

Grade 8/9

Why do learners fail?

1. ENGLISH

- Immature verbal skills ó insufficient parent/child communication.
- Pupils are not encouraged to read at home, therefore they do not write well nor do they comprehend what they have read. Reading age is FAR below standard. Some 14 year old learners have a reading age of 8 years.
- Good readers are good writers more often than not. They also have a superior vocabulary.
- Too much time is spent watching TV and playing computer games.
- Very little parental control of homework and exam preparation.
- Core muscles are very weak due to lack of exercise = bad posture = bad handwriting and this also affects concentration.
- We teach ACADEMIC English not spoken language. They don't take English seriously. They assume that because they can speak it, they don't have to study.

2. AFRIKAANS

- Learners do not take portfolio work seriously and finish it as quickly as they can.
- They must learn the grammar rules.
- They are not doing portfolio research work at home.
- They don't study for vocabulary tests, that is why they can't write essays/letters or even a simple sentence.

3. NS (Natural Science)

- When learners are absent, they do not make an effort to catch up missed work.
- Learners are still without textbooks at this time (up to block tests).
- We are currently busy with the human body and reproductive system and some of the learners try to be funny and keep disrupting the class.
- According to learners' responses in class, it appears that some of the learners are sexually active.
- Learners' spelling in tasks, exams and class work is of a very low standard.
- Learners focus only on skills and not on studying facts.

4. MATHEMATICS

- Learners do not practice enough; they say there is not enough time.
- They are not prepared in primary school in certain areas. i.e. fractions, and their timetables. This simply involves practice.
- Learners struggle with $x \times x = x^2$ and $x + x = 2x$.
- Learners lack commitment.
They do not apply themselves.
- Many copy homework or tasks and therefore struggle in tests, as they are unable to work on their own.
- In order to prepare for a text/exam the learners should revise every exercise that they have already done as practice ó most do not prepare in advance and as a result they do poorly.
- Multiplication tables. They don't understand the basic concept of numbers. Some learners can't understand a numberline.
- They think Maths is not a study subject.

5. EMS (Economic Management Sciences)

- Most learners who struggle in Mathematics have a problem in Accounting. (Tutorials do help if attended regularly).
- In Business Studies, portfolio work is not handed in or is late.
- Learners' lack of comprehension (language) prevents them from doing well.
- Learners don't apply study skills taught in LO.
- Homework is very important in EMS. If the learner fails to complete this, they struggle in exams.
- Parents need to be more involved.

6. HSS(Geography/History)

- Learners have problems with map work ó they often associate map work with Maths.
- Learners are absent and do not find out what work has to be completed especially with portfolio work.
- They often copy homework and therefore do not understand when tested on work.
- They fail to hand in their work on time.
- They don't bother to attend tutorials.
- They don't like the subject, so don't feel it necessary to study.
- They use sporting activities to get out of extra lessons.

7. TECHNOLOGY

- Learners don't have the necessary tools required, i.e. cardboard, a pair of scissors, and 30cm ruler.
- They fail to hand in projects/portfolio work on time.
- Many learners are still without workbooks and some will never have a textbook.
- They don't use resources for investigation i.e. Internet/Library.
- They do not pay attention in class.
- They don't take the subject seriously (primary school attitude of free period).

8. ARTS AND CULTURE

- Many learners have difficulty delegating and accepting responsibility for group work assignments.
- Because a lot of the activities are fun and involve drawing, painting, singing and dancing, learners make the mistake of not taking their performance seriously.
- They often neglect to finish assignments or do not hand them in by the due date.

9. LIFE ORIENTATION

- Learners do not hand in portfolio assignments on time.
- Some of the learners are weak in English and therefore struggle to express themselves.