



Exams policy

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Date of Policy: February 2023.

Frequency of Review: Two yearly.

Date of Next Review: January 2025.

Wize Up is committed to ensuring that the exams management and administration process is run effectively and efficiently.

The purpose of this exams policy is:

- to ensure the planning and management of exams is conducted efficiently and in the best interests of candidates.
- to ensure the operation of an efficient exams system with clear guidelines for all relevant staff.
- all aspects of the centre's exam process are documented, supporting the exams contingency plan, and other relevant exams-related policies, procedures and plans are signposted to
- all centre staff involved in the exams process clearly understand their roles and responsibilities
- all exams and assessments are conducted according to JCQ and awarding body regulations, guidance and instructions, thus maintaining the integrity and security of the exam/assessment system at all times
- exam candidates understand the exams process and what is expected of them

It is the responsibility of everyone involved in Wize Up's exam processes to read, understand, and implement this policy.

The exams policy will be reviewed every 2 years or before this time dependant on any new regulations to ensure ways of working in the centre are accurately reflected and that exams and assessments are conducted to current JCQ (and awarding body) regulations, instructions, and guidance.

The exams policy will be reviewed by the Exams officer.

Where references are made to JCQ regulations/guidelines, further details can be found at www.jcq.org.uk.

This policy will be communicated to all relevant centre staff via staff meetings, available online and in the main office.

Roles and responsibilities overview

“The head of centre is the individual who is accountable to the awarding bodies for ensuring that the centre is compliant with the published JCQ regulations and awarding body requirements to ensure the security and integrity of the examinations/assessments at all times. This individual must have the authority to deploy the necessary resources to ensure that the centre is always compliant in meeting those published JCQ regulations and awarding body requirements.

Heads of centre must ensure that senior leadership teams and exam office personnel familiarise themselves with the entire contents of JCQ General Regulations for Approved Centres booklet. In particular, heads of centre must familiarise themselves with sections 5.1, 5.3 and 5.4.

Heads of centre must ensure that relevant members of staff respond promptly to requests for information from awarding bodies relating to the administration and conducting of examinations/assessments. (GR, section 1)

The examinations officer is the person appointed by the head of centre to act on behalf of, and be the main point of contact for, the centre in matters relating to the general administration of awarding body examinations and assessments.

The headteacher (the head of centre) may not appoint themselves as the examinations officer. A head of centre and an examinations officer are two distinct and separate roles.

The head of centre and/or examinations officer may operate across more than one centre. In such cases the head of centre must ensure there is suitable senior leadership team support in place, so they can meet their obligations across all centres for which they are responsible. The head of centre must ensure that these arrangements are covered by their examination contingency plan. ([GR, section 2](#))

Exam responsibilities

The head of centre:

is the individual who is accountable to the awarding bodies for ensuring that the centre is always compliant with the published JCQ regulations and awarding body requirements to ensure the security and integrity of the examinations/assessments. **It is the responsibility of the head of centre to ensure that all staff comply with the instructions in the (Instructions for conducting examinations) booklet.** Failure to do so may constitute malpractice as defined in the JCQ publication *Suspected Malpractice: Policies and Procedures, 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024*:

<https://www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/malpractice> ([ICE](#) Introduction)

- has overall responsibility for the school/college as an exams centre and advises on appeals and re-marks.
- is responsible for reporting all suspected or actual incidents of malpractice - refer to the JCQ document *Suspected malpractice in examinations and assessments*.
- Understands the contents, refers to and directs relevant centre staff to annually updated JCQ publications including:
 - [General regulations for approved centres](#) (GR)
 - [Instructions for conducting examinations](#) (ICE)
 - [Access Arrangements and Reasonable Adjustments \(AA\)](#)
 - [Suspected Malpractice in Examinations and Assessments \(SMEA\)](#)
 - [Instructions for conducting non-examination assessments \(NEA\) \(and the instructions for conducting coursework\)](#)
 - [A guide to the special consideration process \(SC\)](#)

- Ensures the centre has appropriate accommodation to support the size of the cohorts being taught including appropriate accommodation for candidates requiring access arrangements for exams and assessments
- Where/if using a third party to deliver any part of a qualification (including its assessments) at the centre:
 - maintains oversight of, and responsibility for, the delivery of the qualification in accordance with JCQ regulations and awarding body requirements
 - has in place a written agreement with the third party to ensure there is a shared understanding of the arrangement and will manage the risk of failure by the third party to deliver the expected service
 - ensures that a copy of the written agreement is available for inspection if requested by the awarding body

Takes responsibility for responding to the National Centre Number Register annual update (administered on behalf of the JCQ member awarding bodies by OCR ocr.org.uk/administration/stage-1-preparation/ncn-annual-update/) by the end of October each year confirming they are both aware of and adhering to the latest version of the JCQ regulations and signs and returns the head of centre's declaration which is then kept on file for inspection purposes This is located in the exams masters file in the main office.

