

Academic & Career Roadmap for Grade-12 Rewriter (2025)

Part 1: Current Standing & Immediate Action Plan

Current marks: The mid-year results (57% Eng HL, 70% Zulu FAL, 65% Math Lit, 76% LO, 23% Accounting) show strong improvement in some subjects but a failing Accounting mark is a serious issue. As things stand, the student has not yet achieved the minimum to guarantee any university pass. For example, a **Diploma pass** requires an NSC *with* a Diploma endorsement: Home Language $\geq 40\%$ and four other subjects $\geq 40\%$ ¹. A **Bachelor's (degree) pass** is even higher (Home Lang $\geq 40\%$ and *four* other subjects $\geq 50\%$) ². Accounting at 23% will have to improve dramatically (to at least 40%) in the final exam to even meet Diploma-level requirements. Realistically, a bachelor's pass looks out of reach unless all subjects jump substantially. However, the student *can* still aim for a Diploma pass (or Higher Certificate pass) by lifting Accounting and any other weak mark.

The November final exam is **make-or-break**: this rewrite is the one chance to change the outcome of the entire year. In practical terms, the student should treat every day as critical – consistent study now can turn those Level 1–3 marks into passes. (For reference, a Higher Certificate pass needs HL $\geq 40\%$, two subjects $\geq 40\%$ and three $\geq 30\%$ ³, so even that requires significant improvement beyond mid-year.) In short, admission in 2026 is only possible if the student turns around the Accounting mark and maintains the strong performance in languages and Life Orientation. With hard work, a Diploma endorsement is achievable.

Custom study strategy (social learning): Since the student learns best in a group, form or join a **study group** with peers rewriting the same subjects. Meet weekly (in person or online) to quiz each other and work through past papers together. Use an *accountability partner* (a classmate or teacher) to set and review short-term goals (e.g. “two chapters per day”). Schedule daily study sessions with breaks – turn the long slog into small tasks. Mix subjects to stay engaged (e.g. alternate a language paper with maths exercises).

- **Free SA resources:** Take advantage of curriculum-aligned, no-cost aids. For example, *Woza Matrics* offers catch-up video lessons broadcast on SABC and online for core Matric subjects ⁴. Siyavula provides free open textbooks and exercise practice for Maths, Science, and Math Lit ⁵. Its “Siyavula Practice” site even has free past-exam questions to simulate real tests ⁶. *PaperVideo* is another excellent free source of exam-type questions and explanatory videos (especially for Math, Science, Accounting) ⁷. And of course download **official past papers** from the DBE website or Siyavula, and do timed drills. These tools, combined with a strict schedule and group accountability, will maximize the student's chances in the November rewrite.

Part 2: Scientific Career Discovery Tools

Use free career assessment tools to find suitable fields. For example, the DHET's **Career Advice Portal (Khetha/NCAP)** offers interest and values assessments, and the Department of Labour's **PACE**

Questionnaire is a free online aptitude survey. The PACE tool asks about interests and talents and then suggests matching industries, occupations, and study programs ⁸. (For instance, it might align strong language/social interests with careers in education or communications.) Another useful site is *CareerPlanet* (careerplanet.co.za), which has info on different fields and some self-assessment quizzes. Complete at least two different assessments to get broad input.

Step-by-step cross-referencing: 1) Take each test and list your top recommended fields or job types. 2) Identify overlaps: see which career clusters keep appearing. 3) For those recurring fields, note the subject strengths they require (e.g. language skills point to education or communications; strong LO/passion for people suggests HR or teaching). 4) Make a **decision matrix**: create a table with your top 3–5 fields as columns and criteria down the side (e.g. “Interest match”, “Required subjects”, “Entry requirements”, “Job outlook/demand”). Research each cell (e.g. check admission criteria online, look up whether the job is growing). 5) Score or rank each option by how well it fits you and by practical factors (demand, bursaries, location). As career counseling literature notes, tools like decision matrices or pros-and-cons lists help weigh each option systematically ⁹. In the end, the highest-scoring fields in this matrix are your strongest fits and can become the short list for further exploration.

