

9.1.2 limited capability for work test

The new WCA is likely to be as follows:

'cannot walk' removed

'mobilise' replaces 'walk'

Physical disabilities

1. Mobilising unaided by another person with or without a walking stick, manual wheelchair or other aid if such aid can reasonably be used.	(a) Cannot either (i) mobilise more than 50 meters on level ground without stopping in order to avoid significant discomfort or exhaustion or (ii) repeatedly mobilise 50 meters within a reasonable timescale because of significant discomfort or exhaustion .	15
	(b) Cannot mount or descend two steps unaided by another person even with the support of a handrail.	9
	(c) Cannot either (i) mobilise more than 100 meters on level ground without stopping in order to avoid significant discomfort or exhaustion or (ii) repeatedly mobilise 100 meters within a reasonable timescale because of significant discomfort or exhaustion .	9
	(d) Cannot either (i) mobilise more than 200 metres on level ground without stopping in order to avoid significant discomfort or exhaustion or (ii) repeatedly mobilise 200 meters within a reasonable timescale because of significant discomfort or exhaustion .	6
	(e) None of the above apply.	0
2. Standing and sitting	(a) Cannot move between one seated position and another seated position located next to one another without receiving physical assistance from another person.	15
	(b) Cannot, for the majority of the time, remain at a work station, either: (i) standing unassisted by another person (even if free to move around) or (ii) sitting (even in an adjustable chair) for more than 30 minutes, before needing to move away in order to avoid significant discomfort or exhaustion.	9

aids now include wheelchair

new 'repeatedly' categories

'discomfort' now qualified by 'significant'

'standing' and 'sitting' now combined

'chair with high back and no arms' no longer specified

'mount or descend' replaces 'walk up or down'

'steps' score down from 15 to 9

new recognition of 'exhaustion'

new 'remain at work station'

No 'bending and kneeling' descriptors any more	(c) Cannot, for the majority of the time, remain at a work station, either: (i) standing unassisted by another person (even if free to move around) or (ii) sitting (even in an adjustable chair) for more than an hour before needing to move away in order to avoid significant discomfort or exhaustion.	6	
	(d) None of the above apply	0	
3. Reaching	(a) Cannot raise either arm as if to put something in the top pocket of a coat or jacket.	15	
	(b) Cannot raise either arm to top of head as if to put on a hat	9	
	(c) Cannot raise either arm above head height as if to reach for something	6	
	(d) None of the above apply	0	
4. Picking up and moving or transferring by the use of the upper body and arms.	(a) Cannot pick up and move a 0.5 litre carton full of liquid	15	
	(b) Cannot pick up and move a one litre carton full of liquid	9	
	(c) Cannot transfer a light but bulky object such as an empty cardboard box.	6	
	(d) None of the above apply	0	
5. Manual dexterity	(a) Cannot either: (i) press a button, such as a telephone keypad or (ii) turn the pages of a book with either hand.	15	new: pressing a button
	(b) Cannot pick up a £1 coin or equivalent with either hand	15	new: the 'meaningful mark'
	(c) Cannot use a pen or pencil to make a meaningful mark	9	
	(d) Cannot use a suitable keyboard or mouse	9	
	(e) None of the above apply	0	

'put arms behind back' (15) descriptor disappears

no longer any 'either hand' / 'one hand' distinction

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gone:

- the star-headed sink tap
- shirt or blouse buttons
- and the 0.5l carton full of liquid

<p>6. Making self understood through speaking, writing, typing, or other means normally used; unaided by another person.</p> <p>'speak' replaced with 'make self understood'; 'hear' replaced with 'understand'</p>	(a) Cannot convey a simple message, such as the presence of a hazard	15
	(b) Has significant difficulty conveying a simple message to strangers	15
	(c) Has some difficulty conveying a simple message to strangers	6
	(d) None of the above apply	0
<p>7. Understanding communication by both verbal means (such as hearing or lip reading) and non-verbal means (such as reading 16 point print) using any aid it is reasonable to expect them to use; unaided by another person</p> <p>'busy street' disappears</p>	(a) Cannot understand a simple message due to sensory impairment, such as the location of a fire escape	15
	(b) Has significant difficulty understanding a simple message from a stranger due to sensory impairment	15
	(c) Has some difficulty understanding a simple message from a stranger due to sensory impairment	6
	(d) None of the above apply	0
<p>8. Navigation and maintaining safety, using a guide dog or other aid if normally used.</p> <p>Vision category replaced by ability 'to navigate safely' Reading 16pt print now part of communicating - activity 7</p>	(a) Unable to navigate around familiar surroundings, without being accompanied by another person, due to sensory impairment.	15
	(b) Cannot safely complete a potentially hazardous task such as crossing the road, without being accompanied by another person, due to sensory impairment.	15
	(c) Unable to navigate around unfamiliar surroundings, without being accompanied by another person, due to sensory impairment.	9
	(d) None of the above apply	0
<p>9. Absence or loss of control leading to extensive evacuation of the bowel and/or bladder, other than enuresis (bed-wetting) despite the presence of any aids or adaptations normally used.</p> <p>Continence descriptors greatly simplified</p>	(a) At least once a month experiences (i) loss of control leading to extensive evacuation of the bowel and/or voiding of the bladder; or (ii) substantial leakage of the contents of a collecting device; sufficient to require cleaning and a change in clothing.	15
	(b) At risk of loss of control leading to extensive evacuation of the bowel and/or voiding of the bladder, sufficient to require cleaning and a change in clothing, if not able to reach a toilet quickly.	6

