



# REASONABLE ADJUSTMENTS FOR EXAMINATIONS

The Institute of Brewing & Distilling  
44A Curlew St  
London  
SE1 2ND  
Tel: +44 (0) 20 7499 8144  
E-mail: [customer.support@ibd.org.uk](mailto:customer.support@ibd.org.uk)  
Web: [www.ibd.org.uk](http://www.ibd.org.uk)

## Contents

<b>1. Definition of a reasonable adjustment</b> .....	3
<b>2. IBD and Candidate responsibilities</b> .....	3
<b>3. Pre-assessment reasonable adjustments</b> .....	4
<b>4. Application for adjustments to the examination</b> .....	7
<b>5. Post-Assessment reasonable adjustment (Mitigating Circumstances)</b> .....	8
<b>6. Appeals</b> .....	8

# 1. Definition of a reasonable adjustment

- 1.1 A reasonable adjustment relates to any actions that help to reduce the effect of a disability or difficulty, which may place the candidate at a disadvantage during the examination.
- 1.2 These guidance notes are designed to assist candidates who are registered for an IBD examination and who require additional support during the examination (pre-assessment reasonable adjustments) or whose performance is affected by extenuating circumstances (post-assessment reasonable adjustments) such as illness or technical issues during, or immediately prior to, the examination.
- 1.2.1 **Pre-assessment reasonable adjustments**, which are approved before an examination are intended to **allow attainment to be demonstrated**; for example, the production of a modified paper for a candidate with an impairment, whose need has previously been established. Where attainment cannot be demonstrated, even with special considerations, then a pass cannot be awarded as this would compromise the standards of the qualification. Any candidate who can demonstrate the required learning outcomes will be awarded a pass by the operation of the IBD's reasonable adjustments policies and procedures.
- 1.2.2 **Post-assessment reasonable adjustments**, which may be given following an examination are intended to ensure that a candidate with a temporary illness, injury or technical issue at the time the assessment is conducted is **given some recognition** of the difficulty he/she has faced. These are also known as Mitigating Circumstances. See Mitigating Circumstances Policy (<https://www.ibd.org.uk/ibd-qualifications/exam-policies/>) for details on this.
- 1.3 Clearly, any post-assessment reasonable adjustments granted cannot take away the difficulty the candidate has faced and can only be a relatively minor adjustment to ensure that the integrity of the standard is not compromised, where sufficient work has been submitted to allow an accurate assessment of attainment.
- 1.4 When a reasonable adjustment has been applied, the examination will be marked to the same standards and assessment requirements as all other candidates.

## 2. IBD and Candidate responsibilities

- 2.1 The IBD has a responsibility to ensure that **all** its candidates have equal opportunities to reach their full potential. In some instances, candidates may require adjustments to the examination conditions to give them an equal opportunity.
- 2.2 In making such adjustments, the IBD must be satisfied that over-compensation does not occur which gives a candidate who has an adjusted examination condition, an unfair advantage over other candidates.
- 2.3 All pre-assessment reasonable adjustments must be determined and approved by the Chair of Exam Board in advance of the examination date.
- 2.4 Candidates have a responsibility to inform the IBD of their additional needs at the point of registration, to enable adequate adjustments to be made to the assessment process.

The only acceptable exception to this is where the situation requiring a pre-assessment special consideration only occurs immediately prior to the examination. In this case the Mitigating Circumstances policy must be followed (<https://www.ibd.org.uk/ibd-qualifications/exam-policies/>)

- 2.5** The Chair of the Board of Examiners, or delegated authority, will consider each case on an individual basis and will notify the candidate by email of any dispensation. This is normally within 3 weeks of their application.
- 2.6** All requests for reasonable adjustments will be reviewed on an individual basis and all the information received will be considered.
- 2.7** The IBD reserves the right to carry out independent checks on supporting documentation supplied.
- 2.8** Supporting documentation will be retained solely for the purposes of decision making then will be permanently deleted within three months of the publication of the relevant exam results to the candidate.
- 2.9** All examination registration closure dates are published in the Qualifications section on the IBD website.

### 3. Pre-assessment reasonable adjustments

These apply where the student has a known condition that requires special arrangements for their examination.

#### 3.1 Examples of Disabilities, Effects and Adjustments:

<b>Disability type</b>	<b>Example of effect</b>	<b>Typical adjustment</b>
Communication and Interaction	Written/word-process communications difficulties, autism	Extra time, Scribe Interaction
Cognition and Learning	Learning difficulty, dyspraxia, dyslexia	Extra time, reader, scribe
Sensory and Physical Needs	Restricted language/vocabulary, unsighted, colour blindness	Modified paper (congenital deafness), large print, coloured paper, extra time
Behavioural, Emotional and Social Needs	Obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD), Asperger's syndrome	Prompter, rest breaks, alternative venue (if registered to sit as part of a group)

- 3.2** Candidates with any condition are required to produce written evidence from a qualified professional to support their claim and to submit evidence with their request to the IBD for approval.