Part 3: High-Potential Career Clusters

Cluster A: Communication & Human Resources. *Subjects fit:* Strong languages and Life Orientation suggest skills in writing, speaking, interpersonal communication. Accounting is weak, but many HR/Comm programs don’t require high math. *Example qualifications:* Diploma in Human Resources Management (NQF6) or BA Communication. For instance, Unisa’s **Dip HR Management** requires an NSC Diploma pass, with $\geq 50\%$ in the language and $\geq 40\%$ in Math (or $\geq 70\%$ Math Lit) ¹⁰. A BA in Communication would similarly require an NSC Diploma (degree pass for BA), typically 40–50% in English. *Institutions:* Public unis and UoTs offer these. E.g. Unisa (DIP HRM) ¹⁰, NWU (BA Human Resource Mgmt), UJ (Dip Legal Studies/HR), UKZN (BA Communication), or TUT (Dip HRM). **TVET colleges** also offer NC (V) or N4–N6 programs in Office Administration or HR, often needing just a Grade 12 pass ¹¹. For example, False Bay TVET’s N4–N6 Human Resource Mgmt requires merely a Grade-12/NSC pass ¹¹.

Career paths: Entry roles include HR administrator, recruiter, training coordinator, or communications assistant. From there one can move into HR officer, labour relations specialist, or communications manager positions. According to DHET’s 2024 high-demand list, “*Human Resources Practitioner*” and HR Manager roles are in demand ¹². (Communications roles per se aren’t singled out, but marketing/PR managers do appear on the list with “” denoting high demand, e.g. *Advertising and PR Manager* ¹³.)

Cluster B: Public Administration & Management. *Subjects fit:* Languages and LO align with policy, management and civic-oriented careers, without heavy science/math. *Example qualifications:* Diploma in Public Administration or Public Management (NQF6). For example, Unisa’s **Dip Public Administration & Management** requires an NSC Diploma pass with $\geq 50\%$ in the teaching language and $\geq 40\%$ in Math (or 70% Math Lit) ¹⁴. Many universities/technikons also have similar diplomas (often requiring ~25 APS points). *Institutions:* Public universities like Unisa, UJ, NWU, or NMMU may offer Public Admin diplomas/BAdmin degrees. Universities of Technology (DUT, TUT, CPUT) offer Diplomas in Public Management. TVETs offer related programs in Business or Office Administration (Grade 12 pass needed).

Career paths: Entry roles include administrative assistant, policy researcher or clerk in government departments, municipal administration clerk, etc. Over time one could advance to public sector manager or

department coordinator. The 2024 DHET list does include public-sector management roles (e.g. General Manager Public Service, Senior Government Official, etc.), but these are higher-level (NQF8) posts and **are not currently flagged with a star on the high-demand list**. In short, public administration roles can be fulfilling but may not be as in-demand as, say, education or healthcare.

Cluster C: Law & Justice (Paralegal/Legal Studies). *Subjects fit:* Good language skills and writing ability; weak math is not a barrier here. *Example qualifications:* To become a lawyer (LLB) requires a bachelor's pass. Unisa's **Bachelor of Laws (LLB)** demands an NSC Degree pass with $\geq 50\%$ in the home language ¹⁵ – a very high bar. A more accessible start is a Diploma in Paralegal Studies (NQF6) or a BA Law/Legal Studies degree at a UoT, which require an NSC pass (often around Diploma endorsement). *Institutions:* Public universities: Wits, UKZN, UCT, and UFH offer LLBs; many require very strong matric results. Universities of Technology (e.g. UJ) and private colleges offer NQF6 Paralegal diplomas or Law diplomas (entry: NSC with 40–50%). TVET colleges may offer Business Admin or Legal Secretary vocational courses (Grade 12 pass).

Career paths: Begin as a **paralegal assistant**, legal secretary, court clerk, or compliance assistant. Later roles include junior attorney (after further LLB study), legal researcher, or mediator. According to the DHET list, “Paralegal” (NQF6) and “Associate Legal Professional” appear as occupations, but they are **not starred as high-demand** ¹⁶. In other words, jobs in this field are important but not currently prioritized on the national high-demand list.