- Ensures the exams officer (EO) receives appropriate support from relevant centre staff and enables the EO to attend appropriate training and other events to facilitate the effective delivery of exams and assessments within the centre (as example, EO networking events and relevant events offered by awarding bodies, MIS providers and other external providers)
 - Ensures that relevant members of staff respond promptly to actions raised by the JCQ Centre Inspection Service, understanding that failure to do so could result in the same penalties as listed in the previous bullet point penalties (see National Centre Number Register and other information requirements section)
 - Ensures a named member of staff acts as the Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCo)
 - Ensures that the examinations officer has sufficient time to perform their role and familiarise him/herself with relevant awarding body and JCQ documentation.
 - Ensures centre staff are supported and appropriately trained to undertake key tasks within the exams process
 - Ensures centre staff undertake key tasks within the exams process and meet internal deadlines set by the EO
 - Ensures *“that a teacher who teaches the subject being examined, or a senior member of teaching staff who has had overall responsibility for the candidates preparation for the examination, is not an invigilator during the timetabled written examination or on-screen test...”*
- [ICE 12]
- Ensures confidentiality and security within the examination process is compliant with and managed according to JCQ and awarding body regulations, guidance and instructions including

- the location of the centre's secure storage facility in a secure room solely assigned to examinations for the purpose of administering secure examination materials
- appropriate arrangements are in place to ensure that confidential materials are only delivered to authorised members of centre staff
- access to the secure room and secure storage facility is restricted to the authorised 2-4 keyholders
- At least two and no more than six members of centre staff should be authorised to handle secure electronic materials, one of whom must be the exams officer*. Other members of centre staff may assist with printing and collation provided they are under supervision.
*For AQA examinations, one member of centre staff can be authorised to handle secure electronic material.
- the relevant awarding body is immediately informed if the security of question papers or confidential supporting instructions is put at risk
- that arrangements are in place to check that the correct question paper packets are opened by authorised members of centre staff
- Takes all reasonable steps to prevent the occurrence of any malpractice (which includes maladministration) before, during and after examinations have taken place
- Ensures irregularities are investigated and informs the awarding bodies of any cases of alleged, suspected or actual incidents of malpractice or maladministration, involving a candidate or a member of staff, are reported to the awarding body immediately
- Ensures risks to the exam process are assessed and appropriate risk management processes/contingency plans are in place (that allow the head of centre to act immediately in the event of an emergency or staff absence)
- Ensures required internal appeals procedures are in place and drawn to the attention of candidates and (where relevant) their parents/carers
- Ensures the centre's disability policy demonstrating the centre's compliance with relevant legislation is in place and details the processes followed in respect of identifying the need for, requesting, and implementing access arrangements
- Ensures the centre's disability policy demonstrating the centre's compliance with relevant legislation is in place and details the processes followed in respect of identifying the need for, requesting, and implementing access arrangements
- data *and appeals procedure* covering general complaints regarding the centre's delivery or administration of a qualification is in place and drawn to the attention of candidates and their parents/carers
- Ensures the centre has a child protection/safeguarding policy in place, including Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) clearance, which satisfies current legislative requirements

- Ensures the centre has a data protection policy in place that complies with General Data Protection Regulation and Data Protection Act 2018 regulations
- Legislation on sharing information Under the principles of the General Data Protection Regulations 2018 and the Data Protection Act 2018, children and yoctober
- oung adults can assume control over their personal information and restrict access to it from the age of 13. This suggests that candidate consent should be sought to share results or other exams-related information with a third party. Other legislation and guidance may need to be taken into account regarding sharing information with parents, as example information from the DfE for schools regarding parental responsibility and school reports on pupil performance: · Understanding and dealing with issues relating to parental responsibility(last updated 24 August 2023 to include) www.gov.uk/government/publications/dealing-with-issues-relating-to-parental-responsibility/understanding-and-dealing-with-issues-relating-to-parental-responsibility
- Ensures the centre has documented processes in place relating to access arrangements and reasonable adjustments
- Ensures staff are only entered for qualifications through the centre as a last resort where the member of centre staff is unable to find another centre
- Ensures the relevant awarding bodies are informed of any declaration/conflict of interest where a candidate is being taught, prepared, entered or sitting exams where a relevant member of centre staff has a personal connection to the candidate
- Ensures the relevant awarding bodies are informed before the published deadline for entries for each examination series of any potential conflict of interest where
 - a member of centre staff is taking a qualification at the centre which includes internally assessed components/units (taking at the centre as a last resort where unable to find an alternative centre)
 - a candidate is being taught and prepared for a qualification which includes internally assessed components/units by a member of centre staff with close relationship to the candidate
- Maintains clear records that confirm the measures taken/protocols in place to mitigate any potential risk to the integrity of the qualifications affected by the above, and where
 - a member of exams office staff has a close relationship to a candidate being entered for exams and assessments at the centre or at another centre
 - a member of centre staff is taking a qualification at the centre which does not include internally assessed components/units (taking at the centre as a last resort where unable to find an alternative centre)
 - a member of centre staff is taking a qualification at another centre
- Ensures other relevant centre staff where they may be involved in the receipt and dispatch of confidential exam materials are briefed on the

requirements for maintaining the integrity and confidentiality of the exam materials

- Ensures members of centre staff do **not** forward e-mails and letters from awarding body or JCQ personnel without prior consent to third parties or upload such correspondence onto social media sites and applications
- Ensures members of centre staff do **not** advise parents/candidates to contact awarding bodies/JCQ directly nor provide them with addresses/email addresses of awarding body examining/assessment or JCQ personnel

Malpractice

- Through taking an ethical approach and working proactively to avoid malpractice among students and staff takes all reasonable steps to prevent the occurrence of any malpractice/maladministration before, during and after assessments have taken place
- Ensures any person involved in administering, teaching or completing examinations/assessments is advised that where malpractice is suspected, or alleged, personal data about them will be provided to the awarding body (or bodies) whose examinations/assessments are involved. Personal data about them may also be shared with other awarding bodies, the qualifications regulator or professional bodies in accordance with the JCQ publication *Suspected Malpractice – Policies and Procedures*
- Ensures irregularities are investigated and informs the awarding bodies immediately of any alleged, suspected or actual incidents of malpractice or maladministration, involving a candidate or a member of staff, by completing the appropriate documentation
- As required by an awarding body, ensures evidence of any instances of alleged or suspected malpractice (which includes maladministration) is gathered in accordance with the JCQ publication *Suspected Malpractice - Policies and Procedures* and provides such information and advice as the awarding body may reasonably require

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Policies/procedures

- Ensures risks to the exam process are assessed and appropriate risk management processes/contingency plans are in place (that allow the senior leadership team to act immediately in the event of an emergency or where the head of centre, the examinations officer or SENCo is absent at a critical stage of the examination cycle)

The examination contingency plan should reinforce procedures in the event of the centre being unavailable for examinations owing to an unforeseen emergency.

