



Province of the
EASTERN CAPE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

GRADE 12 RESEARCH TOPICS FOR YEAR 2026

POINTS TO CONSIDER WHEN PLANNING A RESEARCH ASSIGNMENT

- The choice of the research topic needs to be made taking into consideration the context of the school and the available resources to which the learners will have access.
- Limit the scope and the scale of the research.
- Decide what can and cannot be done within the available time.
- The process provides learners with an opportunity to embark on a process of historical enquiry. Conducting original research involves the collection, analysis, organization, evaluation of information and the construction of knowledge.
- Clear written instructions with due dates and the assessment criteria must be given to learners.
- **THE PROGRESS OF LEARNERS, WITH REGARDS TO RESEARCH ASSIGNMENT MUST BE MONITORED ON AN ON-GOING BASIS.**
- It is essential that learners do their original work. To reduce the likelihood of plagiarism, the key question or research topic should be changed every year!
- When typing the final document use Arial, font size 12 and 1.5 spacing.

Before you submit your research assignment, check if you have complied with the following requirements:

Cover page ✓

Statement of authenticity ✓

Table of contents ✓

Introduction ✓

Background ✓

Body of evidence (Essay part) ✓

Conclusion ✓

Reflection ✓

Bibliography ✓

Proofread your work thoroughly to check coherence, spelling and grammatical errors. Edit your document. Submit the first draft, make corrections and then submit the final draft within the specified time.

GUIDELINES ON HOW TO WRITE A BIBLIOGRAPHY

A research should include the list of sources to which reference has been made in the report. The purpose of the list is to enable the reader to consult these sources. Only sources that have been consulted and have been referred to directly in the report should appear on the list. These must be arranged alphabetically according to the author's surname.

- **FOR A BOOK**

○ Author (last name and Initials), Year of Publication, Title of the book, Publishers and Place of publication Example – Welman C et al (2005). *Research Methodology*, Third Edition. Oxford University Publishers: Cape Town.

(If there is more than one author, there is no need to write all of them but instead write the first author and write “et al”.

- **FOR INTERNET SOURCE**

○ Website, Title of the article, Access Date

Example ○ www.sahistory.org.za. Xenophobic violence in South Africa. Accessed 16 January 2019.

- **FOR A PERSON**

○ Full name (last name first), Occupation, date of interview Example ○

Mrs Mpahlwa L. ANC Veteran. 25

July 2018

GRADE 12 RUBRIC FOR A RESEARCH ASSIGNMENT -100 MARKS

CRITERIA	LEVEL DESCRIPTORS			
	LEVEL 4	LEVEL 3	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 1
Criterion 1 Planning (10)	8 – 10 Shows thorough/ excellent understanding of planning (clear research schedule provided)	5 – 7 Shows adequate understanding of planning	3 – 4 Shows Some evidence of planning	0 – 2 Shows little or no evidence of planning
Criterion 2 Identify and access a variety of sources of information (20)	16 – 20 Shows thorough/ excellent understanding of identifying and accessing sources of information	10 – 15 Shows adequate understanding of identifying and accessing sources of information	5 – 9 Shows some understanding of identifying and accessing sources of information	0 – 4 Shows little or no understanding of identifying and accessing sources of information
Criterion 3 Knowledge and understanding of the period (10)	8 – 10 Shows thorough/ excellent knowledge and understanding of the period	5 – 7 Shows adequate knowledge and understanding of the period	3 – 4 Shows Some knowledge and understanding of the period	0 – 2 Shows little or no knowledge and understanding of the period
Criterion 4 Historical enquiry, interpretation & communication (Essay) (30)	23 – 30 Shows thorough/ excellent understanding of how to write a coherent argument from the evidence collected	14 – 22 Shows adequate understanding of how to write a coherent argument from the evidence collected	7 – 13 Shows some understanding of how to write a coherent argument from the evidence collected	0 – 6 Shows little or no understanding of how to write a coherent argument from the evidence collected
Criterion 5 Presentation (10)	8 – 10 Shows thorough/ excellent evidence on how to present researched information in a structured manner (e.g. Cover page, table of contents, research topic etc.)	5 – 7 Shows adequate evidence on how to present researched information in a structured manner (e.g. Cover page, table of contents, research topic etc.)	3 – 4 Shows some evidence on how to present researched information in a structured manner (e.g. Cover page, table of contents, research topic etc.)	0 – 2 Shows little or no evidence on how to present researched information in a structured manner (e.g. Cover page, table of contents, research topic etc.)
Criterion 6 Evaluation & reflection (10)	8 – 10 Shows thorough/ excellent understanding of evaluating and reflecting on the research assignment process (e.g. what has a candidate learnt from undertaking research)	5 - 7 Shows adequate understanding of evaluating and reflecting on the research assignment process (e.g. what has a candidate learnt from undertaking research)	3 – 4 Shows some evidence of evaluating and reflecting on the research assignment process (e.g. what has a candidate learnt from undertaking research)	0 – 2 Little or no evidence of evaluating and reflecting on the research assignment process (e.g. what has a candidate learnt from undertaking research)
	8 – 10	5 - 7	3 – 4	0 – 2

