

South Africa - National Senior Certificate Examinations 2008-2025

Department of Basic Education

Report generated on: May 26, 2026

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Identification

SURVEY ID NUMBER

zaf-dbe-nsce-2008-2025-v1.3

TITLE

National Senior Certificate Examinations 2008-2025

ABBREVIATION OR ACRONYM

NSCE 2008-2025

COUNTRY

Name	Country code
South Africa	zaf

STUDY TYPE

Administrative Records, Education (ad/edu]

SERIES INFORMATION

National Senior Certification Examination 2008-2025

ABSTRACT

The National Senior Certificate or NSC is the main school-leaving certificate in South Africa. This certificate is commonly known as the matriculation (matric) certificate, and is obtained after grade 12. The NSC, previously known as the Further Education and Training Certificate or FETC, replaced the Senior Certificate with effect from 2008 and was phased in starting with grade 10 in 2006. These school-level National Senior Certificate (NSC) datasets were derived by the DBE Directorate: Research Coordination, Monitoring and Evaluation (RCME) from the November NSC "343" reports received from the Directorate for National Examinations. The data used for this release cover the years 2008 to 2025

KIND OF DATA

Administrative records

UNIT OF ANALYSIS

Institutions

Version

VERSION DESCRIPTION

v1.3 Edited, anonymised dataset for licensed distribution

VERSION DATE

2026-05-26

VERSION NOTES

Version 1 of this dataset was provided by the Department of Basic Education in December 2014.

Version 1.1 is this dataset cleaned and checked and converted to Stata. All of the datafiles are of version 1.1 here to reflect the processing done by DataFirst.

Version 1.2 introduces years 2014-2016 to the dataset. Data files detailing the overall pass rate (by exam centre and gender) are also included for the first time. These datafiles were also included for years 2010-2013 (they were omitted in previous versions). All individual datasets remained versioned as 1.1 (only substantively different insofar as they were processed by DataFirst).

Version 1.3 includes the years 2008, 2009 and 2017-2025.

Scope

NOTES

The dataset provides data on type of school and examination centre, subjects, and grades obtained, as well as the learners' gender.

TOPICS

Topic	Vocabulary
Secondary Education	World Bank
Girls' Education	World Bank

Coverage

GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE

The data has national coverage

GEOGRAPHIC UNIT

The lowest geographical unit is district

Producers and sponsors

PRIMARY INVESTIGATORS

Name	Affiliation
Department of Basic Education	Government of South Africa

OTHER IDENTIFICATIONS/ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Name	Affiliation
Department of Basic Education Directorate: Research Coordination, Monitoring and Evaluation (RCME)	Government of South Africa

Data Collection

DATES OF DATA COLLECTION

Start	End	Cycle
2008	2025	Annually

DATA COLLECTION MODE

Other [oth]

Data Appraisal

DATA APPRAISAL

Note that the data contains full-time candidates appearing in the November NSC examinations. Supplementary examinations in earlier years and June examinations in more recent years are excluded. Researchers should note that, during the Multiple Exam Opportunities (MEO) period, some candidates wrote subjects across more than one examination opportunity. This affects the interpretation of incomplete result statuses and means that the total numbers of candidates in this data might differ slightly from published "Total Wrote" figures in NSC reports.

In 2019 some changes were made to the education district classifications, meaning that the district variable in the datasets from 2008 to 2018 is somewhat different from the district variable in the datasets from 2019 to 2025. The data contains separate variables for this: a district for pre 2019 and a district for post 2019 variables. The old and new district classifications are not directly comparable. Use `district_pre2019` for 2008-2018 and `district_post2019` for 2019-2025.

Access policy

CONTACTS

Name	Affiliation	Email	URL
DataFirst	University of Cape Town	support@data1st.org	www.support.data1st.org

ACCESS CONDITIONS

Licensed use files, available for non-commercial use only

CITATION REQUIREMENTS

Department of Basic Education South Africa. National Senior Certification Examination 2008-2025 [dataset]. Version 1.3. Pretoria: DBE [producer], 2025. Cape Town: DataFirst [distributor], 2026. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.25828/pcn8-pc32>

ACCESS AUTHORITY

Name	Affiliation	Email	URL
DataFirst	University of Cape Town	support@data1st.org	www.support.data1st.org

Metadata production

PRODUCERS

Name	Affiliation	Role
DataFirst	University of Cape Town	Metadata producer

DATE OF METADATA PRODUCTION

2026-05-26

DDI DOCUMENT VERSION

Version 7

Data Description

Data file	Cases	Variables
nsce-centre overall-2008-2025-v1.3	240168	17
nsce-centre subject-2008-2025-v1.3	3039971	22

Data file: nsce-centre overall-2008-2025-v1.3

Cases: 240168

Variables: 17

Variables

ID	Name	Label	Question
V349	year	Matric Year	
V350	emis	EMIS Number of the exam centre	
V351	gender	Gender	
V352	n_candidates	Number of matric candidates	
V353	n_pass_bachelor	Number of bachelor passes	
V354	n_pass_diploma	Number of diploma passes	
V355	n_pass_hc	Number of higher certificate passes	
V356	n_pass_nsc	Number of national senior certificate passes	
V357	n_fail	Number of fails	
V358	n_pass_lsen	Number of learner of special educational needs passes	
V359	n_incomplete	Number of matric incompletes	
V360	n_any_pass	Number of any passes	
V361	province	Province of the exam centre	
V362	quintile	Quintile level of the exam centre	
V363	sector	Sector of the exam centre	
V364	district_pre2019	Old education district classifications before 2019	
V365	district_post2019	New education district classification since 2019	

