

JUSTIFICATION DOCUMENT

A Needs Assessor's guide to recommending Speechify

Everything you need to evidence, justify and recommend Speechify in a needs assessment report. This document covers conditions supported, NAR mapping, ready-to-adapt justification wording, licence options and funding routes.

50m+**250+****60+**translation
languages**4.5x**maximum playback
speed

01 · Why choose Speechify

02 · Conditions and symptoms

03 · Relevant NAR sections

04 · Challenges vs. solutions

05 · Key features

06 · Sample justification wording

07 · Licences, funding and resources

Elleanor Menzies
elleanor@as-dsa.com
speechify.com

Reading support that works across every device, with or without AI

Speechify is the world's leading text-to-speech platform, trusted by over 50 million users. It transforms documents, PDFs, websites, emails and scanned materials into natural-sounding audio with over 240 lifelike voices, making learning more accessible and reducing reading fatigue.

Beyond text-to-speech, Speechify includes summaries and quizzes to reinforce learning, translation into 60+ languages, and tools such as Scan to Library, the Chrome Extension, Highlighting and Notes to support efficient study.

Available across desktop, mobile and web, including the dedicated Windows App.

Speechify lets students access almost any on-screen text, so support follows the student rather than a single file format.

Together these features create a flexible and inclusive learning experience, helping students improve comprehension, retain information and manage their workload with confidence.

Suitable for exam environments where AI is not permitted:

The Windows App reads almost any on-screen text without relying on AI. AI features elsewhere in Speechify can be enabled or disabled to meet institutional policy, so an approved recommendation remains usable in controlled assessment conditions.

Any text, any format

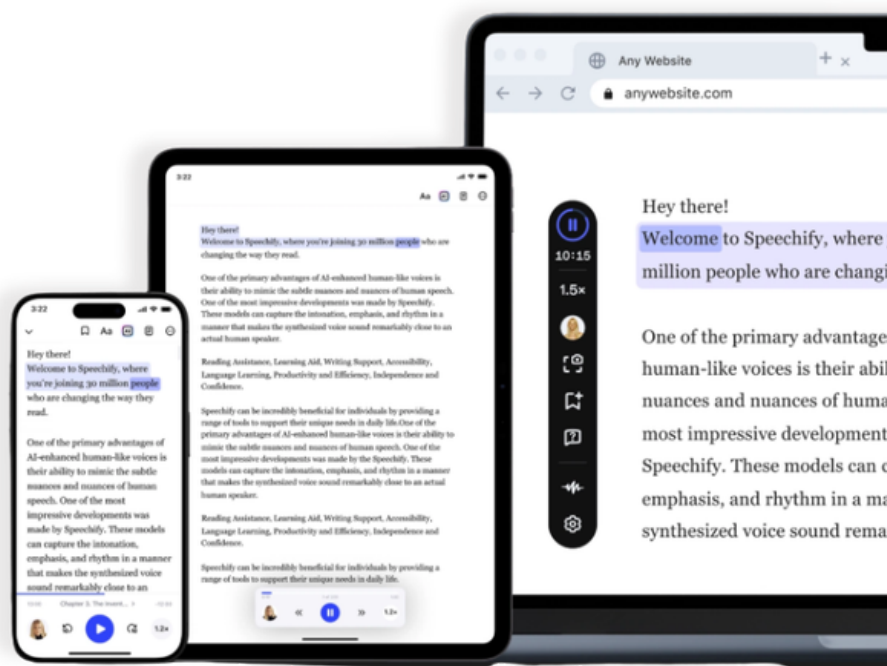
PDFs, Word, web pages, email, ebooks and printed material via OCR.

Any device

Windows and macOS apps, iOS and Android, web and Chrome Extension.

Minimal training need

Familiar player controls reduce reliance on 1-2-1 support.



How Speechify supports students

Common conditions and presentations seen in assessment, with the specific Speechify features that address them.

