

Disabled community – preparing for exams and EMAs

Starting notices

Who we are, ground rules and practicalities

This was our advert...



Preparing for the end of modules, including EMAs and exams, can be challenging for students with disabilities. In this workshop, we'll hear from a guest student about how they managed the final weeks and months of their module while navigating their disability. We'll also highlight support options and provide plenty of opportunities to learn from other students. A short comfort break will be taken midway through the session.

What are Studenthublive workshops?



- Studenthublive (SHL) is non modular and focuses on study skills relevant to higher education.
- This means sessions are skills based and are not subject based.
- SHL workshops do not take the place of subject and skill related tutorials provided by your modules.
- All events are always advertised on our website along with studenthome news, social media channels and careers sources.
- All events are bookable; workshops do fill up as they are popular.

Online workshop basics



- Polls are anonymous to other participants but the chat box will have your logged in name associated with your comments during the live session.
- All online sessions are recorded and available to view on catch up from the studenthublive online room.
- Slides are available to download during the live session and from the event page on <https://studenthublive.open.ac.uk/content/studying-disability-planning-complete-your-module-success-3-april-2025>

SHL is lively!



- These sessions are large scale
- They are often busy with lots of interaction
- They are not the same as other module-based tutorials
- You can maximise slides on your own screen by clicking the icon
- You can return to the recording from <https://studenthublive.open.ac.uk/content/studying-disability-planning-complete-your-module-success-3-april-2025> after the event to revisit if needed



Please



- Do not share any personal information in the chat pod during the session.
- On the recording names will be anonymised to user number.
- However if you type anyone's full name or any other personal information in the chat pod it can be seen by everybody and it would also show up on the recording so we may not be able to make the recording available.

Today's workshop



- This is going to be a structured community workshop to help you consider study issues relating to disabilities, and keeping going to progress on your module.
- Arran will be sharing his experiences and together you can consider your own
- We will not tell you what to do, nor what will definitely happen. We will discuss experiences and you can decide what may work for you.

Comfort break scheduled



- The workshop is scheduled to run 11-12:15 with a comfort break.
- I (Isabella) will make it clear when that comfort break will happen for those who are unclear.
- The slides do mention the presence of the break for those who like to be aware ahead of time.

Initial poll

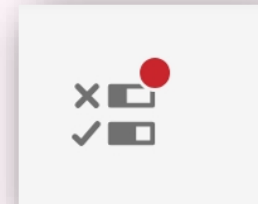
The same one starts each workshop 😊

What are you looking to gain?

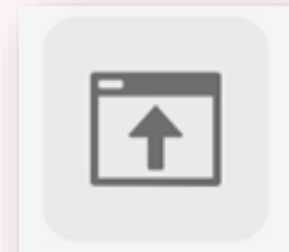


Using the short answer poll provided please say what you are hoping to gain from today's session

(If you are on a mobile app remember you need to tap into the polling option)



To come back to these slides after completing a poll click on the share pod slides icon



Practicalities

Practicalities and who is involved today

Disabled community events



- This workshop is the third in the 2024-25 year suite of events to support the Open University disabled community.
- Each event will focus on a specific aspect of study and has been developed with the support and input of current OU students who have disabilities.
- If you would like to be involved with future events then please contact us at studenthub@open.ac.uk

Session format



- Each of these sessions will talk to a student guest about their experiences of studying.
- This will include relevant questions about how disabilities impact them and their study.
- There will be opportunities for all attendees to consider their own situation and peer sharing of possible strategies.
- Today's session is about considering how to prepare as effectively as possible for the examinable components of each module

Terminology - 1



- Terminology today has been taken from the University's Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion Inclusive Language & Image Guide.
- This follows the social model of disability in which people are disabled or limited by society and provision, rather than a deficit-model approach whereby the person has a deficiency.
- <https://help.open.ac.uk/browse/disability> covers a lot of information about disability support.