Total: 17

Data file: nsce-centre subject-2008-2025-v1.3

Cases: 3039971

Variables: 22

Variables

ID	Name	Label	Question
V366	emis	EMIS Number of the exam centre	
V367	year	Matric Year	
V368	subjectcode	Subject Code	
V369	gender	Gender of the candidate	
V370	n_candidates_subject	Number of candidates with non-missing mark in subject	
V371	n_mark_0_9	Number of candidates achieving 0-9%	
V372	n_mark_10_19	Number of candidates achieving 10-19%	
V373	n_mark_20_29	Number of candidates achieving 20-29%	
V374	n_mark_30_39	Number of candidates achieving 30-39%	
V375	n_mark_40_49	Number of candidates achieving 40-49%	
V376	n_mark_50_59	Number of candidates achieving 50-59%	
V377	n_mark_60_69	Number of candidates achieving 60-69%	
V378	n_mark_70_79	Number of candidates achieving 70-79%	
V379	n_mark_80_89	Number of candidates achieving 80-89%	
V380	n_mark_90_100	Number of candidates achieving 90-100%	
V381	n_mark_missing	Number of candidates with missing final percentage	
V382	mean_finalperc	Mean final percentage in subject	
V383	province	Province of the exam centre	
V384	quintile	Quintile level of the exam centre	
V385	sector	Sector of the exam centre	
V386	district_pre2019	Old education district classifications before 2019	
V387	district_post2019	New education district classification since 2019	

Total: 22

YEAR: Matric Year**Data file: nsce-centre overall-2008-2025-v1.3****Overview**

Valid: 240168 Invalid: 0
 Type: Discrete Decimal: 0 Width: 4 Range: 2008 - 2025 Format: Numeric

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

Value	Category	Cases	
2008		12669	5.3%
2009		12968	5.4%
2010		12899	5.4%
2011		13011	5.4%
2012		12766	5.3%
2013		13214	5.5%
2014		13252	5.5%
2015		13405	5.6%
2016		13497	5.6%
2017		13455	5.6%
2018		13592	5.7%
2019		13583	5.7%
2020		13538	5.6%
2021		13576	5.7%
2022		13642	5.7%
2023		13639	5.7%
2024		13711	5.7%
2025		13751	5.7%

EMIS: EMIS Number of the exam centre**Data file: nsce-centre overall-2008-2025-v1.3****Overview**

Valid: 240168 Invalid: 0 Minimum: 0 Maximum: 9955021102 Mean: 571355648.036 Standard deviation: 322770691.967
 Type: Continuous Decimal: 0 Width: 10 Range: 0 - 9955021102 Format: Numeric

GENDER: Gender**Data file: nsce-centre overall-2008-2025-v1.3**

Overview

Valid: 239852 Invalid: 316
 Type: Discrete Decimal: 0 Width: 1 Range: 0 - 1 Format: Numeric

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

Value	Category	Cases	
0	0. Female	120104	50.1%
1	1. Male	119748	49.9%
Sysmiss		316	

N_CANDIDATES: Number of matric candidates

Data file: nsce-centre overall-2008-2025-v1.3

Overview

Valid: 240168 Invalid: 0 Minimum: 1 Maximum: 593 Mean: 46.856 Standard deviation: 37.666
 Type: Continuous Decimal: 0 Width: 3 Range: 1 - 593 Format: Numeric

N_PASS_BACHELOR: Number of bachelor passes

Data file: nsce-centre overall-2008-2025-v1.3

Overview

Valid: 240168 Invalid: 0 Minimum: 0 Maximum: 392 Mean: 14.469 Standard deviation: 20.451
 Type: Continuous Decimal: 0 Width: 3 Range: 0 - 392 Format: Numeric

N_PASS_DIPLOMA: Number of diploma passes

Data file: nsce-centre overall-2008-2025-v1.3

Overview

Valid: 240168 Invalid: 0 Minimum: 0 Maximum: 149 Mean: 12.322 Standard deviation: 11.461
 Type: Continuous Decimal: 0 Width: 3 Range: 0 - 149 Format: Numeric

N_PASS_HC: Number of higher certificate passes

Data file: nsce-centre overall-2008-2025-v1.3

Overview

Valid: 240168 Invalid: 0 Minimum: 0 Maximum: 114 Mean: 7.07 Standard deviation: 6.782
 Type: Continuous Decimal: 0 Width: 3 Range: 0 - 114 Format: Numeric

N_PASS_NSC: Number of national senior certificate passes**Data file: nsce-centre overall-2008-2025-v1.3****Overview**

Valid: 240168 Invalid: 0 Minimum: 0 Maximum: 29 Mean: 0.0163 Standard deviation: 0.202
 Type: Continuous Decimal: 0 Width: 2 Range: 0 - 29 Format: Numeric

N_FAIL: Number of fails**Data file: nsce-centre overall-2008-2025-v1.3****Overview**

Valid: 240168 Invalid: 0 Minimum: 0 Maximum: 339 Mean: 10.663 Standard deviation: 12.961
 Type: Continuous Decimal: 0 Width: 3 Range: 0 - 339 Format: Numeric

N_PASS_LSEN: Number of learner of special educational needs passes**Data file: nsce-centre overall-2008-2025-v1.3****Overview**

Valid: 240168 Invalid: 0 Minimum: 0 Maximum: 23 Mean: 0.00432 Standard deviation: 0.167
 Type: Continuous Decimal: 0 Width: 2 Range: 0 - 23 Format: Numeric

