



Joint Council for
Qualifications

Adjustments for candidates with disabilities and learning difficulties

Access Arrangements and Reasonable Adjustments

This booklet covers the following qualifications:

**AQA Applied General qualifications,
AQA Level 1, Level 2 and Level 3 Technical qualifications,
BTEC Firsts, BTEC Nationals, BTEC Tech Awards,
Cambridge Nationals, Cambridge Technicals,
CCEA Key Skills qualifications,
City & Guilds Level 2 and Level 3 Technical qualifications,
ELC, FSMQ, GCE, GCSE, OCR Level 3 Certificates,
Welsh Baccalaureate Qualification (WBQ),
WJEC Entry Level Pathways qualifications,
WJEC Level 1 and Level 2 General qualifications,
WJEC Level 1 and Level 2 Vocational qualifications,
WJEC Level 3 Applied qualifications**

With effect from 1 September 2020 to 31 August 2021

**For the attention of SENCOs, assessors and senior leaders
within schools and colleges**

Produced on behalf of:



Statement

These regulations reflect a whole centre approach to access arrangements.

It is therefore the responsibility of the head of centre, members of the senior leadership team, the SENCo/assessor(s)[†] and where relevant the SEN Governor to familiarise themselves with **the entire contents** of this document.

The SENCo, **or an equivalent member of staff within a FE college**, fully supported by teaching staff and members of the senior leadership team, **must** lead on the access arrangements process within his/her centre.

Teaching staff and members of the senior leadership team **must** support the SENCo in determining and implementing appropriate access arrangements.

The SENCo **must** work with teaching staff, support staff (such as Learning Support Assistants and Teaching Assistants) and exams office personnel to ensure that approved access arrangements **are put in place for internal school tests, mock examinations and examinations.**

Where appropriate, the SENCo will also need to work with specialist advisory teachers and medical professionals.

Ideally, the SENCo will also be the in-house designated assessor and will thus assess candidates, process applications on-line and hold the evidence for inspection purposes for GCSE and/or GCE qualifications.

The SENCo **must** work with teaching staff to identify the most appropriate published format of modified papers (see Chapter 6) which will enable the candidate(s) to access their examinations.

These regulations **must** be used when processing applications using *Access arrangements online*.

Failure to comply with the regulations contained in this document have the potential to constitute malpractice which may impact on the candidate's result(s).

Failure to comply is defined as putting in place access arrangements that are not approved or permitting access arrangements within the centre which are not supported by appropriate evidence.

Whilst this document addresses the duty upon awarding bodies to make reasonable adjustments and avoid unfavourable treatment towards disabled candidates, it cannot cover every scenario. Each case will turn on its own facts as to what is reasonable.

[†]An assessor is defined in Chapter 7, paragraph 7.3.3.

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†Queries to the JCQ must be submitted by e-mail and not by telephone. All queries must be sent to centresupport@jcq.org.uk

The e-mail address info@jcq.org.uk must not be used for access arrangements queries.

Changes for the academic year 2020/21

Heads of centre, members of senior leadership teams, SENCos and assessors must familiarise themselves with the entire contents of this document.

Changes made to the content of this document since the previous version (1 September 2019 to 31 August 2020) are highlighted for easy identification.

SENCos, and equivalent members of staff within FE colleges, are encouraged to access the interactive version of this booklet using the Centre Admin Portal (CAP). CAP is accessible via any of the awarding bodies' secure extranet sites.

The JCQ publication *Instructions for conducting examinations*, referenced within this document, is also available in an interactive format.

Centres should note that any reference to 'JCQ' or 'Joint Council for Qualifications' within this document should be read as JCQ^{CIC} or the Joint Council for Qualifications^{CIC}.

Deadlines for submitting applications for access arrangements and orders for modified papers using *Access arrangements online*

Access arrangements may cover the entire course. Ideally, they should be applied for at the start of the course. *Access arrangements online* **must** be used to process applications for the following qualification types:

AQA Applied General qualifications, AQA Level 1, Level 2, Level 3 Technical qualifications, Cambridge Nationals, Cambridge Technicals, FSMQ, GCE, GCSE, OCR Level 3 Certificates, Welsh Baccalaureate Qualification (WBQ), WJEC Level 1, Level 2 General qualifications, WJEC Level 1, Level 2 Vocational qualifications and WJEC Level 3 Applied qualifications.

Arrangements must be processed and approved before an examination or assessment, no later than the published deadline as below.

Exam series	Access arrangement	Final deadline
November 2020	Modified papers	4 September 2020
November 2020	All other access arrangements	1 October 2020 (GCE) 1 November 2020 (GCSE)
January 2021	Modified papers	4 October 2020
January 2021	All other access arrangements	21 October 2020
June 2021	Modified papers	31 January 2021
June 2021	All other access arrangements	31 March 2021

GCSE January 2021 examination series – GCSE specifications are not available to centres in England.

For those candidates who decide to re-sit GCSE units in June 2021, following the publication of January 2021 GCSE examination results, orders for modified papers must be received no later than 21 March 2021.

(For unitised GCSE qualifications in Northern Ireland in March 2021 please see CCEA's website for information.)

NB Please note that candidates may not be able to have the modified papers requested, if orders are not received by the published deadline.

Applications must be processed and approved before an examination or assessment, no later than the published deadline as above.

Late applications on account of a temporary injury or impairment, or a diagnosis of a disability or manifestation of an impairment relating to an existing disability arising after the published deadline are permissible. Centres **must** process applications as detailed in **Chapter 8, section 8.3** using *Access arrangements online* where required.

Any application processed after the published deadline may be subject to scrutiny. SENCos must ensure that the appropriate paperwork is on file and available for inspection.

Where an existing approved application will expire prior to or during the June 2021 examination series, **and the candidate is studying at the same qualification level**, it is permissible to process a new on-line application **upon expiry** and after 31 March 2021.

Centres should refer to **Chapter 8** for more detailed information on how to use *Access arrangements online*:

Definitions

Access arrangements

Access arrangements are agreed before an assessment. They allow candidates with **specific needs**, such as special educational needs, disabilities or temporary injuries to access the assessment and show what they know and can do without changing the demands of the assessment. The intention behind an access arrangement is to meet the needs of an individual candidate without affecting the integrity of the assessment. Access arrangements are the principal way in which awarding bodies comply with the duty under the Equality Act 2010* to make 'reasonable adjustments'.

Reasonable adjustments

The Equality Act 2010* requires **an awarding body** to make reasonable adjustments where a candidate, who is disabled within the meaning of the Equality Act 2010, would be at **a substantial disadvantage** in comparison to someone who is not disabled. The awarding body is required to take reasonable steps to overcome that disadvantage. An example would be a Braille paper which would be a reasonable adjustment for a vision impaired candidate who could read Braille. A reasonable adjustment may be unique to that individual and may not be included in the list of available access arrangements. Whether an adjustment will be considered reasonable will depend on several factors which will include, but are not limited to:

- the needs of the disabled candidate;
- the effectiveness of the adjustment;
- the cost of the adjustment; **and**
- the likely impact of the adjustment upon the candidate and other candidates.

An adjustment will not be approved if it:

- involves unreasonable costs to the awarding body;
- involves unreasonable timeframes; or
- affects the security and integrity of the assessment.

This is because the adjustment is not 'reasonable'.

In most cases it will not be reasonable for adjustments to be made to assessment objectives within a qualification. To do so would likely undermine the effectiveness of the qualification in providing a reliable indication of the knowledge, skills and understanding of the candidate. There is no duty to make adjustments which the qualifications regulators have specified should not be made. As set out in **Chapter 2** there is no duty to make adjustments to competence standards within vocational qualifications.

(See Chapter 3 for information on assessment objectives and Chapter 1, sections 1.6 and 1.8 for the list of general qualifications covered by equality legislation in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.)

The responsibility of an awarding body is principally one of making reasonable adjustments for a candidate defined as disabled within the meaning of the Equality Act 2010.

*References to legislation in Chapter 1 are to the Equality Act 2010. Separate legislation is in place for Northern Ireland (**see Chapter 1, section 1.8**). The definitions and procedures in this document relating to access arrangements and reasonable adjustments will also apply in Northern Ireland.

Evidence of need

The evidence of need will vary depending on the disability and the access arrangement(s) being applied for. *Access arrangements online* will provide prompts as to the evidence required. However, please see the relevant section(s) of **Chapter 5** for full details as to what constitutes the core evidence/evidence of need for each access arrangement. Failure to produce the appropriate evidence of need will lead to the application being rejected. Usually, further evidence of need will be required for **a substantial impairment**.

The evidence of need required for the following access arrangements, **where a candidate has a substantial impairment**, can be found in **Chapter 5**:

- **section 5.2, 25% extra time**
- **section 5.3, extra time of up to 50% (between 26% and 50% extra time)**
- **section 5.7, scribe/speech recognition technology**

The Equality Act 2010 definition of disability

Generally, impairments have to meet the statutory requirements set out in section 6 and Schedule 1 to the Equality Act 2010 and associated regulations.

The Equality Act 2010 definition of disability is usually considered cumulatively in terms of:

- identifying a physical or mental impairment;
- looking into adverse effects and assessing which are substantial;
- considering if substantial adverse effects are long term;
- judging the impact of long term adverse effects on normal day to day activities.

Statutory guidance on the Equality Act 2010 definition of disability has been produced by the Office for Disability Issues (within the Department for Work and Pensions) to help better understand and apply this definition: <http://odi.dwp.gov.uk/docs/wor/new/ea-guide.pdf>

The clear starting point in the statutory guidance is that disability means **'limitations going beyond the normal differences in ability which may exist among people'**.

'Substantial' means 'more than minor or trivial'. Substantial adverse effects can be determined by looking at the effects on a person with the impairment, comparing those to a person without the impairment, to judge if the difference between the two is more than minor or trivial.

'Long term' means the impairment has existed for at least 12 months, or is likely to do so.

'Normal day to day activities' could be determined by reference to the illustrative, non-exhaustive list of factors in pages 47 to 51 of the statutory guidance relating to the Equality Act 2010. **(Study and education related activities are included in the meaning of 'day to day' activities.)**

The guidance from the Office for Disability Issues referred to above illustrates the factors which might reasonably be regarded as having a substantial adverse effect on normal day to day activities. Factors that might reasonably be expected not to have a substantial adverse effect are also provided.

Factors that might reasonably be expected to have a substantial adverse effect include:

- persistent and significant difficulty in reading and understanding written material where this is in the person's native language, for example because of a mental impairment, a learning difficulty or a sensory or multi-sensory impairment;
- persistent distractibility or difficulty concentrating;
- difficulty understanding or following simple verbal instructions;
- physical impairment – for example, difficulty operating a computer because of physical restrictions in using a keyboard.

Factors that might reasonably be expected not to have a substantial adverse effect include:

- minor problems with writing or spelling;
- inability to read very small or indistinct print without the aid of a magnifying glass;
- inability to converse orally in a language which is not the speaker's native spoken language.

Section A

Chapter 1

General qualifications - information and guidance for centres

The awarding bodies have a duty not to discriminate against individuals in relation to conferring qualifications in respect of all protected characteristics set out in the Equality Act 2010 (with the exception of the protected characteristics of marriage and civil partnership). They will take steps when developing specifications, identifying the assessment criteria and drafting question papers to ensure that the impact of each of these upon individuals with differing protected characteristics is minimised.

This chapter specifically sets out the duty upon awarding bodies to make reasonable adjustments and avoid unfavourable treatment towards disabled candidates.

1.1 Awarding bodies – general qualifications

Section 96 (1-6) of the Equality Act 2010 states that when assessing candidates and conferring general qualifications awarding bodies must not discriminate, harass or victimise and have a duty to make reasonable adjustments.

1.2 Duty to make a reasonable adjustment

The duty for an awarding body to make a reasonable adjustment will apply where assessment arrangements would put a disabled candidate at a substantial disadvantage in comparison with a candidate who is not disabled. In such circumstances, the awarding body is required to take reasonable steps to avoid that disadvantage. Awarding bodies are not required to make adjustments to the academic or other standard being applied when conducting an examination/assessment.

1.3 Definition of disability

Section 6 of the Equality Act 2010 defines **disability** as a **'physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long term adverse effect on someone's ability to carry out normal day to day activities'**.

1.4 Definition of special educational needs

A candidate has 'special educational needs' as defined in the SEND code of practice: 0 to 25 years.

Children have special educational needs if they have a learning difficulty or disability which calls for special educational provision to be made for them.

The Equality Act 2010 definition of disability includes substantial and long-term sensory impairments such as those affecting sight or hearing, mental health difficulties and long-term health conditions such as asthma, diabetes, epilepsy and cancer. Children and young people with such conditions do not necessarily have SEN, but there is a significant overlap between disabled children and young people and those with SEN.

1.5 The power of the regulator

Section 96 (7-8) states that the duty to make reasonable adjustments to general qualifications does not apply where the regulator specifies provisions, criteria or practices in relation to which the awarding body:

- is not subject to a duty to make reasonable adjustments;
- is subject to a duty to make reasonable adjustments, but in relation to which such adjustments, as the regulator specifies, should not be made.

It should be noted that the regulators' powers under section 96 of the Equality Act 2010 are 'negative' rather than 'permissive'. That is, section 96 allows the regulators to specify where awarding bodies are not under a duty to make reasonable adjustments, rather than saying precisely what adjustments should be made.

For example, the regulators have specified that a reader cannot be used as a reasonable adjustment where a candidate's reading ability is being assessed.

1.6 Which qualifications are covered by section 96 of the Equality Act 2010 in England and Wales?

- Advanced Extension Awards
- Entry Level Certificate qualifications
- Essential Skills (Wales)
- Free Standing Mathematics Qualifications
- General Certificate of Education (Advanced and Advanced Subsidiary levels)
- General Certificate of Secondary Education
- Project qualifications (Extended, Foundation and Higher Projects)
- Welsh Baccalaureate Qualification, Core Certificate.

1.7 How can centres apply for reasonable adjustments for candidates defined as disabled under the terms of the Equality Act 2010?

Reasonable adjustments

A reasonable adjustment required by a candidate who is disabled within the meaning of the Equality Act 2010 will usually be an access arrangement for the assessment in question, as listed in Chapters 5 and 6 of this document.

The arrangements set out in **Chapters 5 and 6 of this document** are the most common ones that are put in place. They will be sufficient to enable candidates who experience **persistent and significant difficulties** (whether those are a result of a disability within the meaning of the Equality Act or otherwise) to access assessments.

Please see the examples below.

Examples of reasonable adjustments for disabled candidates

- A candidate with Dyslexia needs to use a coloured overlay and a word processor, and requires 25% extra time. The use of a yellow coloured overlay is a reasonable adjustment for the candidate since it helps him to improve his reading accuracy. The use of a word processor is a reasonable adjustment since it is his normal means of producing written work within the centre and is appropriate to his needs.

The candidate has been assessed by an assessor using current nationally standardised tests. **The assessment shows that the candidate has a substantial and long term impairment as his working memory score is in the below average range. The candidate has a standardised score of 79.** The SENCo can supplement the assessor's assessment (**Part 2 of Form 8**) with **a detailed picture of need** showing 25% extra time as his normal way of working within the centre. The application of 25% extra time is a reasonable adjustment and the SENCo processes an on-line application using *Access arrangements online*.

- A candidate with ADD (Attention Deficit Disorder) has **persistent difficulty** concentrating and poor working memory. Supervised rest breaks and the use of a prompter, who may need to physically show him where on a page he had been working in order to re-start his work, would be reasonable adjustments.
- A candidate has Asperger's Syndrome which is formally confirmed by a letter from a consultant paediatrician. He has **persistent and significant difficulties** with his handwriting which is poor but not illegible. He is unable to complete mock English, Geography and Religious Studies papers within the time allowed. In other subjects he finishes the mock papers before the end of the test. The SENCo processes an on-line application for 25% extra time on account of his impairment which is having **a substantial and adverse effect** in those GCSE subjects with extended writing. Without the application of 25% extra time in those subjects the candidate would be at **a substantial disadvantage**.
- A candidate with a severe vision impairment requires 50% extra time in order to effectively access the modified enlarged papers ordered for her. In papers involving complex layout and diagrams she also requires the use of a practical assistant and a reader to work under her instruction to locate relevant information. The awarding bodies approve the use of a practical assistant, a reader and 50% extra time as the candidate has **a substantial and long term impairment**.
- A candidate is profoundly deaf and uses BSL as his normal way of working within the centre. The candidate will be provided with modified language papers (where the paper has not been modified at source), a live speaker for pre-recorded components and a Communication Professional. These are reasonable adjustments for the candidate. The SENCo orders modified language papers, where available, using *Access arrangements online*.
- A candidate with profound Speech, Language and Communication Needs (SLCN) is allocated a reader. An on-line application for a reader is approved. The candidate has **a substantial and long term impairment** and the use of a reader reflects his normal way of working within the centre. The candidate, in light of his **substantial difficulties**, is presented with a number of prompt cards - "please repeat the instructions", "please read that again", "please read back my answers". The use of a reader and prompt cards (placed on the candidate's desk and open to scrutiny by a JCQ Centre Inspector) would be reasonable adjustments for this candidate.

The candidate also has **persistent and significant difficulty** with memory of spoken language and needs repetition. Extra time of 25% is required as the process of reading will be **substantially slower**. Without the application of 25% extra time the candidate would be at a **substantial disadvantage**. The SENCo decides to apply for 25% extra time and processes an on-line application.

Candidates with substantial needs

There may be disabled candidates who require other adjustments which are not listed in this document. Accordingly, **the list of access arrangements is not exhaustive.**

Where a candidate has substantial needs which are not accommodated by *Access arrangements online*, the centre must make an on-line referral to the relevant awarding body/bodies. **This must be done via *Access arrangements online* by selecting 'Other'**. However, additional paperwork may be required in order to justify the request being made.

Awarding bodies may require more compelling evidence of need before approving an arrangement that would otherwise unfairly advantage the candidate. **The requirement for evidence of need is important to maintain the rigour and standard of the examination system.** Evidence is also necessary to ensure that those using examination certificates can continue to have confidence in the awarding of qualification grades.

Each application will be considered in light of the candidate's needs. The response will relate primarily to the effect the requested adjustment may have on the assessment objective being tested in the qualification.

1.8 Arrangements in Northern Ireland

Separate legislation is in place in Northern Ireland. However, the definitions and procedures in this document relating to access arrangements and reasonable adjustments will apply.

The definition of disability is defined in the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (as amended). The provisions that make discrimination in the arrangements for awarding general qualifications by awarding bodies unlawful are contained in Part 3, Chapter 3, of the Special Educational Needs and Disability (Northern Ireland) Order 2005 (SENDO 2005).

Current qualifications covered by SENDO 2005 are set out in the Schedule to The Special Educational Needs and Disability (General Qualifications Bodies) (Relevant Qualifications, Reasonable Steps and Physical Features) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2008 ('the 2008 Regulations'). These are as follows:

- Advanced Extension Awards
- Entry Level qualifications
- Essential Skills
- Free Standing Mathematics Qualifications
- General Certificate of Education (Advanced and Advanced Subsidiary levels)
- General Certificate of Secondary Education
- Key Skills.

Guidance issued by the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland (Draft Guide to Disability Discrimination Law that relates to General Qualifications Bodies) describes the duties placed on general qualification bodies that offer qualifications in Northern Ireland. Pages 6 to 7 of this guidance also detail the qualifications that the 2008 Regulations deem to be relevant general qualifications.

A copy of the guidance can be found on the Equality Commission's website:

<http://www.equalityni.org/ECNI/media/ECNI/Publications/Employers%20and%20Service20Providers/DraftguidetodiscrimlawGeneralQualificationsbodies2010.pdf?ext=.pdf>

Chapter 2

Vocational qualifications - information and guidance for centres

2.1 Which qualifications are covered?

This chapter relates specifically to vocational qualifications as defined in section 53 of the Equality Act 2010.

2.2 Awarding bodies – vocational qualifications

Section 53 of the Equality Act 2010 states that when assessing candidates and conferring vocational qualifications awarding bodies must not discriminate, harass or victimise and have a duty to make reasonable adjustments.

2.3 What are the duties of awarding bodies?

The duty for an awarding body to make a reasonable adjustment will apply where an assessment arrangement would put a disabled person at a substantial disadvantage in comparison to someone who is not disabled. In such circumstances, the awarding body is required to take reasonable steps to avoid that disadvantage. Awarding bodies are not required to make adjustments to the academic or other standard being applied when conducting an examination/assessment.

2.4 Application of competence standards

Awarding bodies offering vocational qualifications are allowed to apply competence standards to a disabled person. (This equally applies to general qualifications.)

A competence standard is defined as an academic, medical or other standard applied for the purpose of determining whether or not a person has a particular level of competence or ability.

The application by an awarding body of a competence standard to a disabled person is not disability discrimination unless it is discrimination by virtue of section 19 of the Equality Act 2010 (re indirect discrimination).

2.5 Taking advice from the awarding body about competence standards

There are subject specific issues relating to vocational qualifications where the centre may need to seek advice from the awarding body issuing the qualification.

In many vocational qualifications a wide range of reasonable adjustments will be available. The arrangements listed in **Chapters 5 and 6** may be relevant for some candidates entering for vocational qualifications.

However, there are some important exceptions where the competence standards would be invalidated if an adjustment was made. Reasonable adjustments to vocational qualifications that carry a 'licence to practise' need to be carefully considered so as not to invalidate 'the licence'.

2.6 Recruiting learners with integrity

It is vital that centres recruit with integrity with regard to vocational qualifications. Centres **must** ensure that learners have the correct information and advice on their selected qualification(s) and that the qualification(s) will meet their needs. The recruitment process **must** include the centre assessing each potential learner. The centre must make justifiable and professional judgements about the learner's potential to successfully complete the assessment and achieve the qualification. Such an assessment **must** identify, where appropriate, the support that will be made available to the learner to facilitate access to the qualification(s).

Where the recruitment process identifies that the learner may not be able to demonstrate attainment and thus gain achievement in all assessments for the selected qualification, this **must** be communicated clearly to the learner. A learner may still decide to proceed with a qualification and not be entered for all or some of the assessments.

Centres **must** ensure that learners are aware of:

- the range of options available, including any reasonable adjustments that may be necessary, to enable the demonstration of attainment across all the required assessments; **and**
- any restrictions on progression routes to the learner as a result of not achieving certain outcomes.

2.7 Guidance on reasonable adjustments

Awarding bodies aim to ensure open access to vocational qualifications for learners who are eligible for reasonable adjustments in assessments, without compromising the assessment of the skills, knowledge, understanding or competence being measured.

A reasonable adjustment is agreed at the pre-assessment planning stage and is any action that helps to reduce the effect of a disability or difficulty, which places the learner at a **substantial disadvantage**.

Reasonable adjustments must not, however, affect the reliability or validity of assessment outcomes nor must they give the learner an unfair assessment advantage over other learners undertaking the same or similar assessments.

