



Joint Council for  
Qualifications<sup>CIC</sup>

# Guidance notes concerning transferred candidates for the academic year 2026/27

Effective from 1 September 2026

Produced on behalf of:



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Online applications for transferred candidate arrangements will only be accepted in exceptional circumstances as below.

An awarding body will only approve an online application for a transferred candidate arrangement if the security and integrity of the examination(s) will always be maintained.

The host centre **must**:

- comply with the JCQ document *Instructions for conducting examinations before, during and after the examination(s)*;
- comply with the regulations governing the secure storage of question papers and other confidential materials.

Please read the following guidance notes **before** completing an online application.

## 1 Introduction

- The awarding body's regulations should be checked for any restrictions on transferred candidate arrangements which may apply to private candidates.
- Examinations officers should seek advice from the appropriate awarding body if they are uncertain as to the acceptability of the transferred candidate arrangement.

## 2 Reasons for requests

**Acceptable reasons for requesting transferred candidate arrangements are:**

- A **diagnosed** medical condition which prevents the candidate from taking the examination(s) at the entering centre. A specific reason **must** be stated when processing an online application.
- Pregnancy.
- A candidate has moved house **after** entries have been made.
- A candidate has been excluded or suspended from the entering centre.
- A candidate is in the armed forces and has transferred to another base.
- A candidate is representing their club or country at an international level in a recognised sporting event.

(Centres **must** have appropriate supporting evidence, i.e. an official letter from the organisers of the sporting event, signed and dated on headed paper, which makes specific reference to the candidate. An awarding body reserves the right to request such evidence.)

- A candidate is taken into custody or is sentenced.
- A candidate is subject to witness protection, leading to their relocation, or a child protection order. (Please specify when processing an online application.)
- A candidate who is taught at a different centre to that which made the original entry, e.g. a consortium arrangement.

- A candidate is a distance learner, registered with a Distance Learning Provider which has been **approved** by one or more of the JCQ awarding bodies for general qualification examinations. The candidate has been entered for a GCE or GCSE specification with a non-examination assessment component. The Distance Learning Provider **cannot** conduct the specification's written examination components. (Further information on distance learners may be found within **Appendix 3** of the JCQ document *Instructions for conducting non-examination assessments*.)
- A candidate has entries in different subjects involving more than one centre, leading to a timetable clash in an examination session. (A transferred candidate arrangement will be accepted up to the published deadline for the series concerned. Online applications received after the published deadline will be at the discretion of the awarding body.)

**NB** Acceptable reasons for requesting a transferred candidate arrangement are subject to the candidate(s) transferring to an examination centre **approved** by one or more of the JCQ awarding bodies for general qualification examinations.

**Unacceptable reasons for requesting transfers are:**

- A candidate in Wales sitting examinations below Year 11 or a candidate in Northern Ireland sitting examinations below Year 12, since a further assessment opportunity will be available to candidates.
- A candidate's personal arrangements, such as a wedding or holiday arrangements.
- School field trips, exchange visits, work experience or gap year.

**NB** This list of acceptable and unacceptable reasons is not exhaustive. An awarding body reserves the right to use its discretion when accepting or rejecting an online application for a transferred candidate arrangement.

### 3 Components

- These arrangements cover **externally-assessed timetabled written components** for the following qualification types:
  - AEA
  - AQA Applied General qualifications
  - AQA Level 2 Certificate in Further Maths
  - AQA Level 3 Certificate in Mathematical Studies
  - BTEC Firsts
  - BTEC Nationals
  - BTEC Tech Awards
  - Cambridge Advanced Nationals
  - **Cambridge OCR Level 3 Awards**
  - Cambridge OCR Level 3 Certificates
  - Cambridge Nationals
  - Cambridge Technicals
  - Edexcel Awards
  - Edexcel International GCSE

- ELC
- FSMQ
- GCE AS and A level
- GCSE
- Health and Social Care, and Childcare (Wales)

**- T levels (Technical qualifications)**

**- WJEC General Foundation qualifications**

- WJEC Level 1 and Level 2 General qualifications
- WJEC Level 1 and Level 2 Vocational Awards
- WJEC Level 1 and Level 2 Vocational Awards (Technical Awards)
- WJEC Level 3 Applied Certificates, Diplomas and Extended Diplomas (including Alternative Academic Qualifications)

**- WJEC VCSE qualifications.**

- **Non-examined components**, i.e. GCE coursework components, GCE/GCSE non-examination assessment components, portfolios and practical components are specifically **excluded** from transferred candidate arrangements. **On-demand tests** are also **excluded** from transferred candidate arrangements.
- **GCE AS, A2, A level Modern Foreign Language Speaking Tests** – where a candidate has moved from one part of the country to another or is in hospital, an online application for a transferred candidate arrangement **must** be submitted to the relevant awarding body.

Where a host centre accommodates a candidate for a GCE AS, A2 or A level MFL Speaking Test, contact **must** take place between the host centre and the entering centre. The host centre **must** familiarise themselves with the subject-specific instructions prior to conducting the Speaking Test.