All relevant centre staff must be familiar with the examination contingency plan. Consideration should be given as to how these arrangements will be communicated to candidates, parents and staff should disruption to examinations occur.

Exam Contingency planning

Contingency planning for exams administration is the responsibility of the Exams officer, Pastoral and Curriculum Lead and Head Teacher.

Contingency plans are available via briefing meetings and are in line with the guidance provided by Ofqual, JCQ and awarding organisations.

See page 21 onwards for policy.

National Centre Number Register

- Provides contact details and an address to which all correspondence in connection with the administration of examinations and assessments can be directed which must be the registered address of the centre
- Ensures the National Centre Number Register annual update is responded to by the end of October every year
- Takes responsibility for confirming, on an annual basis, that they are both aware of and adhering to the latest version of the JCQ's regulations. This confirmation is managed as part of the National Centre Number Register (NCNR) annual update
- Understands that this responsibility cannot be delegated to a member of the senior leadership team or the examinations officer, and acknowledges that failure to respond to the NCNR annual update, and/or the head of centre's declaration, will result in:
 - the centre status being suspended
 - the centre not being able to submit examination entries
 - the centre not receiving or being able to access question papers and ultimately, awarding bodies could withdraw their approval of the centre

Exams officer¹:

- manages the administration of external exams.
- advises the senior leadership team, subject and class tutors, and other relevant support staff on annual exams timetables and procedures as set by the various awarding bodies.
- oversees the production and distribution to all centre staff and candidates, of an annual calendar for all exams in which candidates will be involved and communicates regularly with staff concerning imminent deadlines and events.
- ensures that candidates and their parents are informed of and understand those aspects of the exams timetable that will affect them.
- checks with teaching staff that the necessary coursework and/or controlled assessments are completed on time and in accordance with JCQ guidelines.
- provides and confirms detailed data on estimated entries.
- maintains systems and processes to support the timely entry of candidates for their exams.
- receives, checks, and stores securely all exam papers and completed scripts and ensures that scripts are dispatched as per the guidelines.
- administers access arrangements and makes applications for special consideration following the regulations in the JCQ publications for Access arrangements, reasonable adjustments and special consideration along with the SENCo.
- identifies and manages exam timetable clashes.
- accounts for income and expenditures relating to all exam costs/charges in conjunction with the finance officer.
- line manages the senior exams invigilator in organising the recruitment, training, and monitoring of a team of exams invigilators responsible for the conduct of exams.
- ensures candidates' coursework / controlled assessment marks are submitted, and any other material required by the appropriate awarding bodies correctly and on schedule.
- tracks, dispatches, and stores returned coursework / controlled assessments.
- arranges for dissemination of exam results and certificates to candidates and forwards, in consultation with the SLT, any post results service requests.
- Understands the contents of annually updated JCQ publications including:
 - [General regulations for approved centres](#)
 - [Instructions for conducting examinations](#)
 - [Suspected Malpractice in Examinations and Assessments](#)
 - [Post-results services \(PRS\)](#)
- Is familiar with the contents of annually updated information from awarding bodies on administrative procedures, key tasks, key dates and deadlines
- Ensures key tasks are undertaken and key dates and deadlines met
- Recruits, trains, and deploys a team of internal/external invigilators; appoints lead invigilators, as required and keeps a record of the content of training provided to invigilators for the required period

¹ This is the individual to whom the Head of Centre has delegated responsibility for the administration of exams in their centre.

- Supports the head of centre in ensuring that awarding bodies are informed of any declaration/conflict of interest involving candidates and relevant members of centre staff before the published deadline for entries
- Briefs other relevant centre staff where they may be involved in the receipt and dispatch of confidential exam materials on the requirements for maintaining the integrity and confidentiality of the exam materials
- Completes/submits the National Centre Number Register annual update (administered on behalf of the JCQ member awarding bodies by OCR <https://ocr.org.uk/administration/ncn-annual-update/>) by the end of October each year
 - Confirms the details or informs the awarding bodies of any changes to the centre's contact details through the National Centre Number Register
 - Informs the National Centre Number Register Team **immediately** (e-mail address – ncn@ocr.org.uk) if any changes occur after the National Centre Number Register annual update has taken place
 - (Where it may be applicable) Informs the National Centre Number Register Team no later than 6 weeks prior to moving to a new address or a re-location of the secure storage facility
 - Informs the National Centre Number Register Team immediately of any other changes in circumstances that could affect the centre's status

Teachers are responsible for:

- guidance and pastoral oversight of candidates who are unsure about exams entries or amendments to entries.
- accurate completion of entry and all other mark sheets and adherence to deadlines as set by the exams officer.
- accurate completion of coursework / controlled assessment mark sheets and declaration sheets.
- decisions on post-results procedures.
- supplying information on entries, coursework and controlled assessments as required by the head of department and/or exams officer.
- Are familiar with the contents, refer to and direct relevant centre staff to annually updated JCQ publications including:
 - [General regulations for approved centres](#)
 - [Instructions for conducting examinations](#)
 - [Access Arrangements and Reasonable Adjustments](#)
 - [Suspected Malpractice in Examinations and Assessments](#)
 - [Instructions for conducting non-examination assessments \(and the instructions for conducting coursework\)](#)

Senior leaders

- Are familiar with the contents, refer to and direct relevant centre staff to annually updated JCQ publications including:
 - [General Regulations for Approved Centres](#)
 - [Instructions for conducting examinations](#)
 - [Access Arrangements and Reasonable Adjustments](#)
 - [Suspected Malpractice - Policies and Procedures](#)

