

## JCQ guidelines for Special Consideration in GCSE and GCE qualifications

### Chapter 13

#### Which candidates will be eligible for special consideration?

**Special consideration must be applied for following a specific examination series. Candidates will be eligible for special consideration if they have been fully prepared and have covered the whole course but performance in the examination or in the production of controlled assessment/coursework is affected by adverse circumstances beyond their control.**

These include:

- 13.1.1 temporary illness or accident/injury **at the time of the assessment;**
- 13.1.2** bereavement **at the time of the assessment**
- 13.1.3 domestic crisis arising **at the time of the assessment;**
- 13.1.4 serious disturbance **during an examination**, particularly where recorded material is being used;
- 13.1.5 other accidental events such as being given the wrong examination paper, being given a defective examination paper or tape, failure of practical equipment, failure of materials to arrive on time;
- 13.1.6 participation in sporting events at international level **at the time of certification;**
- 13.1.7 failure by the centre or awarding body to implement **previously agreed access arrangements.**

#### **Candidates will NOT be eligible for special consideration**

if preparation for or performance in the examination is affected by:

- 13.2.1 long term illness or other difficulties during the course affecting revision time, **unless the illness or circumstances manifest themselves also during the assessment;**
- 13.2.2 bereavement occurring more than six months before the assessment, unless an anniversary has been reached at the time of the assessment or there are ongoing implications such as inquests or court cases;
- 13.2.3 domestic inconvenience, such as moving house, lack of facilities, taking holidays at the time of the assessment;
- 13.2.4 minor disturbance in the examination caused by candidates, such as bad behaviour, mobile phones etc;
- 13.2.5 the consequences of committing a crime;
- 13.2.6 the consequences of taking alcohol or any other non-prescribed drugs;
- 13.2.7 the consequences of disobeying the centre's internal regulations;
- 13.2.8 the failure to prepare candidates properly for the examination for whatever reason;
- 13.2.9 staff shortages, building work or lack of facilities;
- 13.2.10 the consequences of committing a crime;
- 13.2.11 misreading the instructions of the question papers and answering the wrong questions;
- 13.2.12 making personal arrangements such as a wedding or holiday arrangements which conflict with the examination timetable;
- 13.2.13 submitting no controlled assessment/coursework at all, unless controlled assessment/ coursework is scheduled for a restricted period of time, rather than during the course;
- 13.2.14 missing all examination and internally assessed components;
- 13.2.15 failure to cover the course as a consequence of joining the class part way through;
- 13.2.16 permanent disability unless illness affects the candidate **at the time of the assessment;** (Access arrangements exist to make adjustments in such cases, please see Chapters A and B of this booklet.)
- 13.2.17 failure without good excuse to process access arrangements on time;
- 13.2.18 adverse weather conditions, except in extreme circumstances.