N_INCOMPLETE: Number of matric incompletes**Data file: nsce-centre overall-2008-2025-v1.3****Overview**

Valid: 240168 Invalid: 0 Minimum: 0 Maximum: 282 Mean: 2.311 Standard deviation: 6.044
 Type: Continuous Decimal: 0 Width: 3 Range: 0 - 282 Format: Numeric

N_ANY_PASS: Number of any passes**Data file: nsce-centre overall-2008-2025-v1.3****Overview**

Valid: 240168 Invalid: 0 Minimum: 0 Maximum: 573 Mean: 33.882 Standard deviation: 31.702
 Type: Continuous Decimal: 0 Width: 3 Range: 0 - 573 Format: Numeric

PROVINCE: Province of the exam centre**Data file: nsce-centre overall-2008-2025-v1.3****Overview**

Valid: 240168 Invalid: 0
 Type: Discrete Decimal: 0 Width: 1 Range: 1 - 9 Format: Numeric

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

Value	Category	Cases	
1	1. EC	33011	13.7%
2	2. FS	11797	4.9%
3	3. GP	29688	12.4%
4	4. KZ	61751	25.7%
5	5. LP	49300	20.5%
6	6. MP	19724	8.2%
7	7. NW	14566	6.1%
8	8. NC	4881	2%
9	9. WC	15450	6.4%

QUINTILE: Quintile level of the exam centre

Data file: nsce-centre overall-2008-2025-v1.3

Overview

Valid: 231584 Invalid: 8584 Minimum: 0 Maximum: 99 Mean: 6.924 Standard deviation: 20.296
Type: Continuous Decimal: 0 Width: 2 Range: 0 - 99 Format: Numeric

SECTOR: Sector of the exam centre

Data file: nsce-centre overall-2008-2025-v1.3

Overview

Valid: 239921 Invalid: 247
Type: Discrete Decimal: 0 Width: 1 Range: 1 - 2 Format: Numeric

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

Value	Category	Cases	
1	1. Independent	17647	7.4%
2	2. Public	222274	92.6%
Sysmiss		247	

DISTRICT_PRE2019: Old education district classifications before 2019

Data file: nsce-centre overall-2008-2025-v1.3

Overview

Valid: 130406 Invalid: 109762
 Type: Discrete Decimal: 0 Width: 2 Range: 1 - 81 Format: Numeric

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

Value	Category	Cases	
1	Butterworth	974	0.7%
2	Cofimvaba	584	0.4%
3	Cradock	322	0.2%
4	Dutywa	855	0.7%
5	East London	1686	1.3%
6	Fort Beaufort	913	0.7%
7	Graaff-Reinet	313	0.2%
8	Grahamstown	386	0.3%
9	King Williams Town	2123	1.6%
10	Lady Frere	448	0.3%
11	Libode	856	0.7%
12	Lusikisiki	628	0.5%
13	Maluti	540	0.4%
14	Mbizana	544	0.4%
15	Mt Fletcher	416	0.3%
16	Mt Frere	574	0.4%
17	Mthatha	1201	0.9%
18	Ngcobo	452	0.3%
19	Port Elizabeth	1537	1.2%
20	Queenstown	833	0.6%
21	Qumbu	562	0.4%
22	Sterkspruit	593	0.5%
23	Uitenhage	698	0.5%
24	Fezile Dabi	1179	0.9%
25	Lejweleputswa	1380	1.1%
26	Motheo	1567	1.2%
27	Thabo Mofutsanyana	1766	1.4%
28	Xhariep	492	0.4%
29	Ekurhuleni North	1377	1.1%
30	Ekurhuleni South	1127	0.9%
31	Gauteng East	1040	0.8%
32	Gauteng North	342	0.3%

33	Gauteng West	920	0.7%
34	Johannesburg Central	1061	0.8%
35	Johannesburg East	1195	0.9%
36	Johannesburg North	1153	0.9%
37	Johannesburg South	1313	1%
38	Johannesburg West	738	0.6%
39	Sedibeng East	527	0.4%
40	Sedibeng West	940	0.7%
41	Tshwane North	745	0.6%
42	Tshwane South	1723	1.3%
43	Tshwane West	943	0.7%
44	Amajuba	1331	1%
45	Ilembe	2309	1.8%
46	Pinetown	3111	2.4%
47	Sisonke/Harry Gwala	1640	1.3%
48	Ugu	2559	2%
49	Umgungundlovu	3050	2.3%
50	Umkhanyakude	2984	2.3%
51	Umlazi	3340	2.6%
52	Umzinyathi	2679	2.1%
53	Uthukela	2663	2%
54	Uthungulu	3902	3%
55	Zululand	4139	3.2%
56	Capricorn	7228	5.5%
57	Greater Sekhukhune	6648	5.1%
58	Mopani	5016	3.8%
59	Vhembe	6055	4.6%
60	Waterberg	3106	2.4%
61	Bohlabela	2624	2%
62	Ehlanzeni	2670	2%
63	Gert Sibande	2424	1.9%
64	Nkangala	2956	2.3%
65	Bojanala	2597	2%
66	Dr Kenneth Kaunda	1412	1.1%
67	Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati	1629	1.2%
68	Ngaka Modiri Molema	1867	1.4%
69	Frances Baard	782	0.6%
70	John Taolo Gaetsewe	485	0.4%
71	Namaqua	405	0.3%

72	Pixley Ka Seme	508	0.4%
73	Siyanda/ZF Mgcawu	378	0.3%
74	Cape Winelands	1168	0.9%
75	Eden And Central Karoo	928	0.7%
76	Metro Central	1634	1.3%
77	Metro East	1119	0.9%
78	Metro North	1426	1.1%
79	Metro South	1186	0.9%
80	Overberg	427	0.3%
81	West Coast	455	0.3%
Sysmiss		109762	

