



PRIORITY

"Every Child Can Learn... Every Child Must Learn"

Schools' Bulletin

**ATTENTION: REGIONAL DIRECTORS, SCHOOL BOARD CHAIRMEN AND PRINCIPALS
OF ALL PUBLIC AND PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS**

**SUBJECT: UPDATES TO THE ADMINISTRATION OF NATIONAL EXAMINATIONS FOR
THE 2025-2026 ACADEMIC YEAR**

Dear Colleagues,

The Ministry of Education, Skills, Youth and Information wishes to advise you of important updates to the administration of the national examinations for the 2025-2026 academic year. These adjustments have been carefully developed following extensive consultations with key stakeholder groups, including educators, school leaders, the NSC/PEP Monitoring Committee and education partners.

The changes are necessitated by the devastating impact of Hurricane Melissa, which has significantly disrupted the education system, particularly for parishes in the western end of Jamaica. The passing of the unprecedented Category 5 hurricane has resulted in the displacement of students and teachers, prolonged discontinuation of learning for some learners, and varying levels of psychological trauma affecting both students and school staff. Based on this context, the Ministry has sought to ensure that the 2026 examination administration remains fair, responsive, and sensitive to the realities faced by schools and communities, while maintaining the integrity and credibility of the national assessment framework.

Kindly note the following changes for the 2026 administration of the national examinations:

Primary Exit Profile – Grades 4, 5 and 6

The following assessments will be administered at Grade 6:

1. Ability Test

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2. Grade 6 Mathematics Curriculum-Based Test (with numeracy items)
3. Grade 6 Language Arts Curriculum-Based Test (with literacy items)

The following assessments will be administered at Grade 5:

1. Grade 5 Mathematics Performance Task
2. Grade 5 Language Arts Performance Task

The following assessments will be administered at Grade 4:

1. Grade 4 Literacy Test
2. Grade 4 Numeracy Test

Grades 2 and 3 Diagnostic Tests

- The Grade 3 Diagnostic Test will be administered as per the published examination schedule, which was shared at the start of the school year.
- The administration of the new Grade 2 Diagnostic Test will be suspended until the 2026-2027 academic year; however, a diagnostic assessment instrument will be disseminated to the system for teachers to administer to their students at the end of Grade 2 (school-based assessment).

Grade Nine Achievement Test (GNAT)

- The administration of the GNAT will be suspended for 2026. The Regional Education Officers will oversee the reintegration of students at this level into the formal education system.

Jamaica School Certificate Examination (JSC)

- The JSC examination will be administered as per the published examination schedule, which was shared at the start of the school year.

In light of the above, kindly be guided by the updated examination schedule in the table below:

2025-2026 CALENDAR OF NATIONAL EXAMINATIONS (UPDATED JANUARY 2026)	
EXAMINATION	DATES
Jamaica Student Readiness Assessment (Age 4 Assessment)	June 1 – 12, 2026
Grade One Individual Learning Profile (GOILP)	August 24 – September 18, 2026
Grade Two Diagnostic Test	Suspended

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(UPDATED JANUARY 2026)

External/Exit Examinations – CXC (CSEC and CAPE), City and Guilds and NCTVET

- Logistical Management (paper custody management, invigilation, marking and grading)
- Administration, marking and results release processing time (administration to delivery)

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- Integrity Preservation (maintain trust and confidence in the award of valid grades)
- Education System Disruption (matriculation/progression, start of academic year)

Caribbean Examinations Council (CXC)

The options that have been decided upon for administering the CXC Examinations are as follows:

Option A: The schools not affected will do the normal examinations (Papers 1&2) with School-Based Assessments (SBAs) concession; exemption from late fees and deferral if required

Option B: This would be the modified approach for schools in the affected parishes – students will sit Paper 1 only with SBAs concession; exemption from late fees and deferral if required.

It must be noted that students in the most affected areas will have the option to choose either Option A or Option B.

City and Guilds

Following consultations with City and Guilds, the following changes are now in place for the sittings in 2026 for Math Skills #3850, English Skills #3850, and Customer Service #8992 is as follows:

Original June 2026 series:

- Exam dates remain as 10/11/12 June 2026, respectively
- Registration and assessment entry window extension to run until 27 Feb 2026
- Speaking and Listening (S&L) assessment window extended from 1 week to 3 weeks and positioned as a first opportunity for candidates
- S&L results file submission window extended into July 2026
- S&L re-sit window extended to 3 weeks and positioned as a second opportunity and/or resit (i.e., centres could use this window as the first attempt instead of April)
- Results release remains 28 August, 2026
- Free student workbooks in Maths & English (Stages 1, 2, & 3) and Customer Service (Level1) are developed for delivery by the end of January 2026 to the most affected regions (These Hard Copies are to promote self-paced learning and practice), and digital copies will be shared with all other regions.

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- Virtual capacity-building sessions will also be facilitated to aid educators and learners in maintaining programme momentum upon request. We encourage all principals, teachers, parents and students to make use of this opportunity.

Emergency November 2026 series, where needed:

- Registrations will be accepted until 29th May 2026 or as late as 31st August 2026 (based on the circumstances on the ground)
- S&L window offered as opportunity 3 for one week. This could be a re-sit or a first attempt.
- Exams proposed for 11/12/13 November 2026 respectively
- S&L results file upload deadline positioned as 15 January 2027
- Results released on 25 Feb 2027

National Council on Technical and Vocational Education and Training (NCTVET)

The administration of the National Vocational Qualification of Jamaica certificate programme is done by NCTVET in partnership with the Overseas Examinations Commission, two agencies of the MoESYI. The following outlines the format for the 2026 administration:

- Postponement of the November sitting which is the scheduled 2025 examination and offer same February 16, 2026 and June 15, 2026, depending on the readiness of the students and at no additional cost to the students.

OTHER RELIEF CONSIDERATIONS

The Government, through the MoESYI, will maintain the examination subsidy accordingly:

- a) Fund the costs for four CSEC subjects (English, Maths, a science subject, and IT or EDPM) for students who scored 50% or higher in their internal exams in these subjects, or cover the cost of City and Guilds Maths and English for those who will take these instead of CSEC Maths and English.
- b) Fund the cost of each student skill subject offered by City and Guilds or NCTVET;
- c) Fund the cost of 3 CAPE subjects for each student once the qualifying scores are met;

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In addition to the above, students in the **most affected parishes** will benefit from a fee reduction, amounting to an additional subsidy of \$197.66M, which will be underwritten by the Overseas Examinations Commission, an agency of the Ministry. Exam coordinators and principals are urged to finalise the arrangement with the OEC and the Regional Office.

The Ministry reassures its stakeholders that student welfare and the integrity of certification remain top priorities. We request that school administrators share this bulletin with all key stakeholders as we prepare for the effective administration of the national examinations. For further information, please email the Exam and Assessment Administration Services Branch at pepaction@moey.gov.jm, call (876) 948-9254, or contact your regional office.

Thank you for your usual cooperation and support for this critical activity.

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