Terminology - 2

- It is important to note that everyone is an individual and how one person describes their experiences may / not be how another does. Please be respectful of each individual's choice



Isabella Henman – me!



- I am the presenter of the workshop and events for the SHL disabled and ND community.
- I have been an OU tutor since 2005 and have led the SHL workshops since they began in 2017.
- I have an active interest in supporting students with various challenges and have undertaken specific training relating to neurodiversity and disability.
- I am not an expert but I am interested and continually update my knowledge.

Today's student guest



Arran is our student guest today

- Has studied with the OU for 20 years (completed undergraduate and now in postgraduate)
- Struggles with mental health
- Poor physical health issues which are disabling

Getting into today's workshop

Sharing experiences from student guest and you

Arran Q1



- Why did you particularly want to share your experiences today?

Still here despite everything!



Just want to help!



Disability word cloud



- Using the option to type in where it says enter word here **'what is the disability you have either diagnosed or suspected?'**
- Note that answers need to be a single word rather than a phrase / multiple words, if you press the space or enter button your word will go through (if the disability it is multiple words please use the acronym or share in chat pod).
- Please add a new answer for each disability if you have multiple
- A word cloud is built up with common answers being larger so we can see if there are commonalities.

Enter word here

Arran Q2



- How do you manage your study alongside disability?

