

## Compassionate Consideration Guidelines

The compassionate consideration application is for consideration to be given to a candidate who has been disadvantaged because of a temporary impairment or a non-permanent disability close to or during an examination and which has prevented attendance or affected performance in the examination.

- 1 Applications may refer to events of a medical or non-medical nature that could have had an effect on the candidate during the examination.
- 2 Significant conditions or events **in the week prior** to the start of the examinations that interfere with preparation for the examination could be accepted, as well as impairment occurring during the actual examinations.
- 3 The overriding principles for compassionate considerations are:
  - fairness to the applicant **and** to all other candidates
  - whether the candidate was able to perform on the day of the examination to the level of **similar performance during the school year**.
- 4 Candidates suffering a temporary impairment or non-permanent disability should be encouraged to sit the examination and apply for compassionate consideration if they consider their performance was compromised. Candidates who might apply for compassionate consideration often perform better in the examination than during the year.
- 5 Where a candidate suffering a temporary impairment or non-permanent disability does not sit the examination, compassionate consideration can be granted where independent professional evidence is produced showing that a serious situation on the day of the examination and beyond the candidate's control made it impossible to sit the examination.
- 6 **The situation must be of a serious nature.** Applications will not be granted for minor ailments, stress due to examinations, parents being on holiday, or day-to-day family disturbances.
- 7 Where a candidate does sit the examination but believes that conditions prevailed to impair examination performance, consideration may be granted in some circumstances.
- 8 Events occurring on the day of the examination must be verified and reasons for their alleged impact on performance described.
9. Events occurring in the week leading up to the examination can be relevant if they impaired the candidate's ability to prepare adequately or left a **significant** residual effect on the day of the examination. The applicant must demonstrate that effective preparation was not possible in the week before the examinations and **provide evidence that they were under continuous and well-documented care by a health or other professional**

10. The following conditions are **not** acceptable grounds for compassionate consideration:

- Long-term conditions (e.g. physical disability, epilepsy, depression, diabetes)
- Chronic relapsing conditions (e.g. glandular fever, ME)
- Ongoing personal trauma

However, an application might be appropriate if a change in a long-term or recurring condition further impairs a candidate's ability to perform on the day of the examination **to the level they have been able to perform** in that standard during the year. For example, there may be impairment due to a change in medication, a seizure on the day of an examination or a significant personal event unrelated to their ongoing illness. In these cases, the impairment is deemed to be temporary and can be dealt with through compassionate consideration in the normal way with an appropriate detailed report by a health professional.

11. Reference candidates for compassionate considerations must equate with a candidate's actual performance based upon standard-specific evidence gathered during the year. Candidates suffering from long-term or recurring conditions may have to accept that their results will be affected because the ongoing effects of their condition may also have compromised their performance throughout the year. In some of these cases applications for special assessment conditions may have been more appropriate.