



LONDON PROFESSIONAL ACADEMY (LPA)

EXAM EQUALITY POLICY

Title: Exam Equality Policy

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PURPOSE

This document is provided as an exams-specific supplement to the centre-wide equalities/disability/accessibility policy/plan which details how the centre will:

- recognise its duties towards disabled candidates, ensuring compliance with all aspects of the Equality Act 2010[†], particularly Section 20 (7). This must include a duty to explore and provide access to suitable courses, through the access arrangements process submit applications for reasonable adjustments and make reasonable adjustments to the service the centre provides to disabled candidates.
- Where the centre is under a duty to make a reasonable adjustment, the centre must not charge a disabled candidate any additional fee in relation to the adjustment or aid or any legislation in a relevant jurisdiction other than England and Wales which has an equivalent purpose and effect (JCQ's General Regulations for Approved Centres, section 5.4). This publication is further referred to in this policy on this JCQ link:

<https://www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/general-regulations>

- This policy details how the centre facilitates access to exams and assessments for disabled candidates, as defined under the terms of the Equality Act 2010, by outlining staff roles and responsibilities in relation to:
 - identifying the need for appropriate arrangements, reasonable adjustments and/or adaptations (referred to in this policy as 'access arrangements')
 - requesting access arrangements
 - implementing access arrangements and the conduct of exams
 - good practice in relation to the Equality Act 2010

THE EQUALITY ACT 2010 DISABILITY DEFINITION

A definition is provided in the JCQ publication (Adjustments for candidates with disabilities and learning difficulties) Access Arrangements and Reasonable Adjustments 2023-2024. This publication is further referred to in this policy as AA

IDENTIFYING THE NEEDS FOR ACCESS ARRANGEMENTS

Roles and responsibilities

Head of centre/Senior Management Team (SMT)

- Are familiar with the entire contents, refers to and directs relevant centre staff to the annually updated JCQ publications including GR and AA as outlined by JCQ
- Ensures the quality of the access arrangements process within the centre

- Ensures staff roles, responsibilities and processes in identifying, requesting and implementing access arrangements for all candidates are clearly defined and documented
- Ensures an appropriately qualified assessor(s) is appointed, evidence of the assessor's qualification(s) is obtained before he/she assesses candidates and that evidence of the qualification(s) of the person(s) appointed is held on file
- Ensures a policy demonstrating the centre's compliance with relevant legislation is in place
- Supports the SMT in determining the need for and implementing access arrangements
- Defines and documents roles, responsibilities and processes in identifying, requesting and implementing access arrangements

Qualifications Officer/SENCo

- The Qualifications Officer acts as LPA SENCo
- Has full knowledge and understanding of the contents, refers to and directs relevant centre staff to the annually updated JCQ publication
- Ensures the assessment process is administered in accordance with the regulations and that the correct procedures are followed as in Chapter 7 of AA (JCQ)
- Ensures that the Word Processor Policy is adhered to when allocating the use of word processors for exams
- Leads on the access arrangements process to facilitate access for candidates
- Ensures that the access arrangements/reasonable adjustments approved allow the candidate to access the assessment, but do not result in the candidate gaining an unfair advantage
- Produces and reviews a word processor policy, specific to the centre, which details the criteria the centre uses to award and allocate word processors for examinations and assessments
- Works with the person/persons appointed as the qualified assessor, on all matters relating to assessing candidates and the administration of the assessment process
- Ensures the qualified assessor has access to the assessment objectives for the relevant specification a candidate is undertaking
- Ensures that all assessments carried out and arrangements put in place comply with JCQ and awarding body regulations and guidance
- Ensures arrangements put in place for exams/assessments reflect a candidate's normal way of working within the centre
- Ensures the need for access arrangements for a candidate is considered on a subject by subject basis
- Presents when requested by a JCQ Centre Inspector, evidence of the assessor's qualification/s

- Works with tutors to ensure centre-delegated and awarding body approved access arrangements are put in place for candidates taking internal and external exams/assessments
- Completes appropriate documentation as required by the regulations of JCQ and the awarding body

Tutors

- Where appropriate tutors inform of any observations about a candidate or any support that might be needed by a candidate
- Provide information to evidence the normal way of working of a candidate
- Complete relevant referral form for a candidate requiring access arrangements

Admin staff

- To inform the SENCo of any support that might be needed by a candidate that has come to their attention

Assessor of candidates with learning difficulties

- The assessor of candidates with learning difficulties will be an appropriately qualified access arrangements assessor/psychologist/specialist teacher assessor.
- The Assessor has detailed understanding of the JCQ publication
- Conducts appropriate assessments to identify the need(s) of a candidate
- Provides appropriate evidence to confirm the need(s) of a candidate

USE OF WORD PROCESSORS

The Word Processor Policy 2023-24 provides details of how the use of word processors is adhered to when allocating their use in exams.

