

Play and Learn

Please match the special needs in learning with the possible reasonable accommodations.

Write the answers in

A Difficulties to read course materials with light color vision due to low vision



B Tics (sudden, repetitive movement or sound) by a student with Tourette Syndrome



C Longer reading time for a student with Specific Learning Difficulties (SpLD) in exams



D Difficulties to give the presentation in class due to anxiety about public speaking



E Difficulties to concentrate and sustain work output due to exacerbating medical conditions



☐ Extended time in exams (Assessment and recommendation from specialist required)

☐ Alternative testing design or format

☐ Special course materials

☐ Flexible assignment due dates

☐ Separate room for testing

Answer: C D A E B



Empowering Students with Equal Access to Education



Joint-Care: Creating a More Adaptive Environment

The University is committed to fostering a positive, enriching, and equitable learning environment for all students. By taking a proactive role in providing equal opportunities for academic and non-academic pursuits, we empower each individual to reach their full potential. A crucial aspect to this endeavor is the seamless cooperation and alignment among our staff and faculty members.

Through this teamwork, we aim to deliver a holistic educational experience that nurtures the growth and development of our students, regardless of their abilities or backgrounds.

What are Special Educational Needs (SEN)?

SEN refers to students who have learning difficulties or disabilities that significantly hinder their ability to learn or access education compared to their peers. This encompasses a broad range of physical and mental conditions, whether temporary or permanent.

Common category of SEN includes:

Cognition and learning needs

- Attention deficit / Hyperactivity Disorder (AD/HD)
- Specific Learning Difficulties (SpLD) / Dyslexia

Communication and interaction needs

- Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)
- Speech and Language Impairment (SLI)

Sensory and/or physical needs

- Chronic Illness / Visceral Disability
- Hearing Impairment (HI)
- Physical Disability (PD)
- Visual Impairment (VI)

Social, emotional and mental health

- Mental Illness (MI)

Students with SEN may face the following challenges:

- Access, read, write or understand information
- Behave in socially expected or appropriate manner in a learning or social setting
- Communicate effectively with others
- Express oneself or understand others
- Fit into university life and make social connections
- Manage academic performance
- Manage physical or mental well-being
- Organize task and responsibilities



How you can contribute to build an inclusive learning environment:

- Contact SEN Support for advice and assistance
- Differentiate reasonable assessment practices
- Engage actively with the students about their Individualized Educational Plan (IEP) and any challenges they face
- Foster a positive classroom climate
- Make referrals upon obtaining students' consent if appropriate
- Offer flexibility and choice in learning
- Participate in training workshops, seminars, and courses relevant to SEN
- Show your care for the students

What is an Individualized Educational Plan (IEP)?

An IEP is a customized educational plan that outlines the needs and reasonable accommodations for each student with SEN who requests it. SEN Support issues the IEP upon receiving valid supporting documents and completing a needs assessment meeting with the students.

The IEP can be accessed by instructors through:

- Email notifications
- SEN Online Accessibility Services System-Faculty Portal using their HKUST account (The Link: <https://hkust-access.symplicity.com/faculty/>)

* Students may declare their needs with the University at any point during their studies at HKUST. The IEP records in the system will be periodically updated.

Student responsibilities

Students are encouraged to proactively contact each course instructor regarding their academic needs and the implementation of eligible accommodations listed in the IEP.

Instructor responsibilities

Instructors are encouraged to have open discussions with each student, document the approval and implement the accommodations that support their learning needs while adhering to the core program requirements.

What are reasonable accommodations?

To foster an inclusive learning environment, HKUST offers reasonable accommodations that are appropriate, necessary, and justifiable based on each student's specific needs. These accommodations aim to ensure equitable access and participation to education, enabling students with SEN to demonstrate their true academic abilities. It is important to note that reasonable accommodations should not involve altering the core requirement of academic programs, such as providing students with SEN with advantages over others, modify academic standards or learning outcomes and guarantee student success.