### 3.3 Adjustments available:

Adjustment	Example	Comments
Extra time	Up to 25% for <b>eligible</b> candidates	Candidate must provide evidence as to why this is required
Reader	For example, temporary visual impairment	<p>The reader:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>must</b> read accurately</li> <li>• <b>must</b> only <b>read</b> the rubrics and questions but not explain or clarify</li> <li>• <b>must</b> repeat instructions given on the question paper only when specifically requested to do so by the candidate</li> <li>• <b>must</b> abide by the regulations; failure to do so can lead to the disqualification of the candidate</li> <li>• <b>must not</b> advise the candidate regarding which questions to do, when to move on to the next question, or the order in which questions should be answered</li> <li>• <b>may</b> enable a visually impaired candidate to identify diagrams, graphs and tables but must not give factual information nor offer any suggestions, other than that information which would be available on the examination for sighted candidates</li> <li>• <b>may</b> read back, for a visually impaired candidate, what has been written in the answer</li> <li>• <b>may</b>, if requested, give a visually impaired candidate the spelling of a word which appears on the examination but otherwise spellings must not be given</li> <li>• <b>must not</b> be related to the candidate.</li> </ul>

Modified enlarged examination papers	Where candidate has a visual impairment and enlarged text would allow them access to fair delivery and assessment	<p>Dependent upon browser, possible adjustments might include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Examination text is fully adjustable via screen settings which can be changed prior to starting the examination.</li> <li>• Text and zoom size.</li> <li>• Background and text colour</li> <li>• Font type.</li> <li>• Modifiable screen contrast, or a filter could be used to reduce glare.</li> </ul>
Scribe <sup>1</sup>	Where a candidate is unable to word-process their answers, and instead needs to dictate them. For example, due to physical injury to hands, severe cerebral palsy and so forth.	<p>The scribe:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>must not</b> give factual help to the candidate or indicate when the answer is complete</li> <li>• <b>must not</b> advise the candidate regarding which questions to do, when to move on to the next question, or the order in which questions should be answered</li> <li>• <b>must</b> word process accurately what the candidate has said.</li> <li>• <b>must</b> draw or add to maps, diagrams and graphs strictly in accordance with the candidate's instructions</li> <li>• <b>must</b> abide by the regulations; failure to do so can lead to the disqualification of the candidate.</li> <li>• The use of computer software that produces a hard copy of the candidate's dictated speech may also be considered.</li> </ul>

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<sup>1</sup> Voice recognition software is classified as a form of scribe. A scribe may also act as reader if appropriate.

<p>Prompter<sup>2</sup></p>	<p>Where candidate has no sense of time, suffers from obsessive-compulsive disorder and so forth.</p>	<p>The prompter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>must not</b> speak to the candidate, give factual help or offer any suggestions</li> <li>• <b>must not</b> advise the candidate regarding which questions to do, nor the order in which questions should be answered</li> <li>• <b>must only</b> tap on the desk or on the candidate's arm, depending on what is normal practice, in order to remind the candidate that he or she must pay attention to the question</li> <li>• <b>must</b> abide by the regulations; failure to do so can lead to the disqualification of the candidate.</li> <li>• Hearing impairment support - For candidates who communicate by using sign language, support to ensure that instructions from the remote invigilator (proctor) are understood.</li> </ul>
<p>Paper alternatives</p>	<p>Where it is not possible for candidates to take an online test, there may be paperbased alternatives to the IBD Examinations. These must be taken in an independently supervised session, which the Institute of Brewing &amp; Distilling will organise.</p>	<p>Possible adjustments for where any paper examination is required might include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• paper size (depending on text size)</li> <li>• text/paper colour.</li> </ul>

## 4. Application for adjustments to the examination

**4.1** Candidates who are registered with the IBD and who require additional support when sitting an examination must apply for additional support by email to [customer.support@ibd.org.uk](mailto:customer.support@ibd.org.uk), no later than 2 weeks after the closure of the final registration date.

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<sup>2</sup> A prompter may also act as a Reader if appropriate

**4.2** The IBD may reject requests in cases where the requested adjustments would undermine the following principles:

- Reasonable adjustments must not invalidate the assessment requirements set out in the qualification specifications.
- Reasonable adjustments must not give the learner an unfair advantage compared to other candidates for whom a reasonable adjustment has not been granted.

## **5. Post-Assessment reasonable adjustment (Mitigating Circumstances)**

**5.1** An application for post-assessment reasonable adjustments will not change the assessment criteria applied by the examiner for the examination in question.

**5.2** Where evidence of extenuating circumstances is provided by the candidate, he/she may have the opportunity to take the assessment at a later date as if for the first time, with no cap on their marks. Adjustments in marks may be made for candidates who correctly apply for Mitigating Circumstances, where an application is successful (<https://www.ibd.org.uk/ibd-qualifications/exam-policies/>)

## **6. Appeals**

If a candidate wishes to appeal against a decision to decline a request for a reasonable adjustment, they must refer to the IBD appeals procedure which is available on the website (<https://www.ibd.org.uk/ibd-qualifications/exam-policies/>)