sa Homeschooling and beyond

JUNE 2026



Welcome to the Winter Education Issue!

How to Transition From Online School to Tertiary

Online School: We Compare 10 South African Options

The IEB Grading System: We Break it Down for You

Why the June Matric Exams Matter

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How to Transition from Online Education to Tertiary

What to prioritise when considering further study for your online schooled teen from type of qualification and institution to career paths.

How 10 of South Africa's Online Schools Compare

We take a detailed look at 10 Online Schools in South Africa so you can find one that suits your child and your pocket.





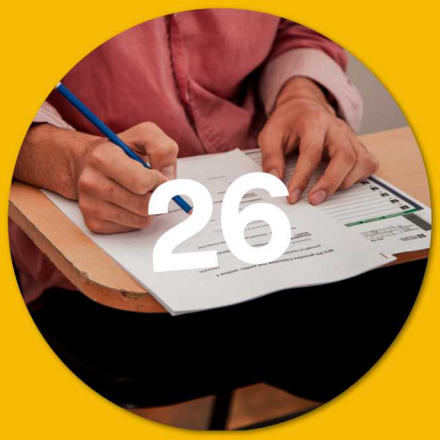
The IEB Grading System Explained

Struggling to understand how the IEB grading system works? We break it down for you.

How to Approach Education as a Long-term Investment

Darren Purdon, Head of Advtech Schools Academics, explains how the intentional construction of your child's educational journey is a 12-15 year investment in their future.





Why June Matric Exams Matter

Dr Alucia Mabunda, Campus Head at IIE Rosebank College, reminds matriculants that performing well in the June exams not only supports their overall year mark and strengthens their university options, but also puts them on the front foot in preparing for the final exams.



Welcome to our Winter Education Issue where we look at the many things that we as homeschooling parents and children face in our education journey.

My elder daughter is at Rhodes University this year. And while she finished high school in a mainstream school, the transition to tertiary education has been a shock to her system. Especially being 1,000 km away from home.

This begs the question, how ready are our homeschooled and online kids for the transition? We take a deeper look into what to do, what is available and what career paths there are for your online schooled teen.

For those of you considering going the other way, we put together a comprehensive guide to 10 of South Africa's online schools and which one suits your specific needs and budget.

Many of our children have taken the IEB route. But how many of us understand how they grade our kids? Again, we take a detailed look at the IEB grading system to help you help your child meet their requirements.

It also goes without saying that as involved parents, we take our kids' education very seriously. Yet how many of us truly understand what it means to see the 12 to 15 years they spend learning as a long-term investment? Darren Purdon of AdvTech gives us an interesting view on how to approach it as such.

Last, but definitely not least, Dr. Alucia Mabunda of IIE Rosebank College, explains why matric June exams are an important checkpoint in this critical stage of your child's education.

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Recognised as a homeschooling stakeholder by the Department of Basic Education and proud beneficiary of the Media Development and Diversity Agency

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SA Homeschooling magazine is independently published by The Digital Afrikan (Pty) Ltd

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INSCAPE



Entrepreneurship is No Longer Optional... It's the Future

Inscape has announced the launch of its new higher certificate in entrepreneurship, an NQF Level 5 qualification (120 credits) designed to give aspiring entrepreneurs and intrapreneurs the mindset, tools, and practical foundation to start building real ventures.

It's aimed at people with ideas who don't yet know how to move forward. The first intake opens in July 2026, with both contact (1 year) and distance learning (1–2 years) options.

Built for people who want to move

"South Africa does not have a shortage of ambition or ideas. What it has is a gap in the mindset and foundational knowledge needed to actually do something with them," says Shimone Dornbrack, programme manager: Business and Innovation.

The programme emerged from conversations with industry. Companies are looking for people who can think independently, solve problems, and bring new ideas into the workplace. At the same time, more people are realising that waiting for a job isn't always the answer.

You won't just sit in class

The focus is practical. From early on, students work on real ideas and build things they can actually use. By the end of the programme, students graduate with a business plan they've developed themselves, along with experience pitching it. The programme also includes 240 hours of industry engagement.

"Students are working on real challenges from the start," Dornbrack says. "They're making decisions, figuring things out, and building confidence as they go."

The course covers key areas such as spotting opportunities, solving real problems, building and testing a business idea, understanding how a business runs, and thinking creatively and adapting when things change.

Why a higher certificate?

The programme was designed to be accessible and quick to apply in real life. "You don't need years of prior study, and you don't need to wait years to use what you've learned," Dornbrack explains. "You can complete it in a year and start."

Who is this for?

This programme is designed for people at different starting points, whether they want to bring better ideas into their current company, have a business idea that needs direction, or have been thinking about starting something but keep putting it off. It also speaks to those who don't want to follow the traditional university route but still want something practical.

"Honestly, anyone with an idea and a need for structure," says Dornbrack.

Why now?

More people are starting to realise they may need to create their own opportunities. "Formal employment is not keeping up," Dornbrack says. "For a lot of people, building something of their own is the most realistic path." While there is more support available now, without the basics, it's hard to make use of it. This programme focuses on getting those basics right.

Graduates are equipped to start their own businesses, work in small businesses, startups, or creative industries, take on roles where problem-solving and initiative matter, or continue with further study. "We want graduates who don't just wait for opportunities," Dornbrack says. "They create them."

Unsure where to start?

"The skills can be learned. The tools are there," Dornbrack says. "At some point, you have to back yourself and try. This programme gives you the foundation to do that with confidence."

Applications for the July 2026 intake are now open.



CAP KIDS HOMESCHOOLING PROGRAM

Watch your children grow with the CAP Kids homeschool curriculum.This engaging and fully structured programme is designed for children from age 1 through Grade 3. Each week brings sensory-rich lessons, hands-on activities, and meaningful learning moments that build confidence and curiosity. CAP Kids gives you everything that you need to teach at home with ease, by offering a complete, ready-to-use curriculum that supports your child's development every step of the way. Download your FREE curriculum sample on www.capkids.co.za.

Award winning

BELA Act Compliant

CAPS curriculum

JOIN NOW

For additional information, please visit:

www.capkids.co.za



Here at CAP Kids, homeschooling isn't just about books and lessons, it's also about creating a lifestyle where kids can learn, grow, and explore at their own pace. That's exactly what CAP Kids is all about.

A Little Background

CAP Kids started with a simple idea: to give families affordable, high-quality resources that make homeschooling easier and more enjoyable. Over time, it's become a trusted name in South Africa, with parents relying on the curriculum to guide their children from the early years right through primary school.

