



Selecting, Using and Interpreting Standardised Tests Principles in Educational Testing – two day course.

Will attendance at this course qualify me to become a 'named' Specialist Teacher for my centre and carry out assessments for JCQ Access Arrangements?

The short answer to this question is 'No – not on its own'

You may be aware that the system for recognising teachers qualified to carry out assessments has changed. The list of recognised qualifications drawn up by the JCQ will no longer have new qualifications added to it, and Head Teachers are now responsible for appointing a 'named' Specialist Teacher who meets a list of criteria drawn up by the JCQ.

It is expected that most 'named' Specialist Teachers will have one of the qualifications previously recognised by the JCQ. There may be a few teachers who are experienced in assessment, and have other additional qualifications, who do not. They would be able to demonstrate that they meet the required criteria by e.g. evidence of experience, practice and continued professional development.

A summary of the criteria which must be met by a named Specialist Teacher is as follows: (please see p31 of this year's JCQ Regulations for more detailed break down)

- ▶ Able to teach & assess secondary age candidates or adults who have learning difficulties
- ▶ Have the skills and knowledge to carry out assessments
- ▶ Hold a thorough understanding of principles, procedures & accountabilities outlined in JCQ regulations
- ▶ Be familiar with 2008 EHRC code of practice and the DDA amendments for General Qualifications
- ▶ **Understand & use age appropriate, nationally standardised tests (i.e. validity, reliability, standard deviations, raw scores, standard scores, quotients, percentiles, age equivalent scores)**
- ▶ **Training & experience in administering individual tests – reading, writing & spelling**
- ▶ **Training & experience with cognitive ability tests** – know when to refer to an EP

The criteria which will be covered during this two day course is highlighted in bold.

As the course does not offer any qualification, no attempt is being made to assess what knowledge, skills or understanding delegates already have or have gained during this course. A number of course providers and awarding bodies do offer qualifications, but the courses are much longer and more expensive than this two day course.



supporting special needs in education

The aim of the two day Selecting, Using and Interpreting Standardised Tests course is to provide training in the underlying principles for using educational tests for;

- Teachers who are new to using tests
- Those with some experience who need to understand the theory behind the practice and experience that they have
- Very experienced teachers holding a qualification previously recognised by the JCQ who wish to update and refresh their knowledge (perhaps providing evidence for the renewal of Assessor Practicing Certificates – this course will provide you with 10 hours on the core requirements)
- Teachers who hope to become 'named' Specialist Teachers for their centre, who are experienced in assessment, and may have other additional qualifications. They would be able to demonstrate that they meet all the required criteria by e.g. evidence of experience, samples of assessments, practice and continued professional development, but need to demonstrate that they have been trained in the criteria in bold above.

Only those in the final two categories who have met all the criteria listed above should be acceptable as named Specialist Teachers.

During the course advice will be offered on how to draw up a 'Portfolio of Evidence' to demonstrate your knowledge and experience. This is entirely optional, and the course presenters will not be able to 'mark' any portfolio that delegates elect to produce.

It is worth remembering that until a few years ago only Educational Psychologists were able to assess candidates identified as requiring Access Arrangements. This was subsequently extended to those who possessed a JCQ recognised qualification, - most of which are at post graduate diploma or masters level. This is obviously not a set of skills that can be gained just from a 2 day course!

The final decision concerning who should be named to carry out assessments for Access Arrangements for GQs lies with the Head of Centre. He/she should consult the most recent JCQ regulations for a list of the required criteria (outlined above) and refer to the list of previously recognised qualifications (See www.jcq.org.uk/accessarrangements).

It is not possible in the case of this short course for the course provider to ascertain whether an individual delegate holds the required knowledge, skills or understanding. This is a matter for the Head Teacher and the prospective Specialist Teacher to decide.