The head of centre/Principal/CEO (or designated nominee) **must** ensure that a reasonable adjustment implemented by the centre on behalf of the learner is based on firm evidence of a barrier to assessment and is in line with this guidance. Failure to do so may result in advice or action for the centre through to the implementation of steps to manage centre malpractice. This could ultimately lead to the recall of certificates, removal of qualification approval or removal of centre approval.

2.8 Reasonable adjustments within vocational qualifications

Vocational qualifications accredit competence against qualification specifications and assessment criteria, and/or National Standards and an approved assessment strategy. Any reasonable adjustment **must** reflect the normal learning or working practice of a learner in a centre or working within the occupational area.

Learners may, however, use mechanical, electronic and other aids in order to demonstrate competence. The aids must either be generally commercially available, or available from specialist suppliers, and can feasibly be used in the centre or on the employers' premises.

The following adaptations are examples of what may be considered as facilitating access if they do not impact on any competence standards being tested:

- adapting assessment materials;
- adaptation of the physical environment for access purposes;
- adaptation to equipment;
- assessment material in an enlarged format or Braille;
- assessment material on coloured paper or in audio format;
- British Sign Language (BSL);
- changing or adapting the assessment method;
- changing usual assessment arrangements;
- extra time, e.g. assignment extensions;
- modified language assessment material;
- practical assistant;
- prompter;
- providing assistance during assessment;
- reader;
- scribe;
- use of assistive software/technology;
- use of CCTV, coloured overlays, low vision aids;
- use of a different assessment location;
- use of ICT/responses using electronic devices.

It is important to note that not all the adjustments (as above) will be reasonable, permissible or practical in some situations. The learner may not need, nor be allowed, the same adjustment for all assessments.

Learners should be fully involved in any decisions about adjustments/adaptations. This will ensure that individual needs can be met, whilst still bearing in mind the specified assessment criteria for a qualification.

As the needs and circumstances of each learner are different, centres **must** consider any request for a reasonable adjustment on a case by case basis. **Evidence of need will be required.**

2.9 Applying reasonable adjustments to internal assessments

For qualifications which are internally assessed, centres **do not** need to apply to the awarding body. However, centres **must** make reasonable adjustments that are in line with the awarding body's policies.

All reasonable adjustments made in relation to internal assessments **must** be recorded on **Form VQ/IA and held on file within the centre for inspection by an awarding body.**

Form VQ/IA is available electronically at:

<http://www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/access-arrangements-and-special-consideration/forms>

Where the centre is unsure if the reasonable adjustment proposed is in line with this guidance, the relevant awarding body must be contacted for advice.

2.10 How can centres apply for reasonable adjustments for external assessments?

Centres who wish to apply for a reasonable adjustment in a vocational qualification **must** make an application to the relevant awarding body **at least six weeks before the date of the series in which the assessment is to be taken. Form VQ/EA must be used.**

Form VQ/EA is available electronically at:

<http://www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/access-arrangements-and-special-consideration/forms>

Each application will be considered individually. The response will relate primarily to the effect the requested adjustment might have on the competence and ability being tested in the qualification, as well as the reliability and validity of the assessment.

Some adjustments may not be considered reasonable if they:

- do not meet the published criteria;
- involve unreasonable costs to the awarding body;
- involve unreasonable timeframes; or
- affect the security and integrity of the qualification itself.

For example, Braille papers cannot be produced at short notice. Adjustments **must not** put in jeopardy the health and well-being of the candidate or any other person.

2.11 Modified papers

To apply for Braille papers, modified enlarged papers, modified language papers or papers adapted for the purpose of using a recording, please submit **Form VQ/EA no later than ten weeks before the date of the assessment.**

Where it reflects the learner's normal way of working, centres may provide an A3 enlargement of non-secure materials without requesting the permission of the awarding body.

The language of non-secure materials **must not** be changed without the prior permission of the awarding body.

Secure question papers must not be opened early without the prior permission of the awarding body.

Form VQ/EA is available electronically at:

<http://www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/access-arrangements-and-special-consideration/forms>

Chapter 3

Candidates with disabilities and learning difficulties, and the application of assessment objectives

General qualifications

3.1 It is vital that centres recruit with integrity with regard to general qualifications.

Centres **must** ensure that learners have **in an accessible format** the correct information and advice on their selected qualifications and that the qualifications will meet their needs.

The centre **must** assess each potential learner and make justifiable and professional judgements about the learner's potential to successfully complete and achieve the qualifications. Such an assessment **must** identify, where appropriate, the support that will be made available to the learner to facilitate access to the qualifications.

Assessment objectives and grade boundaries

3.2 In general qualifications, (**see Chapter 1, section 1.6 and section 1.8**) the candidate must demonstrate attainment in a number of assessment objectives.

The assessment objectives define the competencies being tested by the specification. These test knowledge, understanding, skills and their application. The assessment objectives are set out in the awarding bodies' specifications for each subject.

The marks gained when these skills are measured are multiplied by an aggregation factor to maintain the appropriate weightings.

The total mark is matched against the agreed number of marks (the grade boundary) required for each grade at which the qualification can be issued.

3.3 The academic standard or level which must be reached by each candidate to achieve a particular grade is identified by the grade boundary. **The grade boundaries are applied equally to all candidates. To be awarded a grade, the candidate must be able to demonstrate the level of competence or ability against the assessment objectives.**

- 3.4 **Some types of disability may affect the candidate's ability to demonstrate one or more of the assessment objectives.** An alternative route may be available in the specification and advice **must** be sought from the awarding body. In some cases, a disabled candidate may have to be exempted from a component (**see Chapter 5, section 5.17**) if that is the only adjustment available to enable him/her to overcome a substantial disadvantage in accessing the specification.

Sometimes, however, alternatives cannot be found because the impairment relates to a fundamental part of the assessment. As a result, the candidate may not score enough marks to justify entering for the assessment.

The centre may include a candidate on a course in the full knowledge that they may not be able to fulfil all the assessment requirements. **The candidate and his/her parents/carers must be made fully aware of the extent to which it is advisable to enter the candidate for the qualification.** It is not always possible to arrange equal access for a candidate whose impairment affects a competence which is being tested and who may be unable to demonstrate the assessment objectives.

Centres should take steps to ensure that their assessors (**see Chapter 7, section 7.3**) have access to the assessment objectives for the relevant specification(s).

- 3.5 The examples below show how adjustments can be made to enable candidates to gain access to qualifications and to demonstrate what they know and can do. The examples show cases where an adjustment will not be permitted and where it is not advisable for the candidate to enter for the assessment, (unless it is felt that the impairment will not affect a significant proportion of the assessment).
- 3.6 In most cases it will not be reasonable for adjustments to be made to assessment objectives within a qualification. To do so would likely undermine the effectiveness of the qualification in providing a reliable indication of the knowledge, skills and understanding of the candidate. There is no duty to make adjustments which the qualifications regulators have specified should not be made.

Examples of how assessment objectives would impact on the availability of access arrangements

- A candidate with severe cerebral palsy enjoys her GCSE Design and Technology course but cannot use her hands. She cannot design or make any realisation independently, even with the aid of CAD/CAM. As this part of the assessment is a large proportion of the qualification, she decides not to enter for this subject. The assessment objectives are designing and making, so no adjustment can be made.
- A candidate with severe dyslexia wants to take GCSE English Language and GCSE Spanish but cannot read or write adequately.
He cannot have an adjustment in the form of a reader in the Reading section of the GCSE English Language paper and the GCSE Spanish Reading paper but may use a computer reader.
He cannot have a scribe for GCSE Spanish examinations unless he is able to dictate each foreign word letter by letter. It may be appropriate to enter the candidate for GCSE Spanish if, with extra time of up to 50%, or the use of a word processor with the spelling and grammar check disabled, he can access the examinations independently.
He can have a scribe though in the Reading and Writing sections of the GCSE English Language paper. (Where a scribe is used in an examination assessing quality of written communication or spelling, punctuation and grammar, marks can only be awarded if the candidate can demonstrate that he/she **has** carried out the skills being assessed.)
- A candidate with no hands wishes to take GCE A level Fine Art. It is suggested that mouth or foot painting will be acceptable. The candidate cannot do either and wants another person to paint at her instruction. This is not permitted as the assessment includes the skill of painting.

SECTION B:

Adjustments for candidates with disabilities and learning difficulties

Chapter 4

4.1 Managing the needs of candidates with disabilities and learning difficulties

Some candidates with disabilities and learning difficulties are likely to have several needs as **set out in paragraphs 4.1.1–4.1.4**. They may require a range of access arrangements. **The examples given are therefore not exhaustive and are illustrative only.**

(See Chapter 5 and Chapter 6 for details of these arrangements.)

4.1.1 Cognition and Learning Needs†

E.g. General and/or Specific Learning Difficulties (such as Dyscalculia and Dyslexia)

Candidates with learning difficulties may require for example:

- supervised rest breaks
- extra time
- a computer reader or a reader
- read aloud or an examination reading pen
- a scribe
- a word processor
- a prompter
- a practical assistant
- coloured overlays
- coloured/enlarged papers
- modified language papers.

4.1.2 Communication and Interaction Needs†

E.g. Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD), Speech, Language and Communication Needs (SLCN)

Candidates with communication and interaction difficulties may require for example:

- supervised rest breaks
- extra time
- a computer reader or a reader
- read aloud or an examination reading pen
- a scribe
- a word processor
- modified language papers.

†The candidate **must** have an impairment in their first language which has a **substantial and long term adverse effect**. A candidate **does not** have a learning difficulty simply because their first language is not English, Irish or Welsh.

4.1.3 Sensory and Physical Needs

E.g. Hearing Impairment (HI), Multi-Sensory Impairment (MSI), Physical Disability (PD), Vision Impairment (VI)

Candidates with sensory and physical needs may require for example:

- supervised rest breaks
- extra time
- a computer reader or a reader
- read aloud or an examination reading pen
- a scribe
- a word processor
- a live speaker
- a Communication Professional
- a practical assistant
- Braille papers, modified enlarged and/or modified language papers.

4.1.4 Social, Mental and Emotional Needs†

E.g. Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD), Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Mental Health Conditions

Candidates with social, mental and emotional needs may require for example:

- supervised rest breaks
- extra time
- a computer reader or a reader
- read aloud or an examination reading pen
- a scribe
- a word processor
- a prompter
- alternative site arrangement
- separate invigilation within the centre.

†The candidate must have an impairment in their first language which has a substantial and long term adverse effect. A candidate **does not** have a learning difficulty simply because their first language is not English, Irish or Welsh.

4.2 Principles for centres

- 4.2.1 The purpose of an access arrangement is to ensure, where possible, that barriers to assessment are removed for a disabled candidate preventing him/her from being placed at a substantial disadvantage due to persistent and significant difficulties. The integrity of the assessment is maintained, whilst at the same time providing access to assessments for a disabled candidate.

The SENCo, or an equivalent member of staff within a FE college, must ensure that the proposed access arrangement does not disadvantage or advantage the candidate.

- 4.2.2 Although access arrangements are intended to allow access to assessments, they cannot be granted where they will compromise the assessment objectives of the specification in question (see Chapter 3). **For example, the use of a practical assistant will not normally be allowed when practical skills are being tested.**
- 4.2.3 **Candidates may not require the same access arrangements in each specification.** Subjects and their methods of assessments may vary, leading to different demands of the candidate. **SENcos must consider the need for access arrangements on a subject-by-subject basis. (See the second example below.)**

Examples

- A GCE AS student will use a word processor in English Literature, History and Sociology papers but not in Further Mathematics papers. The use of a word processor in English Literature, History and Sociology AS papers is appropriate to his needs and reflects his normal way of working within the centre.
- A GCSE student is awarded 25% extra time in papers with extended writing – English Language, English Literature and History because his impairment **substantially** impacts only upon his ability to compose continuous text. These difficulties are not so extensive in short answer Spanish papers, Science and Mathematics papers therefore 25% extra time is not awarded.
- A GCSE student is awarded 25% extra time in all papers because his impairment **substantially** impacts upon his reading, writing and processing skills.

- 4.2.4 **Access arrangements should be processed at the start of the course.** Schools, for example, should be able to process applications at the start of or during the first year of a two-year GCSE course having firmly established a picture of need and normal way of working during Years 7 to 9.

However, in the event of a temporary injury or impairment, or a diagnosis of a disability or manifestation of an impairment relating to an existing disability arising after the start of the course, access arrangements should be applied for as soon as is practicable. Centres **must** process applications as per **Chapter 8, section 8.3** using *Access arrangements online* where required.

Arrangements **must** always be approved before an examination or assessment.

- 4.2.5 **The arrangement(s) put in place must reflect the support given to the candidate in the centre†, for example:**
- in the classroom (where appropriate);
 - working in small groups for reading and/or writing;
 - literacy support lessons;
 - literacy intervention strategies;
 - in internal school tests/examinations;
 - mock examinations.

This is commonly referred to as 'normal way of working'. For candidates with learning difficulties this is typically the background information recorded within Part 1 of Form 8 by the SENCo or the assessor working within the centre.

SENcos and assessors must refer to **Chapter 7, paragraph 7.6.1** for information on how to confirm 'normal way of working'. †The only exception to this is where an arrangement is put in place due to a temporary injury or impairment (**see section 8.3**).

4.2.6 As subjects vary, leading to different demands of the candidate, support may be needed in just one or two subjects; another candidate may need support in all their subjects. **The key principle is that the SENCo, or the assessor working within the centre, can show a history of support and provision. The arrangement is not suddenly being granted to the candidate at the time of his/her examinations.**

4.2.7 **The SENCo and/or the assessor must work with teaching staff, support staff and exams office personnel to ensure that approved access arrangements are put in place for internal school tests, mock examinations and examinations.**

The candidate **must** have had appropriate opportunities to practise using the access arrangement(s) before his/her first examination. **This is particularly so where a computer reader, modified enlarged papers, a scribe, speech recognition technology or a word processor will be used in examinations.**

4.2.8 If a candidate has **never** made use of the arrangement granted to him/her, e.g. 25% extra time or supervised rest breaks, then it is **not** his/her normal way of working. **The SENCo** may consider withdrawing the arrangement, provided the candidate will not be placed at a substantial disadvantage. (The SENCo would have monitored the use of the arrangement in internal school tests and mock examinations.)

4.2.9 **Where non-examination assessment is marked by teachers, credit must only be given for skills demonstrated by the candidate working independently. Access arrangements must not compromise assessment requirements.**

4.2.10 Where a person is appointed to facilitate an access arrangement, i.e.

- a Communication Professional
- a Language Modifier
- a practical assistant
- a prompter
- a reader
- a scribe

he/she is responsible to the head of centre and must be acceptable to the head of centre. The person appointed must not normally be the candidate's own subject teacher and must not be a relative, friend, peer or private tutor of the candidate.

The head of centre must ensure that the person appointed is a responsible adult, is appropriately trained and fully understands the rules of the access arrangement(s), as detailed in this document. It is not acceptable for a centre to use a Year 12 or Year 13 candidate to facilitate an access arrangement.

4.2.11 **Failure to comply with the regulations contained in this document have the potential to constitute malpractice which may impact on the candidate's result(s). Failure to comply is defined as:**

- putting in place access arrangements that are not approved; **or**
- permitting access arrangements within the centre which are not supported by the required evidence as per these regulations; **or**
- not putting in place appropriate arrangements for candidates with known and established learning difficulties/disabilities.

4.2.12 **The JCO and the awarding bodies can only enter into discussions over access arrangements with the candidate's centre and not with parents/carers.**

- 4.2.13 When an access arrangement has been processed on-line and approved, **for GCSE and GCE qualifications** the evidence of need (where required) **must** be made available **by the SENCo** to a JCQ Centre Inspector upon request. An awarding body may also request evidence of need when considered necessary. **This can either be in hard copy paper format or electronically.**

Where the SENCo is storing access arrangements documentation electronically he/she **must** create an e-folder for each individual candidate. **The candidate's e-folder must hold each of the required documents for inspection.**

All GCSE and GCE centres will be inspected by a member of the JCQ Centre Inspection Service. Inspectors will expect to see appropriate documentation to substantiate the use of an access arrangement processed electronically.

If a JCQ centre inspection reveals deficient performance by a centre in respect of its role in requesting and/or implementing access arrangements, an awarding body will take decisive action. Ultimately, an awarding body might have to withdraw approval for a centre. This would be where a centre has clearly failed to comply with its obligations in respect of identifying the need for, requesting and implementing access arrangements.

- 4.2.14 **The documentation must be presented to the JCQ Centre Inspector by the SENCo.**

If the SENCo is not available when the Inspector calls, **the relevant member of the senior leadership team must** meet with the Inspector and address any queries, any questions, he/she may raise.

Examples – evidence for inspection purposes

The evidence may be stored by the SENCo electronically or in hard copy paper format.

A GCSE candidate with severe autism, which has **a substantial and long term adverse effect**, is awarded a reader and a scribe. **The SENCo** presents for inspection:

- **centre based evidence** which is supplemented by a written statement from a Speech and Language Therapist; (The **signed and dated** centre based evidence, **written by the SENCo**, is produced in line with these regulations.)
- the approval sheet from AAO;
- **a signed** candidate personal data consent form.

A GCE candidate with specific learning difficulties is awarded 25% extra time. He has two low average standardised scores (**85-89**) **relating to two different areas of speed of working**. **The SENCo** presents for inspection:

- **Form 8, with an electronic signature and dated, with Parts 1, 2 and 3 completed and evidence of the assessor's qualification;**
- an IEP; (As the candidate has two low average standardised scores the centre is required to paint a detailed picture of need **in addition to** Form 8.)
- approval from the awarding bodies;
- **a signed** candidate personal data consent form.

A GCSE candidate with specific learning difficulties is awarded a computer reader on account of his persistent reading difficulties. **The SENCo** presents for inspection:

- centre based evidence **as per paragraph 5.5.5;**
- the approval sheet from AAO;
- **a signed** candidate personal data consent form.

Chapter 5

Access arrangements available

The access arrangements listed within this chapter apply to the following qualifications:

- AQA Applied General qualifications
- AQA Level 1, Level 2 and Level 3 Technical qualifications
- BTEC Firsts
- BTEC Nationals
- BTEC Tech Awards
- Cambridge Nationals
- Cambridge Technicals
- CCEA Key Skills
- City & Guilds Level 2 and Level 3 Technical qualifications
- Entry Level Certificate qualifications (ELC)
- Free Standing Mathematics Qualifications (FSMQ)
- GCE
- GCSE
- OCR Level 3 Certificates
- Welsh Baccalaureate Qualification (WBQ)
- WJEC Entry Pathways
- WJEC Essential Skills (Wales)
- WJEC Level 1 and Level 2 General qualifications
- WJEC Level 1 and Level 2 Vocational qualifications
- WJEC Level 3 Applied qualifications

(where permitted by the specification)

The principle will be the same across all qualification types: access arrangements must not be allowed to interfere with the integrity of the assessment or to give credit for skills, knowledge and understanding which cannot be demonstrated by the candidate.

Centres should bear in mind that they will have duties towards disabled candidates, including a duty to make reasonable adjustments to the service they provide to candidates.

The SENCo must undertake the necessary and appropriate steps to gather an appropriate picture of need and demonstrate normal way of working for a private candidate. This includes distance learners and home educated students. The centre, where required, must lead on the assessment process. The candidate must be assessed by the centre's appointed assessor. In some instances, depending on his/her needs, the candidate may have to be assessed away from the centre, for example at home. The centre must comply with the obligation to identify the need for, request and implement access arrangements.

NB Where reference is made to an assessment 'no earlier than the start of Year 9', for candidates in Northern Ireland this would be Year 10.

NB In Wales an Individual Development Plan (IDP) which confirms the candidate's disability has the same status as a current Education, Health and Care Plan or a Statement of special educational needs.

NB Where reference is made to 'standardised scores' these are standard scores which use a mean of 100 and a standard deviation of 15.

5.1 Supervised rest breaks*

***There is not a requirement to process an application for supervised rest breaks using *Access arrangements online*. However, for GCSE and GCE qualifications the SENCo must produce a short concise file note on centre headed paper, signed and dated, confirming the need for supervised rest breaks to a JCQ Centre Inspector upon request. This must confirm the nature of the candidate's impairment and that supervised rest breaks reflect his/her normal way of working within the centre.**

The SENCo must always consider if supervised rest breaks would be more appropriate before making an application for 25% extra time.

- 5.1.1 **The SENCo is allowed to provide a supervised rest break to a candidate where it is his/her normal way of working within the centre.**

The SENCo must be satisfied that:

- the candidate has an impairment which has a substantial and long term adverse effect, giving rise to persistent and significant difficulties (the candidate is disabled within the meaning of the Equality Act); and
- there is a genuine need for the arrangement.

Supervised rest breaks will be awarded on account of:

- cognition and learning needs;
- communication and interaction needs;
- a medical condition;
- sensory and physical needs;
- social, mental and emotional needs.

In addition, the candidate's difficulties must be established within the centre and thus known to a Form Tutor, a Head of Year, the SENCo and/or a senior member of staff with pastoral responsibilities.

- 5.1.2 The timing of the examination should be paused and re-started when the candidate is ready to continue.

During the supervised rest break the candidate must not have access to the question paper/answer booklet.

If the candidate needs to leave the examination room, an invigilator **must** accompany the candidate.

There is no maximum time set for supervised rest breaks. The decision must be made by the SENCo based on their knowledge of the candidate's needs and the candidate's normal way of working when placed under timed conditions. It may be helpful to consider in advance of the examination(s) how many breaks a candidate might need and the approximate duration of the supervised rest break. This will allow sufficient staff to be available to facilitate the rest break.

- 5.1.3 There will be some constraints on timing if the candidate has more than one examination to take each day. **The supervised rest break is not included in any extra time allowance.**

Centres must seek medical advice in cases of serious illness on whether the candidate is fit to take the examination.

5.2 25% extra time

(Extra time **must not** be confused with supervised rest breaks – see section 5.1.)

Where a candidate requires a scribe with 25% extra time in all their examinations centres must refer to paragraph 5.7.9.

Processing applications

5.2.1 **For those qualifications listed within the Deadlines section, page 2**, an application for 25% extra time **must** be processed using *Access arrangements online*.

Where candidates have complex needs other than learning difficulties, please see paragraph 5.2.3.

Extra time will not be allowed if a candidate's literacy difficulties are primarily caused by English, Irish or Welsh not being his/her first language.

Candidates with learning difficulties – core evidence required

5.2.2 In order to award 25% extra time the SENCo **must** determine the needs of the candidate based on one of the following:

- a **current** Statement of Special Educational Needs, or an Education, Health and Care Plan, or an Individual Development Plan, which confirms the candidate's disability (**supplemented by the required centre based evidence**); **or**
- a fully completed Form 8 with an assessment (**Part 2 of Form 8**) carried out **no earlier than the start of Year 9** by an assessor confirming a learning difficulty relating to secondary/further education (**supplemented by a detailed picture of need - see page 25**).

