



Statement from the Centre for Educational Testing for Access & Placement (CETAP)

4th May 2020

The spread of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) in China and other parts of the world these past few months has caused the World Health Organization (WHO) to announce the situation as a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC). President Cyril Ramaphosa declared it a national disaster in South Africa on 15 March and a total lockdown on the 27 March 2020. CETAP is taking the threat of infection in our community extremely seriously.

With the release of the Government framework for the COVID-19 Risk-Adjusted Strategy, CETAP has been compelled to revise the National Benchmark Tests (NBT) test calendar given the restrictions that remain in place under the current Level 4 health and safety protocols. The NBT registration has commenced on the 1st April 2020. As part of our strategy to manage the COVID-19 situation CETAP has been monitoring all communiques from government including the press conferences given by the Department of Basic Education and the Department of Higher Education on the 30 April 2020. The statement from these departments have indicated that schools will not open in May but that schools may reopen in a phased manner with Grade 7s and 12s possibly returning to school on the 1st June 2020. Taking into consideration these statements, CETAP is of the opinion that testing for the 2021 higher education intake cycle will likely only commence in July 2020. The earliest that we anticipate NBT testing to commence is on the 4th July 2020. The NBT test Calendar has been revised accordingly and we have included additional dates in our 2021 higher education intake test calendar to ensure all students have the opportunity to write the NBT. See the Table below. Students that have already booked for test dates in May and June will be contacted and requested to rebook tests based on this calendar.

We are monitoring the progression of the COVID-19 pandemic and the directives from the Government regarding the return of learners to schools and the SA COVID-19 Lockdown Levels. The government COVID-19 Risk Adjusted Strategy is by its nature subject to revision and rapid change. The NBT project and timelines will adapt in line with the government directives and we will keep writers and stakeholders informed of any changes. NBT writers will be provided with the opportunity to make changes to test bookings should these no longer be possible due to the prevailing lockdown level.

If the COVID-19 outbreak and risk escalate, we will have no alternative but to further postpone the start of the NBT testing to a later date in 2020. In some cases, we have already added more venues so that students can write in a comfortable/hygienic space of less than 100 students per venue.

Should we be required to further adjust test dates, a communique in this regard will be sent to all learners intending to write the NBT and to the institutions of higher education (<http://nbt.ac.za>). The

current situation of COVID-19 is very uncertain and we do not wish to compromise the health of our learners or staff.

The NBT office has support in place to assist learners if they are unable to write due to ill health or if they fall ill during a test session. All our staff are available remotely. If individual learners are unable to attend the NBT session after they have registered because they are ill or have to self-isolate they should contact the NBT Helpdesk either by email nbt@uct.ac.za or call 021-650-3523 (providing supporting documentation) and they will be assisted to reschedule their test at no additional fee. This process is designed to ensure that learners who may be affected by these exceptional circumstances - such as illness or a family emergency due to the COVID-19 outbreak - still receive the necessary support and assistance from the NBT office and Helpdesk. While CETAP staff are working remotely in line with national COVID-19 directives, we will strive to continue our levels of service. Please do be patient if you experience a slight delay in receiving a response.

We urge ALL learners who are unwell or who display flu like symptoms NOT to write until they have been through self-isolation or a quarantine period of 14 days.

We are all in this together and will fight this pandemic. I appreciate your understanding and will keep you updated.

Thank you

Naziema Jappie

Director

CETAP



NBT Test Dates 2020 for 2021 Intake	Last Day to Register Online 2021 Intake	Last Day to Pay Fees 2021 Intake	Results Available to Institutions 2021 Intake	Results Available to Writers 2021 Intake (by 12h00 on date)
4-Jul	14-Jun	22-Jul	27-Jul	03-Aug
11-Jul	21-Jun	29-Jun	03-Aug	11-Aug
12-Jul*	21-Jun	29-Jun	03-Aug	11-Aug
18-Jul	28-Jun	06-Jul	11-Aug	17-Aug
19-Jul*	28-Jun	06-Jul	11-Aug	17-Aug
25-Jul	5-Jul	13-Jul	17-Aug	24-Aug
26-Jul*	5-Jul	13-Jul	17-Aug	24-Aug
1-Aug	12-Jul	20-Jul	24-Aug	31-Aug
2-Aug*	12-Jul	20-Jul	24-Aug	31-Aug
22-Aug	2-Aug	10-Aug	14-Sep	21-Sep
29-Aug	9-Aug	17-Aug	21-Sep	28-Sep
5-Sep	16-Aug	24-Aug	28-Sep	05-Oct
12-Sep	23-Aug	31-Aug	05-Oct	12-Oct
19-Sep	30-Aug	07-Sep	12-Oct	19-Oct
26-Sep	6-Sep	14-Sep	19-Oct	26-Oct
3-Oct	13-Sep	21-Sep	26-Oct	02-Nov
4-Oct*	13-Sep	21-Sep	26-Oct	02-Nov
10-Oct	20-Sep	28-Sep	02-Nov	09-Nov
17-Oct	27-Sep	05-Oct	09-Nov	16-Nov
24-Oct	4-Oct	12-Oct	16-Nov	23-Nov
31-Oct	11-Oct	19-Oct	23-Nov	30-Nov
9-Jan	6-Dec	14-Dec	01-Feb	08-Feb
16-Jan	20-Dec	28-Dec	08-Feb	15-Feb
23-Jan	3-Jan	11-Jan	15-Feb	22-Feb
30-Jan	10-Jan	18-Jan	22-Feb	01-Mar
25 Sessions				
*Sunday test session				