

Candidates who are present for the assessment but disadvantaged

Special consideration cannot be applied in a cumulative fashion, e.g. on the basis of a domestic crisis at the time of the examination **and** the candidate suffering from a viral illness.

Candidates or their parents/carers should, in the first instance, discuss the application of special consideration with the school or college concerned.

Private candidates must liaise with the school or college which made entries on their behalf in respect of an application for special consideration.

The following circumstances must apply at the time of the assessment.

5% This is the maximum allowance and will be reserved for the most exceptional cases, such as:

- terminal illness of the candidate;
- terminal illness of a parent/carer;
- death of a member of the immediate family **within two months** of the examination;
- very serious and disruptive crisis/incident **at or near the time of the examination.**

4% Very serious problems such as:

- life-threatening illness of candidate or member of immediate family;
- major surgery **at or near the time of the examination;**
- severe disease;
- very recent death of member of extended family;
- severe or permanent bodily injury occurring **at the time of the examination;**
- serious crisis/incident **at the time of the examination.**

N.B. 'Very recent' is defined as within one month of the examination(s) taking place.

3% A more common category, (more cases will fall into this category) including:

- **recent** traumatic experience such as death of a close friend or distant relative;
- **recent** illness of a more serious nature;
- flare-up of a severe congenital/medical condition or a psychological condition;
- broken limbs;
- organ disease;
- physical assault trauma before an examination;
- recent crisis/incident;
- witnessing a distressing event **on the day** of the examination involved.

N.B. 'Recent' is defined as four months prior to the examination(s) taking place.

2% The most common category of allowance - the majority of cases will fall within this category:

- illness **at the time of the examination;**
- broken limb on the mend;
- concussion;
- effects of pregnancy (**not pregnancy** per se);
- extreme distress **on the day of an examination; (not simply exam related stress)**
- allowance on **last paper** taken in a day when a candidate has been entered for **three or more examinations timetabled for the same day and** the total duration of those papers is **more than 5 hours 30 minutes (GCSE examinations) or more than 6 hours (GCE examinations).**

(Where extra time has been used following formal approval, this should be included in the calculation.)

(Supervised rest breaks **must not** be included in the total duration of the papers when applying for special consideration.)

1% Reserved for more minor problems:

- noise during examination which is more than momentary;
- illness of another candidate which leads to disruption in the examination room;
- stress or anxiety for which medication has been prescribed;
- hay fever **on the day** of an examination;
- minor upset arising from administrative problems.

Where the request for special consideration fails to meet the criteria it will be rejected.