Substantial impairment

So as not to give an unfair advantage, the assessor's report (Part 2 of Form 8) must confirm that the candidate has:

at least one below average standardised score of 84 or less which relates to an assessment of:

- **speed of reading (see paragraph 7.5.10); or**
- **speed of writing (see paragraph 7.5.11); or**
- **cognitive processing measures which have a substantial and long term adverse effect on speed of working (see paragraph 7.5.12).**

Exceptional circumstances

In exceptional circumstances an awarding body may grant 25% extra time to a candidate where the assessment confirms that he/she has **at least two low average standardised scores (85-89) which relate to two different areas of speed of working.**

Rare and very exceptional circumstances

Where there are a cluster of scores (at least three, relating to three different areas of speed of working) just within the average range (90 to 94), in rare and very exceptional circumstances an awarding body may grant 25% extra time. The candidate **must** have a diagnostic assessment report, from **no earlier than Year 9**, confirming **a significant learning difficulty or disability which has a clear, measurable and substantial long term adverse effect on performance and speed of working.**

This **must** have been undertaken by a specialist diagnostic assessor.

25% extra time - candidates with learning difficulties

In all cases, in addition to the core evidence, the SENCo **must** paint a picture of the candidate's normal way of working, clearly demonstrating the need for 25% extra time. The arrangement must not suddenly be granted to the candidate at the time of his/her examinations.

(A definition of normal way of working is provided within paragraph 4.2.5.)

The amount of evidence required to paint a picture of need will vary according to the candidate's standardised scores.

The documentation presented for inspection purposes **must** show a compelling case for 25% extra time with a clear and detailed picture of current need.

Statements of special educational needs or Education, Health and Care Plans

Where a candidate has a **current** Statement of special educational needs, or an Education, Health and Care Plan, the SENCo **must** substantiate the documentation with a picture of need. (**Form 8 is not required and must not be used.**)

Where a candidate progresses from GCSE to GCE qualifications

When a candidate progresses from GCSE to GCE AS and/or A-level qualifications a new on-line application for 25% extra time **must** be processed.

An assessment conducted no earlier than the start of Year 9 (Part 2 of Form 8) recommending 25% extra time for GCSE examinations will be valid for GCE AS and A-level examinations.

A fully completed Form 8 (Parts 1, 2 and 3), signed and dated, may roll forward from GCSE to GCE qualifications†. **No further assessment is required.**

However, so as not to give an unfair advantage, the SENCo or the assessor working with the centre **must** have available evidence, which clearly shows that 25% extra time is still needed for GCE AS and/or A-level examinations. (This updated centre based evidence **must** be produced on centre headed paper/template, signed and dated by the SENCo, specifically relating to GCE AS and/or A-level examinations):

- ❖ confirm that 25% extra time **continues** to be the candidate's normal way of working within the centre **as a direct consequence of their disability within the meaning of the Equality Act 2010;**
- ❖ provide evidence from teaching staff that the candidate has persistent and significant difficulties, and how these substantially impact on teaching and learning.

†The rolling forward of a Form 8 from GCSE to GCE AS and/or A-level qualifications principally applies in the context of 11 to 18 schools, including 11 to 18 schools operating local Sixth Form consortium arrangements for GCE AS and/or A-level qualifications. A FE College or a Sixth Form College **must** have established working relationships with 'feeder' schools for the Form 8 to roll forward from GCSE to GCE AS and A-level qualifications.

Evidence from an assessor



The vast majority of candidates with learning difficulties awarded 25% extra time will have an assessment of speed of working showing at least one standardised score of 84 or less. Rare and exceptional cases may however exist.

At least one standardised score of 84 or less

Where a candidate has at least one standardised score of 84 or less the SENCo must present for inspection purposes a substantial and comprehensive body of evidence.

The next page shows the balance of requirements between core evidence (the quantitative data from the assessor's report – Part 2 of Form 8) and supplementary evidence (painting the picture of need).

Rare and exceptional cases

For those rare and exceptional cases which fall outside the standard expected category, of at least one standardised score of 84 or less, the amount of evidence of need will vary, and will likely need to be greater, according to the candidate's standardised scores on tests of speed.

These rare and exceptional cases will need to be referred to the relevant awarding body using *Access arrangements online*. An awarding body reserves the right to request, 'call-in' evidence from the centre and will expect to see a strong justification for 25% extra time.

Pictorial representation of the evidence requirements for candidates with learning difficulties requiring 25% extra time, showing the balance of requirements between core and supplementary evidence

Core evidence – defined as the quantitative data from the assessor’s report (Part 2 of Form 8).

Proportion of candidates typically awarded 25% extra time with an assessor’s report showing standardised scores on tests of speed:

<p>At least one score of 84 or less</p> <p>The vast majority of candidates with a substantial and long term impairment awarded 25% extra time will fall into this category.</p>	<p>Two or more scores between 85-89</p> <p><u>A small proportion</u> of candidates will fall into this category.</p>	<p>Three or more scores between 90-94</p> <p><u>Very few candidates</u> awarded extra time are expected to be in this category.</p>
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Supplementary evidence – painting the picture of need

The amount of evidence required to paint the picture of need will vary according to the candidate’s standardised scores on tests of speed:

<p>At least one score of 84 or less</p> <p>Evidence of normal way of working within the centre (i.e. Part 1 of Form 8)</p> <p><u>and</u> a sample of internal school tests/mock exam papers showing the application of extra time <i>or</i> IEP/ILP referring to the need for extra time <i>or</i> comments and observations from teaching staff as to why the candidate needs extra time and how he/she uses the extra time awarded.</p>	<p>Two or more scores between 85-89 relating to <u>two different areas of speed of working</u></p> <p>Evidence of normal way of working within the centre (i.e. Part 1 of Form 8)</p> <p><u>and</u> a sample of internal school tests/mock exam papers showing the application of extra time <i>or</i> IEP/ILP referring to the need for extra time <i>or</i> comments and observations from teaching staff as to why the candidate needs extra time and how he/she uses the extra time awarded.</p>	<p>Three or more scores between 90-94 <u>relating to three different areas of speed of working</u></p> <p>Evidence of normal way of working within the centre showing <u>an extensive history of need; and</u></p> <p>Evidence of <u>a clear, measurable and substantial long term adverse effect on performance and speed of working; and</u></p> <p>A diagnostic assessment report, from <u>no earlier than Year 9</u>, confirming a significant learning difficulty or disability. This <u>must</u> have been undertaken by a HCPC registered psychologist or specialist diagnostic assessor; <u>and</u></p> <p>A cluster of standardised scores (at least three) relating to <u>three different areas of speed of working just within the average range, 90 to 94.</u></p> <p>As these cases are rare and very exceptional, centres may find the definition of disability within the Equality Act 2010 helpful.</p> <p>HCPC registered psychologists and specialist diagnostic assessors are advised to consider in extreme and unusual cases, particularly where the candidate has complex learning needs, whether paragraph 5.2.3 might apply.</p>
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25% extra time

Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD)
Sensory and/or Physical Needs (HI, MSI, PD, VI)
Social, Mental and Emotional Needs (e.g. ADD, ADHD)
Speech, Language and Communication Needs (SLCN)

Supervised rest breaks must always be considered before making a request for extra time, since they may be more appropriate for candidates with a medical condition, a physical disability or a psychological condition. (See Chapter 5, section 5.1 for more detail.)

5.2.3 Where a candidate has complex needs, i.e.

- Communication and Interaction Needs; **or**
- a learning difficulty with a **current** EHCP or Statement of special educational needs; **or**
- Sensory and/or Physical Needs; **or**
- Social, Mental and Emotional Needs;

which have a substantial and long term adverse effect on his/her speed of working, appropriate evidence of need (as below) **must** be available at the centre for inspection. **Form 8 is not required and must not be used.**

Substantial impairment – evidence of need

So as not to give an unfair advantage, the SENCo must address both bullet points below, on centre headed paper/template, signed and dated):

- ❖ confirm that 25% extra time is the candidate's normal way of working within the centre;
- ❖ provide evidence from teaching staff that the candidate has persistent and significant difficulties, and how these substantially impact on teaching and learning.

The SENCo's detailed information, as above, will be supported by specialist evidence confirming the candidate's disability:

- a **letter/report** from CAMHS, a HCPC registered psychologist, **a medical consultant**, a psychiatrist, a Speech and Language Therapist (SaLT); **or**
- a **letter/report** from the Local Authority Specialist Service, Local Authority Sensory Impairment Service or Occupational Health Service†; **or**
- a **current** Statement of Special Educational Needs, or an Education, Health and Care Plan, **which confirms the candidate's learning difficulty, medical condition, physical disability, sensory or multi-sensory impairment.**

†For example, an Occupational Therapist specialising in Children and Young People Services, learning disability, mental health.

The specialist evidence is not required to recommend 25% extra time but to simply confirm the candidate's disability. The specialist evidence may relate to any age provided it remains current.

25% extra time

Factors the centre must consider

- 5.2.4 Where 25% extra time is to be made available to a candidate in his/her examinations, the centre **must** ensure that appropriate invigilation and timetabling arrangements are in place.
- 5.2.5 **Extra time will not be permitted in examinations testing the time in which a skill is performed, such as expressive arts, a musical performance, or a sport, where timing is an explicit part of the assessment objective.**
- 5.2.6 **Candidates may not require extra time for every examination/assessment and every subject.** As subjects and the methods of assessment vary, so the demands on the candidate will vary.

Extra time **may not** be appropriate in:

- **practical examinations; or**
- **non-examination assessments where the impairment has a minimal effect on the assessment.**

Care **must** be taken within the centre to ensure that candidates (whose normal way of working is to use extra time) are not placed at a disadvantage.

- 5.2.7 For recorded examinations, the centre must request an extra recording from the awarding body, unless they normally receive enough spares.

Where a candidate has an approved application for 25% extra time, advice should always be sought from the relevant awarding body as to how the extra time is to be applied in a Listening examination.

Entry Level Certificate (ELC) qualifications

For Entry Level Certificate qualifications the centre is not required to have each candidate individually assessed.

The SENCo **must** determine the need for 25% extra time based on how the candidate normally works in the classroom.

5.3 Extra time of up to 50% (between 26% and 50% extra time)

Access arrangements are determined on an individual basis, based on the assessment evidence, the candidate's demonstrated needs within the centre and his/her normal way of working. If a candidate with processing difficulties can demonstrate his/her knowledge, understanding and skills with 25% extra time then it would not be appropriate to award more than this. To do so would not create a level playing field. It would advantage the candidate over his/her peers.

For the overwhelming majority of candidates with cognition and learning needs who require extra time, 25% will be sufficient. If more than this is needed, there **must** be a strong justification as to why more than 25% extra time is required, including **a substantial body of centre based evidence**.

Processing applications

- 5.3.1 **For those qualifications listed within the Deadlines section, page 2**, an application for extra time of up to 50% **must** be processed using *Access arrangements online*.

***Access arrangements online* will automatically reject applications for extra time of more than 25%. However, the centre will be able to refer the application to the relevant awarding body. Each application will be considered in light of the candidate's needs. An awarding body reserves the right to request 'call-in' evidence from the centre and will expect to see a strong justification for the arrangement.**

- 5.3.2 An application for extra time of more than 25% and up to 50% **must only** be processed in the following **exceptional circumstances**:

Learning Difficulties (including a candidate who has a learning difficulty as evidenced by a current EHCP)

Very substantial impairment - evidence of need

- A candidate working independently with a learning difficulty which has **a very substantial and long term adverse effect on speed of working (as comprehensively detailed within Part 1 of Form 8)**.

Results must be given as standardised scores.

So as not to give an unfair advantage, only **very substantially below average standardised scores of 69 or less are acceptable**.

The candidate must have two very substantially below average standardised scores which relate to two different areas of speed of working as below:

- speed of reading **and** speed of writing; **or**
- speed of reading **and** cognitive processing measures; **or**
- speed of writing **and** cognitive processing measures; **or**
- **two different areas** of cognitive processing.

The candidate will have been assessed with current editions of nationally standardised tests being conducted within 26 months of the final examination (see Chapter 7, section 7.5). This will be in addition to a compelling and substantial picture of need, indicating the candidate's normal way of working, as evidenced within Part 1 of Form 8.

A medical condition, a physical disability , a sensory or multi-sensory impairment: Very substantial impairment - evidence of need

- **A candidate who has a medical condition, a physical disability, a sensory or multi-sensory impairment that very substantially hinders his/her speed of working.**

Extra time might be needed for various reasons. For example, it could take a candidate with a **very substantial multi-sensory impairment** longer to read and process text, and to find their way round a modified enlarged paper.

Where a candidate is proficient in reading a Braille paper it would normally be appropriate to award no more than 50% extra time.

Where a candidate is proficient in using a modified enlarged paper, whether with a computer reader/reader and/or a scribe, it would normally be appropriate to award no more than 50% extra time.

SENCoS must have clear evidence that extra time of up to 50% is needed.

So as not to give an unfair advantage, the SENCo must:

- ❖ confirm that the candidate has **very persistent and significant difficulties when accessing and processing information, and is disabled within the meaning of the Equality Act 2010;**
- ❖ include evidence of the candidate's current difficulties and how they **very substantially** impact on teaching and learning in the classroom;
- ❖ indicate the maximum amount of extra time required, e.g. 40%;
- ❖ provide evidence of how the amount of extra time required has been determined;
- ❖ show the involvement of teaching staff in determining the amount of extra time required;
- ❖ indicate whether the candidate will be working independently with Braille or modified enlarged papers;
- ❖ indicate whether the candidate will be using a computer reader/reader and/or a scribe and/or a word processor;
- ❖ confirm that without the application of extra time of up to 50% the candidate would be at **a very substantial disadvantage; and**
(The candidate would be at a very substantial disadvantage when compared with other, non-disabled candidates undertaking the assessment.)
- ❖ confirm that extra time of up to 50% is the candidate's normal way of working within the centre **as a direct consequence of their disability.**

The SENCo's detailed information, as above, will be supported by specialist evidence confirming the candidate's disability:

- a **letter/report** from CAMHS, a HCPC registered psychologist, **a medical consultant**, a psychiatrist, a Speech and Language Therapist (SaLT); **or**
- a **letter/report** from the Local Authority Specialist Service, Local Authority Sensory Impairment Service or Occupational Health Service†; **or**
- a **current** Statement of Special Educational Needs, or an Education, Health and Care Plan, **which confirms the candidate's medical condition, physical disability, sensory or multi-sensory impairment.**

†For example, an Occupational Therapist specialising in Children and Young People Services, learning disability, mental health.

5.4 Extra time of over 50%

- 5.4.1 **In very exceptional circumstances**, a candidate may require more than 50% extra time in order to manage **a very substantial impairment**.

For example, a candidate with **a severe vision impairment** who is **very slow** in reading a modified enlarged or Braille paper and cannot access an electronic paper.

Access arrangements online will automatically reject applications for extra time of over 50%. However, the centre will be able to refer the application to the relevant awarding body. Each application will be considered in light of the candidate's needs. An awarding body reserves the right to request 'call-in' evidence from the centre and will expect to see a strong justification for the arrangement.

Detailed information **must** be provided to the relevant awarding body, indicating the **very substantial** nature of the candidate's impairment and why 50% extra time is insufficient.

The SENCo must:

- ❖ confirm that the candidate has **very persistent and significant difficulties when accessing and processing information, and is disabled within the meaning of the Equality Act 2010**;
- ❖ include evidence of the candidate's current difficulties and how they **very substantially** impact on teaching and learning in the classroom;
- ❖ indicate the maximum amount of extra time required, e.g. 75%;
- ❖ provide evidence of how the amount of extra time required has been determined;
- ❖ show the involvement of teaching staff in determining the amount of extra time required;
- ❖ indicate whether the candidate will be working independently with Braille or modified enlarged papers;
- ❖ indicate whether the candidate will be using a computer reader/reader and/or a scribe and/or a word processor; **and**
- ❖ confirm that without the application of extra time of over 50% the candidate would be at **a very substantial disadvantage**; **and**
(**The candidate would be at a very substantial disadvantage when compared with other, non-disabled candidates undertaking the assessment.**)
- ❖ confirm that extra time of over 50% is the candidate's normal way of working within the centre **as a direct consequence of their disability**.

The amount of extra time requested must be both reasonable and appropriate to the candidate's needs.

SENcos should note that extra time of over 100% is likely to be counter-productive in terms of fatigue. Other access arrangements, particularly supervised rest breaks, should be identified to make this arrangement unnecessary.

Examples - extra time (learning difficulties)

A candidate not awarded extra time

- A Year 11 GCSE student has an assessment which identifies that his underlying cognitive abilities fall in the upper range, with a score of **125**. His literacy skills are within the average range and his processing ability scores are in the range of **94-96**. There is no evidence that he requires extra time in light of his performance in the classroom, in internal school tests and in his GCSE English Language examination sat in Year 10. **An application for extra time cannot be pursued as he does not meet the published criteria.**

A candidate with no previous history of need

- A Year 12 A-level student has recently been identified as having a specific learning difficulty, with processing speeds in the below average range, (**standardised scores of 80 and 83**). The assessor who has **an established working relationship with the centre** recommends 25% extra time. However, the SENCo only managed to produce a 'skeleton' Part 1 of Form 8 prior to the candidate being assessed. Extra time was not needed for GCSE examinations. The SENCo decides to trial and monitor the award of 25% extra time and records its impact and use. By the February of Year 13 **a detailed picture of need** and evidence of normal way of working has been firmly established. The SENCo, having collected data throughout the monitoring period, is now able to **fully complete Part 1 of Form 8**. Together with the two below average standardised scores, **as recorded within Part 2 of Form 8**, the SENCo processes an on-line application for 25% extra time by 31 March.

Using evidence of working memory difficulties

- A GCSE student has an assessment which confirms the presence of a weak, below average working memory (**a standardised score of 77**). Her teachers observe she is slow at gathering her thoughts and putting them down onto paper, especially under the timed conditions of an examination. They confirm she regularly needs verbal instructions repeated. Class test papers additionally show that the quality and quantity of her written answers improves significantly with the allowance of 25% extra time. The SENCo processes an on-line application for 25% extra time based on her below average working memory, **as recorded within Part 2 of Form 8, and a detailed picture of need (Part 1 of Form 8 and additional supplementary evidence).**

Re-assessment in Year 12

- An A-level student was found to have learning difficulties in Year 9. When re-assessed on entry to the Sixth Form his reading accuracy and comprehension skills are well within the average range. His writing speed has never posed a difficulty but he has previously received extra time in exams requiring extended reading. The new assessment does not indicate below average speeds of working. They fall into the low average range (i.e. 85-89), with one measure falling just within the average range. His reading speed using continuous texts is **89**, his single word reading speed is **86**, his phonological processing speed is **91** and his score for working memory is **88**. The SENCo considers his history of need. He has consistently used his extra time in exams requiring extended reading and extension times are allowed for reading in class. Having produced **a detailed picture of need**, the SENCo processes an on-line application for 25% extra time. The application will need to be referred on-line to the relevant awarding body/bodies as it falls outside the standard expected category of at least one standardised score of 84 or less.

A candidate with specific learning difficulties

- An A-level student has a long established diagnosis of a specific learning difficulty. She has been awarded 25% extra time throughout her schooling to date (National Curriculum Tests and GCSE examinations). When entering the Sixth Form for her A-level studies the school's specialist assessor reported the continued existence of a significant learning difficulty. The candidate's standardised scores generally fall just within the average range in tests of visual processing (**92**), reading speed (**94**), working memory (**89**) and rapid naming (**91**). **These scores compare to underlying cognitive abilities which fall into the upper range with a score of 130.** The SENCo can paint **a compelling picture of need** with **substantial evidence** of a significant improvement in quality of performance in mock exams and timed classroom activities when 25% extra time is allowed - in measures of reading speed, writing coherence, quality of ideas and information content.

The SENCo decides to process an on-line application for 25% extra time. The application will need to be referred on-line to the relevant awarding body/bodies as it falls outside the standard expected category of at least one standardised score of 84 or less.

A candidate with a vision impairment using Braille papers

- A blind candidate is using Braille papers. There is a great deal of text to read in GCSE History and there are many diagrams and tables in GCSE Science. The candidate's vision impairment **very substantially** hinders his speed of working.

The SENCo processes an application for **a practical assistant, a reader** (in order to assist the candidate in examinations involving diagrams, graphs and tables) **and 50% extra time.** **The application is automatically rejected by the on-line system. The SENCo refers the application on-line to the relevant awarding bodies.**

The awarding bodies will consider the application in light of the candidate's needs.

A candidate with a vision impairment using modified enlarged papers

- A candidate with a vision impairment uses a print size larger than the published modified enlarged paper formats. Her normal way of working involves enlarging scanned material on a laptop in order to read it. The SENCo orders A4 modified enlarged 18 point bold papers in a non-interactive electronic (PDF) format which the candidate will enlarge on a laptop. The candidate will additionally require 50% extra time considering her vision impairment which **very substantially** hinders her speed of working.

The SENCo processes an application for 50% extra time which is automatically rejected by the on-line system. The SENCo refers the application on-line to the relevant awarding bodies who will consider the application in light of the candidate's needs.

5.5 Computer reader/reader

Processing applications

- 5.5.1 **For those qualifications listed within the Deadlines section, page 2,** an application for a computer reader/reader **must** be processed using *Access arrangements online*. **Appropriate evidence of need must be available at the centre for inspection (see paragraph 5.5.5).**

A computer reader/reader will not be allowed if a candidate's literacy difficulties are primarily caused by English, Irish or Welsh not being his/her first language.

For a candidate with a disability or a learning difficulty a computer reader may allow them to demonstrate their attainment more effectively and independently than would be possible with a reader. However, a computer reader must be appropriate to the candidate's needs. There must be sufficient time and training to ensure the candidate is able to use a computer reader effectively.

A computer reader

- 5.5.2 **Computer software which accurately reads out text, (including synthetic speech software stored on a memory stick) but does not decode or interpret the paper, may be used as a computer reader.**

It is the centre's responsibility to ensure that the computer used **does not** contain any software that the candidate can access and which might assist him/her with the examination.

Failure to do so may constitute malpractice.

A computer reader will be allowed in papers (or sections of papers) testing reading.

In cases where a computer reader is unable to recognise and thus read an individual word, a reader may read out the word to the candidate.

Where an application for a computer reader is approved, the centre is permitted to open the question paper packet **in the secure room within 90 minutes of the awarding body's published starting time for the examination. This is specifically to scan the hard copy question paper into PDF format.** **Any infringement has the potential to constitute malpractice.**

However, where an application for a computer reader is approved, **it is strongly recommended** that the centre orders a **non-interactive electronic question paper** (see Chapter 6, section 6.7).

