Computer Reader/Reader

- **A reader** is a responsible adult who provides support for reading during an examination. They can read exam questions and instructions aloud to a student with a disability, learning difficulty, or reading impairment.
- The **invigilator** assigned to the room will often fulfil the role of Reader.
- **Occasionally**, a 1:1 Reader may be assigned to a candidate.
- In some examinations, such as English Language, a human reader is not permitted. Students can use a **Computer Reader** or **Reading Pen** as an alternative.



A Reader can....

- Read the exact wording of the exam paper as often as the candidate requests.
- Read back the candidate's own written answers if requested.
- If requested, give the spelling of a word which appears on the paper.
- Read numbers printed in figures as words.
- Decode symbols and unit abbreviations in maths and science exams for candidates who require this arrangement.



A Reader cannot....

- Advise the candidate on which questions to do, when to move on to the next question, or the order in which questions should be answered.
- Emphasise any errors made when reading back what the candidate has written.
- Decode any symbols in a music examination.
- Explain or give meaning to words or terms.



What is a Computer Reader?

- A **computer reader** is an assistive software that reads examination questions and text aloud to a candidate via text-to-speech. It replaces or acts as an alternative to a human reader, allowing candidates with reading difficulties to work independently.



What is a Reading Pen?

- A **Reading Pen** is a portable, pen-shaped device that scans printed text and reads it aloud using text-to-speech technology. It is ideal for students who only require help reading odd words and sentences. It is used with headphones**. Students must ensure to have practised using a Reading Pen in class if intending to use one during exams.**



Why not use a human reader? – A human reader is **not permitted** in the specific sections of exams that directly test reading comprehension skills, such as Section A of GCSE English Language papers. A Computer Reader or a Reading Pen can be used as an alternative. This technology is accessed via a school laptop, provided by the Exams Team. A Reading Pen will be also be provided.