

Summer 2022: Application of the special consideration process

This document is provided as a supplement to JCQ's Special Consideration Policy to confirm how the special consideration process in the context of the summer 2022 exam series and the UK Health Security Agency's guidance¹ and in accordance with the JCQ awarding bodies' supplementary guidance² will be applied.

Eligibility for special consideration

In accordance with the JCQ regulations and as is normal in a standard examination series, candidates are expected to complete exams to receive a grade. The staff at Melton Vale Sixth Form College will wherever possible encourage candidates to attend for their exams. There may be exceptional cases though where this will not be possible, e.g. a temporary illness on the day of the examination.

In the case of a candidate with symptoms of a respiratory infection including COVID-19, or a positive test result for COVID-19. Melton Vale Sixth Form College will, and expect the candidate to, adhere to the current UKHSA guidance where it may apply on the day of the candidate's exam(s).

Special consideration when a candidate is absent

In accordance with the JCQ awarding bodies' guidance, the awarding of a grade through the special consideration process can only be made where a candidate is absent from an examination or non-examination assessment component for an acceptable reason.

A candidate who is staying at home and avoiding contact with others, in line with UKHSA guidance, at the time of the examination, is considered to be absent from the examination for an acceptable reason. This includes a candidate who is displaying the symptoms described in the UKHSA guidance as advising them to stay at home (e.g. a high temperature for those aged 18 and under) as well as those with a positive COVID-19 test result.

Where a candidate still wishes to attend an examination, despite having symptoms (e.g. a high temperature) or a positive COVID-19 test Melton Vale Sixth Form College will:

- encourage the candidate to follow the UKHSA's guidance relevant to the candidate's age (e.g. 18 and under or 19 and over) as advising them to stay at home
- reassure the candidate about their eligibility for special consideration. As examinations have been spaced by at least 10 days in every A-level and GCSE subject, grades can be awarded on the other components completed

If the candidate still requests to attend the examination, Melton Vale will follow the advice in UKHSA's updated health protection in education and childcare settings guidance which includes reference to public health exclusions to indicate the time period an individual should not attend a setting to reduce the risk of transmission during the infectious stage.

Evidencing a candidate's eligibility for special consideration

When dealing with a candidate who is absent from an examination for an acceptable reason in line with the UKHSA guidance (on people with symptoms of a respiratory infection including COVID-19, or a positive test result for COVID-19), Melton Vale Sixth Form College will expect the candidate and

¹ Refer to UKHSA *Guidance for people with symptoms of a respiratory infection including COVID-19, or a positive test result for COVID-19* (www.gov.uk/guidance/people-with-symptoms-of-a-respiratory-infection-including-covid-19) and *Health protection in education and childcare settings* (www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-protection-in-schools-and-other-childcare-facilities)

² Refer to JCQ *Supplementary guidance on the special consideration process for centres in England June 2022 examination series* (Appendix 1, *A guide to the special consideration process* www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/access-arrangements-and-special-consideration/regulations-and-guidance/)

parent/carer/guardian to complete the relevant sections of the adapted Form 14 (E)³ JCQ/ME - *Self-certification for candidates in England who have missed an examination – June 2022 series*.

On notification of absence Melton Vale will post the Form 14 (E) to the home address with a pre-paid envelope for return once sections B & C have been completed and signed by the candidate and parent/carer, this must be returned within 3 working days.

Note: In the case of a positive COVID-19 test result, the centre will need to be informed of the date of the test of the positive test. There is **no requirement** for a candidate to complete a COVID-19 test to provide evidence of their absence from an examination **and** it is not recommended that those aged 18 or under are tested for Covid-19 unless directed to do so by a health professional. If candidates have had a positive test when returning the form please send proof of this by e-mailing a screen short to exams@mv16.org.uk

By signing Form 14 (E):

- Parents/carers/guardians will be declaring their understanding that:
 - it is fraudulent to claim that candidates are ill when they are fit to attend for a scheduled examination
 - it is fraudulent to claim that candidates have a positive Covid test when they do not
 - results can be withdrawn, and the candidates disqualified if fraudulent claims are made
- Candidates will be declaring their understanding that their results can be withdrawn or they can be disqualified if:
 - they claim to be ill when they were not
 - claim to have symptoms and following UKHSA guidance when they do not
 - claim to have a positive Covid result when they do not

If Melton Vale Sixth Form College suspects the authenticity of the details provided by a candidate within Form 14 (E), the matter will be investigated as suspected candidate malpractice using the standard JCQ policy and procedure⁴.

Minimum requirements for a candidate to receive a grade through the special consideration process

The JCQ guide to the special consideration process outlines the minimum requirements for an adjustment to be made to the grade where a candidate is absent for an acceptable reason.

In accordance with the supplementary guidance issued (*on the special consideration process for centres in England June 2022 examination series*), due to the exceptional circumstances, the awarding bodies will award a grade where eligible candidates have completed the assessment(s) for at least one whole component within the specification.

However, the guidance also confirms:

- A candidate cannot receive a grade for A-level Biology, Chemistry, Geology or Physics by only completing the Practical Skills Endorsement
- A candidate cannot receive a grade for GCSE English Language by only completing the Spoken Language Endorsement
- As in all previous standard examination series, a qualification award will not be made where none of the examinations/assessments within a specification have been completed

³ Refer to JCQ Forms (www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/access-arrangements-and-special-consideration/forms/)

⁴ Refer to the JCQ publication *Suspected Malpractice Policies and Procedures* (www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/malpractice/)