A reader

- 5.5.3 **A reader is a responsible adult who reads the instructions of the question paper and the questions to the candidate.** This may involve reading the whole paper to the candidate or the candidate may request only some words to be read. **(See the rules – the use of a reader within this section.)**
- 5.5.4 **A reader is not a Communication Professional, a practical assistant, a prompter or a scribe.** The same person may act as a Communication Professional, a practical assistant, a prompter, a reader and/or a scribe if permission has been given for these arrangements (where necessary). **The regulations for the use of each arrangement must be strictly adhered to.**

Computer reader/reader

Types of disability or access needs

Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD)

Learning Difficulties

Sensory and/or Physical Needs (HI, MSI, PD, VI)

Social, Mental and Emotional Needs (e.g. ADD, ADHD)

Speech, Language and Communication Needs (SLCN)

Evidence of need for all types of disability

- 5.5.5 The SENCo **must** produce a short concise file note on centre headed paper, signed and dated, confirming the nature of the candidate's impairment and that the use of a computer reader and/or a reader reflects his/her **normal and current way of working within the centre**.

For candidates with learning difficulties assessment evidence and Form 8 is not required.

However, the SENCo must be satisfied that:

- **the candidate has an impairment which has a substantial and long term adverse effect, giving rise to persistent and significant reading difficulties (the candidate is disabled within the meaning of the Equality Act); and**
- **there is a genuine need for the arrangement.**

A computer reader/reader will be awarded on account of:

- cognition and learning needs;
- communication and interaction needs;
- a medical condition;
- sensory and physical needs;
- social, mental and emotional needs.

Entry Level Certificate (ELC) qualifications

For Entry Level Certificate qualifications the SENCo **must** determine the need for a computer reader and/or a reader based on how the candidate normally works in the classroom.

In Entry Level Certificate English a reader is not permitted in the Reading component. A computer reader may be used in the Reading component of Entry Level Certificate English where its use reflects the candidate's normal way of working within the centre.

A candidate who would normally be eligible for a reader, but is not permitted this arrangement, may be granted up to a maximum of 50% extra time.

The need for 25% extra time alongside the use of a computer reader/reader should always be considered. If the candidate requires 25% extra time then he/she must meet the published criteria for 25% extra time. The required evidence must be in place to support an on-line application.

Computer reader/reader

Papers (or sections of papers) testing reading

5.5.6 A computer reader will be allowed in papers (or sections of papers) testing reading.

A computer reader and a reader do not interpret text in the same way. A reader can add a layer of vocal interpretation (nuance and meaning). This could affect a candidate's response and therefore compromise the reliability of the qualification. A computer reader is an acceptable arrangement since it allows the candidate to independently meet the requirements of the reading standards.

(See the Permissions table within this section on the use of computer readers/readers in GCSE and GCE qualifications.)

5.5.7 A reader will not be allowed to read questions or text in papers (or sections of papers) testing reading.

A candidate who would normally be eligible for a reader but is not permitted this arrangement in a paper (or a section of a paper) testing reading may be granted up to a maximum of 50% extra time. **(Where a candidate is using a computer reader or an examination reading pen the SENCo cannot grant up to a maximum of 50% extra time.)**

An approved application for a reader will allow the SENCo to grant the candidate up to a maximum of 50% extra time in a paper (or a section of a paper) testing reading. Where Reading and Writing is being assessed in the same paper, **the maximum allowance of 50% extra time must only be allocated to the Reading section.**

Centres should calculate the total time allocated to reading based on the number of marks allocated to the Reading questions and add up to a maximum of 50% to that time. Advice from the relevant awarding body may need to be sought.

In a paper (or a section of a paper) testing reading a reader may read back, upon request, what the candidate has written without any emphasis on errors.

Factors the centre must consider

5.5.8 The centre is responsible for ensuring that the candidate and reader cannot be overheard by, or distract, other candidates. (This will also apply if the candidate uses a computer reader.)

Where the candidate and reader are accommodated in another room, on a one to one basis, the invigilator may additionally act as the reader.

5.5.9 Readers may work with more than one candidate but **must not** read the paper to a group of candidates at the same time, as this imposes the timing of the paper on the candidates.

Where candidates only require occasional words or phrases to be read, **three or four candidates may share one reader.** The candidate will need to put their hand up or use a prompt card when he/she needs help with reading. If the group is accommodated in another room, away from the main examination room, **a separate invigilator will be required.**

Each candidate in the group must meet the published criteria for a reader.

The rules – the use of a reader

- **may** enable a vision impaired candidate to identify diagrams, graphs and tables but **must not** give factual information nor offer any suggestions, other than the information which would be available on the paper for sighted candidates;
- **may** read numbers printed in figures as words (e.g. 356 would be read as three hundred and fifty six, but when reading the number it should also be pointed to on the question paper). An exception would be when the question is asking for a number to be written in words (e.g. write the number 356 in words);
- **may decode symbols and unit abbreviations in Maths and Science examinations for candidates who require this arrangement in order to access the assessment and where it reflects the candidate's current and normal way of working within the centre;**
- **may**, if requested, give the spelling of a word which appears on the paper but otherwise spellings **must not** be given;
- **may** read back, when requested, what the candidate has written without any emphasis on any errors;
- **must** read accurately;
- **must** have appropriate subject knowledge in order to act effectively as a reader in Maths and Science examinations, and decode symbols and formulae with accuracy;
- **must** only **read** the instructions of the question paper and questions, and **must not** explain or clarify;
- **must** only repeat the instructions of the question paper or questions when a candidate indicates a specific need for help;
- **must only read the instructions/rubric of a paper testing reading and must not read individual questions or text;**
- **must abide by the regulations since failure to do so could lead to the disqualification of the candidate;**
- **must not** advise the candidate regarding which questions to do, when to move on to the next question, nor the order in which questions should be answered;
- **must not decode any symbols** in a Music examination.

A suggested memory aid for a reader can be found at Appendix 1.

Remember

For Entry Level Certificate qualifications where a reader is used, **Form 13 must** be downloaded from the Centre Admin Portal (CAP). CAP can be accessed via any of the awarding bodies' secure extranet sites.

Form 13 must be placed inside the candidate's script.

Examples – Computer readers and readers

- A candidate on the autistic spectrum with **substantial and long term reading difficulties** is granted the use of a reader. She hears the words read out by the reader but cannot understand the question. She asks the reader to explain. The reader reads the question again but cannot offer any explanation. **A reader is only permitted to read the text and not to explain it.**
- A candidate with **a substantial and long term vision impairment** requests **A4 modified 24 point bold papers**, which the SENCo orders. As his condition is a deteriorating one, he has gradually become accustomed to using a tablet with computer reading software (a computer reader). The SENCo processes an application for a computer reader which is approved by *Access arrangements online*. He is allowed a computer reader in his examinations, including those testing reading.
- A candidate has had a severe hearing loss since birth and related language delay. This is partly shown by **persistent and significant difficulties** in understanding complex language. His reading age has consistently been below that of his hearing peers. He is thus at **a substantial disadvantage**. He has regular support with reading in class and teaching resources are modified by a Communication Support Worker. He also has behavioural difficulties at school. He is allowed a reader in all examinations except those testing reading. The use of a reader will remove his **substantial disadvantage**. (A computer reader is not appropriate to his needs because he relies on lip-reading.)
- A candidate with Speech, Language and Communication Needs has a complex language disorder. He has **persistent and significant difficulties** with sentence recall. As this will have **a substantial and adverse impact** on the speed at which he can process spoken information, he is allowed a reader.
- A candidate with ADHD is allowed a laptop with computer reading software (a computer reader) in all subjects, including those testing reading, as this has reflected his normal way of working within the centre since Year 7. The SENCo can produce a picture of need as per **paragraph 5.5.5**.
- A blind candidate in A-level Mathematics and Further Mathematics examinations requires a combination of access arrangements. His centre orders **Braille papers and tactile diagrams**. An application for **a practical assistant, a reader and a scribe** is subsequently approved by the awarding body having been automatically rejected by the on-line system. The reader will enable the candidate to identify diagrams correctly. The practical assistant will guide the candidate's hand under instruction to the tactile graphs. The scribe will draw a straight line between the points the candidate has plotted independently on the tactile graphs. The same person will act as a reader, a scribe and a practical assistant.
- A candidate is studying for three A-levels (Biology, Chemistry and Physics). He has **complex learning needs** – ASD, Dyslexia and Dyspraxia. The candidate has a **current** Education, Health and Care Plan and has received classroom support since Year 7. His normal way of working is a reader and 25% extra time (since he has **persistent and significant difficulties** in following the reader because of **substantial language and vocabulary difficulties**). The SENCo processes an on-line application for a reader since without the arrangement the candidate would be at **a substantial disadvantage** - removing the reader might cause a severe adverse reaction. The SENCo can produce a picture of need for a reader (**see paragraph 5.5.5**).

Permissions table for the use of readers and computer readers in GCSE and GCE qualifications

Qualification	Current position		Rationale for current position
	Candidate must read for him/herself	Reader allowed	
A level English Language	No	Yes	For A level English Language, 'reading' is essentially a requirement to understand the text. A reader or a computer reader would be permitted to support the candidate in understanding the text.
A level English Literature	No	Yes	The candidate's response to literature and texts is being assessed rather than reading. A reader or a computer reader would be permitted to support the candidate in understanding the text.
A level English Language and Literature	No	Yes	The same position holds as for A level English Language and A level English Literature. A reader or a computer reader would be permitted to support the candidate in understanding the text.
A level Welsh	No	Yes	A level Welsh is a combination of both Welsh Language and Welsh Literature elements. Although reading is a requirement, by this level (in a first language) learners are assumed to have progressed beyond taking meaning off the page from text. A reader or a computer reader would be permitted.
A level Welsh second language	Yes, in components that assess reading	Yes, except in components that assess reading	A level Welsh second language assessment objectives show that learners must actually 'read' and demonstrate understanding of the written language. This requires taking meaning off the page from text or Braille. A reader would not be permitted for components that assess reading. NB A candidate may however use a computer reader in components that assess reading. A computer reader allows the candidate to independently meet the requirements of the reading standards.

A level MFL specifications	Yes, in MFL Reading papers	Yes, except in MFL Reading papers	The assessment objectives show that learners must actually "understand and respond, in speech and writing, to written language" (A02). This requires taking meaning off the page from text or Braille. Using a reader to read the English Language rubric is acceptable. However, using a reader to read the respective Modern Foreign Language would not be permitted. This would turn the task into a listening one. NB A candidate may however use a computer reader in a MFL Reading paper. A computer reader allows the candidate to independently meet the requirements of the reading standards.
GCSE English Language	Yes, in the section of a paper that assesses reading	Yes, except in the section of a paper that assesses reading	GCSE English Language assessment objectives show that learners must actually "read" and demonstrate understanding of the written language. This requires taking meaning off the page from text or Braille. A reader would not be permitted for components that assess reading. NB A candidate may however use a computer reader in the section of the paper that assesses reading. A computer reader allows the candidate to independently meet the requirements of the reading standards.
GCSE English Literature	No	Yes	Reading is not being assessed in GCSE English Literature. A reader or a computer reader would be permitted.
GCSE Welsh first language	Yes, in components that assess reading	Yes, except in components that assess reading	GCSE Welsh requires learners to read and demonstrate understanding of the written language, taking meaning off the page from text or Braille. A reader would not be permitted for components that assess reading. NB A candidate may however use a computer reader in components that assess reading. A computer reader allows the candidate to independently meet the requirements of the reading standards.
GCSE Welsh Literature	No	Yes	In GCSE Welsh Literature candidates are required to extract literary meaning. A reader or a computer reader would be permitted.

GCSE Welsh second language	Yes, in components that assess reading	Yes, except in components that assess reading	<p>GCSE Welsh second language assessment objectives show that learners must actually 'read' and demonstrate understanding of the written language. This requires taking meaning off the page from text or Braille. A reader would not be permitted for components that assess reading.</p> <p>NB A candidate may however use a computer reader in components that assess reading. A computer reader allows the candidate to independently meet the requirements of the reading standards.</p>
GCSE MFL specifications	Yes, in MFL Reading papers	Yes, except in MFL Reading papers	<p>As for A level Modern Foreign Languages, the assessment objectives require that learners must actually "understand written language". This requires taking meaning off the page from text or Braille. Using a reader would not be permitted as it would turn this task into a listening task.</p> <p>NB A candidate may however use a computer reader in a MFL Reading paper. A computer reader allows the candidate to independently meet the requirements of the reading standards.</p>

5.6 Read aloud and/or the use of an examination reading pen*

***There is not a requirement to process an application for Read Aloud and/or the use of an examination reading pen using *Access arrangements online*. No evidence is needed to support the arrangement for inspection purposes.**

Read aloud

- 5.6.1 It can make a significant difference to a candidate who **persistently** struggles to understand what they have read to read aloud. Where a candidate is reading difficult text he/she may work more effectively if they can hear themselves read.
- 5.6.2 **The arrangement must reflect the candidate's normal way of working in internal school tests and mock examinations.**
- 5.6.3 A candidate who reads aloud to himself/herself **must** be accommodated in another room, away from the main examination room.

Examination reading pen

- 5.6.4 A permitted examination reading pen **will not** have an in-built dictionary or thesaurus, or a data storage facility.

The use of an examination reading pen, **provided by the centre**, might benefit those candidates who wish to work independently. It may increase the independence of candidates who needed a reader for accuracy rather than comprehension.

The use of an examination reading pen might also benefit those candidates who only require occasional words or phrases to be read to them.

An examination reading pen may be used in papers (or sections of papers) testing reading. However, the candidate cannot additionally be granted up to a maximum of 50% extra time in place of the reader.

Example – examination reading pen

A candidate was found to be mildly dyslexic in Year 7. The candidate has always used a reader in internal school tests.

However, the SENCo trials the use of an examination reading pen which subsequently becomes his **normal way of working within the centre**. It is an effective arrangement, appropriate to his needs.

5.7 Scribe/speech recognition technology

Processing applications

- 5.7.1 **For those qualifications listed within the Deadlines section, page 2**, an application for a scribe or speech recognition technology **must** be processed using *Access arrangements online*. **Appropriate evidence of need must be available at the centre for inspection.**

If a word processor (with the spelling and grammar check disabled) is the candidate's normal way of working within the centre, then it should be used in examinations in order to encourage independent working and access to marks awarded for spelling, punctuation and grammar (see section 5.8).

A scribe must only be used where a candidate is not sufficiently competent or confident in using a word processor with the spelling and grammar check or predictive text facility disabled (switched off).

Some candidates will be able to use a word processor in most of their subjects but may require a scribe in subjects such as Maths and Science.

A scribe or speech recognition technology software will not be allowed if a candidate's literacy difficulties are primarily caused by English, Irish or Welsh not being his/her first language.

A scribe

- 5.7.2 **A scribe is a responsible adult who, in non-examination assessments and/or in an examination but not in a Speaking Test, writes or types a candidate's dictated answers to the questions. (See the rules – the use of a scribe within this section.)**

If a candidate dictates answers on to a tape, a responsible adult must write down or word process the candidate's dictated answers to the questions. (A scribe cover sheet must be completed.)

Candidates must respond in English, Irish or Welsh as appropriate, to meet the assessment of written communication in English, Irish or Welsh.

- 5.7.3 **A scribe is not a practical assistant, a prompter or a reader.** The same person may act as a practical assistant, a prompter, a reader and/or a scribe if permission has been given for these arrangements. **The regulations for the use of each arrangement must be strictly adhered to.**

Scribe/speech recognition technology

Use of speech recognition technology

5.7.4 **Where the centre has approval for the use of a scribe and where it reflects the candidate's normal way of working within the centre, as appropriate to his/her needs, the candidate may alternatively use:**

- **a word processor with the spelling and grammar check facility enabled;**
(NB This arrangement **will not** be permitted in ELC, GCSE and GCE Modern Foreign Language specifications. **See paragraph 5.7.6.**)
- **a word processor with predictive text/spelling and grammar check facility enabled;**
(NB This arrangement **will not** be permitted in ELC, GCSE and GCE Modern Foreign Language specifications. **See paragraph 5.7.6.**)
- **speech recognition technology with predictive text when the candidate dictates into a word processor. Software (a screen reader) may be used to read back and correct the candidate's dictated answers;**
(NB This arrangement **will not** be permitted in ELC, GCSE and GCE Modern Foreign Language specifications. **See paragraph 5.7.6.**)
- **computer software, producing speech, which is used to dictate to a scribe.**

However, the candidate will not have access to marks awarded for spelling, punctuation and/or grammar unless he/she has independently dictated spelling, punctuation and/or grammar, and this has been recorded on the scribe cover sheet.

In all cases a scribe cover sheet must be completed.

Scribe/speech recognition technology

Types of disability or access needs

Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD)

Learning Difficulties

Sensory and/or Physical Needs (HI, MSI, PD, VI)

Social, Mental and Emotional Needs (e.g. ADD, ADHD)

Speech, Language and Communication Needs (SLCN)

So as not to give an unfair advantage, a scribe will only be allowed where:

- an impairment has a substantial and long term adverse effect on the candidate's writing; or
- a candidate cannot write, type or Braille independently, or at sufficient speed to record their answers even with extra time allowed, as a result of a substantial and long term impairment.

The use of a scribe must reflect the candidate's normal way of working within the centre in light of their substantial and long term impairment.

NB Many candidates who produce inaccurate spellings write legibly as they make reasonable phonic approximations of the word in question, which can be read by the examiner. These candidates are unlikely to need the help of a scribe unless they have other substantial and long term writing difficulties.

Communication and Interaction Needs, Sensory and/or Physical Needs, Social, Mental and Emotional Needs

Where a candidate has complex needs, i.e.

- Communication and Interaction Needs; **or**
- Sensory and/or Physical Needs; **or**
- Social, Mental and Emotional Needs;

it is not necessary to formally assess the candidate's writing skills.

Form 8 is not required and must not be used.

However, the SENCo must demonstrate that the candidate has an impairment which has a substantial and long term adverse effect on his/her writing.

Learning Difficulties

Where a candidate has learning difficulties and is not subject to a Statement of Special Educational Needs or an Education, Health and Care Plan, Form 8 must be completed.

An assessment no earlier than the start of Year 9 (Part 2 of Form 8) in relation to the candidate's writing skills is required. (See Chapter 7, paragraph 7.5.11 for more detail.)

Scribe/speech recognition technology

Substantial impairment – evidence of need

Communication and Interaction Needs, Sensory and/or Physical Needs, Social, Mental and Emotional Needs

For those qualifications listed within the Deadlines section page 2, appropriate evidence of need must be available at the centre for inspection.

So as not to give an unfair advantage, the SENCo must address the three bullet points below, on centre headed paper/template, signed and dated:

- ❖ confirm that a scribe is the candidate's normal way of working within the centre;
- ❖ provide evidence from teaching staff that the candidate has persistent and significant difficulties, and how these substantially impact on teaching and learning;
- ❖ confirm that the candidate is not sufficiently competent or confident in using a word processor **with the spelling and grammar check or predictive text facility disabled (switched off)** in every subject.

The SENCo's detailed information, as above, will be supported by specialist evidence confirming the candidate's disability:

- a **letter/report** from CAMHS, a HCPC registered psychologist, **a medical consultant**, a psychiatrist, a Speech and Language Therapist (SaLT); **or**
- a **letter/report** from the Local Authority Specialist Service, Local Authority Sensory Impairment Service or Occupational Health Service†; **or**
- a **current** Statement of Special Educational Needs, or an Education, Health and Care Plan, **which confirms the candidate's learning difficulty, medical condition, physical disability, sensory or multi-sensory impairment.**

†For example, an Occupational Therapist specialising in Children and Young People Services, learning disability, mental health.

The specialist evidence is not required to recommend a scribe but to simply confirm the candidate's disability. The specialist evidence may relate to any age provided it remains current.

Scribe/speech recognition technology

Where a candidate progresses from GCSE to GCE qualifications

When a candidate progresses from GCSE to GCE AS and/or A-level qualifications a new on-line application for a scribe must be processed.

An assessment conducted no earlier than the start of Year 9 (Part 2 of Form 8) recommending a scribe for GCSE examinations will be valid for GCE AS and A-level examinations.

A fully completed Form 8 (Parts 1, 2 and 3), signed and dated, may roll forward from GCSE to GCE qualifications†. No further assessment is required.

However, so as not to give an unfair advantage, the SENCo or the assessor working with the centre must have available evidence which clearly shows that a scribe is still needed for GCE AS and/or A-level examinations. (This updated centre based evidence must be produced on centre headed paper/template, signed and dated by the SENCo, specifically relating to GCE AS and/or A-level examinations):

- ❖ confirm that a scribe continues to be the candidate's normal way of working within the centre **as a direct consequence of their disability within the meaning of the Equality Act 2010;**
- ❖ provide evidence from teaching staff that the candidate has persistent and significant difficulties, and how these substantially impact on teaching and learning.

†The rolling forward of a Form 8 from GCSE to GCE AS and A-level qualifications principally applies in the context of 11 to 18 schools, including 11 to 18 schools operating local Sixth Form consortium arrangements for GCE AS and A-level qualifications.

A FE College or a Sixth Form College must have established working relationships with 'feeder' schools for the Form 8 to roll forward from GCSE to GCE AS and A-level qualifications.

Use of a scribe - Modern Foreign Language papers

- 5.7.5 **A scribe will not be allowed in Modern Foreign Language papers, unless the candidate can dictate foreign words letter by letter - see paragraph 5.7.6.**

A candidate who would normally be eligible for a scribe, but is not permitted this arrangement, may be granted up to a maximum of 50% extra time.

The candidate's dictation may be taped. This will help the candidate to get the flow of the respective Modern Foreign Language. When the candidate has finished dictating his/her response the tape may be re-run, enabling the candidate to give the exact spellings of the words dictated.

An approved application for a scribe will allow the SENCo to grant up to a maximum of 50% extra time in Modern Foreign Language papers.

- 5.7.6 In **Modern Foreign Language Writing papers** candidates are marked for the quality of their language which not only covers the range and complexity of the language, but also the accuracy of their language and spelling. **It is therefore essential for the words to be spelled out in such examinations.**

Similarly, in **Modern Foreign Language Listening and Reading papers**, marks are awarded for comprehension. Sometimes the spelling of a word in a language can indicate a particular tense and this can be significant in the marking process.

In Modern Foreign Language Listening and Reading papers where answers are required to be given in English or Welsh a scribe is permitted.

Use of a scribe - in subjects assessing quality of written communication or spelling, punctuation and grammar

- 5.7.7 In subjects where quality of written communication (QWC) is being assessed or where the candidate's spelling, punctuation and grammar (SPaG) is specifically being assessed, a scribe will be allowed.

A scribe will be allowed in the written papers of the following GCSE subjects:

- **GCSE English Language (including the Writing section);**
- **GCSE English Literature;**
- **GCSE Geography;**
- **GCSE History; and**
- **GCSE Religious Studies.**

However, where a scribe is used in an examination assessing quality of written communication or spelling, punctuation and grammar, marks can only be awarded if the candidate can demonstrate that he/she **has** carried out the skills being assessed.

(This also applies where a candidate uses a scribe due to a temporary injury at the time of the examination.)

Although it is not recommended, where, in exceptional circumstances, a candidate specifically chooses to dictate his/her spellings and/or punctuation in those questions assessing spelling, punctuation and grammar, this must be recorded on the scribe cover sheet.