REQUESTING ACCESS ARRANGEMENTS

Roles and responsibilities

Qualifications Officer

- Determines if the arrangements identified for a candidate require prior approval from the awarding body
- Is familiar with the entire contents of the annually updated JCQ publication General Regulation and is aware of information contained in AA (JCQ)
- Follows guidance in AA to process approval applications for access arrangements
- Applies for approval where this is required, through Access arrangements online (AAO), or through the awarding body
- Ensures that where approval is required the application is processed on time and no later than the awarding body's published deadline

- Ensures that the full supporting evidence is in place
- Reviews the evidence before an online application is processed
- Holds all supporting evidence and presents such evidence to a JCQ Centre Inspector upon request
- Ensures that the agreed adjustment has been put in place before the candidate's first examination, e.g. internal tests and mock examinations
- Ensures appropriate and required evidence is held on file to confirm validation responses in AAO including (where required) the completion of relevant JCQ forms, such as Form 8 (Application for access arrangements – Profile of learning difficulties), Form 9 (Profile of need), Form 8RF, Form BD25, etc. supplemented by written statements, where required, etc.
- Ensures where JCQ forms are required to be completed, signed and dated prior to approval being sought and provided for processing and inspection purposes (This may be a hard copy paper version or an electronic version)
- Confirms prior to submitting the application for approval that the 'malpractice consequence statement' has been read and accepted
- Makes an awarding body referral through AAO where it is deemed by the centre that the candidate does meet the criteria for the arrangement(s)
- Maintains a file/e-folder for each candidate that will include:
 - completed JCQ/awarding body application forms and evidence forms
 - appropriate evidence to support the need for the arrangement where required
 - appropriate evidence to support normal way of working within the centre
 - in addition, the AAO approval, a signed candidate personal data consent form
 - (where applicable) 'Data protection confirmation by the examinations officer or SENCo' acknowledged before an application is processed online
- Presents the files/e-folders when requested by a JCQ Centre Inspector and addresses any queries/questions raised
- Liaises with teaching staff regarding any appropriate modified paper requirements for candidates
- Ensures arrangements are in place to download a PDF copy of the standard question paper or to open a question paper packet in the secure room within 90 minutes of the awarding body's published starting time for the exam where the centre is permitted to modify a timetabled written component exam paper (copy on coloured paper, enlarge to A3 or copy to single sided print)
- Following the appropriate process (using Form VQ/EA), orders published modified papers, by the awarding body's deadline for the exam series
- If the SENCo is unavailable, presents the files/e-folders of access arrangements for candidates when requested by a JCQ Centre Inspector and addresses any queries/questions raised

IMPLEMENTING ACCESS ARRANGEMENTS AND THE CONDUCT OF EXAMS

Roles and responsibilities

External assessments

These are assessments which are normally set and marked/examined by an awarding body which must be conducted according to awarding body instructions and/or the JCQ publication Instructions for conducting examinations (ICE).

Head of centre

- Supports the Qualifications Officer/SENCo and other relevant centre staff in ensuring appropriate arrangements, adjustments and adaptations are in place to facilitate access for disabled candidates to exams
- Is familiar with the instructions for Invigilation arrangements for candidates with access arrangements and Access arrangements in ICE 2023-2024
- Ensures that prior to any arrangements being put in place checks are made that arrangements do not impact on any assessment criteria/competence standards being tested
- Ensures that any arrangements put in place do not unfairly disadvantage or advantage disabled candidates

Qualifications Officer

- Ensures appropriate arrangements, adjustments and adaptations are in place to facilitate access for candidates where they are disabled
- Understands and follows instructions for Invigilation arrangements for candidates with access arrangements
- Ensures a candidate is involved in any decisions about arrangements, adjustments and/or adaptations that may be put in place for him/her
- Ensures exam information (JCQ information for candidates' documents, individual exam timetable etc.) is adapted
- Ensures that any arrangements put in place do not unfairly disadvantage or advantage disabled candidates
- Monitors, in internal tests/mock exams, the use of arrangements granted to a candidate
- Arranges the facilitation and invigilation of access arrangement, manages the rooming and liaises with other relevant staff e.g. caretaker
- Appoints appropriate centre staff as facilitators to support candidates (practical assistant, prompter, Language Modifier, reader, scribe or Communication Professional), are appropriately trained and understand the rules of the particular access arrangement(s)

