year assessment must consist of tasks that are internally set, marked and moderated, as specified in the Subject Assessment Guidelines.

Assessment in Grade 12

The internal assessment mark will be 25%, and the external assessment mark will make up 75% of the total mark, as specified in the Subject Assessment Guidelines. The internal assessment will be externally moderated.

The weighting for assessment in the subject Life Orientation in Grade 12 is an exception. The internal assessment component will be 100% of the total mark. The internal assessment will be externally moderated.

General

If the learner has not met the pass requirements for a specific subject in Grade 9, (s)he will not be allowed to take that subject in Grade 10.

Any learner who decides not to take Mathematics in Grade 10 may not continue with Physical Sciences in Grade 10.

Any learner who chose Mathematical Literacy will not be allowed to change to Mathematics in Grade 10 – 12.

Subject changes will only be allowed until 6 February 2026. It is vital that the correct initial choices are made.