If a candidate chooses to dictate his/her spellings and/or punctuation, up to a maximum of 50% extra time may be awarded. An approved application for a scribe will allow the SENCo to grant up to a maximum of 50% extra time to the candidate when spelling, punctuation and grammar is being assessed.

Scribe/speech recognition technology

Entry Level Certificate (ELC) qualifications

For Entry Level Certificate qualifications the centre is not required to have each candidate individually assessed.

The SENCo **must** determine the need for a scribe or speech recognition technology based on how the candidate normally works in the classroom.

Factors the centre must consider

5.7.8 **A scribe will not be permitted to perform tasks which are part of the assessment objectives.** For further information please consult the awarding body.

5.7.9 **In cases where a candidate will be dictating to a scribe for the entire duration of the examination 25% extra time should always be considered.** The scribe will often require the candidate to repeat his/her dictation whilst he/she catches up and to ensure the candidate's response has been correctly recorded. There **is not** a requirement to process a separate application or show slow processing scores in order to award 25% extra time alongside a scribe. However, the SENCo or the assessor working with the centre **must** explain the need for 25% extra time when using a scribe, for example through **Part 1 of Form 8**. When processing an application for a scribe using *Access arrangements online* the question 'Will the candidate be awarded 25% extra time on account of dictating to a scribe for the entire duration of the examination?' should be answered with a 'Yes'.

Where a candidate requires 25% extra time without the use of a scribe, a separate application for 25% extra time is required. The candidate must meet the published criteria for 25% extra time.

5.7.10 **Where a temporary injury at the time of the examination gives rise to the need for a scribe the centre must:**

- process the arrangement using *Access arrangements online*;
- ensure that appropriate documentation is on file to substantiate the arrangement;
- abide by the rules;
- ensure that the scribe cover sheet is completed.

5.7.11 The centre is responsible for ensuring that the candidate and scribe cannot be overheard by, or distract, other candidates. (This will also apply if the candidate uses speech recognition technology.)

Normally, the candidate and the scribe will be accommodated in another room, away from the main examination room.

Where the candidate and scribe are accommodated in another room, on a one to one basis, the invigilator may additionally act as the scribe.

The rules – the use of a scribe

- **must write or type** accurately, and at a reasonable speed, what the candidate has said;
- **must** draw or add to maps, diagrams and graphs strictly in accordance with the candidate's instructions, **unless the candidate is taking a design paper, in which case a scribe will only be permitted to assist with the written parts of the paper;**
- **must abide by the regulations since failure to do so could lead to the disqualification of the candidate;**
- **must** write or word process a correction on a typescript or Braille sheet if requested to do so by the candidate;
- **must** immediately refer any problems in communication during the examination to the invigilator or examinations officer;
- **must not** give factual help to the candidate or indicate when the answer is complete;
- **must not** advise the candidate on which questions to do, when to move on to the next question, or the order in which questions should be answered;
- **may**, at the candidate's request, read back what has been recorded.

A suggested memory aid for a scribe can be found at Appendix 2.

Remember

Where an application is processed using *Access arrangements online*, e.g. GCSE and GCE qualifications, a pre-populated scribe cover sheet **must** be printed from the system.

For Entry Level Certificate qualifications, Form 13 must be downloaded from the Centre Admin Portal (CAP). CAP can be accessed via any of the awarding bodies' secure extranet sites.

The cover sheet must indicate whether graphs and diagrams were completed by the candidate or the scribe.

The cover sheet must be signed by the scribe and countersigned by the head of centre or the examinations officer.

The cover sheet must be placed inside the candidate's completed script when handwritten.

Where the candidate's completed script has been typed, please refer to the relevant awarding body's instructions as different processing arrangements apply.

A cover sheet **must** also be **securely** attached to any non-examination assessment completed with the aid of a scribe. The work **must** be sent to the moderator in addition to the sample requested. The cover sheet **must** be signed by the scribe and countersigned by the head of centre or examinations officer.

Examples - scribes

- A candidate, who has **significant learning difficulties**, cannot write legibly. However, he can use a word processor, with the spelling and grammar check facility disabled (switched off), to record his answers. The SENCo permits the candidate to use a word processor in his examinations, as it reflects his normal way of working within the centre and will allow him to work independently.
- A candidate with severe cerebral palsy has no use of his hands. He cannot use speech recognition technology because his speech is indistinct. An approved on-line application permits the use of a scribe in all subjects except Modern Foreign Language writing papers since it is too difficult for him to spell out each word letter by letter.
- A candidate with severe dyspraxia cannot use a word processor because she has poor motor skills. She can dictate words in Spanish, her chosen Modern Foreign Language, letter by letter. She is permitted a scribe if she dictates in Spanish writing papers by spelling out words letter by letter. In other subjects, she is permitted to use speech recognition technology without spelling out the words, unless they are uncommon ones. She will be awarded marks for those skills which she has demonstrated.
- A candidate with substantial learning difficulties is assessed by the centre's appointed assessor. **He achieves a below average standardised spelling score of 73.** As many of his incorrect spellings are unrecognisable, the SENCo decides to apply for a scribe which reflects his normal way of working in internal school tests. The SENCo processes an on-line application for a scribe which is approved.
- The SENCo has had concerns over a pupil for some time. He has been diagnosed with an autistic spectrum disorder. The pupil has **persistent and significant difficulties** when concentrating and is totally unable to write in any detail. His verbal recall is very good. Teachers have shown concern but because his handwriting is not illegible or unrecognisable, he has not been awarded a scribe. When taking his last set of mock examinations every teacher showed concern. He can answer multiple choice questions but has a complete block when writing detailed answers. The SENCo arranged for his mock GCSE English Language exam to be conducted again with a scribe to see if it made any difference. He was able to answer questions that he did not attempt before and it appears to have substantially increased his chances of getting a grade in the subject. The SENCo decides to process an on-line application for a scribe which is approved.

5.8 Word processor*

***There is not a requirement to process an application for a word processor using *Access arrangements online*. No evidence is needed to support the arrangement for inspection purposes. (This also applies where a candidate is using a word processor on a temporary basis because of a temporary injury.)**

- 5.8.1 Centres are allowed to provide a word processor with the spelling and grammar check facility/predictive text disabled (switched off) to a candidate where it is their normal way of working within the centre.

For example, the quality of language significantly improves as a result of using a word processor due to problems with planning and organisation when writing by hand.

(This also extends to the use of electronic brailers and tablets.)

- 5.8.2 The use of word processors in non-examination assessment components will be considered standard practice unless prohibited by the specification.

- 5.8.3 It is permissible for a candidate using a word processor in an examination to type certain questions, i.e. those requiring extended writing, and handwrite shorter answers.

NB Examinations which have a significant amount of writing, as well as those that place a greater demand on the need to organise thought and plan extended answers, are those where candidates will frequently need to type. Examinations which require more simplistic answers are often easier to handwrite within the answer booklet. The candidate avoids the difficulty of visually tracking between the question paper and computer screen.

- 5.8.4 For the regulations on the use of word processors in written examinations, please see the JCQ publication *Instructions for conducting examinations* (commonly known as the JCQ 'ICE' booklet):

<http://www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/ice---instructions-for-conducting-examinations>

An awarding body may require a word processor cover sheet to be completed.

A centre must have a policy on the use of word processors. A word processor cannot simply be granted to a candidate because he/she now wants to type rather than write in examinations or can work faster on a keyboard, or because he/she uses a laptop at home.

The use of a word processor must reflect the candidate's normal way of working within the centre. For example, where the curriculum is delivered electronically and the centre provides word processors to all candidates.

The centre may wish to set out the types of candidates which it considers would benefit from the use of a word processor. For example, a candidate with:

- a learning difficulty which has a substantial and long term adverse effect on their ability to write legibly;
- a medical condition;
- a physical disability;
- a sensory impairment;
- planning and organisational problems when writing by hand;
- poor handwriting.

This list is not exhaustive.

A member of the centre's senior leadership team must produce a statement for inspection purposes which details the criteria the centre uses to award and allocate word processors for examinations.

Examples - Word processor

- A candidate who cannot write legibly because she has significant learning difficulties asks to use a word processor in her examinations. **It is her normal means of producing written work within the centre** because her teachers cannot read her writing. She is very proficient in using a word processor. The SENCo allows her to use a word processor in her examinations.
- A candidate does not have a learning difficulty but is a 'messy' writer. His handwriting is hard to decipher. He requests the use of a word processor. This is granted by the SENCo because **it reflects his normal way of working within the centre.**
- A candidate wishes to use a word processor since this is her normal way of working within the centre. However, the candidate additionally wishes to use the spelling and grammar check facility. Given that she does not meet the published criteria for a scribe, the candidate cannot use the spelling and grammar check facility. The SENCo allows her to use a word processor in line with the regulations as set out in the JCQ 'ICE' booklet.
- A candidate who has significant learning difficulties has quite legible writing. However, he makes many omissions and cannot order his ideas correctly. His written scripts are legible but covered in crossings-out and omission marks. He requests a word processor and this is granted by the SENCo. The use of a word processor allows him to correct text, sequence his answers and **reflects his normal way of working within the centre.**
- A blind candidate asks to use a word processor in his examinations. He also requests the use of a screen reader to allow him to 'read' back and check the answers he has typed. These arrangements are permitted when using a word processor in his examinations. **However, if the candidate also wants to use predictive text and/or the spelling and grammar check facility he must meet the published criteria for a scribe, with an approved application in place.**

Examples - Word processor and 25% extra time

- A candidate has a below average free writing speed when handwriting and qualifies for 25% extra time. However, using a word processor is her **normal way of working within the centre.** When typing she can produce her written work effectively and at a speed equivalent to an average writing rate. She has no further learning difficulties. The SENCo awards the use of a word processor as it removes the barrier presented by her slow handwriting, and only applies for 25% extra time when she writes by hand such as in GCSE Mathematics and Science examinations.
- A candidate with significant learning difficulties has a below average speed of writing and below average scores in areas of cognitive processing and reading speed. As using a word processor is his **normal way of working within the centre** he has been able to improve his typing speed to match the equivalent average writing rate. However, he has **persistent and significant difficulties** in interpreting questions and formulating his typed answers. He is given 25% extra time, as well as the use of a word processor, as both arrangements are appropriate to his needs.

5.9 Braille transcript*

***There is not a requirement to process an application for a Braille transcript using *Access arrangements online*. No evidence is needed to support the arrangement for inspection purposes.**

- 5.9.1 Manual brailers will require transcription into print. Braille scripts **must** be transcribed by the centre.
- 5.9.2 **For the regulations on the use of a Braille transcript, please see the JCQ publication *Instructions for conducting examinations*.**
<http://www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/ice---instructions-for-conducting-examinations>

5.10 Prompter*

***There is not a requirement to process an application for a prompter using *Access arrangements online*. No evidence is needed to support the arrangement for inspection purposes.**

- 5.10.1 **A prompter may be permitted where a candidate has a substantial and long term adverse impairment resulting in persistent distractibility or significant difficulty in concentrating.**

For example, the candidate:

- **has little or no sense of time (e.g. candidates with ADHD or ASD); or**
- **persistently loses concentration; or**
- **is affected by an Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder which leads them to keep revising a question rather than moving onto other questions.**

In such instances a candidate may be assisted by a prompter who can keep the candidate focused on the need to answer a question and then move on to answering the next question.

- 5.10.2 **For the regulations on the use of a prompter please see the JCQ publication *Instructions for conducting examinations*:
<http://www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/ice---instructions-for-conducting-examinations>**

Examples – prompters

- A candidate with Asperger's syndrome has no sense of time. The prompter sees that the candidate is doing nothing. She says "Jake, focus on the question, there are 15 minutes left".
- A candidate with an Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder goes over the first question again and again. The prompter taps on the desk every quarter of an hour. The candidate knows how many questions must be done in that time and tries to move on.
- A candidate with Attention Deficit Disorder works for a few minutes then looks out of the window. As he is taking his examination under separate invigilation, the invigilator can call out his name to bring his attention back to the question paper.

5.11 Language Modifier

- 5.11.1 ***Access arrangements online does not include a Language Modifier.*** However, it enables centres to refer individual applications to awarding bodies. **The centre in the first instance should select 'Other'.** This will result in an automatic rejection. The centre **must** then make a referral to the relevant awarding body who will consider the application in light of the candidate's needs.

A Language Modifier must be a rare and exceptional arrangement. It must only be considered for those candidates whose disability has a very substantial and long term adverse effect resulting in very persistent and significant difficulties in accessing and processing information.

A Language Modifier is an adjustment of the last resort. An application must only be made once all other relevant access arrangements have been considered and found to be unsuitable or unworkable. There must be a very strong justification as to why a Language Modifier is required.

Substantial impairment - suitability and evidence of need

- 5.11.2 **As part of the supporting evidence to an awarding body, the candidate must have a standardised score of 69 or less (a very substantially below average standardised score) in relation to reading comprehension and/or vocabulary.** The candidate will have been assessed with current editions of nationally standardised tests being conducted **within 26 months of the final examination.** (The candidate may be assessed by a qualified Teacher of the Deaf who will record the results of their assessment **within Part 2 of Form 8.**)

The extensive modification of language must reflect the candidate's normal way of working within the centre as evidenced within Part 1 of Form 8.

An awarding body reserves the right to request, 'call-in' evidence from the centre.

A Language Modifier

- 5.11.3 **A Language Modifier is a responsible adult who may clarify the carrier language used in the examination paper when requested to do so by a candidate.**

The Language Modifier must not explain technical terms or subject-specific terms. The ability to understand these terms is part of the assessment. If such terms are explained to the candidate then the demands of the question will have been compromised and may constitute malpractice. **(See The rules – the use of a Language Modifier within this section.)**

A Language Modifier may also act as a reader (see section 5.5). Centres should note that a separate application for a reader is not required.

Papers (or sections of papers) testing reading

- 5.11.4 **A Language Modifier will not be allowed to read questions or text in a paper (or a section of a paper) testing reading.**

A candidate who would normally be eligible for a Language Modifier but is not permitted this arrangement in a paper (or a section of a paper) testing reading may be granted up to a maximum of 50% extra time. **An approved application for a Language Modifier will allow the SENCo to grant the candidate up to a maximum of 50% extra time in a paper (or a section of a paper) testing reading.**

Where a Language Modifier uses sign language interpretation, he/she can only sign the instructions/rubric, but not the questions, in Modern Foreign Languages, English, Irish and Welsh Language examinations. Text/source material or literacy extracts **must not be signed to the candidate.**

Factors the centre must consider

- 5.11.5 **The centre must remember that acting as a Language Modifier requires significantly more skills than most other access arrangements.**

A Language Modifier must have:

- **successfully completed accredited training**; (A JCQ Centre Inspector will ask to see evidence of successfully completed accredited training.)
- knowledge of the subject being examined in order to recognise subject-specific vocabulary and technical terms;
- a good working knowledge of English Language grammatical structures;
- an understanding of the impact of command words and an examiner's expectations of a candidate's answer.

A fully qualified Teacher of the Deaf may act as a Language Modifier without the need to successfully complete accredited training.

- 5.11.6 The candidate should, wherever possible, be familiar with the Language Modifier. **(This will be essential for some autistic candidates and hearing-impaired candidates who will be reliant on familiar voice/lip patterns.)**

Where this is not the case, the candidate **must**:

- have the opportunity to familiarise him/herself with the Language Modifier using a trial presentation; **and**
- be comfortable with the method of communication.

- 5.11.7 The candidate and the Language Modifier should be accommodated in another room, away from the main examination room.

- 5.11.8 **A separate Language Modifier and invigilator must be available for each candidate. The invigilator must listen carefully and observe the conduct of the Language Modifier throughout the duration of the examination. The invigilator must countersign the cover sheet ensuring that it accurately reflects the actions of the Language Modifier during the examination.**

- 5.11.9 **Where available, modified language papers must always be ordered for candidates who use a Language Modifier. (Please see Chapter 6, section 6.6.)**

- 5.11.10 An approved application for a Language Modifier will allow the centre to open the question paper packet **one hour before the published starting time for the examination**. A copy of the question paper should be provided to the Language Modifier to enable him/her to:

- identify and highlight technical or subject-specific terms and command words **which cannot be modified**;
- make notes on the copy if, for example, potentially problematic language is identified.

The Language Modifier must only modify in an examination if the candidate makes clear that he/she does not understand the wording of a specific question.

The Language Modifier's copy of the question paper **must**:

- only be annotated in the examination room and **must not** be shown to another person except for another Language Modifier working in the same room; **and**
- be retained by the centre until the closing date for reviews of marking for the respective examination series.

Remember

Aside from ELC qualifications, Form 6A (Language Modifier cover sheet) **must** be printed from the JCQ website:

<http://www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/access-arrangements-and-special-consideration/forms>

For ELC qualifications Form 13 must be downloaded from the Centre Admin Portal (CAP). CAP can be accessed via any of the awarding bodies' secure extranet sites.

Form 6A or Form 13 must be placed inside the candidate's completed script.

The rules – the use of a Language Modifier

- **may** go through the instructions/rubric and read the questions to the candidate; **(Where permitted, reading to a candidate is part of the role of a Language Modifier.)**
- **must only** re-phrase or explain the carrier language of a question paper **when a candidate indicates a specific need for help**;
- **must not** re-phrase or explain technical or subject specific terms as this could advantage or disadvantage the candidate;
- **must not** change source material which is testing the ability of the candidate to comprehend the information. Source material is often an extract and may have an acknowledgement of the original source;
- **must** take great care if modifying 'command' words in questions such as *describe*, *explain* and *suggest* as changing such words may change the nature of the question and disadvantage the candidate. **In most cases command words should not be modified**;
- **must** ensure that the method of communication used reflects normal classroom practice. This may include **saying the word or phrase, manually coded English**, i.e. finger spelling or Signed Supported English (SSE), **the use of Cued Speech, the use of BSL or the use of writing to explain the meaning of a word or phrase**;
- **must** record on the LM cover sheet any re-phrasing or explaining. Where no re-phrasing or explaining took place this **must** also be noted on the cover sheet;
- **must** underline at the end of the examination any words or phrases on the candidate's question paper which were re-phrased or explained. If the question paper is separate from the answer booklet, it **must** be attached to the candidate's answer booklet;
- **must** ensure that a note of the method of communication used, **e.g. spoken, written, BSL**, is made on the LM cover sheet.

A suggested memory aid for a Language Modifier can be found at Appendix 3.

5.12 Live speaker for pre-recorded examination components*

***There is not a requirement to process an application for a Live Speaker using Access arrangements online. No evidence is needed to support the arrangement for inspection purposes.**

- 5.12.1 **The SENCo is allowed to provide a live speaker for pre-recorded examination components, e.g. MFL Listening examinations, to a candidate where it is their normal way of working within the centre. The candidate will have persistent and significant difficulties in following speech at normal speed.**
- 5.12.2 For aural tests, clear amplification may be necessary to improve the candidate's ability to hear, or **a transcript of a listening test may be read to enable the candidate to also lip/speech-read.** (See Chapter 6, paragraph 6.6.5 for further information on ordering transcripts of tests). **The SENCo may need to consult a specialist teacher, i.e. a qualified Teacher of the Deaf, to identify the most appropriate arrangement for a candidate with hearing loss.**
- 5.12.3 The live speaker will speak, read aloud or cue in the language being assessed, e.g. Cued French, the contents of the CD in a Listening examination.
- 5.12.4 Where the initial letters of words could be easily confused, e.g. deux fois and neuf fois, the live speaker may:
- hold up a card with the initial letter, i.e. 'd' or 'n';
 - write 'n' or 'd' on a board;
 - finger spell or cue the initial letter of the word.
- 5.12.5 The live speaker should, wherever possible, be the candidate's subject or specialist teacher. **However, an invigilator must always be present in the examination room.**
- 5.12.6 **Ideally a live speaker should work with one candidate.** The centre **must** always consider the abilities of the candidates as lip/speech readers when requiring them to share a live speaker. **There must never be more than six candidates to one live speaker,** who should be seated to gain maximum benefit from the live speaker.
- 5.12.7 **Where CDs or transcripts of tests are used, the live speaker should be allowed access to the CD or the transcript, one hour before the published starting time for the examination.**

This is to allow time for the live speaker to prepare. It may be necessary to delay the start of the examination for the candidate(s) concerned. The candidate(s) **must** be placed under centre supervision whilst the live speaker prepares for the examination.

- 5.12.8 **Additional repetition is allowed, if necessary,** to take into account **persistent** loss of concentration or to enable the candidate to process the information more easily.

Due to the additional repetition which may be required, 25% extra time may also be needed in light of the candidate's **persistent and significant difficulties** in following speech at normal speed. (See Chapter 5, paragraph 5.2.3).

In **very rare and exceptional circumstances** the candidate may require up to 50% extra time. (See Chapter 5, section 5.3).

An application for extra time must always be processed on-line.

- 5.12.9 If the recording involves the use of two or more characters, a separate live speaker could be used for each role. However, if it is felt desirable to only use one live speaker for the entire test, the live speaker **must** make it clear which character is speaking.

5.13 Communication Professional (for candidates using Sign Language)*

***There is not a requirement to process an application using *Access arrangements online* or to record the use of the arrangement. No evidence is needed to support the arrangement.**

- 5.13.1 The SENCo is allowed to provide a Communication Professional to a candidate whose normal way of working within the centre is to use Sign Language.

A Communication Professional

- 5.13.2 The role of a Communication Professional is to present the questions in a different language without:
- changing the meaning;
 - providing any additional information; or
 - providing an explanation as to what the question requires of the candidate.

- 5.13.3 A Communication Professional will work 'live' in the presence of the candidate during the examination in order to allow for the candidate's regional variations in BSL/ISL signs. Consequently, this cannot be checked by the awarding body for accuracy. **Great care must be taken not to disadvantage or advantage the candidate.** Centres should video the signing of the Communication Professional to demonstrate accuracy.

The rules – the use of a Communication Professional

- 5.13.4 The Communication Professional **must** be proficient in the use of the candidate's sign language, ideally being qualified to a **minimum** of BSL/ISL at Level 3 (and aspiring towards Level 6). The Communication Professional **must** be at an appropriate level for the examination. It is advisable that the Communication Professional should also be a qualified Language Modifier. The Communication Professional **must** be familiar to the candidate and **must** always work at the candidate's pace.
- 5.13.5 The Communication Professional **must** be familiar with the subject being examined and the candidate's normal way of working. This will ensure that the meaning of the question is not changed and that **technical and subject specific terms are recognised and finger spelt. (Technical and subject specific terms must not be signed.)**
- (The candidate's ability to recognise and understand the English version of the technical or subject specific terms within a subject is part of the assessment. If such terms are signed instead of finger spelt, then the demands of the question will have been compromised. **This will constitute malpractice.**)
- 5.13.6 **A Communication Professional is not a reader.** However, the same person may act as a Communication Professional and a reader. **Permission must have been given for the use of a Communication Professional and a reader. The regulations for the use of each arrangement must be strictly adhered to. (See Chapter 5, section 5.5, for the rules on the use of a reader.)**
- 5.13.7 The Communication Professional can sign the instructions and questions to candidates taking written papers **except in Modern Foreign Languages or English, Irish or Welsh Language examinations.**
- 5.13.8 **In Modern Foreign Languages or English, Irish or Welsh Language examinations the Communication Professional can only sign the instructions/rubric, and not the questions.**
- 5.13.9 The Communication Professional **must not** sign texts/source material or literary extracts.