Why Parents Choose CAP Kids

With monthly plans starting from only R50, it's affordable, which makes quality education accessible to more families.

Parents can create a safe, nurturing environment at home.

Lessons encourage creativity, problem-solving, and hands-on exploration.

CAP Kids follows the outcomes of the CAPS curriculum and is available in English and Afrikaans.

CAP Kids grows with children, nurturing them all the way from the age of 1, through preschool and foundation phase.

And importantly, CAP Kids is BELA Bill compliant, so families know they're meeting South Africa's education requirements.

What Makes CAP Kids Different

The curriculum is complete and covers all the CAPS essentials, Math, Literacy and Life Skills while also making lessons creative, colourful, hands-on, sensory rich and fun.

The lessons are bite sized and age-appropriate, so children aren't rushed or held back. They learn at a pace that suits them.

It's values-driven, focusing not just on academics but also on building confidence, leadership, and character. Our preschool curriculum also fosters emotional development.

Flexibility is built into the curriculum. Families can adapt the program to their own schedules, which makes homeschooling far less stressful.

It doesn't stop there, the CAP Kids curriculum is so easy to adapt to your needs that it has even been picked up and implemented in a variety of schools across South Africa.

"CAP Kids started with a simple idea: to give families affordable, high quality resources that make homeschooling easier and more enjoyable. Over time, it's become a trusted name in South Africa, with parents relying on on the curriculum to guide their children from the early years right through primary school."

Recognition and Awards

CAP Kids has been celebrated for the impact it's had on homeschooling families. Some of the highlights include:

Best Educational Service Award (2022 and 2025) Best of Ballito Readers' Choice Awards

Best Online School Award (2024) Best of Ballito Readers' Choice Awards

What our homeschooling families have to say...

"The Cap Kids curriculum has helped my daughter so much, she has shown so much improvement in the last few months. Such a fun way to learn."
– **Tiane**

"My little girl has loved Cap Kids activities. It also made it easy for me as a mom to know what level they should be on and what they should be capable of. Definitely recommend"
– **Nicky**

"This curriculum has been a life saver for me and my 2 year old twins. I have always wanted to homeschool them and never knew where to even begin. Then I found CAP Kids and couldn't be happier! The curriculum is set out in an easy to follow way, making sure you cover everything you need to, while being fun with new and different activities each week."
– **Emma**

"I've been using the CAPS curriculum for 1–2 year olds and I'm really impressed. The program is well organised and easy to follow, with activities that cover a wide range of developmental areas. I especially love how creative the activities are and how they encourage engagement and response from the children.

The support has also been excellent — Miranda's response time is very fast, and she's always helpful, friendly, and willing to assist whenever I have questions. Overall, it's a well-thought-out curriculum and supports holistic early childhood development. Highly recommended."
– **Chantel**



Get your FREE sample now!

For a limited time only, you are able to download your FREE sample of the CAP Kids curriculum on our website. Simply follow the link below.

www.capkids.co.za

How to Transition From Online School to Further Study for In-Demand Careers

If your teens are starting to think about what they'd like to do when they finish online schooling, it's time to talk about moving from a digital environment to higher learning environments to develop in-demand skills for modern careers.



Text Earl Joseph

Parents often wonder how an online education translates to traditional tertiary education entrance. The good news is that reputable South African online and homeschool providers align their curricula with the CAPS (Curriculum and Assessment Policy Statement) used nationally. This means students write the same final exams as every other learner in the country and receive a National Senior Certificate.

Beyond the formal certificate, online schooling develops unique skills that tertiary institutions and modern companies value. Students learn self-discipline and time management while the flexibility of online curricula allows children to take a wider range of subjects, like niche technology or specialised arts courses that align more closely with future career goals.

"Disrupted businesses have complex problems to solve, which require hybrid skills with an emphasis on soft skills: communication, leadership, ownership and teamwork."

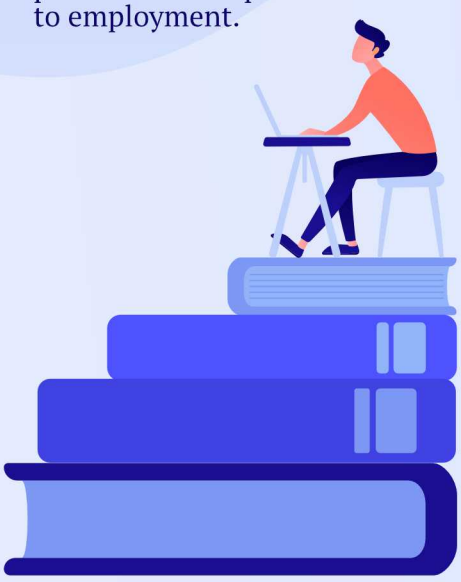
Success in the job market demands more than a certificate, particularly as many graduates struggle to find jobs. As futurist Dion Chang notes, modern, disrupted businesses require "hybrid skills with an emphasis on soft skills: communication, leadership, ownership and teamwork". The independent nature of online learning naturally creates highly valued traits like self-motivation, problem-solving and critical thinking by employers and further education alike.

A common South African default is that the best path to economic success and actualisation is a University degree. This, of course, has been debunked consistently both locally and internationally. There are myriad pathways to success and not all of them require a university education. Here are a few alternatives:

Technical and Vocational Education

Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) colleges are government-subsidised institutions that offer practical skills and knowledge for specific trades. These colleges provide qualifications in high-demand fields like engineering, hospitality, tourism, and information technology.

For teens who prefer practical, job-ready skills over purely academic theory, TVET colleges provide a direct path to employment.





The Department of Higher Education and Training website provides a comprehensive list of these public colleges.

Private and International Institutions

Private institutions often provide smaller class sizes, specialised degrees and greater flexibility. Local private colleges such as **Stadio** and **Boston City Campus & Business College** accept alternative qualifications like the American General Education Development (GED) credential, which the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA) recognises as comparable to a National Senior Certificate (NSC).

Additionally, the GED is accepted by nearly all universities in the United States and many others across more than 90 countries. This makes online schooling and international matriculation curricula a truly global pathway for study and work. For those with alternative matriculation who wish to pursue a degree at a public university, an initial one-year Higher Certificate at a private institution is often a successful stepping stone.

Text Earl Joseph

Hybrid and Online Further Education

The convenience of online schooling can seamlessly continue into tertiary study through distance and hybrid models. Several South African providers blend physical resources with digital flexibility.