DISTRICT_POST2019: New education district classification since 2019

Data file: nsce-centre overall-2008-2025-v1.3

Overview

Valid: 95275 Invalid: 144893

Type: Discrete Decimal: 0 Width: 2 Range: 1 - 75 Format: Numeric

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

Value	Category	Cases	
1	Alfred Nzo East	582	0.6%
2	Alfred Nzo West	1138	1.2%
3	Amathole East	1222	1.3%
4	Amathole West	1275	1.3%
5	Bafallo City	1717	1.8%
6	Chris Hani East	786	0.8%
7	Chris Hani West	1158	1.2%
8	Joe Gqabi	691	0.7%
9	Nelson Mandela Metro	1340	1.4%
10	OR Tambo Coastal	1084	1.1%
11	OR Tambo Inland	1422	1.5%
12	Sara Baartman	704	0.7%
13	Fezile Dabi	855	0.9%
14	Lejweleputswa	1023	1.1%
15	Motheo	991	1%
16	Thabo Mofutsanyana	1342	1.4%

17	Xhariep	384	0.4%
18	Ekurhuleni North	1163	1.2%
19	Ekurhuleni South	1028	1.1%
20	Gauteng East	785	0.8%
21	Gauteng North	245	0.3%
22	Gauteng West	791	0.8%
23	Johannesburg Central	904	0.9%
24	Johannesburg East	1090	1.1%
25	Johannesburg North	947	1%
26	Johannesburg South	1093	1.1%
27	Johannesburg West	642	0.7%
28	Sedibeng East	430	0.5%
29	Sedibeng West	652	0.7%
30	Tshwane North	692	0.7%
31	Tshwane South	1265	1.3%
32	Tshwane West	796	0.8%
33	Amajuba	1016	1.1%
34	Sisonke/Harry Gwala	1254	1.3%
35	Ilembe	1665	1.7%
36	Uthungulu/King Cetshwayo	2858	3%
37	Pinetown	2260	2.4%
38	Ugu	1825	1.9%
39	Umgungundlovu	2108	2.2%
40	Umkhanyakude	2326	2.4%
41	Umlazi	2246	2.4%
42	Umzinyathi	2000	2.1%
43	Uthukela	1963	2.1%
44	Zululand	2898	3%
45	CAPRICORN NORTH	2051	2.2%
46	SEKHUKHUNE EAST	2109	2.2%
47	MOPANI EAST	1947	2%
48	VHEMBE EAST	2203	2.3%
49	VHEMBE WEST	1876	2%
50	Bohlabela	1961	2.1%
51	Ehlanzeni	1980	2.1%
52	Gert Sibande	1751	1.8%
53	Nkangala	2213	2.3%
54	Bojanala	2315	2.4%
55	Dr Kenneth Kaunda	904	0.9%

56	Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati	1162	1.2%
57	Ngaka Modiri Molema	1757	1.8%
58	Frances Baard	610	0.6%
59	John Taolo Gaetsewe	426	0.4%
60	Namaqua	301	0.3%
61	Pixley Ka Seme	354	0.4%
62	Siyanda/ZF Mgcawu	280	0.3%
63	Cape Winelands	881	0.9%
64	Eden And Central Karoo	690	0.7%
65	Metro Central	1126	1.2%
66	Metro East	1006	1.1%
67	Metro North	953	1%
68	Metro South	902	0.9%
69	Overberg	294	0.3%
70	West Coast	337	0.4%
71	CAPRICORN SOUTH	2313	2.4%
72	MOGALAKWENA	1355	1.4%
73	MOPANI WEST	1548	1.6%
74	SEKHUKHUNE SOUTH	2246	2.4%
75	WATERBERG 2	768	0.8%
Sysmiss		144893	

EMIS: EMIS Number of the exam centre**Data file: nsce-centre subject-2008-2025-v1.3****Overview**

Valid: 3039971 Invalid: 0 Minimum: 0 Maximum: 9955021102 Mean: 564604491.97 Standard deviation: 317009841.109
 Type: Continuous Decimal: 0 Width: 10 Range: 0 - 9955021102 Format: Numeric

YEAR: Matric Year**Data file: nsce-centre subject-2008-2025-v1.3****Overview**

Valid: 3039971 Invalid: 0
 Type: Discrete Decimal: 0 Width: 4 Range: 2008 - 2025 Format: Numeric

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

Value	Category	Cases	
2008		163247	5.4%
2009		167474	5.5%
2010		167127	5.5%
2011		167800	5.5%
2012		163742	5.4%
2013		170011	5.6%
2014		168355	5.5%
2015		169976	5.6%
2016		170046	5.6%
2017		168357	5.5%
2018		170343	5.6%
2019		169459	5.6%
2020		168931	5.6%
2021		169289	5.6%
2022		170277	5.6%
2023		170655	5.6%
2024		171811	5.7%
2025		173071	5.7%

SUBJECTCODE: Subject Code**Data file: nsce-centre subject-2008-2025-v1.3**

Overview

Valid: 3039907 Invalid: 64
 Type: Discrete Decimal: 0 Width: 3 Range: 1 - 178 Format: Numeric