New 'sufficient to require cleaning and a change in clothing' test

16. Coping with social engagement due to cognitive impairment or mental disorder	(a) Engagement in social contact is always precluded due to difficulty relating to others or significant distress experienced by the individual	15	much more general 'difficulty relating to others' test
	(b) Engagement in social contact with someone unfamiliar to the claimant is always precluded due to difficulty relating to others or significant distress experienced by the individual.	9	
	(c) Engagement in social contact with someone unfamiliar to the claimant is not possible for the majority of the time due to difficulty relating to others or significant distress experienced by the individual.	6	
	(d) None of the above apply	0	
17. Appropriateness of behaviour with other people, due to cognitive impairment or mental disorder	(a) Has, on a daily basis, uncontrollable episodes of aggressive or disinhibited behaviour that would be unreasonable in any workplace.	15	gone the 'bizarre behaviour' part of the test
	(b) Frequently has uncontrollable episodes of aggressive or disinhibited behaviour that would be unreasonable in any workplace.	15	
	(c) Occasionally has uncontrollable episodes of aggressive or disinhibited behaviour that would be unreasonable in any workplace.	9	
	(d) None of the above apply	0	

9.2 changes to the limited capability for work-related activity test

1. Mobilising unaided by another person with or without a walking stick, manual wheelchair or other aid if such aid can reasonably be used.	Cannot either (i) mobilise more than 50 metres on level ground without stopping in order to avoid significant discomfort or exhaustion or (ii) repeatedly mobilise 50 meters within a reasonable timescale because of significant discomfort or exhaustion.	was 30m, now 50m
2. Transferring from one seated position to another.	Cannot move between one seated position and another seated position located next to one another without receiving physical assistance from another person.	rising from sitting to standing removed from the test
3. Reaching.	Cannot raise either arm as if to put something in the top pocket of a coat or jacket.	

4. Picking up and moving or transferring by the use of the upper body and arms (excluding standing, sitting, bending or kneeling and all other activities specified in this Schedule).	Cannot pick up and move 0.5 litre carton full of liquid.
5. Manual dexterity.	Cannot either - (a) press a button, such as a telephone keypad or; (b) turn the pages of a book with either hand
6. Making self understood through speaking, writing, typing, or other means normally used.	Cannot convey a simple message, such as the presence of a hazard.
7. Understanding communication by hearing, lip reading, reading 16 point print or using any aid if reasonably used.	Cannot understand a simple message due to sensory impairment, such as the location of a fire escape.
8. Absence or loss of control over extensive evacuation of the bowel and/or voiding of the bladder, despite the presence of any aids or adaptations normally used.	At least once a week experiences (i) loss of control leading to extensive evacuation of the bowel and/or voiding of the bladder; or (ii) substantial leakage of the contents of a collecting device; sufficient to require the individual to clean themselves and change clothing
9. Learning tasks.	Cannot learn how to complete a simple task, such as setting an alarm clock, due to cognitive impairment or mental disorder
10. Awareness of hazard.	Reduced awareness of everyday hazards, due to cognitive impairment or mental disorder, leads to a significant risk of: (i) injury to self or others; or (ii) damage to property or possessions, such that they require supervision for the majority of the time to maintain safety.
11. Initiating and completing personal action (which means planning, organisation, problem solving, prioritising or switching tasks).	Cannot, due to impaired mental function, reliably initiate or complete at least 2 sequential personal actions.
12. Coping with change	Cannot cope with any change, due to cognitive impairment or mental disorder, to the extent that day to day life cannot be managed.
13. Coping with social engagement, due to cognitive impairment or mental disorder	Engagement in social contact is always precluded due to difficulty relating to others or significant distress experienced by the individual.
14. Appropriateness of behaviour with other people, due to cognitive impairment or mental disorder	Has, on a daily basis, uncontrollable episodes of aggressive or disinhibited behaviour that would be unreasonable in any workplace.
15. Conveying food or drink to the mouth.	(a) Cannot convey food or drink to the claimant's own mouth without receiving physical assistance from someone else; (b) Cannot convey food or drink to the claimant's own mouth without repeatedly stopping, experiencing breathlessness or severe discomfort; (c) Cannot convey food or drink to the claimant's own mouth without receiving regular prompting given by someone else in the claimant's physical presence; or (d) Owing to a severe disorder of mood or behaviour, fails to

Maintaining personal hygiene activity including 'clean own torso' test, disappears

Communication now receptive as well as expressive

	convey food or drink to the claimant's own mouth without receiving— (i) physical assistance from someone else; or (ii) regular prompting given by someone else in the claimant's presence.
16. Chewing or swallowing food or drink.	(a) Cannot chew or swallow food or drink; (b) Cannot chew or swallow food or drink without repeatedly stopping, experiencing breathlessness or severe discomfort; (c) Cannot chew or swallow food or drink without repeatedly receiving regular prompting given by someone else in the claimant's presence; or (d) Owing to a severe disorder of mood or behaviour, fails to— (i) chew or swallow food or drink; or (ii) chew or swallow food or drink without regular prompting given by someone else in the claimant's presence.

Reassessing incapacity benefits customers

08/09/10

Version: 4.0