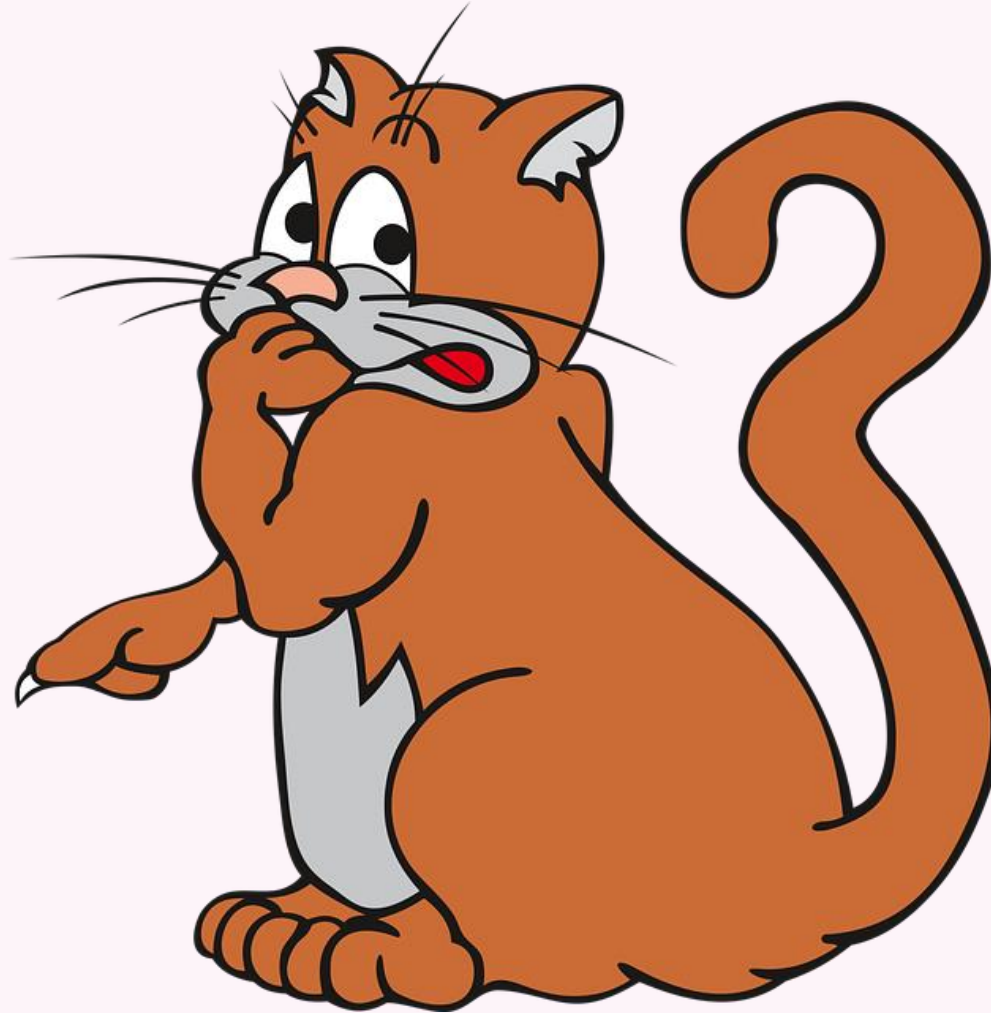
Prepare environment 1



Prepare environment 2



Avoid fretting



Engage with disability team



Poll for everyone 1



- Please use the short answer poll pod provided to answer the question – **How do you manage your study alongside disability?**
- Please only share what you feel comfortable with but remember the poll is anonymous for other users.
- We will be looking at suggestions and tips – there may be ideas you haven't thought of!

