

PRESS RELEASE

SAIP & CUT join forces for Free State Province Physical Science Teacher Development

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Maths and Science education in the country has been faced with fundamental and systematic challenges, which have been exacerbated by the condensed school calendar due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The South Africa Institute of Physics (SAIP) in collaboration with the Central University of Technology, Free State (CUT), will be running a series of Physical Science teacher development workshops for the Free State province from 4 – 8 October 2021; with support from the Philanthropy Initiative with employees of Allan Gray.

The SAIP's primary goal is to **improve physics education** and research, **develop and nurture the next generation of physicists in South Africa**. Physics is a fundamental science that underpins the development of all other science, engineering, and technology disciplines. Studying physics imparts transferable quantitative reasoning, critical thinking and problem-solving skills that are valuable in areas such as medicine, engineering, ICT, Big Data, Artificial Intelligence (AI), astronomy, financial analysis, and investment management, among others.

If more learners pass and perform well in physics at high school, South Africa will have more science, engineering, and technology human capital skills required for the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) and Strategic Infrastructure Projects (SIPs). We **aim to unlock physics potential to address socio-economic challenges with a view to realise Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** for South Africa.

Teacher Development Workshops

Three workshops will be run in parallel as follows

- CUT - Bloemfontein Campus Face-to-Face
- CUT – Welkom Campus Face-to-Face
- Free State Province Online Teacher Training

110 teachers have registered for the 3 events. SAIP Physics Teacher Development is accredited by the South African Council of Educators (SACE), the statutory professional body for educators in South Africa. Hence teachers will now accumulate Continuous Professional Development Points (CPD) whenever they attend the SAIP Teacher Development workshops.

Essential Skills for Matric: Physical Science Paper 1 Examination Preparation

Given the COVID19 constraints and the move to online learning, SAIP recognise that access to data and connectivity for some teachers, learners, and remote schools remains a logistical challenge. Hence, since 2020, the SAIP in collaboration with the University of Zululand Science Centre are supporting schools through the "Essential Skills for Matric" resources. All teachers participating at the events will receive these materials.

The “Essential Skills for Matric” series, which was introduced last year, has been upgraded, updated and improved for 2021. With 50 % MORE content and with 2020 exams added, it is perfectly placed to assist teachers and pupils in sharpening those Essential Skills to ace the matric exam. 16 hours of Physics Videos are available for download – and it is all FREE – just register to join online at <http://saip.org.za/Matric%20Material>. The accompanying booklets are available for download in pdf form, linked to each video. Videos feature dynamic presentations by proven experts in the field, covering theory, exam questions and answers, simulations, and inspiring interviews.

The SAIP has printed 40000 booklets and produced 2500 USBS currently being distributed to schools in Gauteng, Limpopo, KwaZulu Natal, Free State and the Eastern Cape provinces.

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