

Exams - Equality Policy

Purpose of the policy

This document is provided as an exams-specific supplement to the centre-wide equalities/disability/accessibility policy/plan which details how the centre will:

- recognise its duties towards disabled candidates, including private candidates, ensuring compliance with all aspects of the Equality Act 2010[†], particularly Section 20 (7). This must include a duty to explore and provide access to suitable courses, through the access arrangements process submit applications for reasonable adjustments and make reasonable adjustments to the service the centre provides to disabled candidates. Where the centre is under a duty to make a reasonable adjustment, the centre must not charge a disabled candidate any additional fee in relation to the adjustment or aid
†or any legislation in a relevant jurisdiction other than England and Wales which has an equivalent purpose and effect

(JCQ's **General Regulations for Approved Centres**, section 5.4)

This publication is further referred to in this policy as [GR](#)

This policy details how the centre facilitates access to exams and assessments for disabled candidates, as defined under the terms of the Equality Act 2010, by outlining staff roles and responsibilities in relation to

- identifying the need for appropriate arrangements, reasonable adjustments and/or adaptations (referred to in this policy as 'access arrangements')
- requesting access arrangements
- implementing access arrangements and the conduct of exams
- good practice in relation to the Equality Act 2010

The Equality Act 2010 definition of disability

A definition is provided in the JCQ publication Adjustments for candidates with disabilities and learning difficulties Access Arrangements and Reasonable Adjustments 2023-2024

Identifying the need for access arrangements - Roles and responsibilities

Head of centre

- Is familiar with the entire contents, refers to and directs relevant centre staff to the annually updated JCQ publications including GR and AA
- evidence of the assessor's qualification(s) is obtained before he/she assesses candidates
- Ensures the quality of the access arrangements process within the centre
- Ensures staff roles, responsibilities and processes in identifying, requesting and implementing access arrangements for candidates (including private candidates) are clearly defined and documented
- Ensures a policy demonstrating the centre's compliance with relevant legislation is in place
- Support teaching staff in determining the need for and implementing access arrangements
- Ensure a statement is provided which details the criteria the centre uses to award and allocate word processors for exams
- Presents when requested by a JCQ Centre Inspector, evidence of the assessor's qualification

Senior leaders

- Are familiar with the entire contents of the annually updated JCQ publications including GR and AA

Lead Teacher

- Works with teaching staff, relevant support staff and the exams officer to ensure centre-delegated and awarding body approved access arrangements are put in place for candidates taking internal and external exams/assessments

Specialist Assessor

- Has full knowledge and understanding of the contents, refers to and directs relevant centre staff to the annually updated JCQ publication AA.
- Ensures the assessment process is administered in accordance with the regulations and that the correct procedures are followed as per Chapter 7 of AA

Assigned Teacher

- Informs the Special assessor of any support that might be needed by a candidate
- Provide information to evidence the normal way of working of a candidate
- Conducts appropriate assessments to identify the need(s) of a candidate
- Provides appropriate evidence to confirm the need(s) of a candidate
- Completes appropriate documentation as required by the regulations of JCQ and the awarding body
- Follows guidance in AA Section 8 to process approval applications for access arrangements for those qualifications listed on page 2/92 of AA
- Applies for approval where this is required, through *Access arrangements online* (AAO), or through the awarding body where qualifications sit outside the scope of AAO
- Ensures appropriate and required evidence is held on file to confirm validation responses in AAO including the completion of JCQ Form 8 (*Application for access arrangements – Profile of learning difficulties*), where required, and a body of evidence to substantiate the candidate's normal way of working within the centre
- Ensures where form 8 is required to be completed, the original form is signed (an electronic signature is permissible) and dated as required **prior** to approval being sought and that the original form is provided for processing and inspection purposes (This may be a hard copy paper version or an electronic version).
- Ensures the names of all other assessors, who are assessing candidates studying qualifications as listed on page 2/92 of AA, are entered into AAO to confirm their status including any professionals working outside the centre
- Confirms by ticking the '*Confirmation*' box prior to submitting the application for approval that the '*malpractice consequence statement*' has been read and accepted
- Makes an *awarding body referral* through AAO where the initial application for approval may not be approved by AAO, where it is deemed by the centre that the candidate does meet the criteria for the arrangement(s)
- Ensures that arrangements, and approval where required, are in place before a candidate takes his/her first exam or assessment (which is externally assessed or internally assessed/externally moderated)

- Ensures that where approval is required that this is applied for by the awarding body deadline
- Maintains a (hard copy or electronic) file/e-folder for each candidate that will include:
 - completed JCQ/awarding body application forms and evidence forms
 - appropriate evidence to support the need for the arrangement where required
 - appropriate evidence to support normal way of working within the centre
 - in addition, for those qualifications listed on page 2/92 of AA (where approval is required), a print out of the AAO approval and a signed data protection notice (which provides candidate consent to their personal details being shared)
- Presents the files/e-folders when requested by a JCQ Centre Inspector and addresses any queries/questions raised
- Liaises with teaching staff regarding any appropriate modified paper requirements for candidates
- Liaises with the other teaching staff to ensure arrangements are in place to either order a non-interactive electronic (PDF) question paper or to open question paper packets in the secure room within 90 minutes of the published starting time for the exam where the centre is permitted to modify a timetabled written component exam paper (copy on coloured paper, enlarge to A3 or copy to single sided print)
- Following the appropriate process (AAO for those qualifications listed on page 74 of AA; *Form VQ/EA*), orders published modified papers, by the awarding body's deadline for the exam series, where these may be required for a candidate

Learning Support Assistants and Mentors

- (where appropriate) Provide comments/observations to support the Special assessor in painting a holistic picture of need confirming normal way of working for a candidate

Assessor of candidates with learning difficulties

(An assessor of candidates with learning difficulties will be an appropriately qualified access arrangements assessor/specialist assessor)

- Has detailed understanding of the current JCQ publication AA
Ensures the assessment process is administered in accordance with the regulations and that the correct procedures are followed as per Chapter 7 of AA

Use of word processors

The word processor policy is located in the EP Admin Hub under policies and procedures. The candidate will take the Lucid Exact test to see if they are entitled to use a word processor during exams and assessments and that this is their normal way of working. The Specialist assessor will oversee the test.