Nova Pioneer's NP Flex offers a hybrid programme for Cambridge students that provides access to physical campus resources and structured support like tutoring and boot camps, alongside independent study.

Institutions like the **Inscape Education Group** and platforms offer short courses like those from local providers and global platforms like **Coursera**. The accumulation of these qualifications map an alternative path to high demand fields like digital marketing and web development.

The shift to the digital economy, driven by artificial intelligence and machine learning, is changing what employers value most. The good news is that students who have completed their schooling online are uniquely positioned to excel in this landscape. The very structure of online learning requires competencies employers actively seek.

Online learners enter the world with built-in digital literacy. They instinctively know how to navigate online platforms, manage digital resources and communicate effectively in a remote setting. A clear advantage in modern hybrid workplaces. Apart from technical familiarity, the nature of self-directed study also develops often under-stated "soft skills."

Futurist Dion Chang emphasises that modern businesses need people with hybrid skills which focus on communication, leadership, ownership and teamwork. These naturally grow when a student takes age-appropriate responsibility for their educational journey.

A core advantage lies in moving past rote learning. Successful online education models often focus on higher-order thinking and push students to analyse and evaluate information as well as to construct reasoned conclusions rather than simply memorising facts.

This problem-solving ability allows graduates to tackle unfamiliar challenges in the workplace effectively. Self-management through organising study time, meeting deadlines independently and taking ownership of their work is a foundational expectation at university as well as the working world. Online students develop this independence earlier and bridge the "personal responsibility gap" that often trips up new graduates.

The flexibility of online schooling gives them another edge: time. Students build real-world experience like taking certified courses on platforms like Coursera in high-demand fields like digital marketing and data science. They often start small online businesses, while still completing their matric.

The Careers Calling Your Child

Whether your child chooses a degree, diploma or vocational qualification or moves straight into a specialised field, certain professions in South Africa are consistently in high demand.

- → **Technology and STEM**: The tech sector faces a critical lack of science, technology, engineering, and maths (STEM) talent. Top careers in this space include cloud computing, artificial intelligence and machine learning, data science, robotics, and process automation.
- → **Engineering and Finance**: Students intrigued by engineering can look towards management roles in operations, manufacturing, maintenance, and projects. For those with a mind for numbers, qualified commercial tax accountants and finance managers remain highly sought-after.
- → **Essential Services**: The demand for doctors and qualified nurses in all fields of medicine is consistently high. Agriculture also continues to need farm managers, engineers, scientists, and consultants.
- → **Specialised Roles**: If your teen's interests are unique, they might find success in fields like fire-fighting, marine biology, biotechnology, multimedia design, tree-felling, and childcare (especially with the relevant qualifications).

The Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) regularly publishes the National List of Occupations in High Demand (OIHD). Industry findings support the article's specific career breakdowns.



How Lefika Community Art Counselling Centre is Training our Healers

Child wellbeing is central to every parent, educator and caregiver. Lefika Community Art Counselling Centre takes it to a new level.

The homeschooling journey is often a holistic one, where the lines between educator and caregiver blur. For South African families, the Lefika Community Art Counselling Centre, through its specialised training, equips parents and professionals with creative tools to support child development and emotional resilience.

Founded by pioneer Dr Hayley Berman, Lefika's training is designed for those on the front lines of child wellbeing: psychologists, social workers, teachers, and crucially, homeschooling parents. The programme recognises that art is a universal language and particularly effective in South Africa's diverse contexts where traditional counselling may be inaccessible or intimidating.

For the homeschooling community, the training provides a practical toolkit to facilitate art-based interventions. These skills help children process trauma, grief and anxiety while promoting emotional expression. As many parents transition from mainstream schooling due to concerns over safety or quality, they seek ways to provide values-based, personalised education.

> *"This is not just training; it's a journey of self-discovery."*

Lefika empowers them to integrate therapeutic art into their daily routines, fostering a supportive environment for students with diverse needs, including those with ADHD or autism. "This is not just training; it's a journey of self-discovery," says Berman.

The curriculum is structured into eight modules and complemented by 60 supervised placement hours. It is 100% online and therefore accessible to families across South African metros and rural areas alike. Participants join a community of practice through weekly experiential Zoom groups and are never alone in their journey.

Beyond professional development, the course encourages deep personal reflection. Through their own art-making, parents and educators build the empathy and resilience necessary to guide others. This dual focus ensures that while they are training to be community healers, they are also strengthening the emotional fabric of their own homes.

As the demand for community-based mental health practitioners grows, Lefika's graduates qualify as Community Art Counsellors. For the homeschooling community, this is an investment in a future where creativity and healing go hand-in-hand.



lefikalaphodiso
COMMUNITY ART COUNSELLING AND TRAINING

USING ARTS FOR HEALING



Lefika La Phodiso offers accessible, arts-based mental health services in under resourced communities.

TRAINING

- Access to mental health training and services
- Online Community Art Counselling Training

INTERNSHIPS

- WITS, UJ, SACAP, UKZN, UP
- Arts Therapies, Psychology,
- Supervision, support and training

AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMMES

- Open studio
- Drama club
- Drama, art and music therapy
- Uhambo Literacy Programme
- Volunteens
- Psycho-education groups
- Homework support
- Holiday Programme
- Learn@Lefika homework support

VOLUNTEERS

- Free training every term
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- Partnerships with skills evelopment organisations and schools

LOW-COST CLINIC

- Individual Arts therapies
- Counselling
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Online Schools in South Africa: How do they Compare?

We break down what the leading online schools in South Africa offer. We analyse subject availability, assessment and exit bodies, delivery models, curricula, and affordability to help families balance academic needs with household budgets.

Admissions to **Online schools in South Africa** have grown nearly 300 percent since 2020. This has led to a proliferation of online schools that offer a plethora of options. Parents considering online schooling for their children need to equip themselves with as much information as possible to make that decision and to find the right fit.

For instance, the choice between fixed timetables and self-paced programs changes the daily routine of a family. Online academic pathways can also dictate future university options. This breakdown evaluates the leading providers to assist your family in finding an option that fits both your educational goals and your household budget.

Structural Layouts: Synchronous and Asynchronous Delivery

When setting up a routine for home education in South Africa, scheduling flexibility is a main point of difference. Providers generally divide into two operational styles: synchronous learning, which uses live, scheduled online classes, and asynchronous learning, which uses recorded lessons and self-managed progression.