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

Value	Category	Cases	
1	1. ABRSM Practical Music Grade 6	17	0%
2	2. ABRSM Practical Music Grade 7	60	0%
3	3. ABRSM Practical Music Grade 8	34	0%
4	4. Accounting	176549	5.8%
5	5. Afrikaans First Additional Language	44735	1.5%
6	6. Afrikaans Home Language	25021	0.8%
7	7. Afrikaans Second Additional Language	13113	0.4%
8	8. Agricultural Management Practise	3178	0.1%
9	9. Agricultural Sciences	93580	3.1%
10	10. Agricultural Technology	1786	0.1%
11	11. Arabic Second Additional Language	794	0%
12	12. ASSPD	7	0%
13	13. Business Studies	194676	6.4%
14	14. Chinese A-Level	172	0%
15	15. Civil Technology	8425	0.3%
16	16. Computer Applications Technology	52656	1.7%
17	17. Consumer Studies	45656	1.5%
18	18. Dance Studies	1501	0%
19	19. Design	4955	0.2%
20	20. Dramatic Arts	13812	0.5%
21	21. Economics	159380	5.2%
22	22. Electrical Technology	5597	0.2%
23	23. Engineering Graphics and Design	10616	0.3%
24	24. English First Additional Language	213713	7%
25	25. English Home Language	47948	1.6%
26	26. English Second Additional Language	35	0%
27	27. Equine Studies	52	0%
28	28. French A-Level	1	0%
29	29. French Second Additional Language	2192	0.1%
30	30. Geography	191425	6.3%
31	31. German Home Language	5	0%
32	32. German Second Additional Language	1450	0%

33	33. Gujarati First Additional Language	3	0%
34	34. Gujarati Second Additional Language	27	0%
35	35. Hebrew Second Additional Language	129	0%
36	36. Hindi First Additional Language	9	0%
37	37. Hindi Second Additional Language	88	0%
38	38. History	132113	4.3%
39	39. Hospitality Studies	11507	0.4%
40	40. Information Technology	10503	0.3%
41	41. IsiNdebele First Additional Language	29	0%
42	42. IsiNdebele Home Language	3087	0.1%
43	43. IsiNdebele Second Additional Language	26	0%
44	44. IsiXhosa First Additional Language	3086	0.1%
45	45. IsiXhosa Home Language	41248	1.4%
46	46. IsiXhosa Second Additional Language	282	0%
47	47. IsiZulu First Additional Language	10744	0.4%
48	48. IsiZulu Home Language	72995	2.4%
49	49. IsiZulu Second Additional Language	62	0%
50	50. Italian Second Additional Language	112	0%
51	51. Japanese A-Level	4	0%
52	52. Latin Second Additional Language	23	0%
53	53. Life Orientation	240168	7.9%
54	54. Life Sciences	227108	7.5%
55	55. Maritime Economics	549	0%
56	56. Mathematical Literacy	219977	7.2%
57	57. Mathematics	225601	7.4%
58	58. Mathematics: probability, data	7375	0.2%
59	59. Mechanical Technology	5090	0.2%
60	60. Modern Greek Second Additional Language	16	0%
61	61. Music	6127	0.2%
62	62. Nautical Science	100	0%
63	63. Physical Sciences	210656	6.9%
64	64. Portuguese First Additional Language	39	0%
65	65. Portuguese Home Language	11	0%
66	66. Portuguese Second Additional Language	595	0%
67	67. PRTGA	1	0%
68	68. Religion Studies	4456	0.1%
69	69. RSSNA	1	0%
70	70. Sepedi First Additional Language	1001	0%
71	71. Sepedi Home Language	46773	1.5%

72	72. Sepedi Second Additional Language	44	0%
73	73. Serbian A-Level	2	0%
74	74. Sesotho First Additional Language	946	0%
75	75. Sesotho Home Language	18542	0.6%
76	76. Sesotho Second Additional Language	250	0%
77	77. Setswana First Additional Language	766	0%
78	78. Setswana Home Language	23372	0.8%
79	79. Setswana Second Additional Language	42	0%
80	80. SiSwati First Additional Language	514	0%
81	81. SiSwati Home Language	5993	0.2%
82	82. SiSwati Second Additional Language	9	0%
83	83. Spanish A-Level	3	0%
84	84. Spanish Second Additional Language	93	0%
85	85. Sport and Exercise Science	138	0%
86	86.	0	0%
87	87. Tamil First Additional Language	1	0%
88	88. Tamil Second Additional Language	296	0%
89	89. TCL Practical Music Grade 6	53	0%
90	90. TCL Practical Music Grade 7	51	0%
91	91. TCL Practical Music Grade 8	36	0%
92	92. Telegu Home Language	1	0%
93	93. Telegu Second Additional Language	11	0%
94	94. TMLF	2	0%
95	95. TMLHL	2	0%
96	96. Tourism	104246	3.4%
97	97. TRNPD	1	0%
98	98. TRNPL	1	0%
99	99. Tshivenda First Additional Language	105	0%
100	100. Tshivenda Home Language	9482	0.3%
101	101.	0	0%
102	102. UNISA Practical Music Grade 6	77	0%
103	103. UNISA Practical Music Grade 7	155	0%
104	104. UNISA Practical Music Grade 8	27	0%
105	105. Urdu First Additional Language	69	0%
106	106. Urdu Home Language	2	0%
107	107. Urdu Second Additional Language	146	0%
108	108. Visual Arts	12931	0.4%
109	109. Xitsonga First Additional Language	94	0%
110	110. Xitsonga Home Language	14505	0.5%

