

Guidance for practical assessments

National 3, National 4 and National 5 Practical Cookery

This guidance outlines what centres should do if a candidate cannot undertake their practical assessment for reasons beyond their control. It is not for candidates who believe they have under-performed during their assessment.

Centres must use their established absence procedures to decide whether a candidate's ability to undertake their assessment is genuine and unavoidable.

Queries in relation to disabled candidates should be sent to

aarequests@qualifications.gov.scot

You should use the steps below if a candidate cannot take part in the practical assessment.

1. Initial attempt to reschedule

If a candidate is unable to attend the practical assessment on the agreed date due to valid and uncontrollable reasons (for example illness, bereavement, or other exceptional circumstances), you must attempt to reschedule the assessment.

2. Review of alternative assessment evidence

If it is not possible to reschedule the assessment, you can review any suitable alternative assessment evidence and ensure that the evidence is as close as possible in nature and scope to the original practical assessment. The alternative evidence must be from the same academic year of presentation. You must only award a mark if the evidence reflects the candidate's skills and abilities in a manner that maintains assessment integrity.

3. No valid alternative evidence

If you cannot reschedule or obtain suitable alternative evidence then you cannot award a mark for the practical assessment.

4. Candidates who are unable to complete the assessment

If a candidate starts but cannot complete the assessment, for example due to illness, anxiety, or another unforeseen issue, the assessor should pause the assessment and document the reason for non-completion. If the issue is temporary and the candidate can return within a reasonable timeframe, they may resume from where they left off, if assessment conditions can still be assured. If a return is not possible or appropriate, the assessment attempt should be marked as incomplete, and no final mark submitted for that attempt.

If the candidate is fit to do so, they may be offered a new opportunity to sit the practical assessment from the beginning, particularly if the original attempt was significantly interrupted and cannot be judged.