Platforms like Teneo Online School use a live, synchronous layout. Learners attend scheduled daily classes with South African Comprehensive Educators Council (SACE) registered teachers. This approach establishes a fixed routine for learners who need outside structure to complete their work.

In contrast, systems like Think Digital Academy, Saving Grace Online School, and CambriLearn focus on asynchronous delivery. Learners view recorded videos and complete assignments at any hour. This self-paced approach accommodates competitive athletes or individuals who need extra time to process complicated topics.

Comparison Matrix: Subject Access, Flexibility, and Cost

The table to the right outlines the core characteristics, curriculum options, and fee structures for the major distance learning platforms in South Africa.

Note: Pricing estimates represent standard high school tuition fees (Grades 10–12 or International GCSE equivalent) and exclude one-off registration fees, textbooks, or external examination board costs.



Platform Name	Curricula Offered	Delivery Model	Average High School Monthly Fee	Assessment & Exit Bodies	Key Financial / Academic Trait
Impaq	CAPS	Asynchronous with optional online classes	R2,500 – R3,500	SACAI (NSC)	Material costs can be split into monthly payments; includes lesson guides.
Teneo Online School	CAPS, British International	Synchronous (Live daily classes)	R3,500 – R4,800	SACAI (NSC) / Pearson Edexcel	Fixed fee covers live daily instruction and real-time teacher tracking.
CambriLearn	CAPS, British, IEB, American	Hybrid (Self-paced with weekly live Q&A)	R2,000 – R5,500 (Varies by tier)	Cambridge / SACAI / Cognia	Multi-tier pricing (Standard vs Premium) allows parents to pay for the level of support needed.
Think Digital Academy	CAPS, British International	Asynchronous (Self-paced)	R1,500 – R2,500	SACAI (NSC) / Cambridge	Affordable flat-rate subscription fee for automated system access.
Saving Grace Online School	CAPS	Hybrid (Self-paced with daily tutor help)	R2,500 – R4,000	SACAI (NSC)	Fee includes regular contact with an assigned tutor for remediation.
Educ8 SA	CAPS	Asynchronous (Self-paced)	R800 – R1,500	SACAI (NSC)	One of the most affordable online schooling options for independent studiers.
Inventum Science Academy	British International	Hybrid (Live sessions and self-paced labs)	R4,000 – R6,000	Cambridge Assessment	Premium pricing reflects specialized STEM focus and virtual laboratory access.
Wingu Academy	British International, CAPS	Blended (Live sessions and modules)	R3,500 – R5,000	Pearson Edexcel / SACAI	Includes 4IR elective classes like robotics and coding in the standard fee.
Evolve Online School	CAPS (IEB Aligned), Cambridge	Hybrid (Live and self-paced)	R3,500 – R4,500	IEB / Cambridge	Fees cover individual diagnostic tracking to adjust learning speeds.
UCT Online High School	CAPS, Cambridge	Asynchronous with weekly deadlines	R2,200 – R3,500	SACAI (NSC) / Cambridge	Backed by the University of Cape Town; includes support coaches.

Academic Streams: National and International Paths

The chosen curriculum sets your subject list and your final matric examination qualification. Platforms in South Africa generally offer the national Curriculum and Assessment Policy Statement (CAPS), the Independent Examinations Board (IEB) framework, or the Cambridge system.

→ **The National Pathway: CAPS and IEB**

A program aligned with CAPS follows the assessment requirements of the Department of Basic Education. This path is managed by assessment bodies like the South African Comprehensive Assessment Institute (SACAI) and leads to the National Senior Certificate (NSC). Impaq is the largest provider in this sector, delivering a structured **CAPS online curriculum** from Grade R to Grade 12. Educ8 SA also uses the CAPS structure, offering a stripped-back setup for distance learners.

For families wanting a strong critical-thinking focus within the local system, some platforms supply the IEB stream. Evolve Online School utilizes the CAPS curriculum but prepares its high school learners for the IEB NSC exit examinations.

→ **The International Alternative: Cambridge and GED**

Many families seek global mobility by choosing the **Cambridge international curriculum**. This track moves from Primary through International GCSEs to AS and A-Levels. CambriLearn, Inventum Science Academy, and Wingu Academy specialize in this international path. The Cambridge framework lets learners choose subjects based on their readiness level rather than their age, allowing for early specialization in science or business fields.

Practical Subjects and Elective Availability

Online structures generally supply a wider selection of elective subjects than physical schools because they do not face room or staffing constraints. In the CAPS FET phase (Grades 10–12), learners take four mandatory subjects and choose three electives.

Online platforms make it simpler to take specialized electives like Tourism, Hospitality Studies, Computer Applications Technology (CAT), and Information Technology (IT).

The South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA) requires physical portfolio work for practical subjects. Distance providers manage this using cloud uploads and proctored virtual assessments.

Under the Cambridge system, subject choices remain open. Learners do not have to take a set number of local subjects. However, South African university exemption rules require specific subject combinations, including a minimum number of languages and sciences, which platforms help plan out.

Regulatory Compliance and University Admissions

Parents often wonder if distance credentials carry weight at universities. In South Africa, the quality assurance council Umalusi regulates the criteria for issuing a National Senior Certificate. Online schools that register their high school learners with examination boards like SACAI or the IEB ensure that their students sit for official, recognized final exams.

As educational expert Professor Mary Metcalfe noted in an analysis of national schooling standards: "Independent registration with accredited assessment bodies ensures that alternative learning pathways meet identical quality benchmarks to traditional public examinations."

For international tracks, Universities South Africa (USAf) establishes the minimum requirements for a matriculation exemption. Students taking Cambridge AS or A-Levels must achieve specific grade marks across their subject groups to earn local university entry. Most premium distance platforms employ advisors to check that subject selections match these university rules.

Text Earl Josephl



ELS FOR AUTISM SOUTH AFRICA

We support families of children diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)

What we do

- 1:1 caregiver-child focused coaching
- Caregiver support groups
- Sibling support groups
- Teacher training
- Pre-vocational soft skills programmes
- Ernie Els #GameON Autism Golf and Tennis program

How we can help

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- Evidence-based practices
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- Parent coaching and support
- Generalisation and maintenance of skills

We are a non-profit organisation, all of our services are offered free of charge.

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The IEB Grading System Explained for South Africans

South African home education families frequently evaluate alternative assessment pathways as children approach the final years of high school. The Independent Examinations Board (IEB) is a prominent, accredited assessment body that evaluates the National Senior Certificate (NSC) for numerous private institutions and distance learning providers across South Africa. To navigate this effectively, you should have a clear understanding of the internal mechanics of how student performance is evaluated.