Communication Professional

- 5.13.10 The Communication Professional may use repetition if requested to do so by the candidate. An alternative signing of the carrier language may be provided. **However, under no circumstances may an explanation of the question or clarification of the carrier language be given.** These actions would be deemed as giving the candidate an unfair advantage **and may constitute malpractice.**
- 5.13.11 **Candidates may only sign their answers in question papers or in non-examination assessment where it is possible to finger spell the answers or where the answers involve single words.**

A suggested memory aid for a Communication Professional can be found at Appendix 4.

Factors to consider

- 5.13.12 Due to the additional repetition which may be required, 25% extra time may also be needed due to the candidate's **persistent and significant difficulties.** (See Chapter 5, paragraph 5.2.3.)
- 5.13.13 Where available, modified language papers **must always** be ordered for candidates who will be using a Communication Professional (**see Chapter 6, section 6.6**).
- 5.13.14 The question paper packet may be opened **one hour before the published starting time for the examination.** A copy of the question paper should be provided to the Communication Professional to allow him/her to prepare for the examination. **The content of the paper must not be discussed with or shown to any other person during this time as this would constitute malpractice.**
- 5.13.15 Candidates requiring the use of a Communication Professional may need to be accommodated in another room, away from the main examination room, in which case **a separate invigilator will be required.**

Entry Level Certificate (ELC) qualifications

In English, Irish and Welsh Speaking and Listening Tests a Communication Professional **must not** be used.

Communication Professionals will not be permitted in English, Irish and Welsh written papers except for the instructions of the question papers, unless specifically permitted by the specification at certain levels.

In reading tests in English, Irish and Welsh no part of an assessment may be signed to a candidate. However, the candidate may indicate using sign language to show that he or she has read the passage correctly. Please consult the awarding body for advice.

Remember

Aside from Entry Level Certificate qualifications, Form 6 (Communication Professional cover sheet) **must** be printed from the JCQ website:

<http://www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/access-arrangements-and-special-consideration/forms>

For Entry Level Certificate qualifications, Form 13 must be downloaded from the Centre Admin Portal (CAP). CAP can be accessed via any of the awarding bodies' secure extranet sites.

Form 6 or Form 13 must be placed inside the candidate's completed script.

5.14 Practical assistant

Processing applications

5.14.1 **For those qualifications listed within the Deadlines section, page 2,** an application **must** be processed using *Access arrangements online*.

5.14.2 ***Access arrangements online* will automatically reject applications for the use of a practical assistant.**

However, the centre will be able to refer the case to the relevant awarding body. **Detailed information must be provided listing the tasks which the practical assistant would perform.** This will allow the awarding body to ensure that the assessment objectives are not compromised, particularly in subjects such as Geography, Mathematics and the Sciences.

5.14.3 **A practical assistant must not be allowed to carry out physical tasks or demonstrate physical abilities where they form part of the assessment objectives. A practical assistant will not normally be permitted in subjects such as Art & Design, Design & Technology and Music.**

5.14.4 **Where approved, the practical assistant will carry out practical tasks at the instruction of the candidate.**
(See The rules – the use of a practical assistant within this section.)

For example:

A candidate with very poor motor co-ordination may need help in holding a ruler, placing a ruler in the correct place for a line to be drawn or turning the pages of the script. The candidate may also need help when using Mathematical equipment.

A candidate with a severe vision impairment may need his or her hand to be guided to the relevant page or section of text in a paper. **Care must be taken not to direct the candidate to the answer.**

A Blind candidate may require a practical assistant to record the position of points or lines indicated on a tactile graph by means of pins and elastic bands.

Factors the centre must consider

5.14.5 **A practical assistant is not a reader or a scribe.** The same person may act as a practical assistant, a reader and/or a scribe if permission has been given for these arrangements. **The regulations for the use of each arrangement must be strictly adhered to.**

5.14.6 Candidates using a practical assistant may need to be accommodated in another room, away from the main examination room.

Where the candidate and practical assistant are accommodated in another room, on a one to one basis, the invigilator may additionally act as the practical assistant.

5.14.7 The practical assistant **must** be made aware, prior to the examination, of the task(s) he/she will be performing as specifically approved by the awarding body.

The rules – the use of a practical assistant

- **must** perform practical tasks **as specifically approved by the awarding body** and according to the candidate's instructions, unless the skill to be performed is the focus of the assessment, (in which case the practical assistant will not be permitted) or the procedure would be unsafe;
- **must** immediately refer any problems in communication during the assessment to the invigilator or examinations officer;
- **must** abide by the regulations since failure to do so could lead to the disqualification of the candidate;
- **must** ensure the safety of the candidate and those around him/her;
- **must not** give factual help to the candidate or indicate when the task is complete;
- **must not** advise the candidate on which questions to do, when to move on to the next question, or the order in which questions should be answered;
- **may** ask the candidate to repeat instructions where these are not clear.

Remember

Where an application is processed using *Access arrangements online*, e.g. GCSE and GCE qualifications, a pre-populated Practical Assistant cover sheet **must** be printed from the system and **must be placed inside the candidate's script**.

For Entry Level Certificate qualifications, Form 13 must be downloaded from the Centre Admin Portal (CAP). CAP can be accessed via any of the awarding bodies' secure extranet sites.

Form 13 must be placed inside the candidate's script.

A cover sheet **must** be **securely** attached to any non-examination assessment completed with the aid of a practical assistant. The work **must** be sent to the moderator in addition to the sample requested.

Cover sheets **must** indicate the level of assistance given by the practical assistant.

The cover sheet **must** be signed by the practical assistant and countersigned by the head of centre or examinations officer.

Examples - practical assistant

- A candidate has hemiplegia affecting his left side. He is right-handed. He only needs a practical assistant in GCSE Science to hold equipment still while he performs practical tasks. The practical assistant is acting as a second hand where two hands are needed. The candidate does not lose any marks for implementation because he performs by himself those skills which are being assessed.
- A candidate has severe cerebral palsy with no use of his hands. He wants to be entered for a GCSE Design & Technology course but cannot perform any design making skills. His teacher helps him during the course. As he will not be able to be credited with any marks for skills performed by a practical assistant, it is decided that he should complete the course without being entered for the specification.
- A candidate wants to be entered for GCSE Art & Design but cannot perform any practical skills independently. The centre requests permission to use a practical assistant. This is refused. It is realised that there are other skills required by the specification which he cannot fulfil. The candidate decides to follow the course for his education but is not entered for the specification.
- A candidate studying GCSE Physical Education is a wheelchair user. She can demonstrate her performance skills in track and field events in athletics. She does require the help of a practical assistant to set up her wheelchair and other equipment to maximise her performance. The input from the practical assistant is not deemed to give her an undue advantage and is therefore permitted.

5.15 Alternative site for the conduct of examinations

An alternative site arrangement for the conduct of examinations is permitted for the following qualifications:

AQA Applied General qualifications, AQA Level 1, Level 2 and Level 3 Technical qualifications, BTEC Firsts, BTEC Nationals, BTEC Tech Awards, Cambridge Nationals, Cambridge Technicals, CCEA Key Skills, ELC, FSMQ, GCE, GCSE, OCR Level 3 Certificates, WJEC Level 1 and Level 2 General qualifications, WJEC Level 1 and Level 2 Vocational qualifications and WJEC Level 3 Applied qualifications.

The SENCo **must** liaise with the examinations officer who will need to refer to the JCQ publication *Instructions for conducting examinations*.

<http://www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/ice---instructions-for-conducting-examinations>

5.15.1 The candidate will be sitting his/her examination(s) at a residential address or at a hospital which is a non-registered centre due to, for example:

- **a medical condition** which prevents the candidate from taking examinations in the centre; **or**
- **Social, Mental and Emotional Needs.**

The candidate has:

- an impairment which has **a substantial and long term adverse effect** giving rise to **persistent and significant difficulties**; or
- a temporary illness or injury at the time of the examination(s).

The SENCo, or a senior member of staff with pastoral responsibilities, must:

- **be satisfied that the candidate is able to take examinations;**
- **produce written evidence confirming the need for an alternative site arrangement to a JCQ Centre Inspector upon request.**

There is not a requirement to process an application for an alternative site using *Access arrangements online*. Centres must not process an on-line application using 'Other'.

5.16 Other arrangements for candidates with disabilities*

***For the access arrangements detailed below, there is not a requirement to process an application using *Access arrangements online*. No evidence is needed to support the arrangement for inspection purposes.**

Amplification equipment

Brailers

Closed circuit television (CCTV)

Colour naming by the invigilator for candidates who are Colour Blind

Coloured overlays (this would also include reading rulers, virtual overlays and virtual reading rulers)

Examination on coloured/enlarged paper

Low vision aid/magnifier

Optical Character Reader (OCR) scanners

Separate invigilation within the centre

The SENCo must make their decision based on:

- whether the candidate has **a substantial and long term impairment** which has **an adverse effect; and**
- **the candidate's normal way of working within the centre.**

For example, in the case of separate invigilation, the candidate's difficulties are established within the centre (see Chapter 4, paragraph 4.1.4) and known to a Form Tutor, a Head of Year, the SENCo or a senior member of staff with pastoral responsibilities.

Separate invigilation reflects the candidate's normal way of working in internal school tests and mock examinations because of a long term medical condition or long term social, mental or emotional needs.

For further information please see **Section 14** of the JCQ publication *Instructions for conducting examinations*.

<http://www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/ice---instructions-for-conducting-examinations>

For further information on coloured/enlarged papers please see Chapter 6, section 6.5.

5.17 Exemptions

- 5.17.1 **An exemption is an agreement reached by an awarding body, before the examination, for a disabled candidate to miss a component or components.**

An indication will be placed on the candidate's certificate to show that not all assessment objectives were accessible.

- 5.17.2 **An application for an exemption must be submitted in line with the published deadlines listed within this document (see page 2).**

- 5.17.3 An exemption **must**:

- not undermine the integrity of the qualification;
- only be granted as a last resort when no other access arrangement is available;
- only apply **to whole components where the candidate cannot demonstrate any of the skills**;
- **make up no more than 40% of a linear or unitised GCSE or GCE qualification.** For unitised GCE A-level qualifications at least one A2 unit **must** be completed;
- only apply in general qualifications (**see Chapter 1, section 1.6 and section 1.8 for the list of general qualifications covered by equality legislation in England, Wales and Northern Ireland**).

An exemption will not be granted if an alternative and accessible route through a qualification is available to the candidate.

- 5.17.4 **Access arrangements online does not include exemptions.** However, it enables centres to refer individual applications to awarding bodies.

The centre in the first instance should select 'Other'. This will result in an automatic rejection. **The centre must then make a referral to the relevant awarding body.**

The centre **must** indicate the candidate's disability in order that an awarding body has the necessary information to hand when considering an application for an exemption. The awarding body **must** be assured that the exemption is an arrangement of the last resort.

Additionally, the JCQ form *Application for an Exemption*:

<http://www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/access-arrangements-and-special-consideration/forms>

must be submitted to the awarding body concerned, along with any other paperwork requested by the awarding body.

- 5.17.5 **In the GCE A-level Biology, Chemistry, Geology or Physics practical endorsement, or the GCSE English Language Spoken Language endorsement** where a candidate cannot access the endorsement due to a substantial impairment, an application for an exemption **must** be submitted to the relevant awarding body.

5.18 Bilingual translation dictionaries with 10% extra time

There **is not** a requirement to process an application for a bilingual translation dictionary using *Access arrangements online*. No evidence is needed to support the arrangement for inspection purposes.

For the regulations on the use of a bilingual dictionary please see the JCQ publication *Instructions for conducting examinations*.

<https://www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/ice---instructions-for-conducting-examinations>

Processing applications

5.18.1 **Where a bilingual translation dictionary with 10% extra time is to be used in the following Level 1 and Level 2 qualifications, an on-line application must be processed using *Access arrangements online*:**

AQA Level 1 and Level 2 Technical qualifications, Cambridge Nationals, Cambridge Technicals (Level 2), GCSE qualifications, WJEC Level 1 and Level 2 General qualifications and WJEC Level 1 and Level 2 Vocational qualifications.

Appropriate evidence of need **must** be available at the centre for inspection.
The evidence must be compiled by the EAL Co-ordinator or the SENCo.

For Entry Level Certificate (ELC) qualifications, please see Chapter 8.

5.18.2 **A bilingual translation dictionary and 10% extra time is only available to candidates entered for the following Entry Level, Level 1 and Level 2 qualifications, and who meet all of the published criteria in paragraph 5.18.6:**

- **AQA Level 1 and Level 2 Technical qualifications;**
- **BTEC Firsts;**
- **BTEC Tech Awards;**
- **Cambridge Nationals;**
- **Cambridge Technicals (Level 2);**
- **Entry Level Certificate (ELC);**
- **GCSE;**
- **WJEC Level 1 and Level 2 General qualifications;**
- **WJEC Level 1 and Level 2 Vocational qualifications.**

5.18.3 **A bilingual dictionary and 10% extra time is not available to candidates entered for the following Level 3 qualifications:**

- **AQA Applied General qualifications;**
- **AQA Level 3 Technical qualifications;**
- **BTEC Nationals;**
- **Cambridge Technicals (Level 3);**
- **GCE AS and A-level qualifications;**
- **OCR Level 3 Certificates;**
- **WJEC Level 3 Applied qualifications.**

- 5.18.4 **The EAL Co-ordinator or the SENCo must determine the needs of the individual candidate.** Not all candidates for whom English is an additional language will need to use a bilingual translation dictionary. **Very few bilingual translation dictionary users will need to have 10% extra time.**

This is a rare and exceptional arrangement specifically for a candidate who entered the United Kingdom less than three years before the time of the examination(s), with no prior knowledge of the English Language. (Holiday periods are included in the three year rule.)

Centres are reminded that applications processed on-line will automatically give an 'application approved expiry date' 26 months from the date of processing the application and not the date of entry to the United Kingdom. **It is the end of the month, three years after the candidate has entered the United Kingdom, which must be adhered to.**

- 5.18.5 **In subjects where a dictionary is not permitted, 10% extra time will not be available.**
- 5.18.6 **Extra time must only be awarded by the EAL Co-ordinator or the SENCo where all of the following exist:**

- the candidate's first language **is not** English, Irish or Welsh;
- **the candidate entered the United Kingdom within three years of the examination(s) with no prior knowledge of the English Language;**
- English **is not** one of the languages spoken in the family home;
- **prior to their arrival in the United Kingdom** the candidate **was not** educated in an International school where some or the entire curriculum was delivered in English;
- **prior to their arrival in the United Kingdom** the candidate **was not** prepared for or entered for IGCSE qualifications where the question papers were set in English;
- **prior to their arrival in the United Kingdom** the candidate **was not** prepared in English for other qualifications, e.g. IELTS qualifications, Preliminary English Tests;
- the candidate has to refer to the bilingual translation dictionary **so often** that examination time is used for this purpose, delaying the answering of questions;
- the provision of 10% extra time reflects the candidate's usual way of working with the dictionary. **(A definition of normal way of working is provided within Chapter 4, paragraph 4.2.5.)**

The evidence compiled by the EAL Co-ordinator or the SENCo must confirm all of the above.

- 5.18.7 **Extra time must not be awarded to a candidate using a bilingual translation dictionary in order to compensate for difficulties in reading and writing in English.**

Chapter 6

Modified Papers

6.1 Modified Papers – an overview of the process

Centres **must order modified papers in advance of a specific examination series, no later than the published deadline for the series concerned.** (See the deadlines within this Chapter.)

Modified papers are individually prepared for candidates for whom other access arrangements are unsuitable. The modification of papers involves additional resources. Therefore centres are required to provide the awarding bodies with early notification that a candidate will require a modified paper.

Centres **must not** order modified papers for candidates unless they intend to enter them for the relevant examination series.

Access arrangements online allows centres to submit orders for modified papers for the following qualification types:

AQA Applied General qualifications, AQA Level 1, Level 2, Level 3 Technical qualifications, Cambridge Nationals, Cambridge Technicals, ELC, FSMQ, GCE, GCSE, OCR Level 3 Certificates, WJEC Level 1, Level 2 General qualifications, WJEC Level 1, Level 2 Vocational qualifications and WJEC Level 3 Applied qualifications.

There is a separate area within *Access arrangements online* which enables centres to make orders for modified papers. Centres **must not** process an on-line application using 'Other'.

For the adjustment to be effective, the candidate must have had appropriate opportunities to practise using an awarding body's past modified papers before his/her first examination.

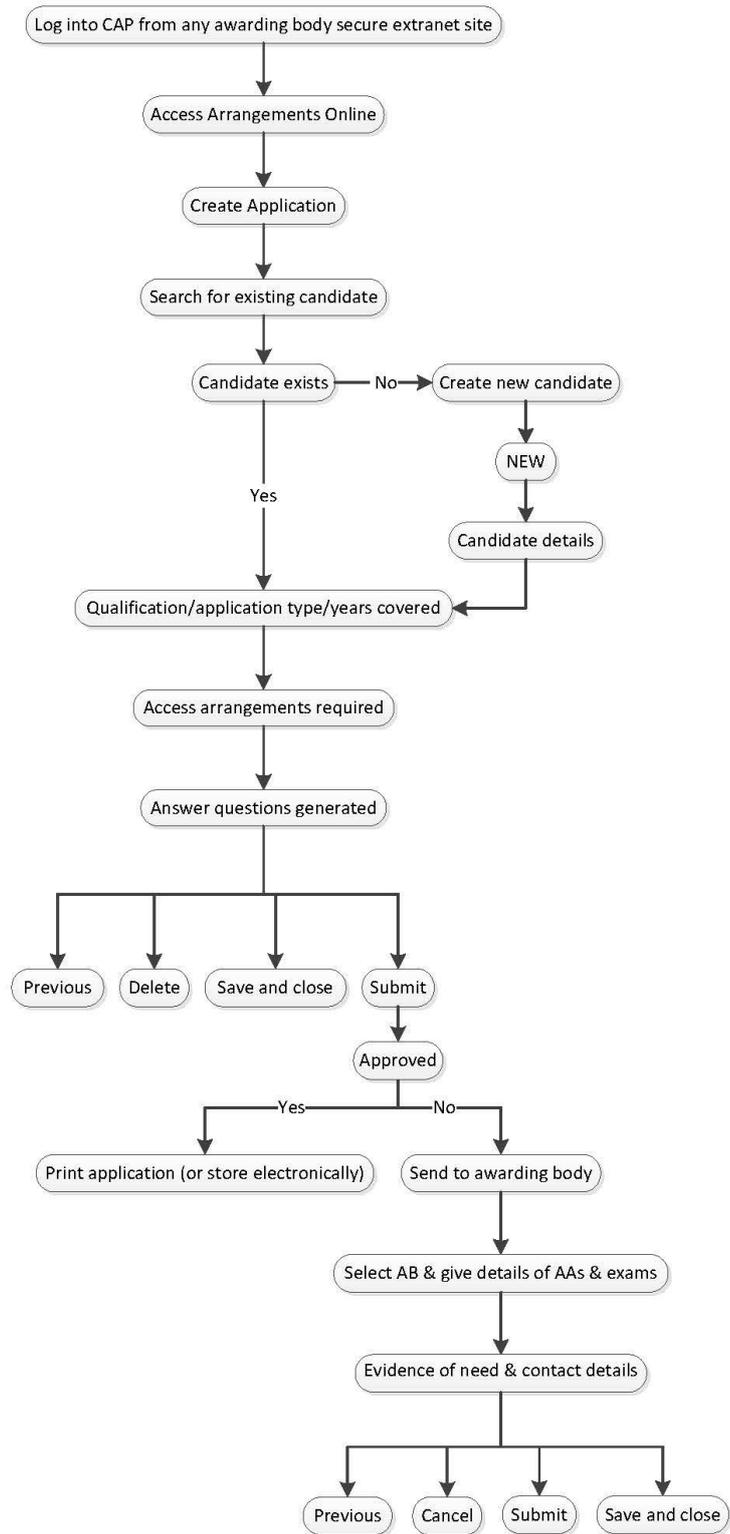
The standard formats available are:

- **A4 modified 18 point bold**
- **A3 modified 24 point bold**
- **A4 modified 24 point bold**
- **A3 modified 36 point bold**
- **Tactile diagrams with print labels for use with modified enlarged papers**
- **Braille papers including tactile diagrams with Braille labels**
- **Modified language (where available)**
- **Non-interactive electronic (PDF) question paper**
- **Transcript of listening test/video**

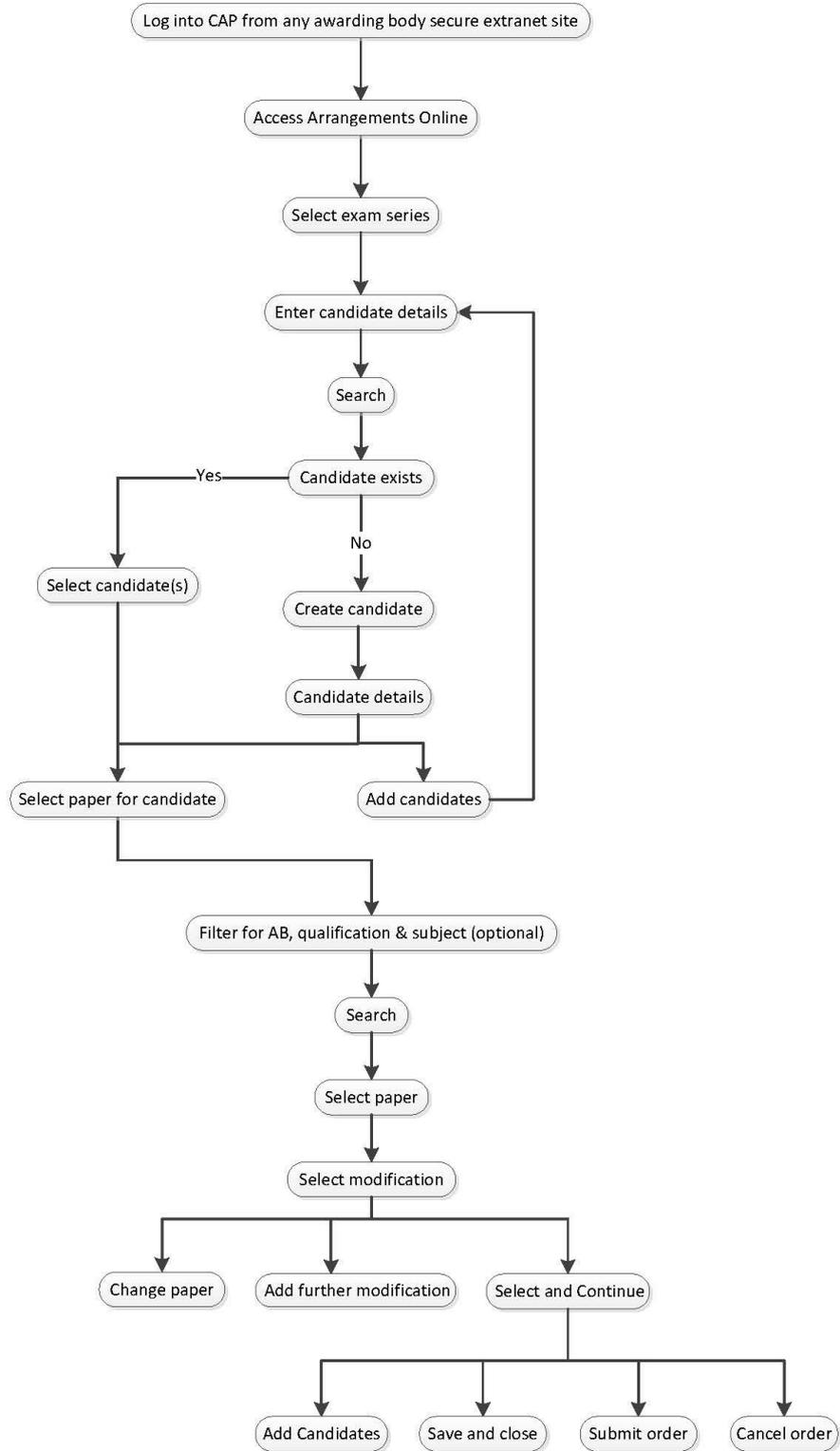
Centres should note that the option of an A3 modified enlarged paper, 36 point bold, may not be available in all subjects.

