

Assessment Arrangements Guide – updated September 2026

What is an assessment arrangement?

Assessment arrangements (AA) allow candidates with additional support needs to complete assessments without losing the integrity of the qualification.

Assessments leading to certification must be rigorous and fair for **ALL** candidates, and allow candidates to demonstrate the skills, knowledge and understanding required for the qualification.

It is important that assessment arrangements are **only** provided to those candidates identified as having a physical (including medical or sensory), mental or learning barrier that prevents them from accessing an assessment and demonstrating their attainment without adaptations.

Assessment arrangements are **NOT** designed to compensate for a candidate who has not acquired the skills, knowledge and understanding of the qualification concerned.



Does the pupil need an AA? All 3 of the following must be in place:

1. Pupils have an identified support need; this can be identified through official diagnosis or through teacher observations.
2. The AA requested is the student's normal way of working in class.
3. There is enough evidence to support the AA request. Teachers, PT Support for Learning and the Qualifications Scotland Depute all check this.

Examples of Assessment Arrangements

- A candidate identified as Dyslexic, who experiences difficulties with reading and normally uses extra time or a digital reader on their chrome book. Class teachers provide evidence that the extra time raised attainment.
- A candidate experiencing mental health difficulties, who can manage fine in a classroom but may struggle with the exam hall, is given small group accommodation in a classroom or library. No evidence required.
- A candidate with ADHD or who has known difficulties with concentration is given a prompt to support to stay on task. Teachers or other professionals provide evidence.
- A candidate who has handwriting that is difficult to read and would prefer to type. No evidence required. (We should note that they need to be able to type well and be IT literate)



Deadlines:

End of October: Teacher/pupil conversations to agree student need and normal way of working.

Class teachers have submitted proposed AA for prelims to SfL.

W/B 9 Nov – Pupils and parents receive letters highlighting proposed AA. These should be returned promptly and signed to acknowledge receipt.

AA prelim timetables also issued to pupils/parents.

By 31 January: SfL confirm any changes to AA requested by teachers or students.

W/B 8 March – Pupils and Parents receive letters confirming AA for exam diet 2027. Again, these should be returned promptly and signed to acknowledge receipt.

W/B 22 March – Exam timetables issued to all relevant S4-6 students.