The basic framework of the IEB aligns directly with the official South African National Qualifications Framework (NQF). Both the state system and the private board issue the identical National Senior Certificate qualification upon successful completion. However, the evaluation methodologies and examination styles differ significantly.

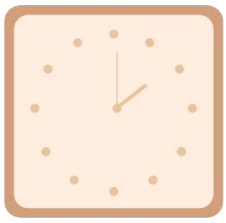
The IEB uses a specific code-based system to determine whether a student achieves a basic pass, a diploma pass or a bachelor's degree entry pass. It is a standardised seven-point scale to categorize student percentages. This code structure translates raw examination and portfolio marks into a distinct achievement level for every registered subject.

IEB Achievement Level Scale

Achievement Level	Percentage Range	Description
Level 7	80% – 100%	Outstanding Achievement
Level 6	70% – 79%	Meritorious Achievement
Level 5	60% – 69%	Substantial Achievement
Level 4	50% – 59%	Moderate Achievement
Level 3	40% – 49%	Adequate Achievement
Level 2	30% – 39%	Elementary Achievement
Level 1	0% – 29%	Not Achieved



Wondering how the Independent Examinations Board (IEB) grades your child? We clarify how marks are calculated, what thresholds satisfy tertiary requirements and how learners achieve an accredited National Senior Certificate.



According to the official policy parameters of Umalusi, the quality council responsible for certifying school-level qualifications in South Africa, a student must meet specific combinations of these levels to obtain their matric certificate.

An official pass requires specific point distributions across the selected subjects. Home education matric candidates must register for a minimum of seven subjects, which must include two official languages, Mathematics or Mathematical Literacy, and Life Orientation.

The minimum standard for a basic NSC pass requires:

→ At least 40% (Level 3) in three subjects, including an official Home Language.

→ At least 30% (Level 2) in three additional subjects.

A level 1 mark (below 30%) in a seventh subject is technically permissible, provided the student satisfies the overall school-based assessment requirements for that specific subject.

Most families pursuing the IEB pathway target higher entry designations to facilitate admission into local and international universities. The assessment system splits these advanced outcomes into Higher Certificate, Diploma and Bachelor's Degree entry requirements:

Higher Certificate Requirements

To qualify for a Higher Certificate program, a candidate needs an **NSC pass with an achievement rating of Level 2** (30% or higher) in at least **four recognized subjects**. This serves as a foundational step toward tertiary integration.

Diploma Entry Requirements

Diploma entry requires a student to **achieve a minimum of Level 3** (40% or higher) in **four recognized 20-credit subjects**, excluding Life Orientation. This baseline allows students to apply for technical diplomas and specialized qualifications.

Bachelor's Degree Entry Requirements

To secure university eligibility, candidates must hit the benchmark for a Bachelor's Degree pass. This requires **achieving a minimum of Level 4** (50% or higher) in **four recognized 20-credit subjects**. Individual universities in South Africa often layer specific Faculty Readiness Scores or Admissions Point Score (APS) demands on top of these baselines.

The final matric mark does not rest solely on the final external examination written in October and November. The grading process blends two distinct components: School-Based Assessment (SBA) and the final examination papers.

For standard academic subjects, the ratio splits into:

→ **25% School-Based Assessment**: This comprises controlled tests, practical assignments, and internal exams completed during the grade 12 year.

→ **75% External Examination**: The definitive papers set and moderated directly by the board.

For practical subjects like Dramatic Arts, Visual Arts, or Hospitality Studies, the practical task component often increases to 50% of the total mark reflection. For home education matric students, these SBA components must be verified through an accredited distance education provider registered with the board to ensure compliance.

The IEB Grading System Explained for South Africans

> "Online schools that register their high school learners with examination boards like SACAI or the IEB ensure that their students sit for official, recognized final exams."



Families can find further clarity on legal registration and curriculum standard guidelines through the Department of Basic Education framework for independent bodies.

Homeschooling families generally choose this assessment path because it emphasises application over rote memorization. Examinations focus heavily on critical thinking, conceptual analysis, and interpreting unfamiliar source texts.

Independent learning providers like CambriLearn highlight that preparing for these assessments requires continuous analytical writing practices rather than simple content recall. This makes the system highly compatible with independent study methodologies, as it rewards independent research habits and systemic reasoning skills.

Homeschooling matric candidates do not write final examinations in their living rooms. Every student must register through an approved distance learning institution that holds formal affiliation with the board. During the examination cycle, candidates sit for their papers at designated, invigilated exam centers across the country. These physical centers maintain standardized exam conditions, ensuring that security protocols match those of traditional private academies.

WINTER SCHOOL



Bellavista's 2026 Winter School

Intensive Reading Intervention Clinic

Winter School is an opportunity for struggling readers to receive high quality, intense intervention. Bellavista School is aware that there are an increasing number of struggling readers being schooled in the spirit of inclusion at mainstream schools. These children are enjoying all the benefits of the schooling environment and may even be excelling in their areas of strength, but their reading competency lags and is of concern to their teachers and parents.

Not every struggling reader is a candidate for remedial education as a full time placement, but in the busyness of the school day, directed, focused intervention is not easily accommodated.

Bellavista is proud to celebrate its 17th year implementing RAVE-O as a successful literacy and reading intervention. We are pleased to respond to the needs of children in the Gauteng area by launching regular clinics, using RAVE-O as an intervention for children referred by their schools. Michelle Yudelowitz, Head of the Winter School programme has personally engaged and attended the Summer Reading Clinic at TUFTS University, Boston, Mass, USA, the home of RAVE-O.

Who can be referred to Winter School?

Children aged 8-11 years old who are identified as struggling readers, with or without standardised assessment.

What is the cost?

R450.00 for the application fee and R11 950.00 per student for the full clinic, including materials, recreational activities, refreshments and assessments.

Date: 06 July - 06 August 2026 (Monday-Thursday)
Time: 08h00-13h00
Place: 35 Wingfield Avenue, Bellavista School, Birdhaven
Applications close: 26 June 2026

Further Enquiries:

Michelle Yudelowitz
Tel: 011 788 5454
Email: share@bellavista.org.za
Website: bellavista.org.za/train at SHARE

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How Parents Should Approach Education as a Long-term Investment

Choosing a school for your child will be one of the most complex and consequential decisions parents will ever make. When parents choose a school for their child, the decision is often shaped by immediate needs: convenience, reputation, or results in the senior years.

