

Introduction

From JCQ Guidance on the determination of grades for A/AS Levels and GCSEs for Summer 2021:

The usual process of centres submitting special consideration applications to awarding organisations for qualifications will not apply this summer.

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

Where this is not possible and a temporary illness, a temporary injury or some other event outside of the student's control may have affected their performance in assessments which will be used to determine a grade, teachers should take this into account and document how they have done so. Special consideration cannot be applied due to lost teaching and learning. This can be addressed through the flexibility of the range of evidence centres may use to determine students' grades. Students should only be assessed on the content of the specification covered.

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

Key principles

- JCQ criteria lead the determination of eligibility for special consideration.
- Special consideration cannot be applied due to lost teaching and learning as teachers/lecturers can address this through the flexibility of the range of evidence which can be used to assign students' grades. **Centres should be able to select work completed by a student when they were unaffected by adverse circumstances.**
- Students should only be assessed on the content of the specification they have been taught.
- Students should be reminded to raise any mitigating circumstances.
 - These issues should be raised as soon as possible, ideally at the time of the assessment and prior to the submission of the teacher assessed grade.

As a centre, the following three considerations will be made for each request:

- We must be satisfied that the issue or event has had, or is reasonably likely to have had, a material effect on a student's ability to demonstrate his or her normal level of attainment in an assessment.
- The mitigating circumstance must have happened at the time of the assessment.
- The mitigating circumstances should EITHER have affected the generation of an assessment OR have prevented the candidate from undertaking or completing an assessment.

In all cases, the following may occur:

- Replacement of the assessment or what would have been the assessment, for another.
- Placement of less of weighting on the evidence when reviewing a student's portfolio of evidence, in a holistic manner.
- Amendment of the evidence base to reflect the narrower coverage of the specification the student has had access to.
- Provision of an opportunity for the candidate to revisit the assessed piece.

Requesting special consideration

- Please inform us by **Tue 1st June '21** by sending an email to parentcomms@dorinpark.cheshire.sch.uk letting us know what evidence may be affected, why and how.
- We will review the request and let you know whether it has been granted by **Monday 7th June '21**.
- If the request is granted, we will replace, remove, narrow the evidence base or offer another opportunity after the half term holiday. This will be communicated with you and your child by **Tuesday 8th June '21**.