Criterion 7 Acknowledgement of sources (10)	Shows thorough/excellent understanding of acknowledging sources (e.g. footnotes, references, plagiarism)	Shows adequate understanding of acknowledging sources (e.g. footnotes, references, plagiarism)	Shows Some evidence of acknowledging sources (e.g. footnotes, references, plagiarism)	Little or no evidence of acknowledging sources (e.g. footnotes, references, plagiarism)
--	--	--	---	---

1. ANGOLA: AFRICA IN THE COLD WAR: CASE –STUDY-ANGOLA

Research Topic: The Battle of Cuito Cuanavale was a turning point in the history of Southern Africa in the late 1980s.

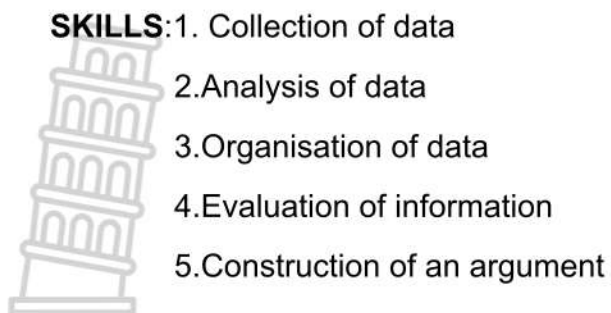
PREAMBLE AND BACKGROUND

Angola achieved independence from Portugal in 1975. There were different Liberation movements and soon the country plunged into a Civil war. The cold war competition played out during the Angolan Civil war leading to the involvement of foreign countries in the civil war. The battle of Cuito Cuanavale was a turning point in the history of Southern Africa in the 1980s.

Research Key Question

In the light of the above statement investigate how the battle of Cuito Cuanavale influenced the political changes in Southern Africa in the 1980s.

- Aims:**
- 1 To investigate how the battle of Cuito Cuanavale Influenced political changes in Southern Africa in the 1980s.
 2. To investigate the impact of the battle of Cuito Cuanavale on Namibia.
 3. To investigate the impact of the battle of Cuito Cuanavale on South Africa.



A. Introduction

- Focus on topic
- Formulate a line of argument
- Use key words from topic as a guide to structure the line of argument

B. Body

- Independence of Angola
- Outbreak of the Civil war in Angola.
- Involvement of foreign powers in the Angolan civil war.
- Battle of Cuito Cuanavale and its results.
- Impact of the battle of Cuito on Namibia.
- Impact of the battle of Cuito on South Africa.
- Different views on the battle of Cuito of Cuanavale.
- Any other relevant response.

C. Conclusion

How did the battle of Cuito Cuanavale influence the political changes in Southern Africa in the 1980s?

D. Reflections

What have you learnt whilst doing the research?

E. Bibliography/References

Total marks /100

OR

2.TOPIC: THE TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION COMMISSION

Research Topic: How has South Africa chosen to remember the past.

Preamble and Background.