Cluster D: Education (Foundation Phase). *Subjects fit:* Strong performance in languages and LO is ideal for teaching young children; math at least moderate. *Example qualifications:* **Bachelor of Education (BEd) – Foundation Phase** (teaching Grades R–3). For instance, Unisa's BEd FP requires an NSC Degree pass with $\geq 50\%$ home language and $\geq 40\%$ Math (or 50% Math Lit) ¹⁷. Many universities require around 25–30 APS for BEd, including high language marks. Some institutions may allow a Diploma in Education (NQF6) or a Higher Certificate in Education as stepping stones. *Institutions:* Major universities (Unisa, UKZN, NWU, UWC, UJ) offer BEd FP or BEd General degrees. Some universities of technology also offer teaching diplomas. There are no public TVET programs for FP teachers (students need a degree to register as educators).

Career paths: With a BEd FP, one enters as a **Grade 1–3 teacher** in primary school. Career progression can lead to roles like Senior Foundation-Phase teacher, head of department, or school administrator. *High-demand status:* Foundation Phase teachers are **in high demand** in South Africa. The DHET 2024 list explicitly lists “Foundation Phase School Teacher” (Grades 1–3) with a star ¹⁸. This means completing this qualification aligns well with national workforce needs.

Cluster E: Business & Logistics. *Subjects fit:* Better if the student can raise Accounting and Math Lit; strong languages still useful. This cluster often tolerates Math Lit ($\geq 50\%$) but may require 40% Accounting. *Example qualifications:* National Diploma in Supply Chain or Logistics Management (NQF6) or a Diploma in Business Management. Many UoTs offer a 3-year Diploma in Supply Chain/Logistics; entry typically requires NSC Diploma (25 APS). TVET colleges offer NC (V) Business Studies: e.g., False Bay's N4–N6 Business Management (leading to a National N-Diploma) requires only a Grade 12 pass ¹⁹. Universities offer BCom degrees in Logistics/Supply Chain (require 30–40 in Maths).

Institutions: For diplomas, consider universities of technology (CPUT, TUT, DUT) which have supply chain/logistics programs. TVETs are plentiful: any TVET offering Business Management (N4–N6) ¹⁹ or Supply Chain (where available) will admit a passing Grade 12. Unisa does not offer a direct undergrad logistics diploma, but many business diplomas exist at universities.

Career paths: Entry-level roles: storeman, warehouse assistant, procurement clerk, or sales coordinator. With experience or further study, one can move into logistics officer, supply chain analyst, or even logistics manager. On the DHET high-demand list, **Supply Chain and Logistics Manager** appear as occupations, but they are *not* starred in 2024 ²⁰. (By contrast, *Customer Service Manager* and *Advertising & PR Manager* are starred ¹³.) In summary, business/logistics roles exist in demand sectors, but the specific occupations are not flagged as critical skill shortages.

Part 4: Financial and Logistical Access

NSFAS (National Student Financial Aid Scheme): This government bursary covers tuition and living costs for students from low-income households studying approved courses at public universities or TVETs. Eligibility (for 2026 applications) includes South African citizenship or permanent residency and a combined household income \leq **R350,000** per year ²¹ (up to R600,000 if a disabled household member). NSFAS funds all NSFAS-approved diplomas and degrees (and TVET national certificates) in public institutions – essentially any public qualification on the List of Occupations in High Demand or approved programs, including Education, Business, HR, etc. (Note: private colleges are mostly **ineligible** for NSFAS.)

Other bursaries: If the student leans toward teaching, the **Funza Lushaka Bursary** (Dept. of Basic Education) is crucial. It funds BEd (Foundation Phase, Inter- & Senior Phase with critical subjects like maths/science) at public universities; applicants must be under 30 and meet exam criteria (apply via funzalushaka.doe.gov.za, usually October 2024–Jan 2025). Many universities also offer their own **merit bursaries** or scholarships for top-performing students (based on final Matric results). The student should check the websites of each target university/unitech after results release, as institutions often award partial or full bursaries for high matric scores.