111	111. Xitsonga Second Additional Language	1	0%
112	112. Civil Technology (Civil Services)	0	0%
113	113. Civil Technology (Construction)	0	0%
114	114. Civil Technology (Woodworking)	0	0%
115	115. Electrical Technology (Digital Sys	0	0%
116	116. Electrical Technology (Electronics	0	0%
117	117. Electrical Technology (Power Syste	0	0%
118	118. Hindi First Additional Language	0	0%
119	119. Hindi Second Additional Language	0	0%
120	120. Mandarin Second Additional Languag	0	0%
121	121. Mechanica Technology (Automotive)	0	0%
122	122. Mechanica Technology (Fitting and	0	0%
123	123. Mechanica Technology (Welding and	0	0%
124	124. Portuguese Home language	0	0%
125	125. South Africa sIHN hOME IANGUAGE	0	0%
126	126. Technical Mathematics	0	0%
127	127. Technical Science	0	0%
150	150. Engineering Graphic and Design	19824	0.7%
151		1	0%
153		2	0%
154	154. TCL Practical Music Grade 7	33	0%
155	155. ARABIC A-LEVEL	1	0%
156	156. Civil Technology (Civil Servic	802	0%
157	157. Civil Technology (Construction	3741	0.1%
158	158. Civil Technology (Specialisati	1	0%
159	159. Civil Technology (Woodworking)	2375	0.1%
160	160. Electrical Technology (Digital	408	0%
161	161. Electrical Technology (Electro	1197	0%
162	162. Electrical Technology (Power S	4698	0.2%
163	163. Electrical Technology (Special	1	0%
164	164. Hindi First Additional Languag	15	0%
165	165. Hindi Second Additional Langua	149	0%
166	166. Latin Second Additional Langua	5	0%
167	167. Mandarin Second Additional Lan	93	0%
168	168. Mechanical Technology (Automot	2746	0.1%
169	169. Mechanical Technology (Fitting	1957	0.1%
170	170. Mechanical Technology (Welding	2256	0.1%
171	171. Portuguese A-Level	3	0%
172	172. Portuguese Home Language	4	0%

173	173. South African Sign Language Ho	267	0%
174	174. Technical Mathematics	5589	0.2%
175	175. Technical Sciences	5746	0.2%
176	176. Gujarati First Additional Lang	3	0%
177	177. TCL Associate Performers Licen	1	0%
178	178. Marine Sciences	118	0%
Sysmiss		64	

GENDER: Gender of the candidate

Data file: nsce-centre subject-2008-2025-v1.3

Overview

Valid: 3036758 Invalid: 3213
 Type: Discrete Decimal: 0 Width: 1 Range: 0 - 1 Format: Numeric

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

Value	Category	Cases	
0	0. Female	1521955	50.1%
1	1. Male	1514803	49.9%
Sysmiss		3213	

N_CANDIDATES_SUBJECT: Number of candidates with non-missing mark in subject

Data file: nsce-centre subject-2008-2025-v1.3

Overview

Valid: 3039971 Invalid: 0 Minimum: 0 Maximum: 588 Mean: 25.828 Standard deviation: 26.654
 Type: Continuous Decimal: 0 Width: 3 Range: 0 - 588 Format: Numeric

N_MARK_0_9: Number of candidates achieving 0-9%

Data file: nsce-centre subject-2008-2025-v1.3

Overview

Valid: 3039971 Invalid: 0 Minimum: 0 Maximum: 219 Mean: 0.364 Standard deviation: 2.031
 Type: Continuous Decimal: 0 Width: 3 Range: 0 - 219 Format: Numeric

N_MARK_10_19: Number of candidates achieving 10-19%

Data file: nsce-centre subject-2008-2025-v1.3

Overview

Valid: 3039971 Invalid: 0 Minimum: 0 Maximum: 125 Mean: 1.046 Standard deviation: 2.949
 Type: Continuous Decimal: 0 Width: 3 Range: 0 - 125 Format: Numeric

N_MARK_20_29: Number of candidates achieving 20-29%

Data file: nsce-centre subject-2008-2025-v1.3

Overview

Valid: 3039971 Invalid: 0 Minimum: 0 Maximum: 157 Mean: 2.438 Standard deviation: 4.32
 Type: Continuous Decimal: 0 Width: 3 Range: 0 - 157 Format: Numeric

N_MARK_30_39: Number of candidates achieving 30-39%

Data file: nsce-centre subject-2008-2025-v1.3

Overview

Valid: 3039971 Invalid: 0 Minimum: 0 Maximum: 185 Mean: 3.905 Standard deviation: 5.519
 Type: Continuous Decimal: 0 Width: 3 Range: 0 - 185 Format: Numeric

N_MARK_40_49: Number of candidates achieving 40-49%

Data file: nsce-centre subject-2008-2025-v1.3

Overview

Valid: 3039971 Invalid: 0 Minimum: 0 Maximum: 180 Mean: 4.82 Standard deviation: 6.748
 Type: Continuous Decimal: 0 Width: 3 Range: 0 - 180 Format: Numeric

N_MARK_50_59: Number of candidates achieving 50-59%

Data file: nsce-centre subject-2008-2025-v1.3

Overview

Valid: 3039971 Invalid: 0 Minimum: 0 Maximum: 196 Mean: 5.124 Standard deviation: 7.978
 Type: Continuous Decimal: 0 Width: 3 Range: 0 - 196 Format: Numeric

N_MARK_60_69: Number of candidates achieving 60-69%

Data file: nsce-centre subject-2008-2025-v1.3

Overview

Valid: 3039971 Invalid: 0 Minimum: 0 Maximum: 301 Mean: 4.455 Standard deviation: 8.44
 Type: Continuous Decimal: 0 Width: 3 Range: 0 - 301 Format: Numeric

