

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION 852

DATE OF PUBLICATION OF INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 06/09/2019

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 14/2019

852. Mrs N I Tarabella Marchesi (DA) to ask the Minister of Basic Education:

(a) On what date was the Multiple Examination Opportunity (MEO) firstly introduced and (b) what number of learners (i) were on MEO yearly in each province since its inception, (ii) passed, (iii) failed, (iv) dropped out in each year in each province, (v) received distinctions, (vi) passed (aa) Maths and (bb) Science and (vii) intervention were done to improve the system? NW1972E

RESPONSE

(a) The Multiple Examination Opportunity (MEO) was first introduced in November 2016.

(b)(i) Number of candidates that opted for the MEO option: 2016 - 2018

Province	2016	2017	2018
Eastern Cape	3 626	6 403	12 848
Free State	1 936	2 241	3 130
Gauteng	5 940	7 012	10 064
KwaZulu-Natal	9 393	19 924	30 705
Limpopo	6 275	13 366	16 899
Mpumalanga	5 139	8 245	6 470
North West	2 892	4 316	5 164
Northern Cape	1 462	1 395	2 085
Western Cape	947	1 252	1 463
National	37 610	64 154	88 828

(b)(ii) Number of MEOs that Achieved an NSC after writing the June examination in 2019.

In its first and second year of implementation, this policy was not uniformly applied across provincial education departments and data collection and validation, was also in its infancy, and therefore the numbers relating to 2016 and 2017 are not an accurate account of the implementation of this policy.

Province	Achieved NSC (2018/19)
Eastern Cape	414
Free State	395
Gauteng	1 053
KwaZulu-Natal	2 126
Limpopo	1 105
Mpumalanga	677
North West	438
Northern Cape	113
Western Cape	33
National	6 354

(b)(iii) Number of MEO Candidates that did not achieve the NSC after writing the June examination in 2019.

Province	Not Achieved NSC (2018/19)
Eastern Cape	9 408
Free State	2 729
Gauteng	8 813
KwaZulu-Natal	22 986
Limpopo	15 743
Mpumalanga	5 747
North West	4 664
Northern Cape	1 952
Western Cape	1425
National	73 467

(b)(iv) The term drop-out is incorrect in this context, given that these candidates are not drop-outs, but are candidates that did not pitch to write the remaining subjects in the June 2019 examination. These candidates have the option of writing the remaining subjects in November 2019 or in any subsequent examination, and therefore they cannot be termed drop-outs.

In the table below is the number of candidates that were MEO candidates, but did not pitch to write the 2019 June examination is listed.

Province	Did not write the 2019 June Exam
Eastern Cape	3 026
Free State	6
Gauteng	198
KwaZulu-Natal	5 593
Limpopo	51
Mpumalanga	46
North West	62
Northern Cape	20
Western Cape	5
National	9 007

(b) (v) Distinctions attained by MEO candidates

Province	Distinctions attained (2018/19)
Eastern Cape	0
Free State	0
Gauteng	0
Kwazulu-Natal	2
Limpopo	0
Mpumalanga	0
North West	1
Northern Cape	0
Western Cape	0
National	3

(b)(vi)(aa) A total of 352 MEO candidate attained a pass in Mathematics

Province	Achieved Maths (2018/19)
Eastern Cape	17
Free State	12
Gauteng	45
KwaZulu-Natal	127
Limpopo	78
Mpumalanga	49
North West	21
Northern Cape	3
Western Cape	0
National	352

(b)(vi)(bb) A total of MEO 740 candidates achieved a pass in Physical Science

Province	Achieved Physical Science (2018/19)
Eastern Cape	37
Free State	22
Gauteng	75
KwaZulu-Natal	209
Limpopo	222
Mpumalanga	108
North West	61
Northern Cape	6
Western Cape	0
National	740

(b) (vii) Interventions done

The Department introduced the Second Chance Matric Programme (SCMP) to support learners who would like to improve their results in order to achieve the National Senior Certificate and/or Senior Certificate (amended). The programme also caters for learners taking the Multiple Examination Opportunity (MEO). Learners taking MEOs are able to access LTSM resources, broadcasting resources and examination resources.

The LTSM resources are *Mind the Gap Study Guides*, Siyavula Textbooks and FET Revision booklets. These resources are made available to learners online and offline. Learners could access them freely online from SCMP Website.

With regards to the broadcasting, the SCMP provides content through the television and radio platforms. The television programmes are broadcast through the Mindset TV on DSTV Channel 319 and Openview free-to-air Television through Channel 201. The SCMP programmes are also broadcast on Geleza Nathi on SABC 1. The radio broadcasts lessons are made available through the major regional SABC radio stations and some selected community radio stations. These programmes are made available in all 11 official languages.

The examinations resources are also made available to MEOs. The examination resources include past question papers and memorandums and Grade 12 Exemplars.

All the above-mentioned were copied (in CDs) and distributed to provinces and Districts, who in turn distribute them to schools. It should be noted that all these resources are freely provided to learners including the learners taking MEOs.