Arran q3

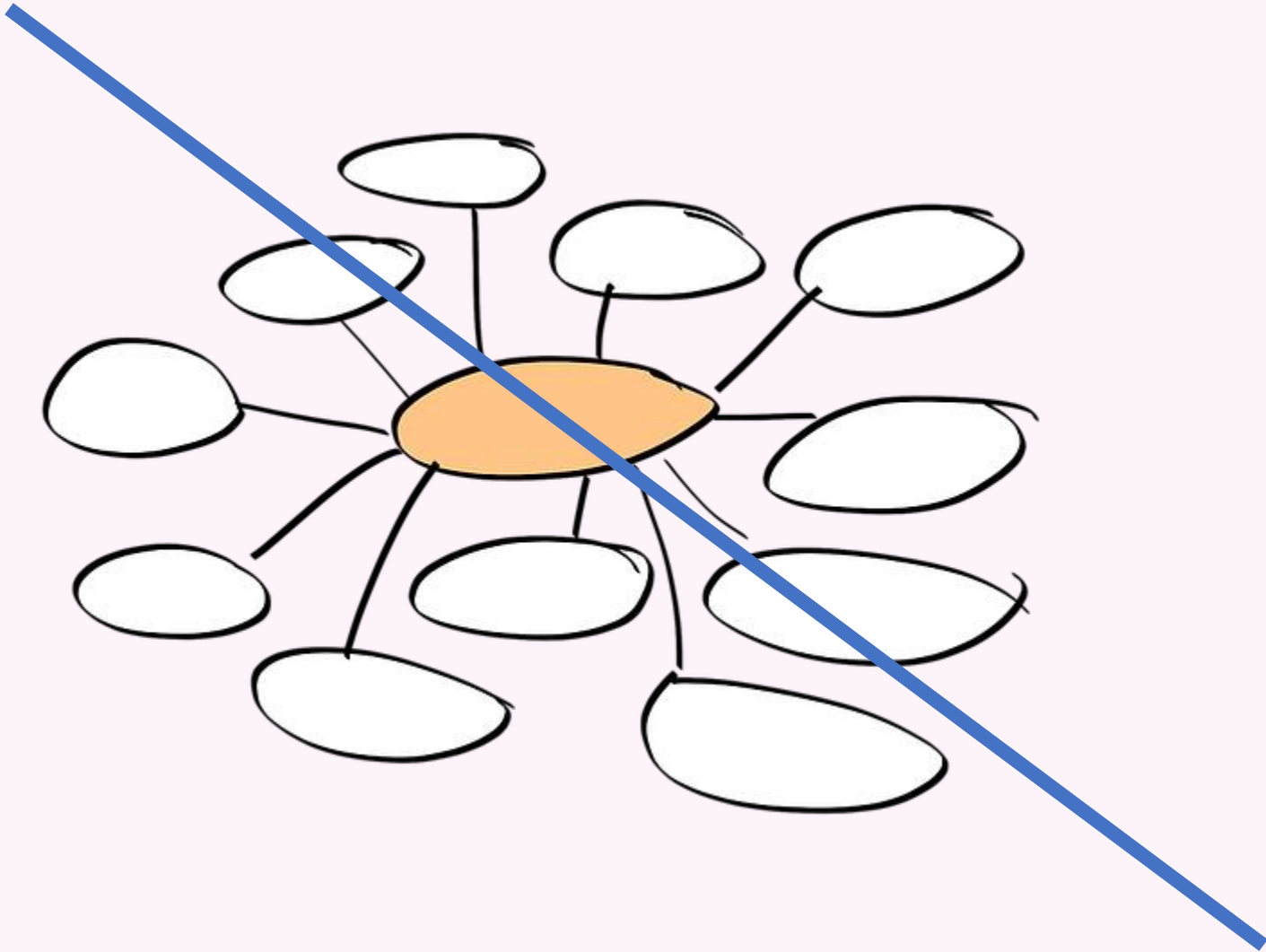


- Now we are looking to narrow it down to the specifics of this session which is about preparing for the period towards exams and TMAs. How do you manage these weeks leading towards an exam or EMA.