N_MARK_70_79: Number of candidates achieving 70-79%**Data file: nsce-centre subject-2008-2025-v1.3****Overview**

Valid: 3039971 Invalid: 0 Minimum: 0 Maximum: 302 Mean: 2.581 Standard deviation: 6.651
 Type: Continuous Decimal: 0 Width: 3 Range: 0 - 302 Format: Numeric

N_MARK_80_89: Number of candidates achieving 80-89%**Data file: nsce-centre subject-2008-2025-v1.3****Overview**

Valid: 3039971 Invalid: 0 Minimum: 0 Maximum: 277 Mean: 0.947 Standard deviation: 3.833
 Type: Continuous Decimal: 0 Width: 3 Range: 0 - 277 Format: Numeric

N_MARK_90_100: Number of candidates achieving 90-100%**Data file: nsce-centre subject-2008-2025-v1.3****Overview**

Valid: 3039971 Invalid: 0 Minimum: 0 Maximum: 130 Mean: 0.148 Standard deviation: 1.061
 Type: Continuous Decimal: 0 Width: 3 Range: 0 - 130 Format: Numeric

N_MARK_MISSING: Number of candidates with missing final percentage**Data file: nsce-centre subject-2008-2025-v1.3****Overview**

Valid: 3039971 Invalid: 0 Minimum: 0 Maximum: 118 Mean: 0.462 Standard deviation: 1.859
 Type: Continuous Decimal: 0 Width: 3 Range: 0 - 118 Format: Numeric

MEAN_FINALPERC: Mean final percentage in subject**Data file: nsce-centre subject-2008-2025-v1.3****Overview**

Valid: 3036364 Invalid: 3607 Minimum: 0 Maximum: 100 Mean: 46.434 Standard deviation: 14.41
 Type: Continuous Decimal: 0 Width: 3 Range: 0 - 100 Format: Numeric

PROVINCE: Province of the exam centre**Data file: nsce-centre subject-2008-2025-v1.3****Overview**

Valid: 3039971 Invalid: 0
 Type: Discrete Decimal: 0 Width: 1 Range: 1 - 9 Format: Numeric

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

Value	Category	Cases	
1	1. EC	407222	13.4%
2	2. FS	159643	5.3%
3	3. GP	446980	14.7%
4	4. KZ	756162	24.9%
5	5. LP	556072	18.3%
6	6. MP	257344	8.5%
7	7. NW	175941	5.8%
8	8. NC	61215	2%
9	9. WC	219392	7.2%

QUINTILE: Quintile level of the exam centre

Data file: nsce-centre subject-2008-2025-v1.3

Overview

Valid: 2927973 Invalid: 111998 Minimum: 0 Maximum: 99 Mean: 7.186 Standard deviation: 20.524
Type: Continuous Decimal: 0 Width: 2 Range: 0 - 99 Format: Numeric

SECTOR: Sector of the exam centre

Data file: nsce-centre subject-2008-2025-v1.3

Overview

Valid: 3037171 Invalid: 2800
Type: Discrete Decimal: 0 Width: 1 Range: 1 - 2 Format: Numeric

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

Value	Category	Cases	
1	1. Independent	235699	7.8%
2	2. Public	2801472	92.2%
Sysmiss		2800	

DISTRICT_PRE2019: Old education district classifications before 2019

Data file: nsce-centre subject-2008-2025-v1.3

Overview

Valid: 1668018 Invalid: 1371953
 Type: Discrete Decimal: 0 Width: 2 Range: 1 - 81 Format: Numeric

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

Value	Category	Cases	
1	Butterworth	11963	0.7%
2	Cofimvaba	6868	0.4%
3	Cradock	3986	0.2%
4	Dutywa	10781	0.6%
5	East London	21682	1.3%
6	Fort Beaufort	9965	0.6%
7	Graaff-Reinet	3706	0.2%
8	Grahamstown	4931	0.3%
9	King Williams Town	22763	1.4%
10	Lady Frere	5397	0.3%
11	Libode	10545	0.6%
12	Lusikisiki	8079	0.5%
13	Maluti	7240	0.4%
14	Mbizana	6809	0.4%
15	Mt Fletcher	5668	0.3%
16	Mt Frere	7409	0.4%
17	Mthatha	15408	0.9%
18	Ngcobo	5452	0.3%
19	Port Elizabeth	21380	1.3%
20	Queenstown	10517	0.6%
21	Qumbu	6672	0.4%
22	Sterkspruit	7876	0.5%
23	Uitenhage	9523	0.6%
24	Fezile Dabi	16802	1%
25	Lejweleputswa	18966	1.1%
26	Motheo	22211	1.3%
27	Thabo Mofutsanyana	23431	1.4%
28	Xhariep	5777	0.3%
29	Ekurhuleni North	20449	1.2%
30	Ekurhuleni South	18069	1.1%
31	Gauteng East	15415	0.9%
32	Gauteng North	5017	0.3%