- Ensures a record of the content of training given to those facilitating an access arrangement is kept and retained until the deadline for reviews of marking has passed or until any appeal, malpractice or other results enquiry has been completed, whichever is later
- Ensures where a person is appointed to facilitate an access arrangement, the person appointed is not normally the candidate's own subject teacher, a relative, friend, peer or private tutor of the candidate
- Ensures a facilitator acting as a prompter is aware of the appropriate way to prompt depending on the needs of the candidate
- Ensures that invigilators are made aware of the Equality Act 2010 and are trained in disability issues
- Ensures invigilators supervising access arrangement candidates are trained in their role and understand the invigilation arrangements required for access arrangement candidates and the role of any facilitator
- Ensures cover sheets, where these are required by the arrangement are completed as required by facilitators
- Arranges a facilitator if required to support a candidate requiring an emergency (temporary) access arrangement at the time of exams
- Ensures appropriate seating arrangements are in place where different arrangements may need to be made for a candidate to facilitate access to his/her exams
- Ensures candidates with access arrangements are identified on exam room seating plans and invigilators are informed of those candidates with access arrangements and made aware of the access arrangement(s) awarded
- Ensures invigilators are briefed prior to each exam session of the arrangements in place for a disabled candidate in their exam room
- Checks in advance of dated exams/assessments that modified paper orders have arrived (and if not will contact the awarding body to ensure that papers are available when required)
- Makes modifications that are permitted by the centre (a question paper copied onto coloured paper, an A4 to A3 enlarged paper or a paper printed on single sheets or where a question paper may need to be scanned into PDF format where a candidate is approved the use of a computer reader) that may be required and either accesses a non-interactive electronic (PDF) question paper or opens the exam question paper packet in the secure room no earlier than 90 minutes prior to the awarding body's published start time of the exam
- Understands that where permitted/approved, a secure question paper packet may need to be opened early in the secure room to facilitate the following:
 - a Language Modifier may have access to the question paper 60 minutes prior to the awarding body's published start time for the exam in order to prepare
 - the Communication Professional may have access to the question paper 60 minutes prior to the awarding body's published start time for the exam in order to prepare

- the Live Speaker may have access to the transcript of the Listening examination 60 minutes prior to the awarding body's published start time for the exam in order to prepare
- Provides cover sheets prior to the start of an exam where required for particular access arrangements and ensures that these have been fully completed before candidates' scripts are dispatched to examiners/markers
- prints pre-populated cover sheets from AAO where this is required for particular arrangements
- Has a process in place to deal with emergency (temporary) access arrangements as they arise at the time of exams in terms of rooming and invigilation
- Where required for emergency (temporary) access arrangements, applies for approval through AAO or through the awarding body where qualifications sit outside the scope of AAO
- Arranges a facilitator to support a candidate requiring an emergency (temporary) access arrangement at the time of exams

Other relevant centre staff

- Support the Qualifications Officer to ensure appropriate arrangements, adjustments and adaptations are in place to facilitate access for disabled candidates to exams
- Assists with the rooming arrangements for access arrangement candidates
- IT department to provide a Word Processor or any other IT equipment that might need to be provided or adapted for a candidate
- Caretaker is responsible for preparing rooms and non-specialist equipment (chairs, tables, clocks etc.) used for exams
- Senior managers are responsible for the centre's emergency evacuation procedures and the arrangements that may need to be in place for a candidate with a disability who may need assistance when an exam room is evacuated

Internal assessments

These are non-examination assessments (NEA) which are normally set by a centre/awarding body, marked and internally moderated/standardised by the centre and externally moderated by the awarding body.

Qualifications Officer

- Liaises with teaching staff to implement appropriate access arrangements for candidates
- Ensures awarding body approved arrangements are in place
- Ensures candidates are aware of the access arrangements
- Ensures facilitators supporting candidates are appropriately trained and understand the rules of the particular access arrangement(s)
- Ensures cover sheets are completed as required by facilitators

- Liaises with the tutor where a facilitator may be required to support a candidate requiring an emergency (temporary) access arrangement at the time of his/her formal supervised assessment

Teaching staff

- Support the Qualifications Officer in implementing appropriate access arrangements for candidates
- Ensures a candidate has had appropriate opportunities to practise using the access arrangement(s) before his/her first examination
- Liaises with the Qualifications Officer regarding assessment materials that may need to be modified for a candidate

Mock tests

These are tests which are set and marked within the centre; normally a pre-cursor to external assessments.

Qualifications Officer

- Liaises with teaching staff to implement appropriate access arrangements for candidates
- Provide exam materials that may need to be modified for a candidate

Teaching staff

- Support the Qualifications Officer in implementing appropriate access arrangements for candidates
- Liaise with the Qualifications Officer to agree dates to ensure arrangements are put in place when required