Can't do revision timetable

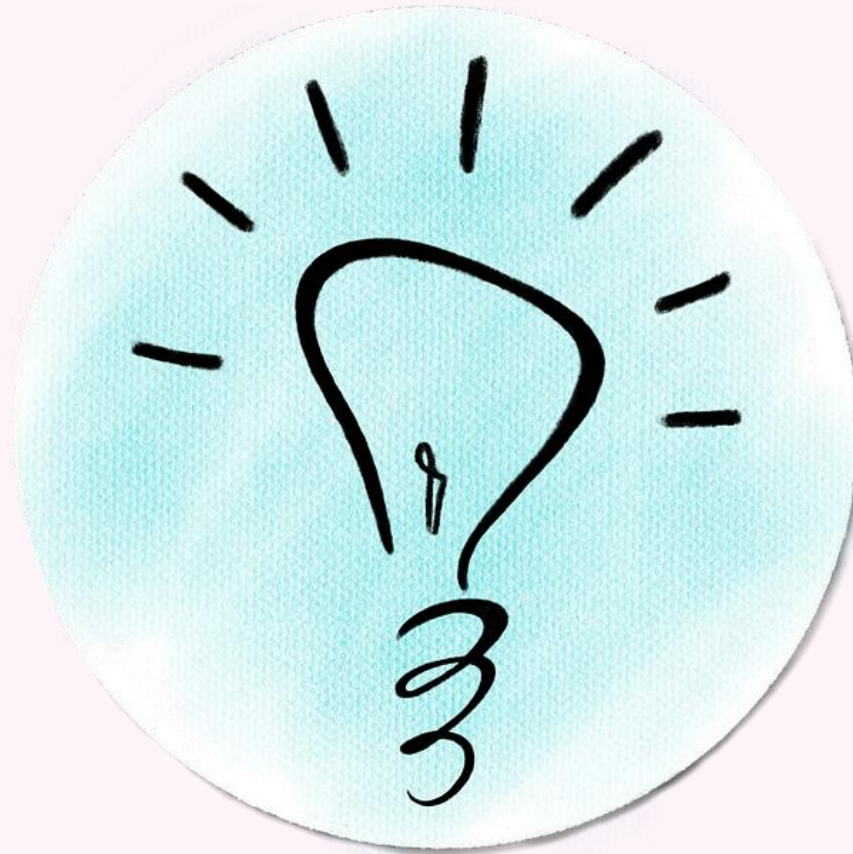


Can't do mindmaps / flashcards



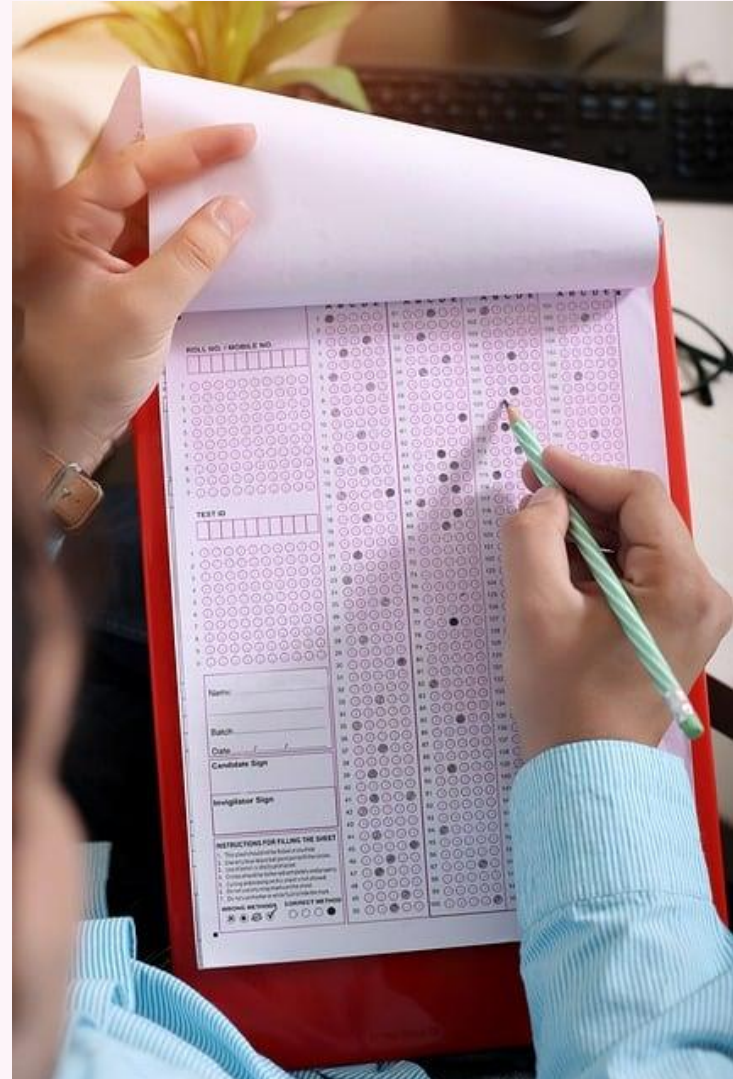
Find what works

- Have learnt it!



Can do

- Lots of questions
- Past papers



Comfort break

We will now have a 5-6 minute comfort break during which the recording will be paused. Please feel free to go and stretch your legs, visit the loo, grab a snack, make a drink or anything else you need to. The timer will count down until we come back

Poll for everyone 2



- You have had some of Arran's suggestions. Please now answer the following poll: **What, if anything, are you worried about preparing for your exam or EMA?**
- This is not about being negative but recognising some things that may be could be dealt with