***Access arrangements online* is not linked to awarding bodies' entries systems. It is recommended that centres undertake a check to ensure that orders for modified papers and actual entries made to an awarding body match.**

Access arrangement requests



Modified paper requests



The awarding bodies use the UKAAF publication *Best Practice Guidance for the Modification and Production of Examination Papers for Candidates with a visual impairment* as a source of reference when producing Braille and modified enlarged papers. This publication may be accessed from the UKAAF website: www.ukaaf.org/exams

SENCOs must ensure that candidates are familiar with the format of modified enlarged papers or Braille papers being requested for examinations. If a candidate intends to use a non-interactive electronic (PDF) question paper in their examination(s), the SENCO must ensure he/she is familiar with the format.

6.2 Braille papers

- 6.2.1 **Braille papers are only produced when applications are made by the deadline. They are not produced automatically. Awarding bodies do not require evidence of the candidate's vision impairment.**
- 6.2.2 The standard paper is modified prior to Braille by a teacher specialised in vision impairments. The layout and presentation of the standard paper is modified accordingly.
- 6.2.3 The modified paper is then sent to a Braille agency for the content to be transcribed into **Grade 2 contracted Unified English Braille (UEB)**.
- 6.2.4 Tactile diagrams and graphs will be provided where appropriate **with the Braille paper. Tactile diagrams do not need to be ordered separately.**
- 6.2.5 Centres may be required to provide models in advance for certain types of questions.
- 6.2.6 Videos or films used in assessments may be requested with audio description.

6.3 Modified enlarged papers

- 6.3.1 **Modified enlarged papers are only produced when orders are made by the deadline. They are not produced automatically.** As candidates' needs are on-going and long term, and modification of printed material reflects their normal way of working within the classroom, an assessment of the candidate **is not** required to determine their need for modified enlarged papers.
- 6.3.2 Modified enlarged papers are intended for candidates who cannot read a standard examination paper. The layout and presentation of the standard paper is modified to remove elements of visual complexity without changing the demands of the assessment. Pictures and diagrams are often re-drawn to make them more visually accessible.
- 6.3.3 Centres should note that sometimes it may be necessary for an awarding body to produce a page in a larger format for diagrams.
- 6.3.4 Centres may be required to provide models in advance for certain types of questions.
- 6.3.5 Some candidates with a severe vision impairment may benefit from using an electronic or optical magnifier with a modified enlarged paper. (Centres **do not** need to process an on-line application for a magnifier.)
- 6.3.6 Where a centre requires an A4 modified 18 point bold paper in **a non-interactive (PDF) electronic format** the relevant awarding body/bodies should be contacted.

For some subjects such as Archaeology, Geology, Geography and Music a modified enlarged paper alone may not be a reasonable adjustment for a candidate with a severe vision impairment. A practical assistant and/or a reader may also be required.

6.4 Reasonable adjustments – modified enlarged papers

- 6.4.1 The standard modified paper formats will, in the vast majority of cases, enable a candidate with **a substantial and long term vision impairment** to access his/her examinations.
- 6.4.2 However, **in rare and exceptional cases**, a candidate with **a substantial and long term vision impairment** may require question papers in an alternative format. The candidate will require a reasonable adjustment on account of his/her disability.

Alternatively, a candidate with **a substantial and long term multi-sensory impairment** may require question papers where the language has been modified, **as well as** the layout and presentation of the paper in order to remove elements of visual complexity.

- 6.4.3 Where a disabled candidate requires question papers in an alternative format the centre **must** discuss his/her requirements **at the earliest opportunity** with the relevant awarding body's Modified Papers Unit, ideally at the start of the course. **The SENCo must demonstrate to the awarding body that all appropriate access arrangements such as a computer reader, an examination reading pen, a magnifier and a reader, alongside the standard modified enlarged paper formats, have been considered and totally exhausted.**

The application of the reasonable adjustment, i.e. question papers in an alternative format, will depend on several factors including:

- the needs of the disabled candidate; **and**
- the effectiveness of the adjustment and its cost.

- 6.4.4 An adjustment **will not** be approved if it involves unreasonable costs, time frames or affects the security or integrity of the assessment. This is because the adjustment is not 'reasonable'.

6.5 Coloured/enlarged paper (e.g. A3 unmodified enlarged papers)

- 6.5.1 **The centre is permitted to open the question paper packet in the secure room within 90 minutes of the published starting time for the examination. Prior permission is not required.**

However, **it is strongly recommended** that a non-interactive electronic (PDF) question paper is ordered, as printing directly from a PDF of the question paper will ensure better print quality and reduce the possibility of human error when collating and stapling.

Only the following actions are permissible:

- copy and enlarge the standard paper from A4 to A3; **and/or**
- copy a question paper onto coloured paper; **and/or**
- produce a question paper with single sided print.

No further modification is permissible such as re-typing the question paper. Such actions may constitute malpractice.

- 6.5.2 **Centres should be aware that enlarging an examination question paper may affect questions relating to scale. This must be considered in your production process. It is the responsibility of the centre to ensure that the examination question paper is photocopied to a high standard.**

6.6 Modified language papers and transcript of Listening test/video

Modified language papers

- 6.6.1 Where a paper has not been modified at source (**see 6.6.4**), awarding bodies will accept an order for a modified language paper for a candidate who is deemed to have **persistent and significant difficulties when accessing and processing information**.

Awarding bodies do not require evidence of the candidate's difficulties.

- 6.6.2 **Modified language papers are only produced for some specifications when orders are made by the deadline. They are not produced automatically.**

- 6.6.3 **Only the carrier language is modified. The meaning of the questions remains the same and will require the same answers as the standard paper. Any technical and subject specific language will remain unchanged.**

- 6.6.4 Many question papers are already language modified since language specialists have been involved in the question paper setting process.

In such circumstances the standard paper is accessible: a modified language paper is not required and cannot be ordered. ('Modified language' will not appear in the drop down list within *Access arrangements online*.)†

†AQA ensures that all standard question papers are checked for accessible language according to the guidelines published by BATOD (British Association of Teachers of the Deaf). AQA does not produce modified language papers.

Transcript of Listening test/video

- 6.6.5 **In Modern Foreign Language Listening examinations, a transcript of the recording can be requested and read to the candidate, who speech-reads from a live speaker.**

A transcript of the Listening CD may also benefit those candidates who have **persistent and significant difficulties in following speech at normal speed**. The live speaker will read to the candidate separately, but at a pace which enables the candidate to process the information more easily.

(Please see Chapter 5, section 5.12 on the use of a live speaker in pre-recorded examination components.)

- 6.6.6 Videos or films used in assessments should be requested with subtitles for a candidate with hearing loss. **Advice should be sought from the relevant awarding body.**

6.7 Non-interactive electronic (PDF) question papers

6.7.1 **Non-interactive electronic question papers are in PDF format. They can be read on-screen but cannot be typed into.** A candidate may require a non-interactive electronic question paper where he/she:

- requires a coloured/enlarged paper; or
- requires a computer reader (an approved application for a computer reader being in place); **or**
- has **a substantial and long term vision impairment and prefers to read on-screen, rather than on paper, as part of their normal way of working.** This may additionally be in conjunction with an on-screen/virtual coloured overlay.

By ordering a non-interactive electronic (PDF) question paper there is no need for the centre to scan in a question paper for computer reading purposes or photocopy a question paper onto coloured and/or enlarged paper.

Where several candidates will require a non-interactive electronic (PDF) question paper for the same examination, the centre only needs to make one order on-line.

The centre **must**:

- maintain the integrity and security of non-interactive electronic (PDF) question papers;
- ensure only authorised members of centre staff have access to non-interactive electronic (PDF) question papers.

The centre **must not**:

- undertake further modification to a non-interactive (PDF) electronic question paper, for example, converting the paper from PDF to Word;
- use software to completely re-format the text and remove diagrams.

Such actions may constitute malpractice.

It is the responsibility of the centre to ensure that the PDF is fully compatible with their chosen software package.

Standard print ready PDFs that were used in previous examination series, and currently available to use as past papers, can be downloaded from awarding body websites.

6.8 Ordering modified papers

AQA Applied General qualifications, AQA Level 1, Level 2 and Level 3 Technical qualifications, Cambridge Nationals, Cambridge Technicals, ELC, FSMQ, GCE, GCSE, OCR Level 3 Certificates, WJEC Level 1, Level 2 General qualifications, WJEC Level 1, Level 2 Vocational qualifications and WJEC Level 3 Applied qualifications

6.8.1 **For the above qualifications (timetabled written components) orders must be made using *Access arrangements online*.**

6.8.2 **Orders must be made for each examination series.**

6.8.3 **Modified papers must be ordered by component code for each subject.**

6.8.4 **The SENCo must work with teaching staff to identify the most appropriate published format of modified papers which will enable the candidate(s) to access their examinations.**

6.9 Final deadlines for submitting orders for modified papers

Exam series	Last date by which orders <u>must</u> be made
November 2020	4 September 2020
January 2021	4 October 2020
June 2021	31 January 2021

GCSE January 2021 examination series – GCSE specifications are not available to centres in England.

For those candidates who decide to re-sit GCSE units in June 2021, following the publication of January 2021 GCSE examination results, orders for modified papers must be received no later than 21 March 2021.

(For unitised GCSE qualifications in Northern Ireland in March 2021 please see CCEA's website for information.)

Timely orders for modified papers are essential. Late orders will not be readily accepted as delivery cannot be guaranteed.

Late requests may not be fulfilled.

The production window, from an awarding body receiving an order for modified papers through to those papers being despatched, is extremely limited. The quality assurance process is even more rigorous for modified papers; there are many more quality checks to undertake.

An awarding body may apply a financial penalty to the centre for any late orders.

It is unlikely that a penalty will be applied in respect of a late request arising from a temporary injury or impairment, a late diagnosis of a disability or manifestation of an impairment relating to an existing disability, as long as the order is made as soon as is practicable.

Chapter 7

Learning difficulties

The range of learning difficulties is extensive: some of the implications for assessment are not always obvious. **Candidates must therefore be assessed by an assessor (see paragraphs 7.3.3 and 7.3.4).** This ensures that the access arrangements approved allow the candidate to access the assessment, but do not result in the candidate gaining an unfair advantage.

It should be remembered that where assessment objectives (Chapter 3) would be compromised by an access arrangement, the assessment objectives will take precedence and will not be waived. This includes the demonstration of knowledge, understanding and skills required by the specification. The arrangement must not affect the integrity of the assessment.

7.1 Accountabilities

7.1.1 The SENCo must:

- ensure that applications are processed **on time, no later than the published deadline**;
- ensure that the **full supporting evidence** is in place **before** an on-line application is processed;
- review the evidence **before** an on-line application is processed, **ensuring that the candidate does meet the published criteria for the respective arrangement**;
- hold all supporting evidence and present such evidence to a JCQ Centre Inspector upon request; **and**
- ensure that the agreed access arrangement has been put in place **before** the candidate's first examination, e.g. internal school tests and mock examinations.

7.1.2 The assessor must:

- record the results of any tests completed indicating that the impairment has **a substantial and long term adverse effect** on the candidate's performance;
- only work within their area of expertise **and** in an ethical fashion;
- use **current editions** of nationally standardised tests appropriate to the candidate;
- report the results of their assessment **within Part 2 of Form 8**; **and**
- provide the centre with evidence of their qualification(s) **before assessing any candidate (see paragraph 7.3.3)**.

7.1.3 It is the responsibility of staff within the JCQ and the awarding bodies to give appropriate advice and information to centres. **Staff within the JCQ and the awarding bodies cannot determine whether a candidate has a learning difficulty.**

7.2 Appropriate adjustments for candidates with learning difficulties which have a substantial and long term adverse effect

Access arrangements are based on an individual candidate's needs. **Consideration must be given as to whether the proposed access arrangement is effective and suitable for the candidate's learning difficulty.** For example, if a candidate can complete a paper in the normal length of time and never uses the extra time which has been made available, then it is not an effective arrangement. **It would not be appropriate to process an application for extra time.** Similarly, if a candidate requests the use of a word processor but cannot type comprehensible prose, it is not an effective arrangement to give him or her. However, he or she may require a scribe.

7.3 Appointment of assessors of candidates with learning difficulties

7.3.1 The head of centre is responsible for:

- the quality of the access arrangements process within his or her centre; **and**
- the appointment of assessors, checking the qualifications of those assessing candidates (e.g. photocopy of certificate or printout of screenshot of HCPC or SASC registration).

The JCQ is not able to approve an assessor's qualification(s) and does not maintain a list of appropriate qualifications for assessors.

7.3.2 **Heads of centre must satisfy themselves that a professional does have the required level of competence and training.**

The professional **must** present evidence of successful completion of a post-graduate course in individual specialist assessment at or equivalent to Level 7.

7.3.3 A head of centre will appoint:

- an access arrangements assessor who has successfully completed a post-graduate course at or equivalent to Level 7, including at least 100 hours relating to individual specialist assessment*. An access arrangements assessor may conduct assessments to be recorded **within Part 2 of Form 8; and/or**

*The reference to at least 100 hours relating to individual specialist assessment would include lecture, seminar and tutorial time, study time, assessment time and time spent completing assignments. Courses which are accredited at AMBDA or APC Level would meet this requirement, as would post-graduate courses at or equivalent to Level 7 which provide a qualification in access arrangements assessment.

- a specialist assessor with a **current SpLD Assessment Practising Certificate, as awarded by BDA, the Dyslexia Guild or Patoss and listed on the SASC website**, who may conduct assessments to be recorded **within Part 2 of Form 8** and where necessary undertake full diagnostic assessments; **and/or**
- an appropriately qualified psychologist registered with the Health & Care Professions Council who may conduct assessments to be recorded **within Part 2 of Form 8** and where necessary undertake full diagnostic assessments.

7.3.4 **An access arrangements assessor must have successfully completed a post-graduate course at or equivalent to Level 7, including at least 100 hours relating to individual specialist assessment, which must include training in all of the following:**

- the theoretical basis underlying psychometric tests, such as the concepts of validity and reliability; standard deviations and the normal curve; raw scores, standard scores, quotients, percentiles and age equivalent scores; the concept of statistically significant discrepancies between scores; standard error of measurement and confidence intervals;
- the appropriate use of nationally standardised tests for the age group being tested;
- the objective administration of attainment tests which can be administered individually. This must include tests of reading accuracy, reading comprehension, reading speed and spelling. Appropriate methods of assessing writing skills, including speed, must also be covered;
- the appropriate selection and objective use of tests of cognitive skills, **see paragraph 7.5.12;**
- the ethical administration of testing including the ability to understand the limitation of their own skills and experience, and to define when it is necessary to refer the candidate to an alternative professional.

All assessors must:

- **have a thorough understanding of the current edition** of the JCQ publication *Access Arrangements and Reasonable Adjustments* and the principles, procedures and accountabilities involved;
- be familiar with the Equality Act 2010 (although it is not their role to determine what is a 'reasonable adjustment', but rather to help identify access arrangements that might assist the candidate);
- either hold an appropriate qualification to teach and make recommendations for secondary aged or adult learners who have learning difficulties or be a HCPC registered psychologist.

The head of centre must ensure that evidence of the assessor's qualification(s) is obtained at the point of engagement/employment and prior to the assessor undertaking any assessment of a candidate.

Evidence of the assessor's qualification(s) must be held on file for inspection purposes and be presented to the JCQ Centre Inspector by the SENCo.

7.3.5 **The assessor should ideally be employed within the centre.**

Alternatively, the assessor is:

- employed at another centre, e.g. within an Academy chain; **or**
- employed by the Local Authority; **or**
- an external assessor **who has an established working relationship with the centre or, before an assessment, establishes a working relationship with the centre.**

7.3.6 **A privately commissioned assessment carried out without prior consultation with the centre cannot be used to award access arrangements and cannot be used to process an application using *Access arrangements online*.**

The SENCo must provide the assessor with at least a 'skeleton' Part 1 of Form 8 prior to the candidate being assessed (Part 2 of Form 8).

(Where a learning difficulty specifically arises as a result of a medical condition please see **paragraph 5.2.3 and section 5.7** - 25% extra time and/or a scribe.)

Where a privately commissioned report, or a report from an external professional, is rejected by a centre, the head of centre or a member of the senior leadership team should provide a written rationale supporting their decision to the parent/carer.

SENcos and assessors working within the centre should always carefully consider any privately commissioned assessment to see whether the process of gathering a picture of need, demonstrating normal way of working within the centre and ultimately assessing the candidate themselves should be instigated.

7.4 Reporting the appointment of assessors

- 7.4.1 **SENCoS must hold on file for inspection purposes evidence that the assessor(s) is/are suitably qualified.**
- 7.4.2 In the case of **appropriately qualified psychologists** (registered with the Health & Care Professions Council), or **specialist assessors holding a current SpLD Assessment Practising Certificate, who are directly employed within the centre.** there is no need to record the names of these individuals within *Access arrangements online*.
- 7.4.3 The names of all other assessors, **who are assessing candidates studying qualifications as listed within the Deadlines section, page 2, must** be entered into *Access arrangements online* to confirm their status. **This will include all other professionals working outside the centre.**

7.5 Guidelines for the assessment of the candidate's learning difficulties by an assessor

- 7.5.1 **The SENCo must arrange for the candidate to be assessed by an assessor.**
- 7.5.2 **Before the candidate's assessment, the SENCo must provide the assessor with background information, i.e. a picture of need has been painted as per Part 1 of Form 8. The SENCo and the assessor must work together to ensure a joined-up and consistent process.**
- 7.5.3 **An independent assessor must contact the centre and ask for evidence of the candidate's normal way of working and relevant background information. This must take place before the candidate is assessed.**

All candidates must be assessed in light of the picture of need and the background information as detailed within Part 1 of Form 8.

An independent assessor must discuss access arrangements with the SENCo. The responsibility to request access arrangements specifically lies with the SENCo.

- 7.5.4 The assessor is required to establish if the results of tests in literacy and/or cognitive abilities present evidence that the candidate has **an impairment which substantially affects their performance.**
- 7.5.5 **Assessors must personally conduct the assessments. They must not sign off assessments carried out by another professional.**
- 7.5.6 **The assessor must carry out tests which are relevant to support the application.**
- 7.5.7 **Current editions of nationally standardised tests which produce standardised scores must be used, where published.**
- 7.5.8 **The candidate's chronological age must be less than the 'ceiling' of the test, unless there is no published test for the candidate's age.**

7.5.9 **Results must be given as standardised scores which use a mean of 100 and a standard deviation of 15. (These are standard scores.) Standardised scores of 84 or less are described as 'below average'. Standardised scores of 85-89 are described as 'low average'. Test results for Part 2 of Form 8 must not be reported as percentiles, scaled scores, T-scores or age-equivalent scores. Such scores must be converted into standard scores.**

7.5.10 **Reading skills**

Reading comprehension: for candidates potentially requiring a Language Modifier (**see section 5.11**) reading comprehension **must** be assessed using a recognised test of text or sentence comprehension.

Reading speed: a candidate with a history of reading difficulties, whose reading accuracy (at single word level), or reading comprehension, is within normal limits for his/her age, may read slowly because he/she:

- takes longer than expected to decode the words, leading to slow reading (**slow reading speed**);
- needs to re-read text many times in order to absorb its meaning (**slow reading comprehension speed**).

There are various ways of assessing text level **reading speed**:

- a test which assesses speed at text level (known as reading rate or reading speed);
- a test which combines text level speed and accuracy (sometimes known as reading fluency);
- a test that assesses **the time** taken to both read the text and to answer questions on what has been read. The test **must** provide a score for **reading comprehension speed**, not just for reading comprehension.

These text level assessments of reading speed may be used as evidence for 25% extra time. The results will be recorded within Part 2 of Form 8 under 'Reading Speed'.

Tests which measure single word reading speed and efficiency **are not** appropriate in this context. However, they may contribute to cognitive processing measures for extra time, **as recorded within Part 2 of Form 8 under cognitive processing or in 'Other relevant information'.**

The provision of 25% extra time for reading difficulties will depend on whether the candidate's impairment in reading speed has a substantial and long term adverse effect. For examination purposes, a substantial impairment is interpreted as a standardised score in a test of reading speed which falls in the below average range, i.e. a standardised score of 84 or less.

7.5.11 Writing skills

A scribe, a word processor with the spell check enabled, or speech recognition technology will be allowed in certain subjects when a candidate's impairment has a substantial and long term adverse effect.

For examination purposes, a substantial impairment is interpreted as the candidate having:

- a below average standardised spelling accuracy score (**a standardised score of 84 or less**) with unrecognisable spelling attempts; **or**
- a below average standardised score for writing speed (**a standardised score of 84 or less**).

In some cases the candidate's writing is illegible or grammatically incomprehensible but improves significantly when a scribe is used. If these difficulties are not evidenced by a below average standardised spelling accuracy score, or a below average standardised score for writing speed, *Access Arrangements Online* will not approve the application. The SENCo may then decide to refer the application to the awarding body/bodies.

7.5.12 Cognitive processing

Cognitive processing assessments would include, for example, investigations of short-term or working memory, phonological processing (e.g. phonological awareness, phonological memory and/or rapid naming) visual processing, **mathematical processing***, visual/motor co-ordination difficulties or other measures as determined appropriate for the candidate by an assessor.

