



Special consideration

Special Consideration is a process by which, in a 'normal' year, the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) try to mitigate any damage done to students' examination performance by serious external factors **at the time of** the examination, for example; the death of a close relative or illness at the time of the examination. Where special consideration is approved an uplift in examination mark is applied of between 1 and 5%.

Since students are not taking exams this year, the usual special consideration arrangements will not apply in 2021. Schools have been directed to make their own decisions about Special Consideration in 2021 using the 2020 JCQ guidance (full document found here: <https://www.jcq.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/A-guide-to-the-spec-con-process-202021-Website-version.pdf>). It is important to understand that this document was written with the assumption that examinations would go ahead and has not been updated for 2021.

Blacon High School Approach to Special Consideration 2021

Blacon High School will adopt the following approach if parents/carers have informed school that an assessment has been significantly impacted:

1. Where appropriate, alternative evidence will be substituted for the affected assessment.
2. If no appropriate evidence is available, the affected assessment may be disregarded providing sufficient evidence does exist which can be used to fairly award a Centre Assessed Grade (CAG).
3. Where points 1 and 2 cannot be applied, Special Consideration will be considered. In the first instance, the Deputy Headteacher will decide if the case meets JCQ criteria. If the case does meet the JCQ criteria, it will be passed to a panel consisting of the Headteacher, Assistant Headteacher (Teaching & Learning) who make a final decision on the case and authorise any appropriate percentage uplift in marks.



Which situations will and will not be eligible for Special Consideration?

Extracted from JCQ guidance 2020

Candidates WILL be eligible for special consideration in the event of:

2.1.1 temporary illness or accident/injury at the time of the assessment;

2.1.2 bereavement at the time of the assessment (where whole groups are affected, normally only those most closely involved will be eligible);

2.1.3 domestic crisis arising at the time of the assessment;

2.1.4 serious disturbance during an examination, particularly where recorded material is being used;

2.1.5 accidental events at the time of the assessment such as being given the wrong examination paper, being given a defective examination paper or CD, failure of practical equipment, failure of materials to arrive on time;

2.1.6 participation in sporting events, training camps or other events at an international level at the time of the assessment, e.g. representing their country at an international level in chess or football;

2.1.7 failure by the centre to implement previously approved access arrangements for that specific examination series.

Candidates will NOT be eligible for special consideration in the event of:

2.3.1 long term illness or other difficulties during the course affecting revision time, unless the illness or circumstances manifest themselves at the time of the assessment;

2.3.2 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;

2.3.3 domestic inconvenience, such as moving house, lack of facilities, taking holidays (including school/exchange visits and field trips) at the time of the assessment;

2.3.4 minor disturbance in the examination room caused by another candidate, such as momentary bad behaviour or a mobile phone ringing;

2.3.5 the consequences of committing a crime, where formally charged or found guilty; (However, a retrospective application for special consideration may be considered where the charge is later dropped or the candidate is found not guilty.)

2.3.6 the consequences of taking alcohol or recreational drugs;

2.3.7 the consequences of disobeying the centre's internal regulations;

2.3.8 the failure of the centre to prepare candidates properly for the examination for whatever reason;

2.3.9 quality of teaching, staff shortages, building work or lack of facilities;

2.3.10 misreading the timetable and/or failing to attend at the right time and in the right place;

2.3.11 misreading the instructions of the question paper and answering the wrong questions;

2.3.12 making personal arrangements such as a wedding or holiday arrangements which conflict with the examination timetable;

2.3.13 submitting no coursework or non-examination assessment at all, unless coursework or non-examination assessment is scheduled for a restricted period of time, rather than during the course;

2.3.14 missing all examinations and internally assessed components/units;

2.3.15 failure to cover the course because of joining the class part way through;

2.3.16 a disability or learning difficulties (diagnosed or undiagnosed) unless illness affects the candidate at the time of the assessment or where the disability exacerbates what would otherwise be a minor issue – (difficulties over and above those that previously approved access arrangements would have alleviated);

2.3.17 failure by the centre to process access arrangements by the published deadline.