Disabled students allowance 1

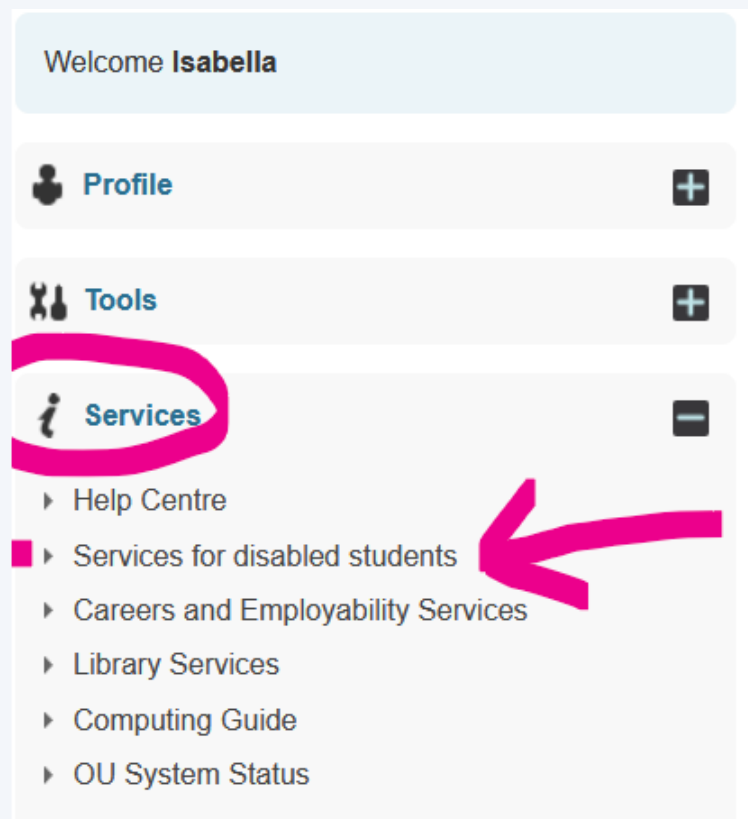


- DSA
- <https://www.gov.uk/disabled-students-allowance-dsa>
- <https://help.open.ac.uk/dsa-overview>
- Please note that the OU can not apply on your behalf but all students who declare a disability are encouraged to apply for the DSA as it is there to support them.
- The OU also does not govern what is provided and cannot guarantee what would be provided.

Disabled students allowance 2



- We can not guarantee anything but do encourage you to engage with your disability support team. Contact them through the option from studenthome in the services option
- <https://help.open.ac.uk/browse/disability>



Study related costs



- <https://www.open.ac.uk/courses/fees-and-funding/study-related-costs-funding>
- Examples may be support with broadband, provision of a large white board, special overlays to support reading on screen.
- Note we cannot guarantee anything but it is worth exploring and asking – you never know 😊

OU community and support



- <https://community.open.ac.uk/> showcases community within the OU (including studenthublive!)
- [OUSA disabled students group](#) have regular meet ups as well as other support
- OUSA have various [events](#)
- [National support network](#)