Yet schooling is not a short-term transaction. It is one of the longest and most formative investments a family will ever make, stretching over 12 to 15 years or more, from early childhood development through to Matric and further study.

Darren Purdon, Head of Advtech Schools Academics, says the real value of education lies not in isolated moments of achievement, but in the intentional construction of learning over time, and that parents should approach their child's educational journey intentionally, from start to finish.

"Like any strong value chain, education depends on interconnected building blocks, each phase deliberately designed to prepare learners for the next," he says.

Parents should therefore carefully consider the elements that underpin a successful, lifelong educational journey before making this important decision.

Learning does not begin in Grade 1. It starts far earlier, in Grade 000 and Grade 00, where children develop the cognitive, social, emotional, and language skills that will underpin their entire academic journey, Purdon says.

"Home educators do not have to "move on regardless" to meet an arbitrary term deadline. If a child struggles with a concept, the parent can pivot, re-teach and seek alternative resources until true understanding is achieved."

"When these early years are thoughtfully planned, children are more likely to arrive in the Foundation Phase confident, curious, and ready to learn. When they are not, gaps emerge that can widen over time. If the foundations are secure, progress accelerates. If they are fragile, remediation becomes the work of every year that follows."

Academic success is deeply connected to emotional safety and a sense of belonging. Children learn best when they feel comfortable at school, when they feel seen, supported and happy. And when teachers are supported, engaged, and professionally fulfilled, that sense of wellbeing naturally filters into the classroom.

A school environment that prioritises culture is not separate from academic excellence, it enables it. When students are excited about going to school, engagement increases, persistence improves and learning deepens.

Effective education is not defined by what has been taught, but by what has been learned.

"At top schools, there is a growing shift toward instructional models that prioritise responsiveness. If learners have not grasped a concept, the expectation is not to move on regardless, but to re-teach using different strategies until understanding is achieved," Purdon says.

Additionally, technology has become a powerful enabler of this responsiveness, but not as a replacement for teachers.

Text Darren Purdon



Darren Purdon, Head of Advtech Schools Academics, explains how the intentional construction of learning over time, from start to finish, is a 12-15 year investment in your child's future.

"AI-assisted tools increasingly act as classroom assistants, helping teachers identify learning gaps quickly and accurately. These tools provide insight into where students are struggling, allowing teachers to personalise support and adjust instruction accordingly."

Consistency and coherence across subjects are another critical component of long-term value creation in education.

"Take Mathematics as an example. Mathematical competence is not built in isolated units or single phases, it requires a carefully sequenced programme that develops conceptual understanding, fluency and confidence year after year," says Purdon.

"An intentional approach ensures that each phase prepares students for what follows, creating a golden thread that runs from early numeracy through to advanced problem-solving in the senior years. Gaps are far harder to close when this thread is broken."

The same principle applies across subjects: literacy, science, languages, and beyond.

"Strategic curriculum alignment therefore ensures that learning compounds rather than resets each year, and parents should keep this in mind when strategising their child's educational journey."

For parents, the key question should not only be "Is this a good school now?", but rather "Is this a school that understands the full journey?"

"A school that values long-term academic growth, student wellbeing, teacher development, and intentional curriculum design offers far more than short-term results. It offers continuity, stability, and a clear vision of success from the earliest years through to matric," Purdon says.

"And in an education landscape that continues to evolve, the most trusted institutions are those that recognise schooling not as a series of isolated years, but as a carefully constructed value chain, one that shapes students for life."

While these principles are frequently discussed within institutional schooling, they apply just as urgently, if not more so, to home education. When parents opt out of traditional classrooms, they are not merely changing a venue; they are taking complete ownership of the educational value chain.

When homeschooling, the temptation can sometimes be to delay structured learning or, conversely, to rush into formal academics too early. However, the rule of early childhood development remains unchanged. The intentional planning of cognitive, emotional and physical play in the early years builds the scaffolding for the entire home education journey. If these home-based foundations are fragile, the later years of independent study become significantly harder.

Homeschooling offers the ultimate baseline for emotional safety and responsiveness. Because the "teacher-to-student ratio" is at its absolute tightest, parents have a unique vantage point to witness exactly when a concept is mastered or where a gap forms.

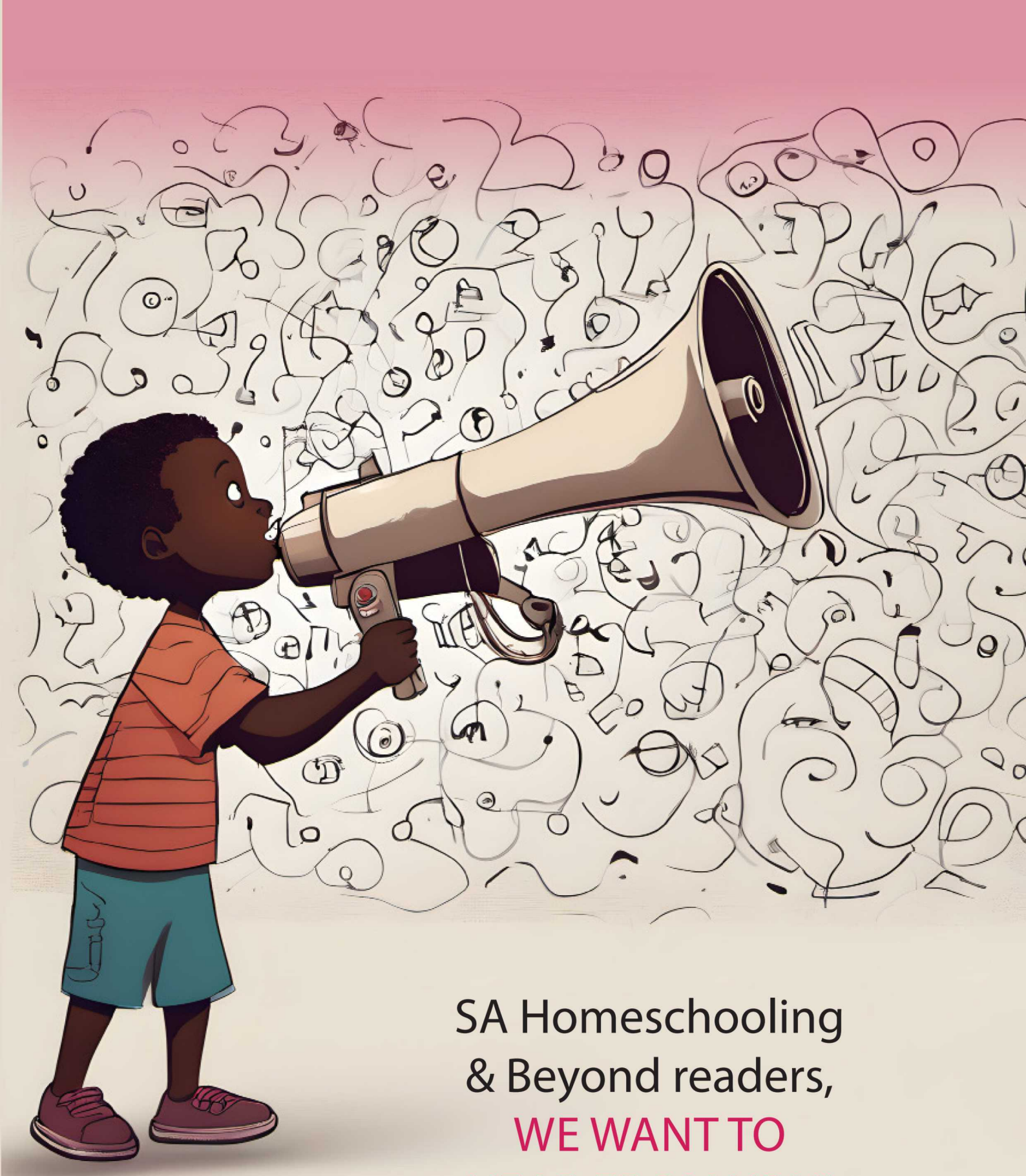
Home educators do not have to "move on regardless" to meet an arbitrary term deadline. If a child struggles with a concept, the parent can pivot, re-teach and seek alternative resources until true understanding is achieved.

