



BOTSWANA
EXAMINATIONS
COUNCIL

Ref: BEC: 9/2/4 I (12)

22nd February 2012

The School Heads
All BGCSE Examination Centres

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: Amendments to the BGCSE Schemes of Assessment for 2012

Your attention is hereby drawn to the changes in the schemes of assessment for the following BGCSE syllabuses.

- 1 All the **five** Science syllabuses; Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Science Single Award and Science Double Award.
- 2 All the **three** Home Economics syllabuses; Food & Nutrition, Fashion & Fabrics and Home Management.

Science syllabuses

- (a) Following the revised scheme of assessment for the Science syllabuses issued in 2009, it became apparent to BEC that over the years very few candidates have been opting for the Core tiers in these syllabuses. For example, in 2011 there were only five, seven and nine candidates who sat for the paper 2's in Physics, Chemistry and Biology respectively. BEC is, therefore, compelled to remove these syllabus options that attract very low candidature.
- (b) The assessment of practical skills remains as it was in 2011. That is, a practical examination for the separate sciences (Physics, Chemistry & Biology) and an alternative-to-practical (a written paper) for Science Double Award and Science Single Award.

Home Economics Syllabuses

BEC has noted that the Individual Study component in the three syllabuses does not seem to be contributing meaningfully to the assessment of candidates. The following changes will be made to the scheme of assessment for the 2012 examination in the interim whilst BEC prepares for a total revision of the assessment syllabuses.

- The weighting of the Individual Study in all the three syllabuses is reduced from **30% to 20%**.
- In Fashion & Fabrics (0612) and Home Management (0613), the weighting of the Project is increased from **20% to 30%**.

- For Food & Nutrition (0611), Practical test 1 which has a weighting of 5% is removed from the assessment. It will no longer contribute to the final assessment. The weighting of the Practical examination is increased from **15% to 30%**. This brings the number of components for Food & Nutrition to **three** instead of **four** as in previous years.

Religious Education (0588)

Centres are reminded that Christian Religious Education (CRE, code 2045) is not available to candidates in full time attendance at government and government-aided schools in the 2012 BGCSE examination; candidates will be sitting for the localised Religious Education syllabus (code 0588). This information was communicated at the beginning of 2011.

Please find attached with this letter, revised schemes of assessment for the five Science syllabuses. The schemes of assessment for the Religious Education and Home Economics syllabuses will be sent to schools in due course.

Thank you.

Yours Faithfully

Susan Makgothi
For/ Executive Secretary

cc: Regional Education Officers
Director - Curriculum Development and Evaluation
Director - BOCODOL
Director - Secondary Department