

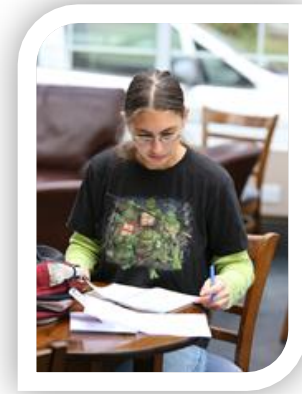
Final exams replaced with essay, viva voce and cloze

Student with Asperger's Syndrome

University of Plymouth; Arts and Humanities

From: Waterfield, J. and West, B. (2002) **SENDA Compliance in Higher Education.**

Available from: <http://www.plymouth.ac.uk/assets/SWA/Sendadoc.pdf>



Original assessment method:

Three end-of-term examinations all in essay format.

Alternative assessment method:

As a small research project to explore the validity of different assessment methods for this individual, the student was offered three alternative ways of undertaking the assessments: as an essay with extended time allowance; as a viva voce; and as a cloze.

Other comments:

The three different assessment methods had different outcomes:

- The essay with extended time allowance provided a weak pass (approximating to a 3rd class honours).
- The viva voce was conducted informally to a structured set of questions. Two members of staff were present in addition to the student's nonmedical helper. The viva voce was tape recorded for the benefit of the external examiners. The outcome was a stronger showing than the essay option (suggesting an upper second class honours).
- The Cloze comprised of three written answers with key dates, ideas and concepts represented as 100 blanks to be filled in. The paper was completed under examination conditions but in a separate room. This approach produced results comparable to those of the viva voce.