

GEC competency assessment

Learners



basic education

Department:
Basic Education
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



3

ENTREPRENEURSHIP

EMPLOYABILITY

EDUCATION

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Welcome



Do you sometimes wonder what the purpose of school is? Is it to learn stuff? Is it to get good marks? Is it to make your teachers and parents happy with how you are doing?

Imagine if you could go to a school that took your views on what and how to learn seriously? Imagine if you felt you were seen as a person who had value to contribute to life? Imagine if you had the chance to decide for yourself what kind of education you would like to pursue as you got older?

Well, the Department of Basic Education (DBE) cares about you. You are a national asset. **Without you there will be no future for the country.** No-one to solve the problems that this world is facing. The DBE wants to be sure that you have the tools that you need to make the choices you want; that you have tools to participate in life after school as you want to – either as a **successfully employed person, an entrepreneur or continue your education or all of these things.**

So, to have these tools, you will need to be taught in such a way that is fun, engaging, meaningful, is socially interactive with your peers, and which gives you the opportunity to try and try and try again. Imagine coming to school to solve real life exciting problems. Imagine if the “exams” tested how good you were at communicating, being creative, being empathetic...

Well, you don't need to imagine this! **This term you will be participating in a Playful Project-based Learning Project called 'I am an Entrepreneur'.** By participating in this project, you will solve real-life problems, develop your communication, collaboration, creativity, and critical thinking skills! These skills are sometimes called the '21st century skills' or 'skills for a changing world', but whatever you call them they are important skills to prepare you to be successful in life after school.



This term you will be participating in a Playful Project-based Learning Project called 'I am an Entrepreneur'

21st century skills

These skills are important because, no matter what you do after school, whether you start your own business, work in a shop, become a doctor, everyone needs these skills to succeed. They are 'transferable'. These skills help you to manage in a world that is complex and uncertain. For example, we have all seen how the Covid-19 pandemic has changed our world, so we need to be able to collaborate with people and we need to think of creative solutions to the problems that we face. There is so much research that tells us that these 'soft skills' or '21st century skills' can be learnt and developed. Since these skills can be developed you can also measure your development in these skills.

To help you get better and better at these 21st century skills please read on. In this document we have shared with you a very simple self-assessment tool that you can complete during the project either on your own or with friends. All you need to do is:

1. Read the following 16 questions (they are short)
2. Think about how often you do what is written in the question, is it – Never, Something, Often or Almost Always, or Always?
3. Then think of an example to help show you doing this activity.



Remember, there are **NO right or wrong answers here**. Your **honest thoughts about your experiences in the project** are important and will help you to see how you can develop your skills even more in these areas. The first step to being able to develop your skills is to be able to SEE them. Once you can see them, you can then start thinking about how you can develop them! But let's take one step at a time and get started with this activity...



We hope you have fun on this exciting and meaningful learning journey!

Creativity

Creativity is all about using your imagination to see things differently. Creative people come up with different ideas and find realistic solutions to problems they face. There are many elements to creativity, but we will be focusing on **solution seeking** and **reflecting**.



Name: _____

Solution seeking and idea generating

Creative people come up with ideas. They are also good at turning these ideas into realistic solutions and consider things that might limit them. Creative people are motivated by limitations which they see as opportunities.

Reflecting

Creative people reflect on the process of doing something and make small changes when appropriate to improve the process.

Analysing information

Transferring knowledge and experience to solve a problem

Taking risks

Listening

Solution seeking and idea generating

Reflecting

INSTRUCTIONS:

Read the statements below and answer them honestly. You can discuss your answers with your friend.

Tick your answer in the blocks

Never (1) Sometimes (5) Often (10) Always (15)

Think about some examples of when you demonstrated this during the project. Ask your friend to help you:

1. I came up with ideas and/or helped my team come up with ideas ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

2. I helped my team to find relevant and realistic solutions to problems identified ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

3. I reflected on my experience during this activity. I used what I learnt from reflecting to do things differently the next time. ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

4. I would rate my understanding of what creativity is as...
 Circle your answer on the scale from 1 to 5.
 1 I don't understand 2 3 4 5 I completely understand



Total marks for creativity

/ 50



Critical Thinking

Critical thinking is all about asking questions to understand the world around you, it is also about trying to make sense of the information you find, evaluating it and connecting it to other pieces of information. There are many elements to critical thinking, but we will be focusing on **analysing** and **considering alternatives**.



