

External Examinations (GCSE, GCE) Access Arrangements and Reasonable Adjustments

If your child has adjustments to support them to access learning in school, we will make an application to the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) to gain permission to allow them to have these adjustments in their external GCSE, GCE, BTEC, Vocational and Entry Level examinations.

For most adjustments your child will need to be assessed by a qualified professional to prove their learning difficulties and/or disabilities meet the threshold set by JCQ. This assessment will usually take place during Year 10. Examples of adjustments that JCQ might allow are:

- Supervised rest breaks
- Extra time to complete examinations
- A reader to read questions
- A scribe to write their answers
- Use of a word processor with spell / grammar checks turned off

The use of a word processor might be allowed if it is an adjustment your child has been allowed in their lessons and is their normal way of working. This might have been put in place if your child has issues with vision, the speed or legibility of their handwriting for instance.

The use of a word processor in examinations is not always an advantage to students and some students find it hinders them. However, if it has been their normal way of producing written work in school and they are proficient in using a word processor we would consider allowing the use of a word processor in examinations. We would need to be sure typing supports a student to produce written work more effectively and at a speed that improves on their handwriting speed. School will always make this decision in consultation with students and their parents / carers based on evidence of students normal use of a word processor.