

Chapter 1

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 other indisposition 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.

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. There will be situations where candidates should not be entered for an examination. Only minor adjustments can be made to the mark awarded because to do more than this would jeopardize the standard of the examination.

There are minimum requirements for enhanced grading in cases of acceptable absence (see Chapter 4, section 4.3, pages 8 and 9).

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.** 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.

It is not necessarily the case that the grade issued will match the estimated/forecast grade. Where long term circumstances have prevented the candidate from reaching the competence standards it may not be possible to make an adjustment.