CONDITION	HOW SPEECHIFY SUPPORTS
Dyslexia / SpLD	Converts written text into natural-sounding audio with synchronised highlighting, reducing reading fatigue and improving comprehension. AI summaries help students identify key information quickly, while quizzes reinforce understanding.
ADHD	Listening alongside highlighted text improves concentration and reduces distraction. Adjustable playback speeds, summaries and quizzes help students maintain focus and check understanding without rereading lengthy material.
Chronic Fatigue	Reduces cognitive and visual strain by replacing prolonged reading with listening. Mobile access, the Windows App and Chrome Extension allow students to study flexibly across the day.
Memory Retention	Listening while following highlighted text reinforces learning. AI-generated quizzes and summaries encourage active recall and improve long-term retention.
Anxiety / Overwhelm	Breaks large amounts of reading into manageable chunks. Summaries reduce information overload, while bookmarks, notes and highlighting help students organise revision.
Autism / Executive Functioning	Provides structured access to learning through consistent presentation of information. Summaries simplify complex material, while quizzes help students monitor understanding and identify gaps.
Visual Processing Differences	Offers an alternative to visual reading through high-quality audio and synchronised highlighting. Personalised display settings improve accessibility.
Time Management Difficulties	Playback speeds up to 4.5x, summaries, translation and cross-device synchronisation allow students to process information more efficiently and make the most of study time.
Studying in a Second Language	Translation tools help students access academic material in their preferred language while building comprehension and confidence with English-language resources.

Justification examples by NAR section

Mapped to the study skill areas of the Needs Assessment Report, for use alongside your recommended strategies.

B-2-1

Research and Reading:

Students access research articles, lecture notes and textbooks via audio playback while following synchronised highlighting. This supports comprehension, retention and processing for students with reading difficulties, dyslexia or visual stress. Converting dense text into audio lets students engage for longer without fatigue.

B-2-2

Writing and Reviewing Academic Work:

Students review their own writing by listening to drafts aloud. This supports proofreading, error identification and improvements to clarity, structure and fluency. This is particularly useful for students with SpLD or processing difficulties, who often miss mistakes when proofreading visually.

B-2-3

Note-taking in lectures and seminars

Lecture slides, notes and reading set in seminars can be converted to audio and revisited afterwards. This reinforces key points for students who struggle to keep pace during live sessions, and allows complex explanations to be reviewed as many times as needed.

B-2-4

Managing time and organising work

Listening on the move or at adjusted speeds helps students process material efficiently and structure study sessions. Bookmarking, highlighting and AI summaries organise content and prioritise tasks, reducing overwhelm across multiple deadlines.

B-2-5

Access to and use of technology

Multi-platform accessibility across desktop, mobile and web integrates with the file types and digital environments students already use, supporting independent learning. The interface is intuitive enough to adopt without additional technical support.

B-2-7

Examinations and timed assessments

Audio review with highlighting reinforces key concepts and recall without visual fatigue. Students can rehearse material repeatedly to build confidence and focus. Where AI is not permitted, the Windows App provides text-to-speech without AI features.

Study challenges and the Speechify response

Students frequently experience difficulty with reading volume, focus, retention and confidence. The pairs below link a common study challenge to the specific Speechify features that reduce it, to support assessor recommendations.

CHALLENGE

Reading and processing large amounts of text

SPEECHIFY SOLUTION

Converts documents into natural-sounding audio with synchronised highlighting. AI summaries provide quick overviews of lengthy material, reducing cognitive load.

CHALLENGE

Retaining information For Revision

SPEECHIFY SOLUTION

AI-generated quizzes encourage active recall while summaries reinforce key concepts, helping students retain information more effectively.

CHALLENGE

Overcoming Fatigue or Study Burnout

SPEECHIFY SOLUTION

Listening instead of reading reduces visual fatigue. Students can continue studying on mobile, desktop or via the Windows App throughout the day.

CHALLENGE

Maintaining Focus

SPEECHIFY SOLUTION

Adjustable playback speeds, synchronised highlighting and AI study tools keep students engaged while reducing distraction.

CHALLENGE

Understanding Complex Material

SPEECHIFY SOLUTION

AI summaries simplify lengthy or difficult content into manageable overviews. Translation tools support students working with unfamiliar terminology.

CHALLENGE

Following Institutional AI Policies

SPEECHIFY SOLUTION

Where AI is not permitted in examinations, the Windows App continues to provide accessible text-to-speech without relying on AI, allowing students to keep their approved support in place.

Key Features at a Glance

Nine features assessors most often reference when evidencing a Speechify recommendation.

01

Personalised Reading Experience

Over 250 lifelike voices, adjustable reading settings and customisation to suit individual preferences.

02

Adjustable Playback Speeds

Listening at their own pace, students have full control of listening speeds, improving comprehension and study efficiency.