Without the constraint of a physical classroom, homeschooling parents can use AI-driven tools, diagnostic apps and adaptive learning platforms to act as digital assistants to quickly identify hidden gaps in literacy or numeracy so instruction can be tailored precisely to the child's pace.

The biggest risk in home education is a fragmented journey. Because parents have the freedom to switch curricula, philosophies, or platforms year after year, it is easy to accidentally break the "golden thread" of consistency.

A piecemeal approach, using one curriculum for Grade 3 math, a completely different provider for Grade 4, and an unaligned online platform for Grade 5, can create severe learning gaps. For a home education journey to compound successfully over 12 or more years, parents must act as the ultimate curriculum strategists. They must ensure that their chosen path builds a sequenced, coherent framework that seamlessly connects early learning directly to matriculation and independent adult study.





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THE ANSWER SERIES Your Key to Exam Success

The Answer Series: A South African Success Story

How a humble teacher's passion for Mathematics became an iconic South African institution for learner support.



What began as one teacher's passion for helping learners truly understand Mathematics has grown into one of South Africa's most trusted educational brands across major subjects from Grades 7 to 12.

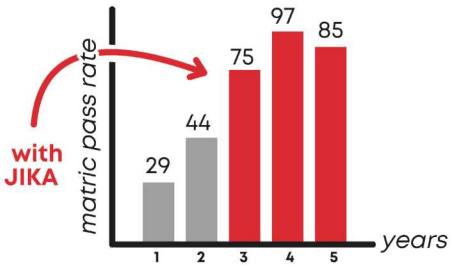
In 1971, Anne Dommisse began teaching Mathematics and Physical Science at Groote Schuur High School in Cape Town. Her philosophy was simple but powerful: learners learn best when they first wrestle with a problem themselves and are then guided through a clear, logical solution. At a time when rote learning dominated classrooms, Anne's approach focused on understanding, confidence, and independent thinking — with exceptional results.

After marrying Dave Eadie in 1973 and starting a family, the couple decided to turn Anne's teaching methods into a book so more learners could benefit. Working late at their dining room table — long before computers and word processors — Anne handwrote the mathematical content while Dave prepared the diagrams. Their first publication, "The Answer", was born.

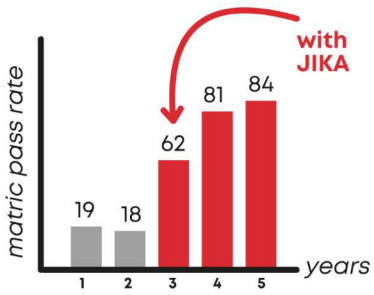
Demand for the Maths guide grew rapidly, followed by requests for additional grades and subjects. From these humble beginnings, The Answer Series (TAS) developed into a nationally respected range of study guides written by experienced subject specialists and trusted by learners, parents and teachers across South Africa.

Over the years, TAS has become known for clear explanations, worked examples, accessible language, and learner-friendly guidance that encourages self-study and genuine understanding rather than memorisation.

The effectiveness of TAS has also been demonstrated through pilot projects conducted with provincial education departments, where learners using TAS study guides showed significant improvements in matric pass rates.



Shayandima Senior Secondary



Reuben Ntuli Senior Secondary

Today, TAS continues its mission of making learning easier, more engaging, and less intimidating. Its latest development is a comprehensive Grade 7 Mathematics publication designed to help learners navigate the challenging transition to high school. The focus is not simply on getting the right answer, but on understanding concepts, developing problem-solving skills, and building confidence along the way.

Perhaps the greatest reward for founders Anne and Dave is the feedback they continue to receive from grateful learners and parents, like:

"I went from getting no A's to getting straight A's thanks to The Answer Series."

"I used The Answer Series in matric in 1988 — now I'm buying them for my daughter."

"Outstanding explanations, examples and exercises!"

More than fifty years after it began around a family dining room table, The Answer Series continues to help South African learners discover that with the right guidance, understanding really does change everything.