Check arrangements



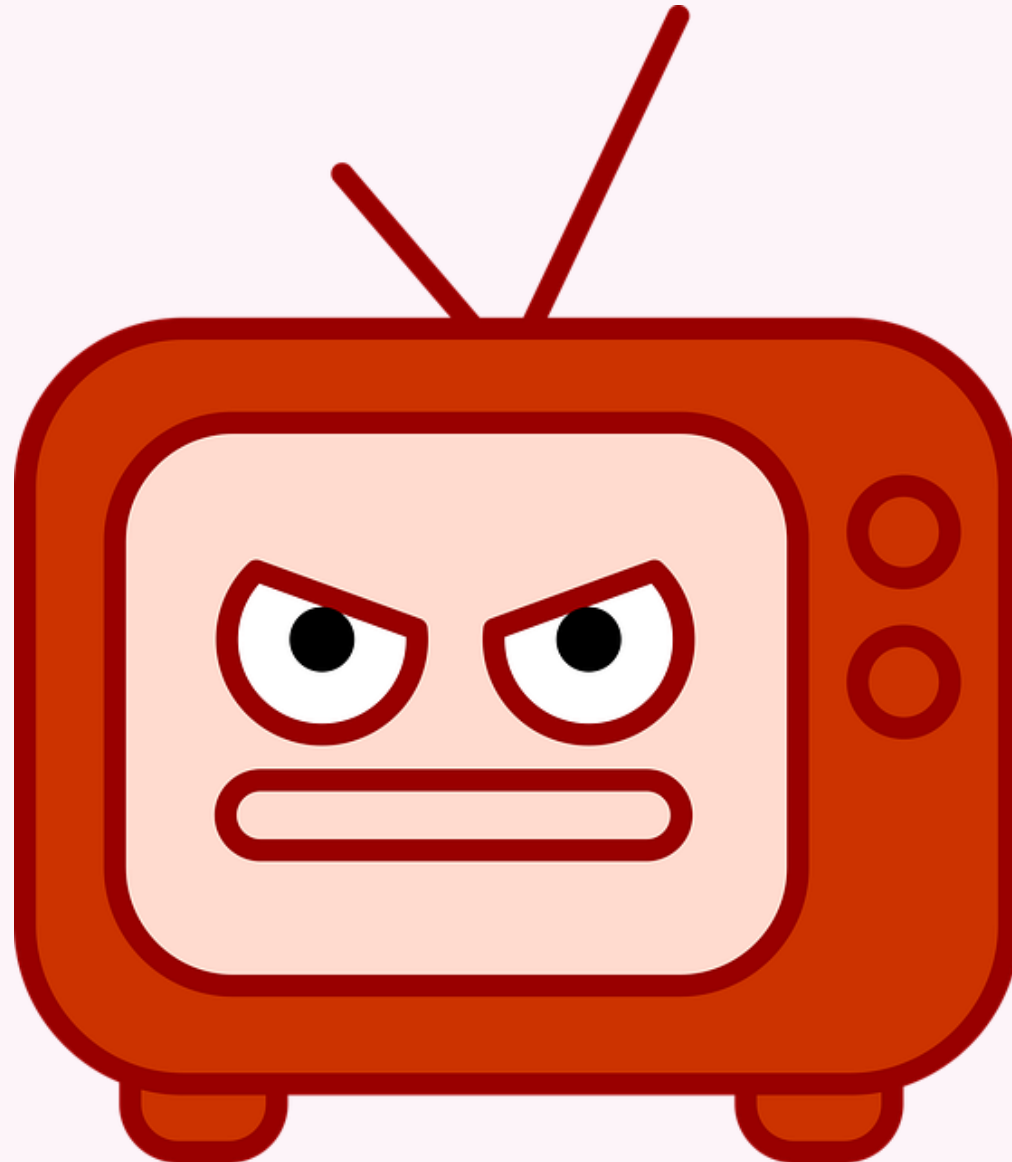
- Students with declared disabilities may be entitled to additional support or arrangement when it comes to exams.
- It is worth getting in contact with your student support team as soon as possible to check this.
- [it may be the deadline has passed for this year but it is worth seeing what is possible so don't let that put you off]

Arran q4



- You have shared a number of strategies and things that you do. How did you arrive at or choose the methods for exam preparation that work for you?