## 4 Application procedure

- Form JCQ/TC **must** be completed online, initially by the entering centre and then by the host centre. Once completed by the host centre, the form **must** then be submitted online. Form JCQ/TC is accessed via the Centre Admin Portal (CAP). CAP can be accessed via any of the awarding bodies' secure extranet sites.
- A separate online application **must** be completed for each examination series.
- The host centre **must** be a registered centre for general qualifications examinations with one or more of the JCQ awarding bodies.
- When an awarding body has agreed a transferred candidate arrangement, it will send question papers to the host centre, together with any supporting documents and materials.

(**NB** Centres may be sent a PDF version of the question paper on the day of the examination.)

- **The candidate's entry remains with the entering centre.** The candidate will retain the centre, candidate and UCI/ULN numbers already allocated. If a candidate's entry is to be changed, the awarding body **must** be contacted.

Examination officers **must not** confirm transferred candidate arrangements until approval has been obtained from the awarding body.

## 5 Closing date for requests

Requests must be submitted online as early as possible and no later than the dates below for the respective examination series:

| Examination series | Date            |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| November 2026      | 4 October 2026  |
| January 2027       | 1 December 2026 |
| June 2027          | 21 March 2027   |

Awarding bodies **cannot** guarantee arrangements if requests are received after the above-mentioned dates. Centres should contact awarding bodies for details of the costs of this service.

## 6 Responsibilities of the entering centre

The entering centre must:

- provide the host centre with a copy of any pre-release material received unless the awarding body says otherwise. If the awarding body has stipulated that the pre-release material must be kept under secure conditions until the appointed time for the examination, the entering centre **must** contact the awarding body to request that such material is additionally sent directly to the host centre;
- be responsible for marking any internally-assessed components and submitting internally-assessed marks to the awarding body;
- make candidates' work available for moderation purposes;
- process an online application for an access arrangement and/or order modified papers;
- provide the host centre with confirmation of the approval for the respective access arrangement(s). This will normally be a copy of the approval sheet printed from *Access arrangements online*;
- ensure that the host centre can facilitate the approved access arrangement(s);
- **inform the relevant awarding body of an amendment to an entry after an online application for a transferred candidate arrangement has been processed;**
- inform the relevant awarding body if an approved transferred candidate arrangement is no longer required. The approved transferred candidate arrangement **must** be withdrawn online using the Centre Admin Portal;
- at the time of the examination(s), either write '**transferred to**' or '**T (centre number)**' on the attendance register. This will inform the awarding body/examiner that the script will arrive separately. **Do not** write 'Absent';
- inform the candidate that they will have to provide suitable evidence of identification to the host centre;
- forward to the candidate their results and certificates;

- request any post-results services, such as late certification, Access to Scripts or reviews of marking;
- **pay for the transferred candidate arrangement. (The entering centre is responsible for the payment of fees and will receive an invoice from the awarding body.)**

## 7 Responsibilities of the host centre

The host centre must:

- comply with the JCQ document *Instructions for conducting examinations before, during and after the examination*;
- ensure that where a person is appointed to facilitate an access arrangement, i.e. a reader or a scribe, they are **thoroughly** trained and understand the rules of the access arrangement;
- check the identity of the transferred candidate;
- complete an attendance register for each examination, which **must** be sent to the awarding body/examiner **with the script** in the plastic envelope provided by the awarding body. If the candidate fails to attend, please write 'Absent' on the attendance register and send it in the envelope provided. A transferred candidate **must not** be added to any of the host centre's attendance registers and the script **must not** be enclosed with those of the host centre;
- make sure that the entering centre submits any request for special consideration to the awarding body;
- make sure that should any actual, alleged or suspected malpractice arise, the relevant awarding body is informed as per the JCQ document *Suspected Malpractice in Examinations and Assessments*.

## 8 Arrangements for distance learners entering for a GCE or GCSE specification with a non-examination assessment component

Where a candidate is a distance learner registered with a Distance Learning Provider, and has been entered for a GCE or GCSE specification with a non-examination assessment component, and the Distance Learning Provider **cannot** conduct the specification's written examination components, the following arrangements will apply:

- The host centre **must** have been **approved** by the relevant JCQ awarding bodies for general qualification examinations.
- The host centre will be responsible for conducting the written examinations and **must** comply with the responsibilities as listed above in Section 7.

## **9** Awarding body contact details

### **AQA**

Email: [transferredcandidates@aqa.org.uk](mailto:transferredcandidates@aqa.org.uk)

Website: [Exams administration](#)

### **Cambridge OCR**

Email: [OCR.TransferredCandidates@ocr.org.uk](mailto:OCR.TransferredCandidates@ocr.org.uk)

### **CCEA**

Email: [entries@ccea.org.uk](mailto:entries@ccea.org.uk)

Tel: 028 9026 1295

### **Pearson**

Email: [transferredcandidates@pearson.com](mailto:transferredcandidates@pearson.com)

Tel: 0344 463 2535

### **WJEC**

Email: [gce@wjec.co.uk](mailto:gce@wjec.co.uk)

[gcse@wjec.co.uk](mailto:gcse@wjec.co.uk)

[pathways@wjec.co.uk](mailto:pathways@wjec.co.uk)