- [Instructions for conducting non-examination assessments \(and the instructions for conducting coursework\)](#)
- [A guide to the special consideration process](#)
- Ensure teaching staff undertake key tasks, as detailed in this policy, within the exams process (exam cycle) and meet internal deadlines set by the EO and LS lead/SENCo
- Ensure teaching staff keep themselves updated with awarding body subject and teacher-specific information to confirm effective delivery of qualifications
- Ensure teaching staff attend relevant awarding body training and update events

The **Learning Support (ALS) lead/Special educational needs coordinator (SENCo)** is responsible for:

- identification and testing of candidates' requirements for access arrangements and notifying the exams officer in good time so that they are able to process any necessary applications in order to gain approval (if required).
- working with the exams officer to provide the access arrangements required by candidates in exams rooms.
- Understands the contents, refers to and directs relevant centre staff to annually updated JCQ publications including: [Access Arrangements and Reasonable Adjustments](#)
- Leads on the access arrangements and reasonable adjustments process (referred to in this policy as 'access arrangements')
- If not the qualified access arrangements assessor, works with the person appointed, on all matters relating to assessing candidates and ensures the correct procedures are followed
- Presents when requested by a JCQ Centre Inspector, evidence of the assessor's qualification

Lead invigilator/invigilators are responsible for:

- assisting the exams officer in the efficient running of exams according to JCQ regulations firstly and conditions handbook secondly, should there be any conflict with the JCQ regulations supersede the handbook and such incident should be reported to the exams officer.
- collection of exam papers and other material from the exams office before the start of the exam.
- collection of all exam papers in the correct order at the end of the exam and ensuring their return to the exams office.

Reception staff

- Support the EO in the receipt and dispatch of confidential exam materials and follow the requirements for maintaining the integrity and confidentiality of the exam materials

Site staff

- Support the EO in relevant matters relating to exam rooms and resources

Candidates

Where applicable in this policy, the term 'candidates' refers to candidates and/or their parents/carers.

Candidates are responsible for:

- confirmation and signing of entries.
- understanding coursework / controlled assessment regulations and signing a declaration that authenticates the coursework as their own.
- ensuring the conduct themselves in all exams according to the JCQ regulations.

Qualifications offered

The qualifications offered at this centre are decided by the Head teacher.

The types of qualifications offered are GCSE, Functional Skills, entry level and AQA Unit awards scheme.

The subjects offered for these qualifications in any academic year may be found in Wize Up's published prospectus or similar documents for that year on the website. If there is to be a change of specification for the next year, the exams officer must be informed by May.

Informing the exams officer of changes to a specification is the responsibility of the Teachers once consulted with the Head Teacher.

Decisions on whether a candidate should be entered for a particular subject will be taken by Teachers in consultation with the Head teacher and Curriculum and Pastoral lead.

Exam series

Internal exams (mock or trial exams) and assessments are scheduled in every half term.

External exams and assessments are scheduled in November, January March and Summer. * Please note that GCSE courses will only examine in the Summer, Functional Skills will continue to run as normal.

Internal exams are held under external exam conditions.

The Head Teacher, Pastoral and Curriculum lead and Exams officer decides which exam series are used in Wize Up.

Wize Up can offer some assessments on an on-demand basis. If offered, on-demand assessments can be scheduled only in windows agreed between the Head Teacher and the Exams officer.

Exam timetables

Once confirmed, the exams officer will circulate the exam timetables for external exams at a specified date before each series begins.

The exam cycle

The exams management and administration process that needs to be undertaken for each **exam series** is often referred to as the **exam cycle** and relevant tasks required within this grouped into the following stages:

- ▶ planning
- ▶ entries
- ▶ pre-exams
- ▶ exam time
- ▶ results and post-results

This policy identifies roles and responsibilities of centre staff within this cycle.

Entries, entry details and late entries

Candidates or parents/carers can request a subject entry, change of level or withdrawal. Should a withdrawal be requested after the time Wize Up can claim a refund, then the parent will be liable for the cost of the examination. Should a parent wish a candidate to be entered for an examination which they would not have been entered for, then the parent will need to make payment for the examination in advance, should this be requested after the deadline for making entries then payment will be subject to late entry fees.

Wize Up does not ordinarily accept entries from private candidates.

Wize Up does not act as an exam centre for other organisations.

Entry deadlines are circulated to teachers via email and the year breakdown at the beginning of the academic year.

Teachers will provide estimated entry information to the exams officer to meet JCQ and awarding body deadlines.

Entries and amendments made after an awarding organisation's deadline (i.e., late) require the authorisation, in writing, of The Head Teacher.

GCSE re-sits/retakes are allowed depending on the year first taken.

Functional skills re-sits/retakes are/ allowed.

Re-sit decisions will be made by Head of Department in consultation with The Head Teacher.

Exam fees

Candidates or departments will not be charged for changes of tier, withdrawals made by the proper procedures or alterations arising from administrative processes provided these are made within the time allowed by the awarding bodies.

The exams officer will publish the deadline for action well in advance for each exams series.

GCSE entry exam fees are paid by Wize Up, department/schools, candidates, not applicable.

Functional skills entry exam fees are paid by Wize Up, department/schools, candidates, not applicable.

Late entry or amendment fees are paid dependant on who has requested the change/entry: Wize Up, department/schools, candidates.

Fee reimbursements are sought from candidates:

- If they fail to sit an exam
- If they do not meet the necessary coursework requirements without medical evidence or evidence of other mitigating circumstances

Re-sit fees are paid by Wize Up, department/schools, candidates, not applicable.