Frustration and anger



Know my brain



Don't bully myself or brain



Being comfortable



Poll for everyone 4



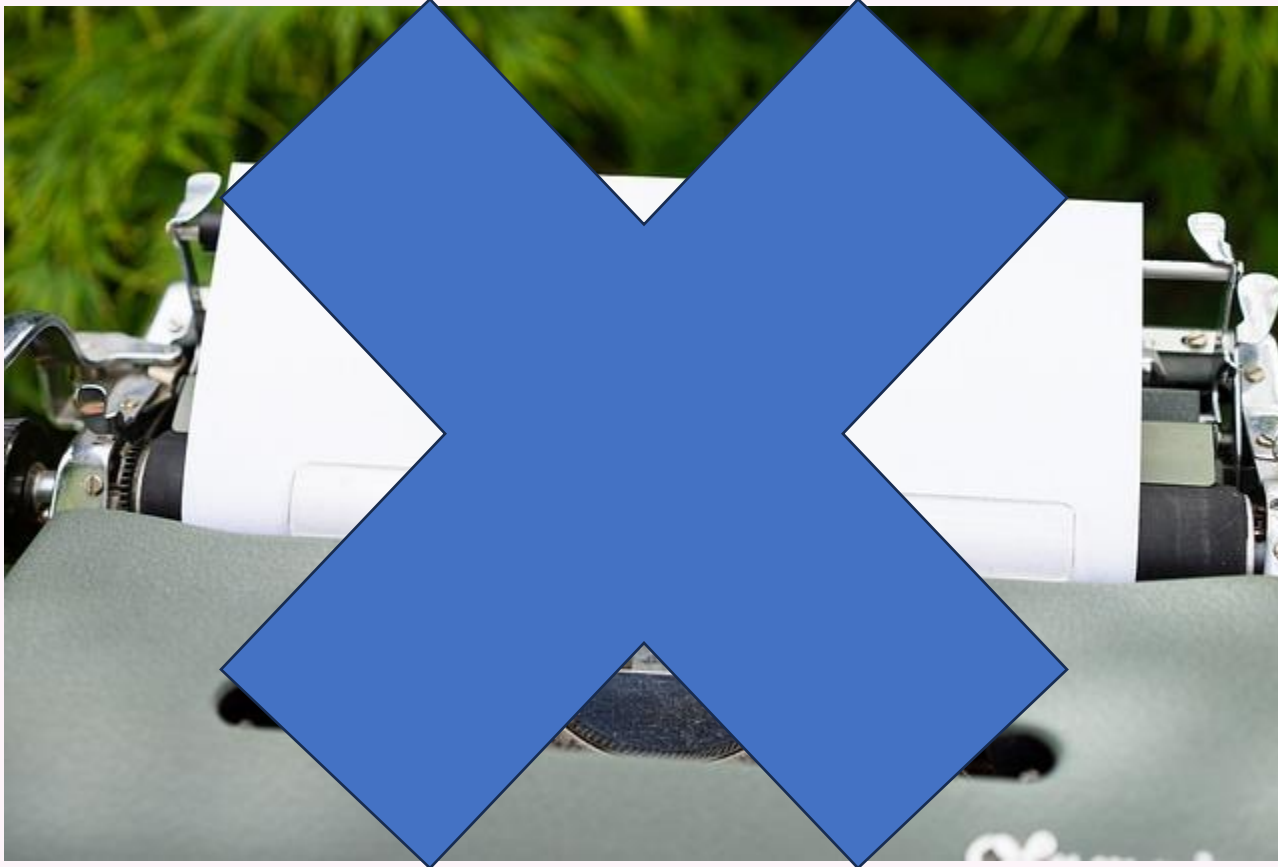
- Now you have heard lots of suggestions both from Arran and other people here please answer the following poll. **What aspect are you going to take forward?**
- The idea is to give yourself a target to help you in your preparation

Motivation time



- Arran is now going to share some motivational tips 😊

Other opinions don't count



It's not the end of the world



Take home message



- Examinable components (whether exam, emTMA or EMA) take time to prepare for.
- Build your own skill set and toolbox to help yourself
- Make use of support and help available

Would you like to be involved?



- If you would like to share your experiences and take part in future studenthublive sessions then please get in touch
- I (Isabella) will host a variety of sessions in 2025 which will involve student guests for disabilities as well as the neurodiverse community series and other study skills including reflection. If you or any other OU student you know might like to be involved please contact us
- studenthub@open.ac.uk

Selected upcoming events



- 09 Apr 11 am ND planning to complete your module successfully
- 23 Apr 11 am Tackling procrastination successfully
- 24 Apr 11 am Support and wellbeing for student carers
- 01 May 11 am Studying when English is not your first language
- 06 May 7 pm Learning from feedback
- 08 May 11 am Live – End of modules assessments and exams

For more information on all past and upcoming events, go to <http://studenthublive.open.ac.uk/>

Feedback



Please complete the feedback form that is available at

<https://forms.office.com/e/QSu4Fz1CHs>

This is immensely valuable to provide information on how studenthublive is beneficial to students as well as to help us plan our future programme