

PROVISIONS FOR LEARNERS WITH DISABILITIES DURING NIOS EXAMINATIONS

Learners with disabilities like blindness, low vision, speech impairment, locomotor disability and any other disability which causes difficulty in writing the exams are to be provided with need based provisions such as amanuensis, technological devices etc. The provisions shall be according to their disabilities as per the procedure notified by NIOS from time to time.

The provisions made have been precisely defined in clauses and sub-clauses for clarity.

8.1 Procedural Requirements

Learners with disabilities as defined in the Persons with Disabilities Act 1995 and the National Trust Act, 1999 and those with specific learning difficulties who wish to avail certain facilities or need some reasonable accommodations in the examination are required to submit an application in the given format to the concerned Regional Director clearly indicating the support required by the learner along with certificate issued by an appropriate authority indicating the nature of his/her disability and the extent of the disability. This application will be filled along with the Examination Registration Form by the parent or guardian of the learner.

The medical certificate issued by any of the following is required for specific provisions to learners with disability:

- i) Disability Certificate(s) issued by government hospitals under central or state governments.
- ii) Disability Certificate(s) issued by recognized institutes of national level such as National Association for the Blind, Spastic Society of India etc.
- iii) Disability Certificate(s) issued by non- governmental organizations/ practitioners registered with Rehabilitation Council of India/ central government/ state government of the respective states.

While appearing in the examination, the learner will write his/her disability on the top of the answer book as mentioned in the certificate. This will be authenticated by his/her Centre Superintendent.

8.2 General Provisions

8.2.1 Provision of Additional Time: The condition of all learners with disabilities will have to be certified as per approved procedure as mentioned in 8.1 for determining requirement of additional time.

- i) *An additional 20 minutes per hour of examination for each of the subject¹ will be provided to compensate for additional time required for reading by the amanuensis, understanding the question, fatigue while dictating to the Amanuensis, sitting continuously etc.*
- ii) *If the condition indicated in the medical certificate specified at 8.1 requires short break, a break of not more than ten minutes per hour will be permitted in addition to above.*

8.2.2 **Provision of Amanuensis:** The service of amanuensis, reader, lab assistant can be availed as per requirement of the subject concerned. The following category of learners will be eligible for this facility:

- a. Learners with Autism
 - b. Cerebral Palsy
 - c. Intellectual Disability including Mental Retardation
 - d. Multiple Disabilities
 - e. Blindness, Low Vision
 - f. Speech or Hearing Impairment
 - g. Any other disability such as learners with specific learning disabilities like dyslexia, dysgraphia, dyscalculia, dyspraxia and developmental aphasia certified as per procedure at 8.1.
-
- i) Learners with poor hand function and speech and hearing impairments may be provided amanuensis who can understand their communication including sign language.
 - ii) Learners with hand injury may be provided with the facility of amanuensis.
 - iii) In case of sudden illness resulting in temporary disability, service of amanuensis will be allowed on furnishing of duly certified medical certificate specified at 8.1
 - iv) The learners with disabilities who may choose to use the amanuensis may be permitted to draw the diagrams etc. themselves if they so desire.
 - v) Learners with disabilities may be provided with lab assistant as per the requirement of the particular subject.
 - vi) Learners with disabilities may be provided with the service of reader as and when required.
 - vii) In case the learner needs a care giver inside the examination hall during the examination, a prior application in the given format has to be submitted along with the application form and permission has to be obtained.
 - viii) In case the learner needs the care giver to help him/her reach the examination room and find his/her particular seat, a prior application in the given format has to be submitted along with the application form and permission has to be obtained.
 - ix) In specific cases near relatives, care giver or concerned teacher may be present in the examination hall only for the purpose of motivation and support to the candidate. Prior permission of which will have to be obtained from the concerned Regional Director.

Note:

- i) The terms **scribe** and **amanuensis** are synonymous and any other term signifying the same can be used for this purpose. In this document the term **amanuensis** has been used.
- ii) The learner is allowed to opt for different amanuensis for different subjects if necessary. The learner will have to clearly specify the language in which the Amanuensis is required.
- iii) For the format of application for the entry of the care giver inside the premises of the examination centre refer to Annex. _____.
- iv) Amanuensis/scribe can be arranged by the learner and can also be provided by the Centre Superintendent. The procedure of approval and eligibility of amanuenses is subject to provisions indicated in this chapter.
- v) Lab assistant to be provided by the Centre Superintendent only.

8.2.2 (a) ***Eligibility to be an Amanuensis***

- i) The amanuensis, reader, lab assistant should not be related to the examinee.
- ii) The amanuensis may be a student of any age or class.
- iii) The amanuensis should not be from the same subject(s) in which the candidate shall be appearing for the examination. However, if the learner and the amanuensis, reader, lab assistant are from the same stream, then the educational qualification of the amanuensis, reader, lab assistant should be one class lower than the learner with disability appearing for examination.
- vi) There will be flexibility in accommodating any change in amanuensis, reader, lab assistant in case of emergency. More than one amanuensis, reader, lab assistant for writing different papers as per the requirement of the learner will be allowed.
- vii) Candidate shall also have the option of meeting the amanuensis a day before the examination in presence of the centre superintendent.
- iii) The Centre Superintendent will ensure the provisions are granted to the learner and inform compliance to the Regional Director. The Centre Superintendent of Examination Centre concerned may choose a suitable person from the school as far as possible and forward his/her name with photograph immediately to the concerned Regional Director with a report giving full particulars of the learner and of the amanuensis, reader, lab assistant for consideration and approval.