Information sharing

Head of centre

- Directs relevant centre staff to annually updated JCQ publications including [GR](#), [ICE](#), [AA](#), [SM](#), [NEA](#) (and the *Instructions for conducting coursework*) and [SC](#)

Exams officer

- Signposts relevant centre staff to JCQ publications and awarding body documentation relating to the exams process that have been updated
- Signposts relevant centre staff to JCQ information that should be provided to candidates
- As the centre administrator, approves relevant access rights for centre staff to access awarding body secure extranet sites

Information gathering

Exams officer

- Undertakes an annual information gathering exercise in preparation for each new academic year to ensure data about all qualifications being delivered is up to date and correct
- Collates all information gathered into one central point of reference
- Researches awarding body guidance to identify administrative processes, key tasks, key dates and deadlines for all relevant qualifications
- Produces an annual exams plan of key tasks and key dates to ensure all external deadlines can be effectively met; informs key centre staff of internal deadlines

- Collects information on internal exams to enable preparation for and conduct of (insert the titles these internal exams are referred to in the centre)

Senior leaders

- Respond (or ensure teaching staff respond) to requests from the EO on information gathering
- Meet the internal deadline for the return of information
- Inform the EO of any changes to information in a timely manner minimising the risk of late or other penalty fees being incurred by an awarding body
- Note the internal deadlines in the annual exams plan and directs teaching staff to meet these

Equality Legislation

All exam centre staff must ensure that they meet the requirements of any equality legislation.

Wize Up will comply with the legislation, including making reasonable adjustments to the service that we provide candidates in accordance with requirements defined by the legislation, awarding bodies, and JCQ. This is the responsibility of the Exams officer and Head Teacher.

Access arrangements

The SENCo/specialist teacher will inform subject teachers of candidates with special educational needs and any special arrangements that individual candidates will need during the course and in any assessments/exams.

- Assesses candidates (or works with the appropriately qualified assessor as appointed by the head of centre) to identify access arrangements/reasonable adjustments requirements
- Gathers **evidence** to support the need for access arrangements for a candidate
- Liaises with teaching staff to gather evidence of **normal way of working** of an affected candidate
- Determines candidate eligibility for arrangements or adjustments that are centre-delegated
- Gathers signed **Personal data consent**, forms from candidates where required and ensures **Data protection confirmation(s)** by the examinations officer or SENCo are completed
- Applies for **approval** through **Access arrangements online (AAO)** via the **Centre Admin Portal (CAP)**, where required or through the awarding body where qualifications sit outside the scope of AAO
- Keeps a file for each candidate for JCQ inspection purposes containing all the required documentation (if documentation is stored electronically, an e-folder must be created for each individual candidate. The candidate's e-folder must hold each of the required documents for inspection)
- Employs good practice in relation to the Equality Act 2010
- Liaises with the EO regarding exam time arrangements for access arrangement candidates
- Ensures staff appointed to facilitate access arrangements for candidates are appropriately trained and understand the rules of the particular

arrangement(s) and keeps a record of the content of training provided to facilitators for the required period

- Works with the EO to ensure invigilators and those acting as a facilitator fully understand the respective role and what is and what is not permissible in the exam room
- Liaises with the relevant member of the senior leadership team on the centre's policy on the use of word processors in examinations
- Ensures criteria for candidates granted **separate invigilation within the centre** is clear, meets JCQ regulations and best meets the needs of individual candidates and remaining candidates in main exam rooms

A candidate's access arrangements requirement is determined by the teaching staff, SENCo, Supervisor and Head Teacher.

Ensuring there is appropriate evidence for a candidate's access arrangement is the responsibility of the SENCo.

Submitting completed access arrangement applications to the awarding bodies is the responsibility of the SENCo and Exams Officer, through *Access arrangements online* (AAO) via the Centre Admin Portal (CAP),

Rooming for access arrangement candidates will be arranged by the Exams officer.

Invigilation and support for access arrangement candidates, as defined in the JCQ access arrangements regulations, will be organised by the Exams officer.

Estimated grades

Teachers are responsible for submitting estimated grades to the exams officer when requested by the exams officer.

Managing invigilators

External staff will not be used to invigilate examinations.

These invigilators will be used for internal exams and/or external exams.

Recruitment of invigilators is the responsibility of the Exams officer.

Securing the necessary Disclosure and Barring (DBS) clearance for new invigilators is the responsibility of the Human Resources Manager.

DBS fees for securing such clearance are paid by Wize Up.

Invigilators rates of pay are set by the normal rate of pay which forms part of salary payments.

Invigilators are recruited, timetabled, trained, and briefed by the Exams officer.

Malpractice

The head of centre in consultation with Exams officer is responsible for investigating suspected malpractice.

Exam days

The exams officer will book all exam rooms after liaison with other users and make the question papers, other exam stationery, and materials available for the invigilator.

Site management staff is responsible for setting up the allocated rooms and will be advised of requirements 2 days in advance.

The invigilator will start and finish all exams in accordance with JCQ guidelines.

Subject staff may not be present at the start of the exam to assist with identification of candidates. Any staff present must be in accordance with the rules defined by JCQ concerning who is allowed and what they can do.

In practical exams, subject teachers' availability will be in accordance with JCQ guidelines.

Exam papers must not be read by subject teachers or removed from the exam room before the end of a session. Papers will be distributed to heads of department in accordance with JCQ's recommendations and no later than 3 hours after candidates have completed it.

After an exam, the exams officer or assistant will arrange for the safe dispatch of completed examination scripts to awarding bodies, working in conjunction with the invigilator.

