

Summary of State Examinations Commission

Reasonable Accommodations at the 2024 Certificate Examinations Instructions for Schools

RACE are given for the following categories:	<p>(1) Learning Difficulty (2) Hearing Difficulty (3) Visual Difficulty (4) Physical Difficulty*</p> <p>* this category is taken to include medical, sensory, mental health and behavioural difficulties as well as physical difficulties. The SEC appreciates that schools may make applications for candidates with complex need</p>
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Extra Time:	<p>Candidates who are using a scribe, have a visual disability or use a mechanical aid will be allowed 10 minutes per hour to a maximum of 30 minutes. This does not apply to Irish, English, History or Geography which have extended time for all candidates. However, students using the above will be allowed 10 minutes extra in each exam.</p>
Rest breaks:	20 minutes extra per exam
Helper in Practical Exams.	
Individual Centres	<p>Candidates using a recorder or scribe Individual reader Contagious medical condition</p>
Shared Special Centre	Candidates using a word-processor or reading pen, 2-4 per centre

	EBD or non contagious medical condition, up to 8 in centre
Deferment of Examination	In cases of trauma and adversity.
Alternative Formats	Electronic Course Work Booklets PDF exam papers for students with Visual impairment (Pilot scheme)

Assessment

There is no longer any need to undertake tests of general cognitive ability for the purposes of the RACE scheme as you are no longer required to distinguish between specific and general learning difficulties.

In the absence of school-conducted attainment tests, you may use results from psychological reports, obtained within 12 months of the date of application, which are already available to you.

Tests of Literacy Related Skills	<p>The tests that are accepted by the SEC for the purpose of RACE are taken from the list of assessment instruments, including ability and achievement tests and web-based resources that are approved for use in Guidance and/or SEN contexts in post primary schools, which is issued annually by the Department of Education and governed by Circular Letter 01/2023.</p> <p>The following tests should be used by teachers to establish a candidate's standard score in reading and must be administered individually. Any subtest selected from the following tests must relate to single word reading and not reading fluency, accuracy and comprehension.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> • Wide Range Achievement Test 5 (WRAT-5) or • Wechsler Individual Achievement Test III (WIAT-III) or • Woodcock Reading Mastery Test 3rd Edition or
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	4. • Woodcock-Johnson IV Tests of Achievement 2014 or 5. • Diagnostic Reading Analysis (3rd Edition (DRA 3) or 6. • Adult Reading Test 2nd Edition (ART 2) 2.
Spelling	<p>The following tests should be used by teachers to establish a candidate's standard score in spelling and must be administered individually:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wide Range Achievement Test 5 (WRAT-5) or • Wechsler Individual Achievement Test III (WIAT-III) or • Woodcock-Johnson IV Tests of Achievement or • SPaRCS Test 3.
Writing Speed.	Detailed Assessment of Speed of Handwriting 2007 for Age Range 9 to 16:11 (www.pearsonclinical.co.uk) • Detailed Assessment of Speed of Handwriting 2011 for Age Range 17 to 25 (www.pearsonclinical.co.uk)

Accommodations

Reading assistance, examination pen, individual reader	A reading accuracy rate of 7% or more A reading Speed of 89 words or less per minute
Waiver from the assessment of spelling, punctuation and certain elements of grammar in language subjects	A standard score of 85 or less on an approved test of spelling AND Spelling/grammar/punctuation error rate of 8% or more in scripts written in the language of the school under examination conditions
Word processor/recording device	A standard score of 85 or less on an approved test of spelling AND Spelling/grammar/punctuation error rate of 20% or more in scripts written in the language of the school under examination conditions
Word processor/recording device – speed of writing	A standard score of 85 or less on an approved test of spelling AND Spelling/grammar/punctuation error rate of 8% or more in scripts
Scribe – word processor/recording device not suitable due to physical or speech difficulties	The candidate already meets the eligibility criteria for access to the use of a word processor or recording device as set out at Section 9.1.3 Category 1 or 2 AND The candidate's physical and speech difficulties render the use of a recording device or word processor unsuitable
Scribe – word processor/recording device not suitable in certain subjects	The candidate already meets the eligibility criteria for access to the use of a word processor or recording device as set out at Section 9.1.3 Category 1 or 2 AND The use of the device in question is not possible or is particularly difficult in the case of the specific examination (e.g. Mathematics)

Hearing Difficulties

Accommodations on the grounds of Hearing Difficulties are recommended by the Visiting Teacher (National Centre for Special Education) and include:	Personal Stereo in Main Centre for the Aural Examination Special Centre for the Aural Examination and Music Examination for Junior Cycle Modified Aural Examination Exemption from the Aural Examination Sign Language Interpreter Support Arrangement in the Oral Tests Exemption from the Oral Tests
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Visual Difficulty Grounds

There is an extensive a range of accommodations available to candidates who are vision impaired and under the care of the NCSE Visiting Teachers.	Enlarged Standard Examination Papers Modified Examination Paper Braille Version of Examination Paper Pilot Scheme for Examinations Papers in PDF format for vision impaired candidates Reading Assistant or Individual Reader — Writing Accommodations — Word processor , word processor with vision aids, voice activated. Recording Device Scribe Colour Identifier Additional time
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Physical Difficulty

Range of Writing Accommodations	1) Word processor 2) Recording device 3) Scribe
Other Accommodations	Exemption from Practical Subjects Assistance of a helper in Practical Examinations Drawing Aids Coloured Paper