

## Concessions, accommodations and exemptions for the IEB

Students who experience difficulties in a variety of different contexts can apply for an accommodation or an exemption.

Signs and symptoms - things to look for as a parent and educator in relation to accommodations and exemptions.

- ✓ Not completing tasks within a given time constraint
- ✓ Incomplete answer books for tests and examinations
- ✓ Poor comprehension
- ✓ Illegible hand writing
- ✓ Poor reading ability when reading aloud
- ✓ Inattention
- ✓ Distractibility
- ✓ Homework consistently not done
- ✓ Forgetfulness & leaving books or materials at home
- ✓ Poor spelling

Often it can be several of the above, although some students may pass nevertheless. A parent/educator may intuitively feel that a learner is underperforming and that an underlying difficulty may exist.

Accommodations and exemptions granted by the IEB include the following:

- ✓ spelling
- ✓ handwriting/presentation
- ✓ use of a computer
- ✓ a scribe
- ✓ a reader
- ✓ amanuensis (reader and scribe)
- ✓ a separate venue
- ✓ a prompter
- ✓ medication/food intake
- ✓ enlarged print
- ✓ practical assistant
- ✓ rest breaks
- ✓ additional time; (5, 10 or 15 minutes per hour per examination)
- ✓ second language exemption
- ✓ mathematical exemption

Accommodations are not granted for intellectual impairment nor for difficulty with the language medium (when the language of assessment is not the home language of the learner).

Applications for accommodations and exemptions may not be submitted to the IEB independently. The IEB charges a fee for processing any application submitted to them, whether the application is successful or not. This fee is payable to the school prior to the submission of the application.

Applications can be made to the IEB from the beginning of the Grade 8 year for all accommodations and exemptions. However, the IEB only accepts applications up until the 30<sup>th</sup> September of the

grade 11 year, after which they will not accept any further applications for Matric for the following year. It is useful to bear in mind that academic difficulties may surface from a young age but that some academic difficulties only become apparent at a later stage in a student's academic career.

A second language or mathematical exemption can be applied for from the beginning of grade 8. The IEB only accepts these applications up until the 30th September of their grade 9 year after which no further applications will be accepted.

Information must be submitted within 6 months of assessment date; otherwise the educational tests are considered out-of-date and need to be re-administered. However, the cognitive test need only be completed once during the high school years.