Briefing candidates

Exams officer

- Issues individual exam timetable information to candidates and informs candidates of any designated contingency day awarding bodies may identify in the event of national or significant local disruption to exams
- Prior to exams issues relevant JCQ information for candidates documents
- Where relevant, issues relevant awarding body information to candidates
- Issues centre exam information to candidates including information on:
 - exam timetable clashes
 - arriving late for an exam
 - absence or illness during exams
 - what equipment is/is not provided by the centre
 - food and drink in exam rooms
 - unauthorised items in exam rooms
 - when and how results will be issued and the staff that will be available
 - the post-results services information and how the centre will deal with requests from candidates
 - when and how certificates will be issued

Candidates

The exams officer will provide written information to candidates in advance of each exam series. A formal briefing session for candidates may be given by the Teachers, Supervisor or Exams officer.

Wize Up's published rules on acceptable dress and behaviour always apply. Candidates' personal belongings remain their own responsibility and Wize Up accepts no liability for their loss or damage.

In an exam room candidates must not have access to items other than those clearly allowed in the instructions on the question paper, the stationery list, or the specification for that subject. This is particularly true of mobile phones and other electronic communication or storage devices with text or digital facilities. Any precluded items must not be taken into an exam room.

Disruptive candidates are dealt with in accordance with JCQ guidelines. Candidates are expected to stay for the full exam time at the discretion of the Exams officer.

Note: candidates who leave an exam room must be always accompanied by an appropriate member of staff.

The supervisor is responsible for handling late or absent candidates on exam day.

Candidate late arrival

Exams officer

- Ensures that candidates who arrive very late for an exam are reported to the awarding body by submitting a report on candidate admitted very late to examination room using CAP to timescale
- Warns candidates that their script may not be accepted by the awarding body

Invigilators

- Are informed of the policy/process for dealing with late/very late arrival candidates through training
- Ensure that relevant information is recorded on the exam room incident log

Candidates are normally permitted to enter the examination room when late and afforded the full time of the exam. However dependant on the arrival of the candidate a corresponding report may be required to be sent to the awarding body which may have further impact on the issuing of results.

Clash candidates

The Exams officer and Supervisor will be responsible as necessary for supervising escorts, identifying a secure venue, and arranging overnight stays.

Special consideration

Should a candidate be unable to attend an exam because of illness, suffer bereavement or other trauma, be ill or otherwise disadvantaged or disturbed during

an exam, then it is the candidate's responsibility to alert Wize Up's Head Teacher to that effect.

The candidate must support any special consideration claim with appropriate evidence within 2 days of the exam.

The exams officer will make a special consideration application to the relevant awarding body within 5 days of the exam.

Internal assessment

It is the duty of heads of department to ensure that all internal assessment is ready for dispatch at the correct time. The exams officer will assist by keeping a record of each dispatch, including the recipient details and the date and time sent.

Marks for all internally assessed work are provided to the exams office by the Teachers. The exams officer will inform staff of the date when appeals against internal assessments must be made by. Any appeals will be dealt with in accordance with Wize Up's Internal Appeals Procedure (IAP) document.

Internal assessment and endorsements

Head of centre

- Ensures appropriate controls are in place which allow accurate data to be submitted to the awarding bodies, e.g. internally assessed marks
- Ensures appropriate controls are in place which allow accurate data to be submitted to the awarding bodies, e.g. entries
- Ensures procedures are in place for candidates to appeal internal assessment decisions and make requests for reviews of marking

SENCo

- Liaises with teaching staff to implement appropriate access arrangements for candidates undertaking internal assessments and practical endorsements

Teaching staff

- Support the SENCo in implementing appropriate access arrangements for candidates undertaking internal assessments and practical endorsements
- Assess and authenticate candidates' work
- Assess endorsed components
- Ensure candidates are informed of centre assessed marks prior to marks being submitted to awarding bodies

Senior leaders

- Ensure teaching staff assess and authenticate candidates' work to the awarding body requirements
- Ensure teaching staff assess endorsed components according to awarding body requirements
- Ensure teaching staff provide marks for internally assessed components and grades for endorsements of qualifications to the EO to the internal deadline
- Ensure teaching staff provide required samples of work for moderation and sample recordings for monitoring to the EO to the internal deadline

Exams officer

- Submits marks, endorsement grades and samples to awarding bodies/moderators/monitors to meet the external deadline
- Keeps a record to track what has been sent
- Logs moderated samples returned to the centre
- Ensures teaching staff are aware of the requirements in terms of retention and subsequent disposal of candidates' work

Candidates

- Authenticate their work as required by the awarding body

Head of centre

Controlled assessments, coursework and non-examination assessments

- Ensures arrangements are in place to co-ordinate and standardise all marking of centre- assessed components and ensures that candidates' centre-assessed work is produced, authenticated and marked, or assessed and quality assured in accordance with the awarding bodies' instructions (including where relevant, private candidates)
- Ensures that teaching staff, in accordance with awarding bodies' instructions, return all subject-specific forms by the required date
- Provides fully qualified teachers to mark non-examination assessments, and/or fully qualified assessors for the verification of centre-assessed components
- Ensures an **internal appeals procedure** relating to internal assessment decisions is in place for a candidate to appeal against and request a review of the centre's marking (see Roles and responsibilities overview)
- Ensures a **non-examination assessment policy** is in place for GCE and GCSE qualifications which include components of non-examination assessment (For CCEA GCSE centres this would be a controlled assessment policy)

Transferred candidate arrangements

Exams officer

- Liaises with the host or entering centre, as required
- Processes requests for Transferred Candidate arrangements using CAP to the awarding body deadline (or through the awarding body where a qualification may sit outside the scope of CAP)
- Where relevant (for an internal candidate) informs the candidate of the arrangements that have been made for their transferred candidate arrangement

Results

Candidates will receive individual result slips on results days,

- in person at Wize Up or by post to their home address - candidates to provide self-addressed envelope posted (recorded delivery)

The results slip will not be in the form of a centre produced document.

