



Art and Design: Extra Time and SEND FAQs

For GCSE, International GCSE, and A Level
Art and Design

Extra Time and SEND FAQs

Here are frequently asked questions (FAQs) for extra time and SEND support in Art and Design. You can find more information at [Access arrangements | Pearson qualifications](#) and applications should be made in consultation with your SENCo. Please also see the JCQ guidance on [Regulations and Guidance – JCQ Joint Council for Qualifications](#).

Extra Time

Can students receive extra time during the 10 / 15-hour period of sustained focus in Component 2?

The simple answer regarding extra time is that it depends on the student and their individual access arrangements as determined by the SENCo. It is not automatically applied to all subjects once allocated and is dependent on the needs evidenced in the application.

JCQ [Access Arrangements and Reasonable Adjustments 2025/26](#) (p.46) states the following in relation to extra time in Art and Design:

5.2.5 *25% extra time would be awarded in a timed Art examination where a candidate has a formally diagnosed medical condition, a physical disability or a sensory impairment which has a substantial and adverse effect on their manual dexterity and/or their physical coordination. The candidate is demonstrably slower when, for example, mixing paints, painting and/or sketching.*

*In **rare and exceptional circumstances** there may be candidates with substantially slower processing, poor memory skills, difficulties with sequencing and/or visual perceptual weaknesses which are impacting on their ability to perform the skill to their expected level when under timed conditions.*

Would a learner be granted the same period of extra time as a non-practical subject?

Access arrangements are determined according to individual needs and because the 10 / 15-hour supervised period is a practical assessment, extra time granted to a learner for non-practical reasons would not be applicable.

Can SEND students complete their 10 / 15 hours over a greater number of sessions than outlined in the specification?

Candidates may complete the 10 / 15-hour sustained period in a flexible manner to accommodate their individual needs and you can have different sessions from the rest of the cohort for specific students if needed.

For **GCSE** and **International GCSE** Art and Design, a candidate may spend their **10 hours** across a maximum of **four** separate sessions within three consecutive weeks.

For **A Level** Art and Design, a candidate may spend their **15 hours** across a maximum of **five** separate sessions within three consecutive weeks.

If physical and/or individual needs cannot be met through the flexible delivery of the qualification, an application would need to be made based on their needs and the arrangements put in place would be decided on an individual basis.

Music/White Noise

Can SEND students with a substantial impairment listen to music/white noise during the period of sustained focus?

Below is the guidance published in the JCQ [Access Arrangements and Reasonable Adjustments 2025/26](#) (p.89) regarding listening to music/white noise for students with a substantial impairment.

5.23 LISTENING TO MUSIC/WHITE NOISE DUE TO A SUBSTANTIAL IMPAIRMENT

5.23.1 *For those qualifications listed within the Deadlines section, an application **must** be processed using Access arrangements online.*

5.23.2 *The SENCo **must** complete Form 9, confirming the candidate's disability. This will be a candidate with social, emotional and mental health needs or a candidate with a sensory impairment, such as tinnitus or misophonia. A candidate with ADHD or ASD may find that listening to music helps them focus. Formal evidence **must** be available to confirm the candidate's medical condition.*

5.23.3 The centre **must** ensure that the candidate uses a device which cannot be connected to the internet and is not Bluetooth enabled.

The centre would provide the device, such as:

- a CD player;
- a centre laptop operated by the invigilator;
- an MP3 player;
- a white noise machine.

5.23.4 The candidate may choose the music or white noise. However, the music playlist **must** be checked to ensure an advantage is not conferred to the candidate.

Can SEND students with a substantial impairment wear non-electronic ear defenders/ear plugs/headphones?

Below is the guidance published in the JCQ [Access Arrangements and Reasonable Adjustments 2025/26](#) (p.81) regarding wearing non-electronic ear defenders/ear plugs/headphones.

5.16 OTHER ARRANGEMENTS FOR CANDIDATES WITH DISABILITIES

For the arrangements detailed below, there **is not** a requirement to process an application using Access arrangements online. No evidence is needed to support the arrangement for inspection purposes.

- Non-electronic ear defenders/ear plugs.
- Non-electronic headphones.

The SENCo **must** make their decision based on:

- whether the candidate has a substantial and long-term impairment which has an adverse effect; **and**
- the candidate's normal way of working within the centre.