



Province of the

# EASTERN CAPE

EDUCATION

# 5

*days to the start of the final exams!*

*"The difference between **try** and **triumph** is just a little umph!" Marvin Phillips*

**DEAR GRADE 12 CLASS OF 2009**

## **Use the DETER Strategy to do better in the exams and to improve your marks.**

Knowing your subject matter well is one way of doing well in an exam. Another way is by adopting a strategy that best allows you to show what you know in an exam. One such strategy is the DETER strategy which we will discuss today. Each letter stands for a key word that reminds you what to do.

**D = Directions:** Read the directions of the question very carefully. Look for direction words and limiting words. Does a question require you to **discuss** the properties of something or just **list** them? Does the question refer to a **general** or a **specific** situation? Ask the teacher to explain the directions that you do not understand. By following the directions you can formulate your responses accurately and to the point.

**E = Examine:** Examine the entire question paper to see how much you have to do. This will allow you to

- identify those questions which you know very well, not so well or not at all.
- break the exam down into manageable parts
- pace yourself through the question paper

**T = Time:**

- Decide how much time you will spend on each section/question.
- If there are different sections for questions, plan to spend the most time on the sections that count the most marks.
- Avoid spending so much time on one question/section that you have little time left for other questions.

**E = Easiest:** The second E in DETER reminds you to answer the questions you find easiest first.

When you *examined* the entire question paper you will have already identified these questions.

If you spend too much time on a difficult item that comes up early in the question paper, you may later find that you do not have enough time to answer questions that you know.

**R = Review**

If you have planned your time correctly, you will have time to review your answers and make them as complete and accurate as possible. Also make sure to review the exam instructions to be certain you have answered all items required.

Adapted from an article at [www.how-to-study.com](http://www.how-to-study.com)

*The more responsibility you take for your education, the easier learning and studying will be.*