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Why the June Exams Matter for Matrics



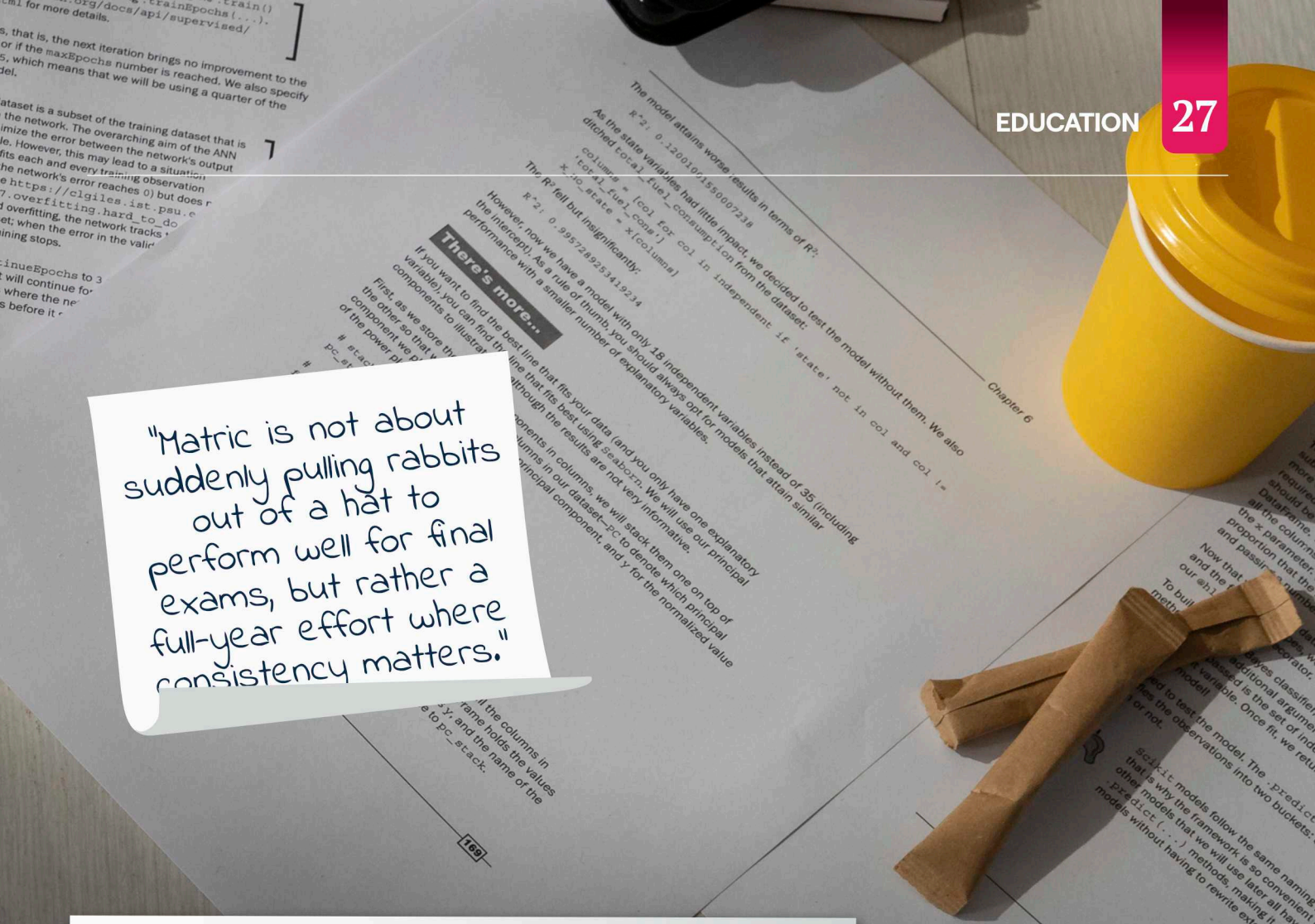
Dr Alucia Mabunda, Campus Head at IIE Rosebank College, reminds matriculants that performing well in the June exams not only supports their overall year mark and strengthens their university options, but also puts them on the front foot in preparing for the final exams.

As we reach the end of term two of 2026, June exams are front and centre. But this is not something to take lightly. This is not a year where performance suddenly matters in September, but rather a full-year campaign with the June exams the first major checkpoint that truly counts.

"These mid-year exams cover the bulk of Term 1 and 2 work, feed directly into your school's progression report and, most importantly, decide whether you walk into the second half of the year with momentum or playing catch-up," says Dr Alucia Mabunda, Campus Head at IIE Rosebank College .

"Nail them and your APS starts looking strong, your confidence skyrockets, and your university options strengthen. Slack now and you'll spend July to November firefighting instead of flying. These next few months are your non-negotiable window to build an unbeatable foundation," she says.

Text Dr Alucia Mabunda



Why the June Exams Matter

- → They form the first official record of Matric performance that universities and bursary providers review.
- → Strong June results create early momentum and confidence heading into the second half of the year.
- → They reveal foundational gaps early, giving students time to fix them before final NSC exams.
- → Good mid-year marks improve a learner's overall APS.
- → Performing well now prevents a stressful catch-up period from July to November.
- → They can reveal whether a learner's current plans for post-Matric study are realistic, allowing time to reconsider or adjust before it's too late.

Dr Mabunda says there are three solid moves Matrics can make now to perform to the best of their ability in the upcoming and, ultimately, final exams:

1 Build An Exam-Simulation Timetable That Treats June Exams Like The Finals

Stop "studying when I feel like it." Aim to block 3 focused hours every single weekday (and more during weekends) using the exact DBE/IEB or Cambridge weighting of each subject. Put your phone in another room, use the Pomodoro 50/10 method, and schedule full timed mock papers. The students who smash June are the ones who already train like it's October. This habit alone will make the actual finals feel familiar instead of terrifying.

2 Master The Core Concepts In Every Subject Before Doing Past Papers

June papers expose who actually understands the work versus who crammed. For Maths and Physical Sciences, solve every single example in the textbook until you can explain it out loud without notes. For Languages and History, build your own 1-page mindmaps of key themes, quotes, and sources. If you don't fix your foundational gaps now, every single paper will punish you. In coming months, aim to close all remaining gaps.

3 Turn Weak Subjects Into Performance Drivers

Be brutally honest and identify the two subjects that are currently dragging down your average. From this moment until the June exams, give those subjects serious, non-negotiable daily priority. Book extra lessons with a teacher or tutor, make full use of reliable free online resources, or form a small, focused study group with only two or three equally committed students.

Turning even one weak subject around can dramatically lift one's overall percentage, and significantly improve the chances of securing access to your preferred course or bursary. While it is important to polish your strengths, attacking weaknesses head-on, with urgency and discipline, can be a game-changer.

"The June exams contribute to the school-based assessment portion of the final Matric results. Performing well at this stage helps create a pattern of steady effort that supports the overall year mark and prepares learners for the final exams," notes Dr Mabunda.

"Starting strong now builds habits, confidence and collateral that will pay off in the final NSC outcome, and if students lock in for these next three months, the second half of Matric becomes a victory lap instead of a rescue mission."

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