

**CIRCULAR NO. 170/2021**

**14 October 2021**

**TO: PRINCIPALS OF SCHOOLS ENTERING CANDIDATES FOR THE 2022  
ADVANCED PROGRAMME SUBJECT EXAMINATIONS**

**IEB ADVANCED PROGRAMMES FROM 2022**

The IEB has established a division called IEB International and a qualification called the International Secondary Certificate of the IEB (IEB-ISC). In the ISC, the IEB has Further Studies programmes, which were benchmarked by UK ENIC and were found to be comparable to the overall GCE Advanced (A) level standard.

As you are aware the IEB offers the Advanced Programmes in English, Afrikaans, Mathematics and Physics. From 2022 the Advanced Programmes have been repackaged into the Further Studies programmes and have their 'home' in the ISC qualification in a format that confirms their international comparability.

IEB International will manage the development, conduct, and examinations of the IEB-ISC Further Studies subjects. The Stellenbosch University Unit for International Credentialing (SU-UIC) is responsible for the external quality assurance of the ISC which includes the Further Studies subjects in the ISC.

They will continue to be available for South African learners as extension programmes, should they wish to offer them, in the same way as Advanced Programmes are currently offered.

An attachment is included with this circular that outlines the repackaging of the Advanced Programmes to Further Studies. For all intents and purposes, the curriculum content/skills are identical to that of the Advanced Programmes. There are two exceptions in certification and assessment structure, namely:

1. The pass mark for all Further Studies subjects is 50% (this was 40% in the Advanced Programmes).
2. In Further Studies Mathematics learners may offer Paper 1 **only** (Further Studies Mathematics Standard) or both **Paper 1 and Paper 2** (Further Studies Mathematics Extended). Both the extended and standard Further Studies Mathematics were benchmarked at an overall GCE Advanced (A) level standard.

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