

WJEC GUIDANCE ON SPECIAL CONSIDERATION FOR SUMMER 2021

Introduction

The purpose of this guidance is to provide advice to centre staff when making decisions on centre determined grades.

The guidance covers the following Qualification 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)

Special consideration

The process of centres submitting special consideration applications to awarding bodies **will not** apply this summer.

As the evidence is flexible and can be tailored to an individual candidate according to the coverage of the specification, instances of special consideration should be limited. Centres should be able to select work completed by candidates where they are unaffected by adverse circumstances.

Where this is not possible and a temporary illness, injury or other event outside of a candidate's control may have affected their performance in assessments which will be used to determine a grade, teachers should take this into account.

The event must relate to the candidate's performance(s) **at the time of taking relevant assessments** which contribute to the centre determined grade and due to events outside of their control. These include:

- Temporary illness or accident/injury
- Bereavement
- Domestic crisis
- The centre not implementing previously approved access arrangements.

Candidates will not be eligible for special consideration if preparation for, or performance in their assessments is affected by:

- Long term illness, disability, or other difficulties unless the illness or circumstances manifest themselves at the time of an assessment
- Bereavement occurring more than six months before the assessment, unless an anniversary has been reached at the time of the assessment or there are on-going implications such as an inquest or court case
- Consequences of disobeying the centre's internal regulations.

Special consideration is never applied due to lost teaching and learning time. Lost teaching and learning is being addressed this summer via the assessment methods and the flexibility afforded to the centre in the content that will be assessed, as outlined in the qualification

assessment frameworks provided by WJEC. Additional information will be provided in the WJEC guidance on grading. Centre determined grades are based on the evidence produced by the candidate and not on their potential.

How to apply special consideration

Special consideration should be implemented by the centre at assessment level through applying an allowance of additional marks to each assessment affected. The size of the allowance depends on the timing, nature and extent of the illness or other circumstance. The maximum allowance given will be 5% of the total raw marks available in the assessment.

The severity of the circumstances and the date of the assessment in relation to the circumstances should be considered.

Centres must be satisfied that the issue or event has had, or is reasonably likely to have had, a material effect on a candidate's ability to demonstrate his or her normal level of attainment in an assessment.

Special consideration cannot be applied in a cumulative fashion. For example, because of a recent trauma at the time of the assessment and the candidate suffering from a viral illness. Special consideration should only be applied for the most serious indisposition.

The following are examples of circumstances which must apply at the time of the assessment.

5% This is the maximum allowance and will be reserved for the most exceptional cases, such as:

- terminal illness of the candidate
- terminal illness of a parent/carer
- death of a member of the immediate family within two months of the assessment
- very serious and disruptive crisis/incident at or near the time of the assessment.

4% Very serious problems such as:

- life-threatening illness of candidate or member of immediate family
- major surgery at or near the time of the assessment
- severe disease
- very recent death of member of extended family
- severe or permanent bodily injury occurring at the time of the examination
- serious crisis/incident at the time of the assessment.

NB 'Very recent' is defined as within one month of the assessment(s) taking place.

3% A more common category (more cases will fall into this category), including:

- recent traumatic experience such as death of a close friend or distant relative
- recent illness of a more serious nature
- flare-up of a severe congenital/medical condition or a psychological condition
- broken limbs
- organ disease
- physical assault trauma before an assessment
- recent crisis/incident
- witnessing a distressing event on the day of the assessment.

NB 'Recent' is defined as up to four months prior to the examination(s) taking place.

2% The most common category of allowance – most cases will fall within this category:

- illness at the time of the assessment
- broken limb on the mend
- concussion
- effects of pregnancy (not pregnancy per se)
- extreme distress on the day of an assessment (not simply assessment related stress).

1% Reserved for more minor problems:

- illness of another candidate which leads to disruption in the assessment
- stress or anxiety for which medication has been prescribed
- hay fever on the day of an assessment
- minor upset arising from administrative problems

Appeals

As in other series, appeals may be submitted on the grounds of the application of special consideration. Further information will be available in the guidance on appeals.

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