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**SUMMER 2022**

**WJEC STUDENT GUIDE TO  
SPECIAL CONSIDERATION**

## Summer 2022:

### WJEC Student guide to Special Consideration (for centres in Wales)

You'll find a range of information about *special consideration* for this summer's exams and assessments (e.g. NEA coursework) in this guide.

**Please be aware, this is just a guide and it's also really important that you talk to your school or college too – they'll know if you're eligible and will be best-placed to offer you advice.**

There's also further information on all the changes that were made to this year's exams and assessments in our [Student Guide to Adaptations](#).

The following information applies to all students, including private candidates. For further information on special consideration please contact your school or college.

#### **What is special consideration?**

Special consideration is a process used in every exam series, which applies when a student:

- experiences a temporary illness, injury, or some other event outside of their control at the time they are taking their exam
- the temporary situation impacts their ability to take the exam or to demonstrate their normal level of performance

Please remember, this guide is just a summary – you can also find further information on the JCQ website – they make sure all exam boards follow the same process and that all students in Wales are treated consistently.

#### **Are there changes to the special consideration process this summer?**

The special consideration process this summer is fundamentally the same. However, Welsh Government has published [guidance](#) relating to COVID-19, which may impact students sitting exams this summer.

For information on COVID-19, including the main symptoms please visit the [Welsh Government website](#).

#### **Will special considerations be applied if I have Covid-19 during the exam period?**

If you are staying at home/isolating at the time of your exam, in line with Welsh Government guidance, you could be eligible for special consideration, as you were absent for an 'acceptable reason'. If you do need to isolate due to Covid-19 you should talk to your school or college. They will be able to advise you about what you need to do.

## What should I do if I experience COVID-19 symptoms during the exams/assessment this summer?

If you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms you should follow the Welsh Government guidance as follows:

- If you have any of the **main symptoms** of COVID-19, you should self-isolate and take a lateral flow test (LFT).
- If the lateral flow test is positive, you should self-isolate for at least 3 full days. Day 1 is the day after the symptoms started. You should [report the LFT result](#)
- On day 3, if the symptoms have stopped, you should take a LFT. If that test is negative, you should take another LFT on day 4.
- If the day 4 test is also negative, and you feel well and do not have a high temperature, you can leave self-isolation to sit your exam. You should [report the LFT result](#).
- If either the test on day 3 or the test on day 4 is positive, you should remain in self-isolation and contact your school or education setting.
- If you still have a high temperature or feel unwell, you should continue to self-isolate until it returns to normal, or you feel better.
- You should continue taking daily LFTs until you get 2 negative tests in a row, taken a day apart, or until day 10 – whichever is sooner. You do not need a negative LFT test on day 10 to leave self-isolation.

## What should I do if I miss my exam due to being unwell and/or having a positive lateral flow test?

Don't panic, complete the following steps:

- Contact your school or college – this can be done either by yourself or by a parent/guardian/carer.
- Your school or college will advise if you meet the special consideration criteria for being absent from the exam for an 'acceptable reason'.
- Your school or college will make an application to WJEC for special consideration. They will ask you to complete a form: *Self-certification for candidates who have missed an examination*. If you are aged 18 and under, your parent/guardian/carer will also need to complete the form.
  - o Please ensure you complete this form accurately, as providing wrong/misleading information may result in you not receiving a qualification.
  - o Your school/college **may** also request confirmation you received from NHS that the results of your LFT has been reported. Please discuss this with your school/college, as this may not be a requirement.

Would I be eligible for special consideration if I missed my exam because I had some symptoms which are not any of the main Covid-19 symptoms, did not feel unwell and had a negative lateral flow test?

Missing your exam as described above **would not** be an acceptable reason for missing the examination. You **would not** be eligible for special consideration.

If I missed my exam because I had one of the main symptoms of Covid-19 but I could not get a LFT to confirm if I am positive or negative for COVID-19. When I get a LFT and take the test the result is negative, would I be eligible for special consideration?

If, on the day of your exam, you have at least one of the main Covid-19 symptoms, as outlined in Welsh Government's guidance, and you cannot access a LFT, the guidance is that you should self-isolate and order a LFT immediately. If when you take the LFT the result is negative, you should report the LFT result. You no longer need to self-isolate. You would be eligible for special consideration as you were absent for an acceptable reason.

How will my grade be awarded if I am eligible for special consideration?

As in any exam series, if you are eligible for special consideration when absent from an exam for an 'acceptable reason', WJEC will produce marks if you miss an exam in the qualification based on:

- the marks you have been awarded for your completed exams/assessments set by WJEC
- and
- your performance compared with other students.

Can I receive a qualification grade via the special consideration process, if I do not complete or submit any of WJEC's exams?

A qualification award **will not** be made where none of the formal WJEC set exams/assessments have been completed.

If I am worried about other students in the exam room having Covid-19, or any other illness, and do not sit my exam, would I be eligible for special consideration?

If you choose not to enter the exam room because of the reason listed above, this **would not** be an 'acceptable reason' for missing the exam. You would therefore **not** be eligible for special consideration.

We hope this guide helps, and please remember if you need further advice, please talk with your school or college. They'll let you know if you're eligible, and will be on hand to advise you.