

WJEC GUIDANCE ON ACCESS ARRANGEMENTS AND REASONABLE ADJUSTMENTS FOR SUMMER 2021

Introduction

The purpose of this guidance is to provide advice to centre staff on access arrangements and reasonable adjustments for summer 2021.

The guidance covers the following Qualifications Wales approved qualifications:

- Qualifications Wales approved GCSE, AS and A level
- Skills Challenge Certificates
- Level 2 and Level 3 Health and Social Care: Principles and Contexts
- Level 2 Children's Care, Play, Learning and Development (Unit 216)

The following [JCO guidance](#) should also be considered:

- Access Arrangements and Reasonable Adjustments book 1 September 2020 to 31 August 2021.
- Notice to Centres – SENCOs and assessors – June 2021
- Important supplementary information for SENCOs and assessors 2020/21.

Access arrangements and reasonable adjustments allow candidates with specific needs, such as special educational needs or disabilities, to access assessments, meeting the needs of the individual without affecting the integrity of the assessment. They are agreed before an assessment takes place and should reflect a candidate's normal way of working.

Where candidates have agreed access arrangements or reasonable adjustments (for example a reader or scribe), the centre must make every effort to ensure that these arrangements are in place when assessments are being taken. Where, for some reason, that has not been possible, the judgements should be reflected in the final judgement.

Centres are strongly recommended to seek advice from relevant specialist teachers or other specialists supporting the candidate on the evidence used for grading

The Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) requires and enables schools and colleges to make decisions in a fair, transparent and accountable way, considering the needs and rights of different candidates.

Applying for access arrangements

Centres should continue to test for, submit applications to WJEC, and apply relevant access arrangements (and paper modifications), as if standard examinations were going ahead*. This is to ensure that any candidate's work, taken into account when determining the centre grade, has had the relevant access arrangement(s)/modification(s) in place, to ensure they provide as accurate a representation of ability as possible and to allow for the smooth progression of the arrangements in future examination series.

*Specialist advice should always be sought, where necessary.

The deadline for processing online access arrangements applications has been extended this year from 21 February to 31 March 2021. An online application may, however, be processed after 31 March given the current exceptional and challenging circumstances.

Modified papers

A full list of modified papers is available on the WJEC secure website. The modified papers will be available from the week commencing 15 March. Modified papers will not be printed and despatched to centres but will be available to download electronically from our secure website.

Centres have previously been requested to make all applications for additional modifications to WJEC by 4 March 2021.

Determining grades

Each Centre Determined Grade must be an objective decision based on evidence of a candidate's knowledge, understanding, skills and abilities in relation to the subject.

For students with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), schools and colleges should make their judgement assuming students had continued to receive any usual additional learning support.

Evidence should be gathered from relevant professionals to enable teachers to make secure judgements about centre determined grades. This might include, for example, seeking information from teachers in another school, college, or alternative provision such as a hospital setting. It could also include peripatetic or advisory teachers who may work across a number of centres, such as qualified teachers of deaf, vision impaired and multi-sensory impaired children and young people.

Appeals

As in other series, appeals may be submitted on the grounds of access arrangements and reasonable adjustments. Further information will be available in the guidance on appeals.

Contact details

Modified papers: Modifiedpaperqueries@wjec.co.uk

Other access arrangements: SpecialRequirements@wjec.co.uk