03

Synchronised Highlighting

Highlights text as it is read aloud, supporting dual-sensory processing, focus and memory.

04

AI Summaries and Quizzes

Concise summaries and interactive quizzes reinforce learning, improve recall and reduce revision time.

05

Windows App

Reads on-screen text across a wide range of applications without relying on AI, making it suitable for many exam environments.

06

Translation

Translates text into over 60 languages, supporting multilingual learners.

07

Scan to Library (OCR)

Converts printed handouts and physical text material into accessible digital text for reading and listening.

08

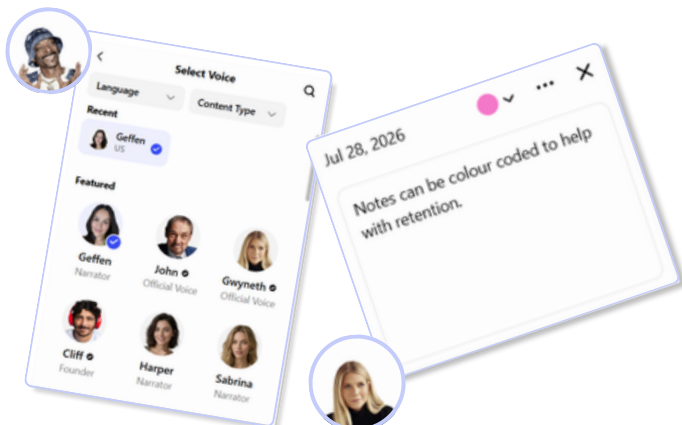
Highlights and Notes

Save important sections and organise study material for quick revision.

09

Cross-platform Access

Works across desktop, mobile and web so learning is available wherever students study.



Need a walkthrough?

Assessors can request a demo account, a live training session or a product guide. See page 8 for links and contacts.

Wording you can adapt in your report

NEW SECTION

Drop into the recommended strategies section of a needs assessment report and replace **STUDENT** with the student's name. Edit freely to reflect the individual's presentation.

Speechify: full recommendation

STUDENT experiences difficulty accessing and processing large volumes of written text, including journal articles, textbooks and lecture materials. Sustained reading causes visual and cognitive fatigue and reduced comprehension, meaning material must be re-read several times before it is retained.

Speechify is recommended as it converts documents, PDFs, web pages, email and scanned print into natural-sounding audio with synchronised highlighting, enabling STUDENT to read and listen at the same time. This dual-sensory approach reduces reading fatigue, supports decoding and improves retention. Adjustable playback speeds allow them to work through reading lists more efficiently, and Scan to Library (OCR) provides access to printed handouts that would otherwise be inaccessible.

STUDENT will also use Speechify to review their own written work by listening to drafts aloud, identifying errors in structure, clarity and fluency that they may not detect visually, and will use summaries, bookmarks and notes to organise revision and reduce information overload.

While other options were considered, Speechify was selected for its range of voices and personalisation settings, its availability across desktop, mobile, web and the dedicated Windows App, and its ability to operate without AI features where institutional or examination policy does not permit their use.

Speechify will enable STUDENT to access course material independently and at their own pace, reducing reliance on 1-2-1 support and promoting greater autonomy in their studies.

Short paragraph: exam and assessment focus

Speechify's Windows App will allow STUDENT to listen to on-screen text in controlled assessment conditions without the use of AI features, ensuring the support recommended remains permissible under their institution's examination policy.

Short paragraph: English as an additional language

Speechify's translation tools will allow STUDENT to access academic material in their preferred language alongside the English original, supporting comprehension of subject terminology and building confidence with English-language resources.

What to recommend, and how it is funded

NEW SECTION

PRODUCT	SUBSCRIPTION LENGTH	AVAILABILITY
Speechify Premium for DSA	[3–4 years]	UK students eligible for DSA funding, via approved resellers.
Speechify Premium for AtW	[3 years]	UK employees eligible for Access to Work funding.

Funding schemes

DSA: disabled students' in UK higher education.

Access to Work: disabled employees and jobseekers in the UK.

Institutional purchase: site licences held by the university or employer.

Assessor Resources and Links

Book a training session: [Click Here](#)

Request a demo account: [Click Here](#)

Watch an explainer video: [Click Here](#)



Questions, or want to meet?

We are happy to answer any queries or arrange a session with your assessment team.

Elleanor Menzies
dsa@as-dsa.com
speechify.com/dsa