

You should spend about 40 minutes on the following question and aim to write about 240 words

The use of computers has made it easier for people with learning difficulties to access higher education. In what ways do you agree with this statement

Computers are an excellent tool for people with learning difficulties, because, they help with the ability to communicate clearly and effectively, without the need to write using a pen, or wade through pages of dry and boring text to understand difficult concepts. They have also added a student centered way of learning, where students can study in an interesting way in the own time.

The most useful aspect for people with learning difficulties is the ability it offers to people who have trouble writing, reading and doing basic mathematics. Previously, these people were often marginalized and struggled to meet even the most basic levels of education, furthermore, traditionally, it was not considered discrimination to exclude these people from the educational system.

By making the learning process more interesting, the repetitive nature of acquiring knowledge has been replaced with the fun experiential way of computerized learning, where even disadvantaged students can learn at a pace that suits them. By repeating difficult concepts and theories with the help of animation or simulation, learning is now in the grasp of many disabled people.

Another issue is that of handwriting and legibility. Many people suffering from dyslexia in particular have trouble with written script. With type fonts and printers, they can always hand in legible essays and written material. The only time this becomes obvious is during exams, even there arrangements can be made to access a computer for legibility.

The final issue is the option of cut and pasting your essay into a puzzle. By changing your mind a day or two after you wrote it, on paper it is set in stone, on a computer you can keep moving sections around until you are happy with the result.

In conclusion, the evidence for the use of computer aided learning for students with disabilities is overwhelming. I am sure there are negative considerations, but that's for another essay.