



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



# Information for candidates

## Special Consideration

Effective from 1 September 2025

## What is special consideration?

Special consideration is a post assessment adjustment made by the exam board when **unforeseen circumstances** beyond your control affect your ability to perform at your usual level **at the time of an exam or assessment**. It can only be applied if you have been **fully taught the course** and prepared for the assessment.

## When you *may* be eligible

You may qualify if your performance is affected by circumstances such as:

- **Temporary illness or injury at the time of the assessment**
- **Bereavement** in your immediate family at the time of the assessment
- **Domestic crisis** occurring at the time of the exam (e.g., serious family incident)
- **Serious disturbance** during the exam (e.g., unexpected major disruption)
- **Accidental events**, such as being given the wrong paper or equipment
- **International sporting commitments** on the day of the exam
- **Approved access arrangements** not provided in that exam session

## When you are *not* eligible

Special consideration **cannot** be applied for:

- **Long term illness** affecting revision time (unless significantly worsened on the day)
- Bereavement **more than six months earlier** (unless an anniversary or ongoing implications)
- **Minor disturbances** (e.g., momentary noise or another student coughing)
- Misreading the timetable, oversleeping, arriving late or **missing the exam due to personal plans**
- **Not covering the course** due to **joining late**, staff shortages, teaching quality issues, or lost learning
- **Failure to submit coursework**, unless the specification allows consideration in restricted time assessments
- **Disability or learning difficulty alone** (unless a sudden deterioration on the day)

## How applications are made

- **You cannot apply yourself** – your school or college submits the application.
- Applications are made **online** by the centre, never by paper forms.
- A senior staff member must authorise the evidence.
- You will be **informed** if an application is submitted for you.
- The success of an application is only known when results are issued. Please note that the school is not told by awarding body if and how special consideration was applied.
- Evidence must be kept until after results day.
- Late applications are only accepted in **exceptional cases**.

## Important Reminders

- Special consideration is normally applied as **1%–5% extra marks** depending on severity.
- It is **not cumulative** (e.g., illness and stress are not added together).
- It applies **only** to specific assessments affected at the time of the issue.
- It cannot be awarded for issues relating to teaching, preparation, or ongoing conditions already supported by access arrangements.
- If in doubt, **speak to your exams officer or senior school staff**. You can contact the Hillview School For Girls Exam Team via [DL-exams@hillview.kent.sch.uk](mailto:DL-exams@hillview.kent.sch.uk)

You can find further information on the [JCO website](#). (You may need to CTRL + Click the link)