

What is special consideration?

Special consideration is a post-examination adjustment to a candidate's mark or grade to reflect temporary illness, temporary injury or some other event outside of the candidate's control at the time of the assessment, which has had, or is reasonably likely to have had, a material effect on a candidate's ability to take an assessment or demonstrate his or her normal level of attainment in an assessment.

Exams Managers at exam centres (Clare Harding is the EM at Larkmead School) must apply for special consideration for a student via the awarding bodies' websites. There is a strict deadline set by the Joint Council for Qualifications for all applications to be made each exam season. Once this deadline has past applications cannot be submitted.

Special consideration can only seek to go some way to assist a candidate affected by a potentially wide range of difficulties, emotional or physical, which may influence performance in examinations. It cannot remove the difficulty faced by the candidate. Only minor adjustments can be made to the mark awarded because to do more than this would jeopardise the standard of the examination.

All examinations are measuring what a candidate knows and can do. The overall grades awarded must reflect the level of attainment demonstrated in the examination(s). The grades awarded do not necessarily reflect the candidate's true level of ability if attainment has been considerably affected over a long period of time.

If you feel that your child is eligible for special consideration during an exam or assessment season you must speak to the Exams Manager or Head of Year. Evidence is required by awarding bodies' for each application.

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