When Nelson Mandela became a President in 1994, he said it was time to heal the wounds and build a new South Africa. As a result of this statement, TRC was established. The mandate of the commission to bear witness to record and in some cases, grant amnesty to the Perpetrators of crimes relating to human rights violations, reparations and rehabilitation. Consequently, the TRC aimed to promote psychological healing and reconciliation for individuals, groups, victims and offenders. Reconciliation was essential for the survival of a new democracy. However, there has been both praise and criticisms for the TRC.

Key Question.

In the light of the above statement, investigate what was the TRC, and why was it necessary for the South African government to heal the wounds of the past political experience.

Aims and Objectives

- 1.To investigate the functions of the TRC in healing South Africa from its past in order to bring about reconciliation.
- 2.To investigate significant contributions in the past and investigate past events.
- 3.To foster interest in the past.
- 4.To reinforce critical thinking in our Learners
- 5.To have knowledge and understanding about historical events.

- SKILLS:**
- Collection of data
 - ✦ Analysis of data
 - ✦ Organization of data
 - ✦ Evaluation of data
 - ✦ Construction of knowledge

Instructions and how to embark on research assignment.

A. Introduction

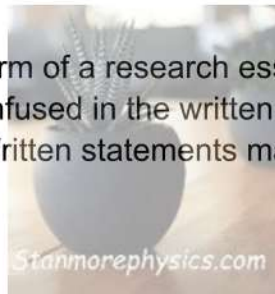
- Formulate a line of argument
- Focus on the topic
- Use key words from the topic as a guide to structure the line of argument.
- Planning i.e. log/Schedule of time

B. Body

- Aims of the TRC
- Committees of the TRC
- Forms of Justice, Retributive and Restorative Justice.
- The focus of the TRC in terms of its workings.
- Negative aspects through Case studies like Biko family, Griffiths Mxenge family, Hector Petersen, Ahmed Timol, Cradock Four.
- Different responses to the TRC.
- Any other relevant response.

N.B

The presentation should be in the form of a research essay but **NOT** an essay. Visual sources should be incorporated or infused in the written source. Learners must make **footnotes and literature review**. Written statements may be supported by visual sources.



C. Conclusion

In what ways did the TRC succeed in healing South Africa from the past. **D.**

Reflections

What insights did you gain from conducting research on the TRC?

C. Bibliography/References

Access to resources like library and internet.

Selected sources should be aligned to the developed key question.

Visual sources must be clear.

A selected or scanned image must be enlarged diagonally at the corners in order to avoid distortion of the image.

Total marks /100/

OR

TOPIC 3: THE CRISES OF APARTHEID IN THE 1980S.

Research Topic: Role of the United Democratic Front through the actions and support to challenge the Apartheid Regime

Key Question: *Critically evaluate the contributions made by the United Democratic Front in opposing Apartheid in South Africa in the 1980s ?*

Aims and objectives

- 1.To evaluate the work of the United Democratic Front
- 2.To make people know that the united Democratic front rejected the introduction of a Tricameral parliament.
- 3.To foster understanding about historical events.
- 4.To foster interest in the past.

SKILLS: Skill of collecting data

- Skill of analysing data
- Skill of organizing data
- Skill of evaluating information
- Skill of constructing knowledge.

Preamble and Background

Reverend Allan Boesak's famous "ALL, HERE and Now" speech at the launch of the United Democratic Front in Cape Town on the 20 August 1983 illustrated the intentions of the United Democratic front. The launch of the UDF brought together many different Anti-Apartheid organizations across the Country and directed their energies effectively against Apartheid. It was deliberately organized as a loose Alliance rather than a centralized political party so that the government could not easily destroy it.

A. Introduction

- Focus on the topic

- Follow the line of argument or formulate the line of argument
- Use key words from the topic as a guide to structure the line of argument.

B. Body • Formation of the United Democratic Front in Mitchell's Plain on the 20 August 1983.

- Role played by the United Front in ending Apartheid regime in South Africa in the 1980s.
- Rejection of the Tri-cameral Parliament.
- Government response to UDF.
- Any other relevant response.

C Conclusion

In what ways did the United Democratic Front contribute in the fall of Apartheid in South Africa.

D. Reflections

What did you learn from conducting this research? What are the personal experiences that you have gained from doing this research?

E. Bibliography/References

- Resources
- Internet
- Books
- Sources

Total marks /100/