

## Candidates with Special Requirements

### Candidates with Specific Learning Difficulties

Specific Learning Difficulties (SpLDs) is the name given to a range of learning difficulties that can severely affect a candidate's ability to learn. The most widely known SpLD is dyslexia, but others include dyspraxia, dyscalculia, Attention Deficit (Hyperactivity) Disorder, Asperger's syndrome and autism.

Since being established APEAS has had a significant number of candidates who have indicated they have dyslexia by answering yes to the following question:

Do you require adjustments to be made in relation to any learning difficulties, eg dyslexia?

The CEO will ask the candidate to send proof that he/she has dyslexia normally in the form of an educational psychologist report.

With regard to the Experience Based Analysis report and Evaluation of Experience/Record of Experience, where there are not severe time restraints on producing these documents, and support in the form of software aids (e.g. the Texthelp website – [www.texthelp.com/UK](http://www.texthelp.com/UK)) is available, it is reasonable to expect you to produce documents that are largely free of spelling and grammatical errors.

However, with regard to the Practice Paper, where real time constraints exist, your examiners will be more lenient in terms of the number of spelling and grammatical mistakes that appear in your answers. It has been agreed by the APEAS Examination Committee that the following arrangements can be put in place for those candidates with a SpLD:

- (1) Allow a candidate an additional 24 hours to sit the Practice Paper.
- (2) If requested by the candidate a mentor (or someone assigned by the mentor) may read all or part of the Scenario to the candidate as many times as the candidate requests it in the period from the time the Scenario is issued to candidates until the end of the examination.
- (3) If requested by the candidate a mentor (or someone assigned by the mentor) may read the questions in the Practice Paper at the beginning of the examination and may re-read the questions as many times thereafter as requested by the candidate.
- (4) A candidate with dyslexia, or another SpLD, may make use of specialist software aids when writing his/her Practice Paper answers. The candidate's mentor should advise the CEO if the candidate has used any specialist support software during the preparation of the Practice Paper answers.

Providing you give permission to do so, the CEO will advise the pair of practice examiners examining you that you have a SpLD that might affect your examination performance.

At Oral Examination practice examiners are advised to recognise that a candidate with dyslexia may have short term memory problems. Examiners may have to accept that the candidate cannot remember certain details. Examiners are encouraged to avoid over-lengthy questions as the candidate may forget the first part of the question by the time the examiner reaches the end of the question. Examiners are also strongly advised to recognise the positive aspects of the candidate's work including good creativity, strong visual thinking skills and sound problem solving abilities.

Where you notify the CEO that you are a candidate with a SpLD other than dyslexia, the CEO will seek advice from expert sources on the most appropriate arrangements that should be put in place to support you at all stages of the examination process. With your permission the CEO will advise your pair of practice examiners of the SpLD and the factors they should take into account when examining you.