Arrangements for Wize Up to be open on results days are made by the Head Teacher.

The provision of the necessary staff on results days is the responsibility of the Head Teacher.

Accessing results

Head of centre

- Ensures results are kept entirely confidential and restricted to key members of staff until the official dates and times of release of results to candidates
- Understands that it is not permitted to withhold provisional results from candidates under any circumstances

Exams officer

- Informs candidates in advance of when and how results will be released to them for each exam series
- Accesses results from awarding bodies under restricted release of results, where this is provided by the awarding body
- Resolves any missing or incomplete results with awarding bodies
- Issues statements of results to candidates on issue of results date
- Provides summaries of results for relevant centre staff on issue of results date

Post-results services

Head of centre

- Ensures an **internal appeals procedure** is available where candidates disagree with any centre decision not to support a clerical re-check, a review of marking, a review of moderation or an appeal
- Ensures that senior members of centre staff are available immediately after the publication of results
- Understands that if the centre has concerns about one of its component/subject cohorts, then requests for reviews of marking should be submitted for all candidates believed to be affected (candidate consent is required as marks and subject grades may be lowered, confirmed or raised)

Exams officer

- Provides information to **all** candidates and staff on the services provided by awarding bodies and the fees charged (see also above **Briefing candidates and Access to Scripts, Reviews of Results and Appeals Procedures**)
- Publishes internal deadlines for requesting the services to ensure the external deadlines can be effectively met
- Provides a process to record requests for services and to collect candidate informed consent (**after** the publication of results) and fees where relevant
- Submits requests to awarding bodies to meet the external deadline for the particular service
- Tracks requests to conclusion and informs candidates and relevant centre staff of outcomes
- Updates centre results information, where applicable

Teaching staff

- Meet internal deadlines to request the services and gain relevant candidate informed consent
- Identify the budget to which fees should be charged

Candidates

- Meet internal deadlines to request the services
- Provide informed consent and fees, where relevant

Analysis of results

Exams officer

- Provides analysis of results to appropriate centre staff
- Provides results information to external organisations where required
- Undertakes the [secondary school and college \(key stage 4/16-18\) performance tables June and September checking exercise \(where applicable\)](#)

Certificates

Certificates are provided to centres by awarding bodies after results have been confirmed.

Enquiries about Results (EAR)

EARs may be requested by centre staff or the candidate following the release of results. A request for a re-mark or clerical check requires the written consent of the candidate, a request for a re-moderation of internally assessed work may be submitted without the consent of the group of candidates.

The cost of EARs will be paid by Wize Up / candidate depending on who requests it.

All decisions on whether to make an application for an EAR will be made by The Head Teacher with Heads of Department and The Supervisor.

If a candidate's request for an EAR is not supported, the candidate may appeal and Wize Up will respond by following the process in its Internal Appeals Procedure (IAP) document.

All processing of EARs will be the responsibility of the exams officer, following the JCQ guidance.

Access to Scripts (ATS)

After the release of results, candidates may ask subject staff to request the return of written exam papers within 4 days of the receipt of results.

Centre staff may also request scripts for investigation or for teaching purposes. For the latter, the consent of candidates must be obtained.

Re-marks cannot be applied for once an original script has been returned.

The cost of EARs will be paid by Wize Up / candidate dependant on who requests it.

Processing of requests for ATS will be the responsibility of Exams officer.

Certificates

Candidates will receive their certificates

- posted (recorded delivery)
OR
- collected and signed for

Certificates can be collected on behalf of a candidate by third parties, provided they have written authority from the candidate to do so, and bring suitable identification with them that confirms who they are.

Wize Up retains certificates for 6 years.

A new certificate will not be issued by an awarding organisation. A transcript of results may be issued if a candidate agrees to pay the costs incurred.

Contingency planning

Purpose of the plan

This plan examines potential risks and issues that could cause disruption to the management and administration of the exam process at Wize Up School. By outlining actions/procedures to be invoked in case of disruption it is intended to mitigate the impact these disruptions have on our exam process. Alongside internal processes, this plan is informed by scenarios contained in the Joint contingency plan in the event of widespread disruption to the examination system in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. This plan complies with JCQ general regulations (section 5) in that:

The centre agrees to “have in place a written examination contingency plan/examinations policy which covers all aspects of examination administration. This will allow members of the senior leadership team to have a robust contingency plan in place, minimising risk to examination administration, should the examinations officer be absent at a crucial stage of the examination cycle;”

Causes of potential disruption to the exam process

1. Exam officer extended absence at key points in the exam process (cycle)

Criteria for implementation of the plan

Key tasks required in the management and administration of the exam cycle not undertaken including:

- Planning
 - o annual data collection exercise not undertaken to collate information on qualifications and awarding body specifications being delivered
 - o annual exams plan not produced identifying essential key tasks, key dates and deadlines
 - o sufficient invigilators not recruited and trained
- Entries
 - o awarding bodies not being informed of early/estimated entries which prompts release of early information required by teaching staff
 - o candidates not being entered with awarding bodies for external exams/assessment
 - o awarding body entry deadlines missed or late or other penalty fees being incurred
- Pre-exams
 - o exam timetabling, rooming allocation; and invigilation schedules not prepared
 - o candidates not briefed on exam timetables and awarding body information for candidates
 - o exam/assessment materials and candidates' work not stored under required secure conditions
 - o internal assessment marks and samples of candidates' work not submitted to awarding bodies/external moderators
- Exam time
 - o exams/assessments not taken under the conditions prescribed by awarding bodies
 - o required reports/requests not submitted to awarding bodies during exam/assessment periods e.g. very late arrival, suspected malpractice, special consideration
 - o candidates' scripts not dispatched as required to awarding bodies
- Results and post-results
 - o access to examination results affecting the distribution of results to candidates
 - o the facilitation of the post-results services