Requesting access arrangements

Further details are in the EP Access arrangements policy held in the EP Admin Hub under policies and procedures

Implementing access arrangements and the conduct of exams - Roles and responsibilities

External assessments

These are assessments which are normally set and marked/examined by an awarding body which must be conducted according to awarding body instructions and/or the JCQ publication Instructions for conducting examinations (ICE)

Head of centre

- Supports the specialist assessor, the exams officer and other relevant centre staff in ensuring appropriate arrangements, adjustments and adaptations are in place to facilitate access for disabled candidates to exams

Specialist assessor

- Ensures appropriate arrangements, adjustments and adaptations are in place to facilitate access for candidates where they are disabled within the meaning of the Equality Act (unless a temporary emergency arrangement is required at the time of an exam)

Exams officer

- Understands and follows instructions for *Invigilation arrangements for candidates with access arrangements* and *Access arrangements* in [ICE 2022-2023](#)

Other relevant centre staff

Support the specialist assessor and the exams officer to ensure appropriate arrangements, adjustments and adaptations are in place to facilitate access for disabled candidates to exams

Example of candidate need(s)	Arrangements explored	Centre actions
A medical condition which prevents the candidate from taking exams in the centre	Alternative site for the conduct of examinations Supervised rest breaks	<i>SA gathers evidence to support the need for the candidate to take exams at home</i> <i>Head provides written statement for file to confirm the need</i> <i>Approval confirmed by SA; AAO approval for both arrangements not required</i> <i>Mentor discussion with candidate to confirm the arrangements should be put in place</i> <i>EO submits appropriate 'Alternative site for the conduct of exams form'</i> <i>EO provides candidate with exam timetable and JCQ information for candidates</i> <i>Mentor confirms with candidate the information is understood</i> <i>Mentor agrees with candidate that prior to each exam will call to confirm fitness to take exam</i> <i>EO allocates invigilator(s) to candidate's timetable; confirms time of collection of exam papers and materials</i> <i>Invigilator monitors candidate's condition for each exam and records any issues on incident log</i> <i>Invigilator records rest breaks (time and duration) on incident log and confirms set time given for exam</i>

		<p><i>Invigilator briefs EO after each exam on how candidate's performance in exam may have been affected by his/her condition</i></p> <p><i>EO discusses with mentor if candidate is eligible for special consideration (candidate present but disadvantaged)</i></p> <p><i>EO processes request(s) for special consideration where applicable; incident log(s) provides supporting evidence</i></p> <p><i>Mentor informs candidate that special consideration has been requested</i></p>
Persistent and significant difficulties in accessing written text	<p>Reader/computer reader</p> <p>25% Extra time</p> <p>Separate invigilation within the centre</p>	<p><i>Confirms candidate is disabled within the meaning of the Equality Act 2010</i></p> <p><i>Papers checked for those testing reading</i></p> <p><i>Computer reader/examination reading pen sourced for use in papers (or sections of papers) testing reading OR up to 50% extra time awarded</i></p> <p><i>Original Form 8, signed by hand and dated, with Sections A, B and C completed; kept on file with body of supporting evidence, printed approval from AAO and signed data protection notice</i></p>
Significant difficulty in concentrating	<p>Prompter</p> <p>Separate invigilation within the centre</p>	<p><i>Gathers evidence to support substantial and long term adverse impairment</i></p> <p><i>Confirms with candidate how and when they will be prompted.</i></p> <p><i>EO Briefs invigilator to monitor candidate and the method of prompting (call out his name to bring his attention back to the paper - confirms requirement for separate room)</i></p>
A wheelchair user	<p>Desk</p> <p>Rooms</p> <p>Facilities</p> <p>Seating arrangements</p> <p>Practical assistant</p>	<p><i>Applies for practical assistant to help candidate set up wheelchair and other equipment in a practical assessment; approval automatically fails so awarding body referral lists the tasks that will be performed</i></p> <p><i>Provides height adjustable desk in exam room</i></p> <p><i>Allocates exam room on ground floor near adapted bathroom facilities</i></p> <p><i>Spaces desks to allow wheelchair access</i></p> <p><i>Seats candidate near exam room door</i></p> <p><i>Confirms arrangements in place to assist the candidate in case of emergency evacuation of the exam room</i></p> <p><i>Practical assistant cover sheet printed from AAO; to be completed by facilitator and inserted inside the candidate's work where this may be applicable to the assessment</i></p>

Version	Date	Description	Initials
1	30/11/2016		TW
2		Revised and Updated	TW
3	30/11/2018	Revised and Updated	TW
4	06/07/2021	Changed from Disabilities to Policy to Equalities Policy	TW
5	11/11/2022	<p>Updated Version Number and Date</p> <p>Additional information in Purpose of the Policy</p> <p>Updated the date of referenced documents</p> <p>Updated the location of saved files</p>	HH/TW
6	05/04/2024	Updated Version Number and Date	HH

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