Study environment comparison:

- **Traditional Universities** demand higher entry marks and focus on theory and research. They offer 3–4 year degrees that become more specialized (e.g. BCom, BA, BEd) ²². Class sizes are often larger and there is a strong emphasis on conceptual understanding and preparing for postgraduate studies.
- **Universities of Technology** (formerly technikons) offer mostly diplomas/certificates (and some 3-year degrees). They have more **practical, career-oriented** curricula with experiential learning (projects, internships) built in ²³. Entry requirements are somewhat lower than big unis (though still competitive), and the environment is geared to applied skills.
- **TVET Colleges** focus on vocational training. Programs range from a few months to 3 years (N3 to N6 leading to a National Diploma) ²⁴. TVET courses emphasize hands-on skills for specific trades (e.g. Business Admin, IT, Engineering). They admit any Grade-12 passer with minimal marks ¹¹ ¹⁹. TVETs allow you to enter the workforce most quickly (often with internships), but they lead to certificates/diplomas (not university degrees). Graduates can sometimes articulate (transfer) into UoT diploma programs.

Choosing between these depends on the student's final marks and career goals: a **university** offers the prestige and broad opportunities of a degree but requires higher grades, a **University of Technology** balances theory with practice (good for diplomas), and a **TVET college** provides the fastest route into work for those with only a Grade-12 pass.

Part 5: Action Plan (Sept 2025 – Jan 2026)

Phase 1: Now – Sept 2025 (Exam Prep & Career Testing)

- Create a detailed study schedule for each subject. Join or form study groups and set weekly goals. Use resources like Woza Matrics, Siyavula, PaperVideo and past papers daily.
- Complete the DHET/Khetha and PACE career self-assessments. Record top career fields and note patterns. Begin a decision-matrix spreadsheet (fields vs criteria).

Phase 2: Sept – Oct 2025 (Applications Open)

- Prepare and submit applications to public institutions via the national CAO or university portals (typically Aug–Oct). Include both universities/unitechniks and strong TVET programs.
- Gather documents for NSFAS and Funza Lushaka. As soon as applications open (usually Aug/Sep), apply online for NSFAS funding for all chosen programs. Apply for Funza Lushaka if planning BEd (deadline ~Nov).

Phase 3: Oct – Nov 2025 (Final Exam Focus)

- Shift full attention back to final-mock and revision. Use Sept/Oct application confirmations as motivation but **prioritize exam revision** in Oct–Nov.
- Attend any extra classes (e.g. Woza Matrics SABC lessons). Increase practice test frequency. Keep studying with peers for accountability.

Phase 4: Jan 2026 (Results & Confirmations)

- When results arrive, check admissions: confirm any offers or conditional placements from universities/UoTs. If required marks are achieved, accept (and complete NSFAS registration).
- If results fall short or preferred offer didn't come, use matrics to apply to remaining TVET options (late enrolment often possible until Feb). Update NSFAS with final results and study plan.
- Continue refining the career decision matrix with actual results: lock in 2–3 top programs to focus on.

Throughout, stay focused and positive: each step taken now directly moves you closer to a qualification and career path. By preparing thoroughly for the exams and researching options systematically, you will maximize your chances of starting 2026 on a strong footing with appropriate funding and direction.

Sources: NSC pass-type requirements ²⁵ ³ ; Woza Matrics and Siyavula (free Matric resources) ⁴ ⁵ ; PaperVideo (free tutorial site) ⁷ ; career assessment descriptions ⁸ ⁹ ; example course requirements (Unisa diplomas, etc.) ¹⁰ ¹⁴ ¹⁵ ¹⁷ ; DHET 2024 high-demand list entries ¹⁸ ¹² ; NSFAS eligibility guidelines ²¹ ; and HEI differences ²² ²³ ²⁴ .