Centre actions:

- **SLT to nominate a “deputy” to cover a role/task i.e. those trained in exam administration “Mrs Boyd and Ms Richardson”**
- Source alternative venues/facilities.
- Refer to www.theexamsoffice.org for detailed instructions on all exam procedures. (A Valuable source of information)
 - 2. SENCo extended absence at key points in the exam cycle

Criteria for implementation of the plan

Key tasks required in the management and administration of the access arrangements process within the exam cycle not undertaken including:

- Planning
 - candidates not tested/assessed to identify potential access arrangement requirements
 - evidence of need and evidence to support normal way of working not collated
 - Pre-exams
 - approval for access arrangements not applied for to the awarding body
 - modified paper requirements not identified in a timely manner to enable ordering to meet external deadline
 - staff providing support to access arrangement candidates not allocated and trained
 - Exam time
 - access arrangement candidate support not arranged for exam rooms
- Centre actions:
- SLT to nominate a 'deputy' to cover a role/task

3. Teaching staff extended absence at key points in the exam cycle

Criteria for implementation of the plan

Key tasks not undertaken including:

- Early/estimated entry information not provided to the exams officer on time; resulting in pre-release information not being received
 - Final entry information not provided to the exams officer on time; resulting in:
 - candidates not being entered for exams/assessments or being entered late
 - late or other penalty fees being charged by awarding bodies
 - Internal assessment marks and candidates' work not provided to meet submission deadlines
- Centre actions:
- SLT to nominate a 'deputy' to cover a role/task

4. Invigilators - lack of appropriately trained invigilators or invigilator absence

Criteria for implementation of the plan

- Failure to recruit and train sufficient invigilators to conduct exams
 - Invigilator shortage on peak exam days
 - Invigilator absence on the day of an exam
- Centre actions:
- SLT to nominate a „deputy“ to cover a role/task

5. Exam rooms - lack of appropriate rooms or main venues unavailable at short notice

Criteria for implementation of the plan

- Exams officer unable to identify sufficient/appropriate rooms during exams timetable planning
- Insufficient rooms available on peak exam days
- Main exam venues unavailable due to an unexpected incident at exam time

Centre actions:

- Source alternative venues/facilities

6. Failure of IT systems

Criteria for implementation of the plan

- MIS system failure at final entry deadline
- MIS system failure during exams preparation
- MIS system failure at results release time

Centre actions:

- SIMS is backed up weekly and all data is held on coded memory stick. Access to this information will be provided to the exams officer.

7. Disruption of teaching time – centre closed for an extended period

Criteria for implementation of the plan

- Centre closed or candidates are unable to attend for an extended period during normal teaching or study supported time, interrupting the provision of normal teaching and learning

Centre actions:

- Centre to communicate with parents, carers and students about the disruption to teaching time and provide appropriate work via the school intranet

Candidates unable to take examinations because of a crisis – centre remains open

Criteria for implementation of the plan

- Candidates are unable to attend the examination centre to take examinations as normal

Centre actions:

- Centre will communicate with relevant awarding organisation to make them aware of the issue.
 - Centre will then communicate solutions to parents/carers and candidates

8. Centre unable to open as normal during the exams period

Criteria for implementation of the plan

- Centre unable to open as normal for scheduled examinations

Centre actions:

- Centre to inform awarding organisation of examinations to be affected
- Look where possible to provide alternative provision eg local middle schools

9. Disruption in the distribution of examination papers

Criteria for implementation of the plan

- Disruption to the distribution of examination papers to the centre in advance of examinations the centre to communicate with awarding organisations to organise alternative delivery of papers. [JCP scenario 3]
Centre actions:

- Centre to discuss alternative delivery of papers to the centre
Disruption to the transportation of completed examination scripts

Criteria for implementation of the plan

- Delay in normal collection arrangements for completed examination scripts.

Centre actions:

- Centre will communicate and organise alternative arrangements for delivery of scripts.

10. Assessment evidence is not available to be marked

Criteria for implementation of the plan

- Large scale damage to or destruction of completed examination scripts/assessment evidence before it can be marked

Centre actions:

- Immediate communication to be made with relevant awarding body
- Students, parents and carers to be informed by letter.

11. Centre unable to distribute results as normal

Criteria for implementation of the plan

- Centre is unable to access or manage the distribution of results to candidates, or to facilitate post results services Centres to contact awarding organisations about alternative options. [JCP scenario 11]

Centre actions:

- Centres to contact awarding bodies and discuss alternative means of distribution

Further guidance to inform and implement contingency planning

Ofqual

Joint contingency plan in the event of widespread disruption to the examination system in England, Wales and Northern Ireland

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/exam-system-contingency-plan-england-wales-and-northern-ireland/jointcontingency-plan-in-the-event-of-widespread-disruption-to-the-examination-system-in-england-wales-and-northernireland>

JCQ

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

Guidance on alternative site arrangements <http://www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/forms>

Instructions for conducting examinations <http://www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/ice---instructions-for-conducting-examinations>

A guide to the special consideration process <http://www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/access-arrangements-and-special-consideration/regulations-and-guidance>

GOV.UK

Emergencies and severe weather: schools and early years settings
<https://www.gov.uk/emergencies-and-severe-weather-schools-and-early-years-settings>

Teaching time lost due to severe weather conditions
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/teaching-time-lost-due-to-severe-weather-conditions/teaching-time-lostdue-to-severe-weather-conditions>

Dispatch of exam scripts guide: Ensuring the service runs smoothly;
Contingency planning
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/dispatch-of-exam-scripts-yellow-label-service/dispatch-of-exam-scriptsguide>

Other policies, which relate to this policy, include the Curriculum, Assessment, target setting and recording keeping policy.

Head of centre

Exams officer

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Date

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