



Joint Council for
Qualifications^{CIC}

Guidance notes for overnight supervision of candidates with a timetable variation for the academic year 2026/27

Effective from 1 September 2026

Produced on behalf of:



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- 1 If the total duration of three or more examinations to be taken in one day is **more than 5 hours 30 minutes** for **Level 1/2 examinations (GCSE examinations, Level 1 and 2 VTQs)** or **more than 6 hours** for **Level 3 examinations (AS, A2, A level, Level 3 VTQs)**, centres may wish to arrange overnight supervision.

However, the candidate should still be offered the opportunity to sit all the examinations on the scheduled day. The centre should submit a request for special consideration to the relevant awarding body for the final examination which has been taken.

- 2 Where the centre allows the candidate to take an examination scheduled for the afternoon session the following morning[†], the centre **must always** appoint a member of centre staff or an invigilator to supervise the candidate while they are sitting examinations on the premises. The candidate **must** be under centre supervision **from 30 minutes after the awarding body's published starting time for the delayed examination**. The centre **must** ensure there is no contact with other candidates.

- 3 The supervision of a candidate on journeys to and from the centre and overnight may be undertaken by the candidate's parent/carer or centre staff. The centre **must** determine a method of supervision which ensures the candidate's wellbeing.

The supervisor **must** supervise the candidate from the time when they leave the supervision of the centre until supervision of the candidate is transferred back again to the appointed person at the centre.

- 4 The overnight supervision arrangements **must** ensure that the candidate **does not** have advance warning of the content of the examination that has been deferred until the following morning. This means the candidate **must not** meet or communicate with anyone who may have knowledge of the content. This includes email, internet, online streaming services, printed media, radio, social media (including messaging apps), telephone and television.

- 5 The *Overnight Supervision Declaration* form **must** be completed **no later than 24 hours prior to the start of overnight supervision** so that those involved fully understand their responsibilities.

The centre and the supervisor **must** retain a copy of the form.

- 6 *Overnight Supervision Declaration* forms **must not** be enclosed with the scripts. The scripts **must** be sent to the awarding body/examiner in the normal way.

- 7 All completed *Overnight Supervision Declaration* forms **must** be kept on file at the centre for inspection. Forms may be stored electronically or in hard-copy paper format. They **must** be retained on file until the deadline for reviews of marking has passed or until any appeal, malpractice or other results enquiry has been completed, whichever is later. Forms **must not** be sent to an awarding body, unless specifically requested.

- 8 The head of centre **must** be satisfied that the arrangements meet the awarding body's requirements.

- 9 The awarding body **must** be informed **immediately** of any known or suspected contravention of these conditions.

[†]If an examination from Friday afternoon is deferred, it **must** be taken the following morning, i.e. Saturday morning.

- 10** The awarding body may use appropriate means to check that these conditions have been adhered to and will act if there is evidence of any contravention. This could lead to the disqualification of the candidate(s) involved and could affect whether the awarding body would allow such arrangements to be made in the future.