1 2 3 25 **Understanding Matric Results | Career Help - Khetha**

<https://www.careerhelp.org.za/content/understanding-matric-results>

4 **Woza Matric – 2022 Catch up**

<https://www.wozamatrics.co.za/>

5 **Excel in Mathematics and Physical Sciences | Siyavula**

<https://www.siyavula.com/>

6 **Practise past papers | Siyavula**

<https://www.siyavula.com/products/past-papers>

7 **Educational Technology & Online Tutoring Videos | Paper Video**

<https://www.papervideo.co.za/>

8 **PACE Questionnaire With The Department Of Employment And Labour - Career Advice In 5 Minutes | NASI ISPANI**

<https://www.nasi-ispani.co.za/take-the-pace-questionnaire/>

9 **Career Pathway: Mapping Your Career Pathway: Steps to Success - FasterCapital**

<https://www.fastercapital.com/content/Career-Pathway--Mapping-Your-Career-Pathway--Steps-to-Success.html>

10 **Diploma in Human Resource Management (98211)**

[https://www.unisa.ac.za/sites/corporate/default/Apply-for-admission/Undergraduate-qualifications/Qualifications/All-qualifications/Diploma-in-Human-Resource-Management-\(98211\)](https://www.unisa.ac.za/sites/corporate/default/Apply-for-admission/Undergraduate-qualifications/Qualifications/All-qualifications/Diploma-in-Human-Resource-Management-(98211))

11 **NC N4-N6: Human Resource Management | False Bay TVET College**

<https://falsebaycollege.co.za/business-studies/business/n4-n6-human-resource-management/>

12 13 16 18 20 **dhet.gov.za**

https://www.dhet.gov.za/Planning%20Monitoring%20and%20Evaluation%20Coordination/The%202024%20National%20List%20of%20Occupations%20in%20High%20Demand_A%20Technical%20Report.pdf

14 **Diploma in Public Administration and Management (98203)**

[https://www.unisa.ac.za/sites/corporate/default/Apply-for-admission/Undergraduate-qualifications/Qualifications/All-qualifications/Diploma-in-Public-Administration-and-Management-\(98203\)](https://www.unisa.ac.za/sites/corporate/default/Apply-for-admission/Undergraduate-qualifications/Qualifications/All-qualifications/Diploma-in-Public-Administration-and-Management-(98203))

15 **Bachelor of Laws (98680 - NEW)**

[https://www.unisa.ac.za/sites/corporate/default/Apply-for-admission/Undergraduate-qualifications/Qualifications/All-qualifications/Bachelor-of-Laws-\(98680-%E2%80%93-NEW\)](https://www.unisa.ac.za/sites/corporate/default/Apply-for-admission/Undergraduate-qualifications/Qualifications/All-qualifications/Bachelor-of-Laws-(98680-%E2%80%93-NEW))

17 **Bachelor of Education in Foundation Phase Teaching (90102)**

[https://www.unisa.ac.za/sites/corporate/default/Apply-for-admission/Undergraduate-qualifications/Qualifications/All-qualifications/Bachelor-of-Education-in-Foundation-Phase-Teaching-\(90102\)](https://www.unisa.ac.za/sites/corporate/default/Apply-for-admission/Undergraduate-qualifications/Qualifications/All-qualifications/Bachelor-of-Education-in-Foundation-Phase-Teaching-(90102))

19 **NC N4-N6: Business Management | False Bay TVET College**

<https://falsebaycollege.co.za/business-studies/business/n4-n6-business-management/>

21 **nsfas.org.za**

<https://www.nsfas.org.za/content/downloads/NSFAS%20Bursary%20Guidelines%202025.pdf>

22 23 24 **What is the difference between a University, a University of Technology and a TVET college? - Oxford University Press Southern Africa**

https://oxford.co.za/what-is-the-difference-between-a-university-a-university-of-technology-and-a-tvet-college-2/?srsltid=AfmBOoq_XlugZrIpMSqh9HAEv-a0gkLzInHaEm1ZGQQcC1u4ZQqbszDR