

The Independent Examinations Board (IEB), Republic of South Africa

Benchmarking the National Senior Certificate

Understanding the Client's Aims

Having introduced the National Senior Certificate (NSC) in South Africa in 2008, the IEB commissioned UK NARIC in 2009 to undertake a benchmarking study that would provide stakeholders and the wider public with an **independent, objective evaluation** of the qualification.

The UK NARIC Approach

UK NARIC employed its **well-established and robust evaluation methodology** to:

- Review the NSC design and delivery in terms of **quality** and **academic standard**
- Examine the qualification against the GCE AS level in the UK
- Provide **recommendations for qualification and curriculum development**.

Delivering Quality Results

UK NARIC presented the IEB with a comprehensive report detailing the methodology, an in-depth comparative analysis of the IEB in the context of the UK education system to **allay stakeholder concerns** and a series of **recommendations to further enhance the quality of the programme**. Having successfully conducted this study, UK NARIC was commissioned in 2012 to undertake a new study, evaluating and benchmarking the IEB's Advanced Programme English.

“It is in the interests of South Africa that the NSC is evaluated by a **respected international organisation**. ...The report itself is easy to read, its findings are re-assuring and its **recommendations are sobering**. In short, the South African qualification meets its intended international standards...It would be remiss of me not to acknowledge the intensive engagement with UK NARIC researchers, Ms Cloud Bai-Yun, the CEO of UK NARIC, and Mr Chris Lyons, the senior researcher on this project. Their **commitment to understand fully the idiosyncrasies of the South African system and to provide a useful report for us to work with, is testimony to their professionalism**”.

Anne Oberholzer, Independent Examinations Board