***The time taken to process Mathematical concepts, sometimes known as Mathematical fluency. A timed assessment of Mathematical computation is not acceptable. A mathematical processing measure will only be acceptable as assessment evidence for extra time in Mathematics examinations.**

Where a candidate has cognitive processing difficulties which have a substantial and long term adverse impact on their speed of working 25% extra time may be awarded. (See Chapter 5, paragraph 5.2.2.) These difficulties will be demonstrated by tests which result in at least one below average standardised score, i.e. a score of 84 or less.

In rare and exceptional circumstances an awarding body may grant 25% extra time where a candidate has at least two low average standardised scores (85-89) relating to two different areas of speed of working. This may include two different areas of cognitive processing.

An awarding body may grant extra time of up to 50% in **very exceptional circumstances** - see Chapter 5, paragraph 5.3.2.

7.5.13 Other cognitive ability measures

In most cases there is not a requirement to carry out tests of general cognitive abilities. **However, in rare and exceptional circumstances the SENCo** may need to refer a candidate to an alternative professional, such as a HCPC registered psychologist or a specialist assessor with a **current** SpLD Assessment Practising Certificate, where further investigation is warranted which may include tests of general cognitive ability. The initial assessment may have indicated specific/global learning needs, mental health or developmental concerns.

7.6 Completing Form 8 – JCQ/AA/LD, Profile of Learning Difficulties

Form 8 – JCQ/AA/LD must be used to record information about a candidate’s access arrangements and be presented by the SENCo for inspection. The candidate’s name **must** be recorded **on every page of Form 8** and the form **must** be stapled together. **The form must only be used for candidates with learning difficulties.**

Form 8 – JCQ/AA/LD is available from:

<http://www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/access-arrangements-and-special-consideration/forms>

Alternatively, an online version of Form 8 is available to SENCos and assessors employed within the centre through the Centre Admin Portal (CAP). CAP can be accessed through any of the awarding bodies’ secure extranet sites.

Only Form 8 is acceptable. Spreadsheets, e-mail messages, centre devised equivalents of Form 8, educational psychologists’ reports and other reports are not acceptable for processing and inspection purposes.

7.6.1 **A fully completed Form 8 – JCQ/AA/LD** acts as a passport to access arrangements if the candidate progresses from GCSE to GCE qualifications (**see below**).

A Form 8, with Part 2 completed no earlier than the start of Year 9 for GCSE qualifications, may roll forward to GCE qualifications where a candidate requires:

- 25% extra time; and/or
- a scribe.

The rolling forward of a fully completed Form 8 (Parts 1, 2 and 3), signed and dated, from GCSE to GCE qualifications principally applies in an 11 to 18 school setting where a candidate proceeds to the school’s Sixth Form. This also includes 11 to 18 schools operating local Sixth Form consortium arrangements for GCE AS and/or A-level qualifications. A FE College or a Sixth Form College **must have established working relationships with ‘feeder’ schools for the Form 8 to roll forward from GCSE to GCE qualifications.**

The centre **must** apply on-line once more for the respective access arrangement(s).

As a minimum, a ‘skeleton’ Part 1 of Form 8 must be completed prior to the assessment by the SENCo or the assessor working within the centre detailing the candidate’s background and history of support. The three questions **within Part 1 of Form 8 must** be addressed.

Part 1 of Form 8 is a pen portrait of the candidate’s needs. It allows the SENCo to ‘paint a holistic picture of need’, confirming normal way of working bringing together:

- if known, arrangements made for Key Stage 2 tests;
- comments and observations from teaching staff and support staff (i.e. Learning Support Assistants, Teaching Assistants and Communication Support Workers);
- intervention strategies (e.g. individual education/learning plans) in place for the candidate;
- pupil premium indicators;
- screening test results;
- use of baseline data;
- information about any differentiation in the classroom;
- normal way of working in the classroom (where appropriate);
- arrangements made for end of year internal school examinations/mock examinations.

Effective screening and monitoring systems during Years 7 to 9 will enable the SENCo to paint an appropriately detailed picture of need. School tests might identify those candidates who need to be assessed for access arrangements.

If very little information is available, a selection from the following can be used by the SENCo to paint a picture of need within Part 1 of Form 8, for example:

- screening test results;
- the candidate's self reported difficulties;
- comments and observations from teaching staff and support staff (i.e. Learning Support Assistants, Teaching Assistants and Communication Support Workers) who have noted the candidate's difficulties;
- comments in school reports and/or pupil tracking data;
- information relayed by telephone, with notes taken, or a photocopy of **Form 8**, where a candidate has moved, for example, from an 11 to 16 school to a FE College.

Part 3 of Form 8 must be completed by the SENCo once the assessor has completed their testing **and** confirmed that **the candidate has an impairment which substantially affects their performance**.

Part 3 of Form 8 must make recommendations for access arrangements taking into account:

- the information from the assessment (**Part 2 of Form 8**);
- the requirements of the specifications; **and**
- the candidate's normal way of working in the centre (**Part 1 of Form 8**).

7.6.2 The completion of **Form 8, Parts 1, 2 and 3** will enable the JCQ Centre Inspector to see clearly and concisely the candidate's **normal way of working within the centre and the results of an assessment**.

7.6.3 **All assessors, as appointed by the head of centre and thus having an established relationship with the centre, must use Form 8, Part 2, to record the results of their assessment. At the same time, the assessor must sign and date Part 2.**

7.6.4 **Once Form 8 has been completed, assessors employed within the centre may process the application using *Access arrangements online* (see the qualifications listed within the Deadlines section, page 2).** They **must** keep within the centre for inspection purposes **a fully completed Form 8 (Parts 1, 2 and 3), signed and dated**. This may be a hard copy paper version or an electronic version.

7.6.5 **Assessors employed outside the centre must complete Part 2 of Form 8, after receiving Part 1 from the SENCo.** This will enable the SENCo to process the application on-line.

7.6.6 The assessor **must**:

- **sign and date Form 8, Part 2;**
- **have administered each assessment him/herself.**

The assessor must not sign off assessments carried out by a teacher or another professional.

Unsigned and undated assessments cannot be accepted as appropriate evidence. The signature acts as confirmation that the assessor has completed the assessments and supports the recommendation made.

An electronic or typed signature is permissible.

Photocopies of Form 8 are not acceptable for processing and inspection purposes.

Chapter 8

Processing applications for access arrangements

8.1 General information

For those qualifications listed within the Deadlines section, page 2, *Access arrangements online* enables centres to make a single on-line application for a candidate requiring access arrangements using any of the awarding bodies' secure extranet sites.

Access arrangements online will provide an instant response and will only allow a maximum of 26 months for any arrangement. Further information on *Access arrangements online* is available from: <http://www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/aao-access-arrangements-online>

Extra time of more than 25% (26% to 50%) and/or a Language Modifier **must** have tests recorded within Part 2 of Form 8 dated within 26 months of the final examination(s).

8.2 JCQ regulations and *Access arrangements online*

Access arrangements online does not give details of the JCQ regulations or how the JCQ regulations are to be applied. Centres **must** use the JCQ regulations in conjunction with *Access arrangements online*. Once an arrangement has been approved on-line, it **must** be put into effect in accordance with these regulations and without affecting the integrity of the qualification.

8.3 Late diagnosis of a disability, late manifestation of an impairment or a temporary injury/impairment

Arrangements for a late diagnosis of a disability or late manifestation of an impairment may be processed as the need arises. **However, evidence of need will still be required to the same standard as if it was an application being processed by the published deadline.** Please see the definition of evidence of need within the Definitions section **and** the relevant section(s) of **Chapter 5** for full details as to what constitutes the core evidence/evidence of need for each access arrangement. **It is important that the appropriate evidence is produced and processed with the application. Appropriate documentation (where required), as per Chapter 5, must be held on file to support the access arrangement(s) processed and be available for inspection.**

Access arrangements online must also be used for those qualifications listed within the Deadlines section, page 2, for candidates with a temporary injury or temporary impairment, such as a broken arm. These arrangements can be processed as the need arises. Appropriate documentation (where required) **must** be held on file to support any temporary access arrangement made.

Examples of temporary access arrangements

Example 1

A Year 11 GCSE candidate fell off his bike and injured his writing hand a few days before his first GCSE examination. The candidate is unable to write or type. The SENCo processes a temporary application for the use of a scribe using *Access arrangements online* (AAO). As the use of a scribe is not the candidate's normal way of working and he is not entirely comfortable or indeed conversant in dictating his responses to another person, 25% extra time is granted.

The SENCo types a note to support the application for a scribe and 25% extra time and with the approval sheet from AAO, retains on file for inspection purposes. Two days later, the candidate brings a note from his GP which confirms the injury to his hand and this is added to the SENCo's file. Once recovered, the candidate will sign the candidate personal data consent form to confirm his consent for the scribe application.

On the day of his first GCSE examination the candidate becomes highly anxious and stressed, as the use of a scribe is not his normal way of working. In view of this, the exams officer processes an application for special consideration.

Example 2

A Year 13 GCE A-level candidate has suffered a back injury playing rugby. The candidate is unable to come to school to sit his examinations. The SENCo liaises with the exams officer as to the candidate sitting his examinations at home through an alternative site arrangement. **(See section 11 of the JCQ publication *Instructions for conducting examinations*.)** In addition, the SENCo allows the candidate supervised rest breaks as sitting for an extended period of time causes him significant discomfort.

The invigilator takes the question paper in a sealed envelope to the candidate's home and conducts the examination as per the JCQ publication *Instructions for conducting examinations*. However, during the examination, the candidate is in severe pain and the invigilator makes a note of this. Having received the invigilator's incident log, the exams officer then submits an on-line application for special consideration to the respective awarding body.

Example 3

A Year 11 GCSE candidate arrives in school on the first morning after the Whitsun half term break. He has had chicken pox. The candidate is clearly unwell and possibly contagious so he is sent home. The centre decides that it will arrange for the candidate to take his examinations at home.

In addition, the SENCo grants supervised rest breaks, as sitting for an extended period of time, whilst feeling unwell, may not be conducive to the candidate demonstrating his full potential.

As the candidate has had a contagious disease, the exams officer seeks medical guidance from one of their local GP surgeries, primarily regarding the risk to others, in this case the invigilator. The exams officer also reads the advice in **section 11 of the JCQ publication *Instructions for conducting examinations***.

The risks are deemed to be minimal. The invigilator takes the question paper in a sealed envelope to the candidate's home and conducts the examination as per the JCQ publication *Instructions for conducting examinations*.

However, during the examination, the candidate begins to feel unwell and is unable to continue with the examination for the remaining 45 minutes.

The invigilator makes a note of the fact that the candidate was only able to complete the first hour of the examination.

The exams officer, using the invigilator's incident log, submits an on-line application for special consideration to the awarding body. The awarding body is informed that the candidate did not complete the examination.

The candidate is unable to sit any more examinations that week. The exams officer submits further applications for special consideration.

Whilst the awarding bodies will try to accommodate any arrangements for a late diagnosis or late manifestation, there may be occasions where otherwise reasonable adjustments cannot be made due to the limited time available.

8.4 Cases which do not gain approval

Access arrangements online approves around 90% of all applications made by centres in the United Kingdom, providing centres with a single automated response.

It is inevitable that some individual needs will not be accommodated by a computer system, which cannot deal with every reasonable adjustment which may be required in specific cases. For example, a candidate with a recent brain injury or the need for eye gaze technology.

If a candidate has **very substantial needs** which are not accommodated by the on-line system, it may be because they relate to reasonable adjustments which are not listed. Alternatively, the arrangement(s) may require further exploration in relation to the competence being tested in the specification(s). These cases should be discussed with the relevant awarding body. SENCoS should keep a written record of such discussions. Additional paperwork may be required to justify the request being made.

If an application is not approved, the SENCo or the assessor working within the centre must consider whether this is because the candidate does not meet the published criteria for one of the arrangements requested and does not have a substantial and long term impairment for the required arrangement.

Example 1

A candidate with learning difficulties has used a reader and a scribe throughout her course and has requested these in her examinations. In a spelling test she achieves a **below average standardised score of 77**. The SENCo, using *Access arrangements online*, keys in the score of 77 for spelling. However, the spelling attempts are phonically plausible and readable. The application is not approved.

The SENCo makes a new on-line application for the candidate, this time only for a reader. The application is approved.

Example 2

A candidate with dyslexia has persistent difficulties with writing. His subject teachers report that in class his verbal contributions show good understanding of the subject matter. However, his written responses both in class and in examinations are at a level expected of a much younger student and largely grammatically incomprehensible. When he dictates to a scribe the quality of his work improves substantially and is age appropriate.

The candidate is assessed and achieves low average standardised scores on assessments of spelling and writing speed. The SENCo applies for a scribe but the application is not approved as none of the scores are below average. The SENCo decides to refer the application to the awarding bodies. As she can show that the candidate's incomprehensible writing improves substantially when he dictates to a scribe, the awarding bodies approve the use of a scribe.

8.5 Pre-planning in advance of examination series

Applications processed and approved on-line can be recorded as a CSV file. By using Excel an instant list of candidates who have access arrangements can be produced. This information will be invaluable for centres. It will enable exam officers, prior to the start of each exam series, to plan and identify:

- the number of additional rooms required within the centre to accommodate candidates with access arrangements;
- invigilation resources; **and**
- the number of computer readers, readers and scribes which will be needed.

Access arrangements online will also enable centres to generate pre-populated cover sheets.

***Access arrangements online* must be used for the following qualifications:**

AQA Applied General qualifications, AQA Level 1, Level 2, Level 3 Technical qualifications, Cambridge Nationals, Cambridge Technicals, FSMQ, GCE, GCSE, OCR Level 3 Certificates, Welsh Baccalaureate qualification (WBQ), WJEC Level 1, Level 2 General qualifications, WJEC Level 1, Level 2 Vocational qualifications, WJEC Level 3 Applied qualifications

Qualification types other than GCE or GCSE can be selected by clicking 'Other' Qualification Type when processing an on-line application.

Access arrangements that must be applied for on-line include:

- Bilingual dictionary with 10% extra time (solely for those qualifications listed within Chapter 5, paragraph 5.18.2)
- Computer reader/reader
- 25% extra time
- **Extra time over 25%†**
- **Practical Assistant†**
- Scribe/speech recognition technology

†The arrangement will be automatically rejected. Applications should be referred on-line to the relevant awarding body.

The following arrangements do not need to be processed on-line:

(Please do not select 'Other' when using *Access arrangements online*.)

- Amplification equipment
- Bilingual dictionary
- Braille transcript
- Braille
- Closed Circuit Television (CCTV)
- Colour naming by the invigilator for candidates who are colour blind
- Coloured overlays
- Communication Professional (for candidates using Sign Language)
- Examination on coloured/enlarged paper
- Live speaker for pre-recorded examination components
- Low vision aid/magnifier
- Optical Character Reader (OCR) scanners
- Prompter
- Read aloud (which can include an examination reading pen)
- Separate invigilation within the centre
- Supervised rest breaks
- Word processor

How to access the *Access arrangements online* system

www.aqa.org.uk

www.ccea.org.uk

<http://qualifications.pearson.com>

www.ocr.org.uk

www.wjec.co.uk

***Access arrangements online* has been specifically designed to provide centres with a user friendly experience across a wide range of the latest versions of internet browsers via PCs and tablets. Centres must always use the most up to date/modern version of their chosen browser and ensure that their internet browser is not set in compatibility view mode.**

Centres must use IE11 or a current version of Chrome, Safari or Firefox.

Please note that the latest version of TLS must be enabled.

8.6 How to use *Access arrangements online*

Getting started

Before logging in to *Access arrangements online* using one of the awarding bodies' secure extranet sites you will need:

- the candidate's consent (completed candidate personal data consent form) to record their personal data on-line; (**When progressing from GCSE to GCE qualifications the candidate will need to sign a new candidate personal data consent form.**)
- paperwork determining the candidate's needs;
- your log-in details for an awarding body's secure extranet site, e.g. e-AQA.

The SENCo **must** keep detailed records, whether electronically or in hard copy paper format, of all the essential information on file. This includes a copy of the candidate's approved application, appropriate evidence of need (where required) **and** a signed candidate personal data consent form for inspection by the JCQ Centre Inspection Service.

Quick guide to applying for access arrangements using *Access arrangements online*:

Step 1 Log-in

Log-in to an awarding body's secure extranet site, e.g. e-AQA and navigate to *Access arrangements online*. Select the option **Create application** from the home page.

Step 2 Candidate details

Enter the candidate's details (* denotes that input is mandatory).

Step 3 Qualification type and application duration

Select the qualification type(s) which is/are relevant to the candidate's application and select either:

- *Long-term condition = lasts duration of a two-year course.*
- *Temporary condition = lasts duration of a single exam series.*

Step 4 The academic year

Select the academic year(s) in which the access arrangement(s) will be used.

Step 5 Access arrangements

Choose the access arrangement(s) required for the candidate from the list shown. You can select more than one but you **must** have supporting evidence, where required, in each instance to secure approval.

Step 6 Evidence of need

Answer all the questions about the evidence you have on file to support the application.

Step 7 Assessor's report (Part 2 of Form 8)

Some applications will require you to enter details from **Part 2 of Form 8** to substantiate the evidence of need. You **must** specify who carried out the assessment and when.

Step 8 Confirmation

Your submission is now complete. Tick the **Confirmation** box to state that you have read and accept the legal statements and click **SUBMIT**.

Step 9 Outcome

The application outcome will now be displayed, along with the details of the application.

If your application has been refused, you can refer it to the relevant awarding body for consideration using the awarding body referral section. **However, you must always re-check the JCQ regulations to see if the candidate does meet the published criteria for the arrangement(s).**

Step 10 Save & Close

Your application has been saved and can be found at any time using the search facility. Click **SAVE & CLOSE** to return to the Home page.

A flow diagram of the process can be found within Chapter 6.

Entry Level Certificate (ELC) qualifications WJEC Entry Pathways Qualifications

Entry Level Certificate qualifications WJEC Entry Pathways qualifications

Where permitted by the specification, the following arrangements may be granted by the centre and **do not** need to be recorded. Evidence of need **is not** required to be held on file.

- Amplification equipment, taped questions and responses
- Bilingual dictionary
- Braille transcript
- Braille transcribers
- Brailleing of non-secure assessment material
- Closed Circuit Television (CCTV)
- Colour naming by the invigilator for candidates who are colour blind
- Coloured overlays
- Communication Professional for written questions and responses (but not in MFL Speaking assessments)
- Enlarge or photocopy the question paper on to coloured paper
- Live speaker for pre-recorded examination components
- Low vision aid/magnifier
- Optical Character Reader (OCR) scanners
- Prompter
- Read aloud (which can include an examination reading pen)
- Separate invigilation within the centre
- Supervised rest breaks
- Word processor

Entry Level Certificate qualifications WJEC Entry Pathways qualifications

Where permitted by the specification, the following arrangements may be granted by the centre **without prior approval** from an awarding body:

- Bilingual dictionary with 10% extra time (for the use of the dictionary)
- Computer reader/reader
- Extra time in timed components
- Practical Assistant
- Scribe

However, Form 11 – JCQ/EL/NF **must** be completed on-line.

Form 11 can be assessed on-line through the Centre Admin Portal (CAP). **CAP can be accessed via any of the awarding bodies' secure extranet sites.**

Other adjustments

Where a candidate's disability has a substantial and long term adverse effect, other adjustments, which are not listed, may be required. The centre should, in the first instance, contact the relevant awarding body at the earliest opportunity to discuss the candidate's needs.

Internally assessed units

Cambridge Technicals

Project qualifications (including the Extended Project)

8.7 For internally assessed Cambridge Technicals and Project qualifications, centres do not need to apply to the individual awarding body concerned.

Access arrangements must not, however, affect the reliability or validity of assessment outcomes. They must not give the learner an advantage over other learners undertaking the same or similar assessments.

It is recommended that centres discuss the application of access arrangements to internally assessed units with the awarding body concerned.

Memory aid for a reader

**I am here to read for you in your examination
You must make clear what you want to be read**

I can only read the instructions and the questions

**I can repeat instructions, but only if you make it clear which
instructions you want me to read**

**I can't tell you which questions to choose
I can't tell you when to move on to the next question
I can't tell you which questions to do first**

I can spell words if you ask me, but only words on the question paper

I can read back your answer, but only if you ask me

GCSE English Language examinations:

**I can read the questions in the Writing section of the paper, but I can't
read any of the questions in the Reading section**

Centres must ensure that both invigilators and those acting as a reader are appropriately trained and familiar with the rules detailed within section 5.5.

It is essential that the candidate is made aware of what a reader can and cannot do in advance of their first examination, e.g. internal school tests or mock exams.

Memory aid for a scribe

I am here to write/type for you in your examination

I must write/type exactly what you say

**I can draw maps, graphs and diagrams, but I can only draw exactly what you tell me
I can't draw for you in a Design examination**

I can change what I have written/typed, but only if you ask me

If we have problems communicating, I must tell the invigilator

**I can't give you any help with answers
I can't suggest when an answer is finished**

**I can't tell you which questions to choose
I can't tell you when to move on to the next question
I can't tell you which questions to do first**

If you are allowed rest breaks, I can't write/type in those breaks

I can read back what I have written/typed, but only if you ask me

Centres must ensure that both invigilators and those acting as a scribe are appropriately trained and familiar with the rules detailed within section 5.7.

It is essential that the candidate is made aware of what a scribe can and cannot do in advance of their first examination, e.g. internal school tests or mock exams.

Memory aid for a Language Modifier

I can only change words or phrases if you make it clear that you need help with them

I can't change words or phrases that the examiner thinks you should have learnt

I can only change things that the examiner has written (e.g. I cannot change text from a book, maps, tables, etc.)

I can only make changes if you make it clear what is confusing you

I can speak, write or sign any changes

I can read for you if you make it clear what you want to be read

GCSE English Language examinations

I can read or change words, phrases and sentences in the Writing section of the paper but I can't read or change anything in the Reading section

Centres must ensure that both invigilators and those acting as a Language Modifier are appropriately trained and familiar with the rules detailed within section 5.11.

It is essential that the candidate is made aware of what a Language Modifier can and cannot do in advance of their first examination, e.g. internal school tests or mock exams.

Appendix 4

Memory aid for a Communication Professional

I am here to sign the questions in British Sign Language

I can't sign words or phrases that the examiner thinks you should have learnt, but I can fingerspell them

I can't sign anything the examiner didn't write (e.g. text from a book, maps, tables, etc.)

I can sign the questions more than once but I can't explain the questions

I can't explain what the examiner wants you to write

You can fingerspell answers, or sign an answer, if it is one word only and I will write it for you

GCSE English Language examinations

I can only sign the instructions/rubric, but not the questions

Centres must ensure that both invigilators and those acting as a Communication Professional are appropriately trained and familiar with the rules detailed within section 5.13.

It is essential that the candidate is made aware of what a Communication Professional can and cannot do in advance of their first examination, e.g. internal school tests or mock exams.