Name: _____

Analysing

Analysing is all about breaking down a complex topic or piece of information into smaller parts that are easier to understand. You can use tools, such as thinking maps to help you to do this. It is also about asking questions to help you understand something.

Considering alternatives

Considering alternatives

To expand initial idea(s) by considering different and/or opposing views.

Reasoning

Critical Reflecting

Analysing

INSTRUCTIONS:

Read the statements below and answer them honestly. You can discuss your answers with your friend.

Tick your answer in the blocks

Never (1) Sometimes (5) Often (10) Always (15)

Think about some examples of when you demonstrated this during the project. Ask your friend to help you:

1. I asked questions about the topic/activity to help me understand it better.

☐☐☐☐☐

2. I used tools to help me to organise the information I was learning about the topic/activity.

☐☐☐☐☐

3. I considered different opinions or views from my own viewpoint.

☐☐☐☐☐

4. I would rate my understanding of what creativity is as....

Circle your answer on the scale from 1 to 5.

1 2 3 4 5
I don't understand I completely understand



Total marks for critical thinking

/ 50



Elements of Communication

Communication is the process of transferring information from one person or group of people to another. You can communicate in different ways, through speaking, writing, without words and use different tools. Good communicators try and understand other people (have empathy). There are many elements to communication, but we will be focusing on **empathy, articulating** and **non-verbal communication**.



Questioning

Multiple-means communicating

Inter-person communicating

Empathising

Articulating

Non-verbal communication

Name: _____

Empathising

Good communicators try and understand how other people feel and take their experiences into consideration.

Articulating

(expressing in your own way)

To excel in communication, it is important to consider the audience and present information using tools and methods that are appropriate for that audience.

Non-verbal communication

(facial expressions and hand gestures)

Communication is not just about words. Nonverbal cues and tones that people use can be extremely important for sharing emotions and messages. It is important to know how the **WAY** that you say something impacts others as much as or more than **WHAT** you say.

INSTRUCTIONS:

Read the statements below and answer them honestly. You can discuss your answers with your friend.

Tick your answer in the blocks

Never (1) Sometimes (5) Often (10) Always (15)

Think about some examples of when you demonstrated this during the project. Ask your friend to help you:

1. Did you 'put yourself in others shoes' to try and understand how they feel?

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

2. Did you consider who you were speaking to and tailor (or change) your responses depending on who you were speaking to?

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

3. Did you understand and see non-verbal means of communicating.

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

4. I would rate my understanding of what communication is as....

Circle your answer on the scale from 1 to 5.

1 2 3 4 5
I don't understand I completely understand



Total marks for communication

/ 50



Elements of Collaboration

Collaboration is when people work with each other to complete a task. It involves co-operation and teamwork and the sharing of ideas, knowledge, and skills to reach the same goal. There are many elements to collaboration, but we will be focusing on **compromise, conflict resolution** and **feedback**.



Leveraging other's strengths

Considering

Conflict resolution

Compromising

Feeding back

Name: _____

Compromise

People who are good collaborations take responsibility for their own behaviour and tasks. They also know that they cannot get their own way all the time and work with the team to find the best solutions.

Conflict resolution

(solving problems)

People who are good at collaboration are good at solving conflict or disagreement in their groups. They actively listen and try and understand a problem from different peoples perspectives.

Feeding back

The best collaborators give constructive feedback. They also openly receive feedback to help them grow and develop their skills

INSTRUCTIONS:

Read the statements below and answer them honestly. You can discuss your answers with your friend.

Tick your answer in the blocks

Never (1) Sometimes (5) Often (10) Always (15)

Think about some examples of when you demonstrated this during the project. Ask your friend to help you:

1. Did you make compromises so the team could get the best results.

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

2. Did you help to solve problems in your team?

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

3. Did you give useful feedback to your team?

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

4. I would rate my understanding of what collaboration is as....

Circle your answer on the scale from 1 to 5.

1
I don't understand

2

3

4

5

I completely understand



Total marks for collaboration

/ 50

My Reflections



Reflections on my skills

Complete this tree map to help you reflect on your experiences and develop your thinking skills

Which of these four skills is my strongest skill and why?

What other skills did I notice during the project

What did I learn about myself that I didn't know before?

What can I do to develop my skills?