8.2.2 (b) ***Fee for amanuensis, reader, lab assistant , interpreter using sign language:***

- (i) A fee of Rs. 100/- per session of examination will be given to the amanuensis per learner with disability by the Superintendent of the Examination Centre. The remuneration of the categories such as reader, lab assistant and interpreter using sign language will be as per the 3.2.1 payment norms of the staff. The learners under the category 8.2.2 (except for iv) will not be required to pay any charge/fee.
- (ii) Learners with temporary disabilities using the facility of amanuensis will have to pay the fee themselves.

8.2.3 **Use of Computers:** Learners with minimal hand function, blindness and low vision and learners with learning disability, cerebral palsy, autism and any other disability will be allowed to use computer if they *make a request in advance to the concerned Regional Director.*

- i) Learners may bring their own computers along with assistive devices if they so wish.
- ii) They may also bring the required software (including the Text Reading Software) to enter the response.
- iii) Centre superintendent would ensure adequate power supply and a printer to print the answer scripts of the learners using computers.

Note: Centre Superintendent will have the right to check the machines for no pre-fed information *Learner will need to report one hour in advance to complete these formalities.*

Centre Superintendent may ensure requisite number of computers with hardware, software, and removable storage devices.

8.2.4 **Seating Arrangements and other Support:**

- a. Wheel chair user and mobility impaired learners will be given facility to write the examination on the ground floor in case the examination room is inaccessible.
- b. Building should be accessible and proper ramps and other support should be available. Centre superintendent will ensure the availability of an accessible toilet for learners with disability.
- c. The Centre Superintendent will make arrangements to seat maximum of four students in a separate Examination Room with a separate invigilator for supervision.
- d. However, single room with an invigilator may be made available for learners with specific disability, if so required.
- e. The examination room should be well lit and ventilated away from noise and distractions.

8.2.5 The Centre Superintendent(s) will print and pack the answer scripts of learners with disabilities as per the serial number of the examinee in a separate envelop and send to the concerned Regional Office. The envelope should be superscribed with “Answer sheets of learners with disabilities”. A separate column will be provided on the title page of the answer book for indicating the category of disability as per table no 8.1:

Table no 8.1 Code for marking different disabilities

S.No	Category of Disability	Code
1.	Blindness	B
2.	Low Vision	LV
3.	Locomotor Disability	L
4.	Hearing and speech Impairment	HI
5.	Leprosy cured	LC
6.	Mental Illness	MI
7.	Mental Retardation	MR

8.	Autism	Aut
9.	Cerebral Palsy	CP
10.	Multiple Disabilities	MD
11.	Specific Learning Disabilities	SLD

8.2.6 **Learners with Specific Needs** registered under the SAIED AIs will have their study Centre as examination centre also. During examination the invigilators deputed by NIOS will monitor the examination proceedings. To facilitate easy access, a few selected schools will be made examination centers for learners with disabilities. However, NIOS reserves the right to allot any centre other than SAIED in the larger interest of the learner and feasibility. However, all necessary support will be provided to learners with disability appearing in examinations in centers other than the SAIED centres.

8.3 **Specific Provisions¹ : These are specific provisions in addition to the general provisions mentioned at 8.2**

8.3.1 **Learners with blindness and low vision**

- i. Learners with blindness and low vision will be provided with alternate questions in the theory papers in place of the question related to marking and labelling of maps, construction of geometrical figures and diagrams/graphs etc wherever applicable at secondary and senior secondary level.
- ii. Visually Impaired Learners may be allowed to use amanuensis/take examination using Braille typewriter, or computer. The learners should arrange to bring their own Braille Typewriter, etc., for examination purposes.
- iii. Equipment such as Taylor frame and geometry drawing kit will be allowed in the Examination Hall. Prior permission for the same may be obtained from the concerned Regional Director.

8.3.2 **Learners with Hearing Impairment**

- i. Interpreter using sign language may be allowed in the Examination Room to help the learner with hearing impairment to understand the instructions.
- ii. One interpreter may be adequate for each Examination room. The Centre Superintendent may take decision regarding arrangement of an Interpreter.

Note: The learner is allowed to opt for different scribe for different subjects if necessary. The learner will have to clearly specify the language in which the scribe is required.

8.3.3 **Learners with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Intellectual Disability (Mental Retardation), Multiple Disabilities**

- i. Computers with adapted hardware like trackball instead of mouse, augmentative communication boards (illustrative and not exhaustive) may be allowed.
- ii. Intellectual disability (Mentally Retarded) learners may opt for project work

¹ Many learners with disability now request for question papers in alternative format. This involves policy decision and advance preparation. NIOS will announce it as and when mechanism is in place.

as an alternative for practical.

- iii. Adapted chair, table, bed, etc., may be allowed in the Examination room in case of learners with specific disabilities who need them.
- iv. Provision may also be made for reading out the questions wherever necessary.

Note: Learners may arrange for their own tools and equipment.

8.3.4 Learners with Learning Disability

Provision of amanuensis, use of computer and additional time is permitted as per the procedure specified at 8.1 and also as mentioned under general conditions.

8.3.5 Leprosy-Cured Learners

General provisions will be applicable to leprosy cured learners on submitting medical certificate as mentioned in 8.1

Note:

- i. Any learner with a disability, who is not covered under the above provisions, should approach the concerned Regional Director at least four weeks prior to the commencement of examination for availing certain accommodations during the examination.
- ii. Wherever remuneration has not been indicated in table no. 3.2.1 the remuneration would be that of the invigilator.
- iii. The learner can opt for more than one clause from the above mentioned clauses on the basis of his/her needs.