33	Gauteng West	14402	0.9%
34	Johannesburg Central	15258	0.9%
35	Johannesburg East	18280	1.1%
36	Johannesburg North	16984	1%
37	Johannesburg South	19457	1.2%
38	Johannesburg West	11794	0.7%
39	Sedibeng East	7579	0.5%
40	Sedibeng West	13576	0.8%
41	Tshwane North	11613	0.7%
42	Tshwane South	26623	1.6%
43	Tshwane West	13673	0.8%
44	Amajuba	16978	1%
45	Ilembe	27453	1.6%
46	Pinetown	43712	2.6%
47	Sisonke/Harry Gwala	19289	1.2%
48	Ugu	31542	1.9%
49	Umgungundlovu	36743	2.2%
50	Umkhanyakude	35862	2.1%
51	Umlazi	49337	3%
52	Umzinyathi	28341	1.7%
53	Uthukela	30704	1.8%
54	Uthungulu	47456	2.8%
55	Zululand	48206	2.9%
56	Capricorn	80659	4.8%
57	Greater Sekhukhune	74355	4.5%
58	Mopani	60934	3.7%
59	Vhembe	73903	4.4%
60	Waterberg	35537	2.1%
61	Bohlabela	34612	2.1%
62	Ehlanzeni	36642	2.2%
63	Gert Sibande	32253	1.9%
64	Nkangala	39123	2.3%
65	Bojanala	32614	2%
66	Dr Kenneth Kaunda	19578	1.2%
67	Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati	18615	1.1%
68	Ngaka Modiri Molema	21399	1.3%
69	Frances Baard	10597	0.6%
70	John Taolo Gaetsewe	5592	0.3%
71	Namaqua	4510	0.3%

72	Pixley Ka Seme	6059	0.4%
73	Siyanda/ZF Mgcawu	5174	0.3%
74	Cape Winelands	17033	1%
75	Eden And Central Karoo	12918	0.8%
76	Metro Central	22896	1.4%
77	Metro East	16795	1%
78	Metro North	21192	1.3%
79	Metro South	17008	1%
80	Overberg	5817	0.3%
81	West Coast	6584	0.4%
Sysmiss		1371953	

DISTRICT_POST2019: New education district classification since 2019

Data file: nsce-centre subject-2008-2025-v1.3

Overview

Valid: 1191133 Invalid: 1848838
 Type: Discrete Decimal: 0 Width: 2 Range: 1 - 75 Format: Numeric

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

Value	Category	Cases	
1	Alfred Nzo East	7367	0.6%
2	Alfred Nzo West	14369	1.2%
3	Amathole East	14609	1.2%
4	Amathole West	12393	1%
5	Buffalo City	21080	1.8%
6	Chris Hani East	9149	0.8%
7	Chris Hani West	13367	1.1%
8	Joe Gqabi	9302	0.8%
9	Nelson Mandela Metro	18388	1.5%
10	OR Tambo Coastal	13915	1.2%
11	OR Tambo Inland	16969	1.4%
12	Sara Baartman	8849	0.7%
13	Fezile Dabi	11989	1%
14	Lejweleputswa	13623	1.1%
15	Motheo	14165	1.2%
16	Thabo Mofutsanyana	17037	1.4%

17	Xhariep	4461	0.4%
18	Ekurhuleni North	17250	1.4%
19	Ekurhuleni South	17325	1.5%
20	Gauteng East	11948	1%
21	Gauteng North	3547	0.3%
22	Gauteng West	12345	1%
23	Johannesburg Central	13043	1.1%
24	Johannesburg East	15963	1.3%
25	Johannesburg North	14079	1.2%
26	Johannesburg South	16259	1.4%
27	Johannesburg West	9998	0.8%
28	Sedibeng East	6202	0.5%
29	Sedibeng West	9784	0.8%
30	Tshwane North	10306	0.9%
31	Tshwane South	19403	1.6%
32	Tshwane West	11727	1%
33	Amajuba	12858	1.1%
34	Sisonke/Harry Gwala	14388	1.2%
35	Ilembe	19540	1.6%
36	Uthungulu/King Cetshwayo	33984	2.9%
37	Pinetown	31426	2.6%
38	Ugu	20936	1.8%
39	Umgungundlovu	25078	2.1%
40	Umkhanyakude	27336	2.3%
41	Umlazi	34321	2.9%
42	Umzinyathi	21334	1.8%
43	Uthukela	22027	1.8%
44	Zululand	33910	2.8%
45	CAPRICORN NORTH	20581	1.7%
46	SEKHUKHUNE EAST	22526	1.9%
47	MOPANI EAST	21586	1.8%
48	VHEMBE EAST	24228	2%
49	VHEMBE WEST	20817	1.7%
50	Bohlabela	24144	2%
51	Ehlanzeni	25721	2.2%
52	Gert Sibande	22281	1.9%
53	Nkangala	27916	2.3%
54	Bojanala	27925	2.3%
55	Dr Kenneth Kaunda	12624	1.1%

56	Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompoti	12822	1.1%
57	Ngaka Modiri Molema	19531	1.6%
58	Frances Baard	8134	0.7%
59	John Taolo Gaetsewe	5529	0.5%
60	Namaqua	3198	0.3%
61	Pixley Ka Seme	4247	0.4%
62	Siyanda/ZF Mgcawu	3974	0.3%
63	Cape Winelands	12508	1.1%
64	Eden And Central Karoo	9236	0.8%
65	Metro Central	15008	1.3%
66	Metro East	14553	1.2%
67	Metro North	13735	1.2%
68	Metro South	12481	1%
69	Overberg	4038	0.3%
70	West Coast	4784	0.4%
71	CAPRICORN SOUTH	25143	2.1%
72	MOGALAKWENA	13753	1.2%
73	MOPANI WEST	17770	1.5%
74	SEKHUKHUNE SOUTH	24037	2%
75	WATERBERG 2	8954	0.8%
Sysmiss		1848838	

Download related resources

Other materials

NSC School-level Datasets: Short User Guide

Title	NSC School-level Datasets: Short User Guide
Author(s)	Dr Stephen Taylor
Date	2026 May
Country	South Africa
Language	English
Description	This is a researcher user guide for the dataset.
Filename	nsce-2026-user-guide.pdf
