

# NCAM & ONLINE ASSESSMENTS

Ensuring Access for Students with Disabilities

Question:

**NCAM can provide which of the following to help solve accessibility issues in high-stakes digital assessment?**

- A. Alternative Text for Images
- B. Accessibility Compliance
- C. Assistive Technology Compatibility
- D. Alternative Accommodations
- E. All of the Above

For over two decades, The Carl and Ruth Shapiro Family National Center for Accessible Media at WGBH (**NCAM**) has been a national leader in making digital media accessible for people with disabilities. NCAM can help solve accessibility issues in every component of a high-stakes digital assessment.

# Consulting, Editorial, and Compliance Services

## A Alternative Text for Images

Accessibility for students with print disabilities includes ensuring access to the text and images of an item. This requires high-quality text alternatives for images and a visual bias review.

- NCAM has an in-house editorial unit of assessment and disability specialists prepared to create image descriptions for you.
- NCAM can train your team of editors and writers to create accessible items including effective and efficient image descriptions.
- NCAM can review image descriptions created by another agency as part of the quality-assurance process.

## B Accessibility Compliance

Read-aloud, alternative text, zoom, high-contrast, and captions are part of a long list of accommodations for students with disabilities. It is vital that each accommodation is properly conveyed via the delivery platform.

- NCAM can advise your technology team on how to ensure that all of the accommodations are getting to the appropriate students.
- NCAM can also evaluate your delivery platform against accessibility guidelines and policies, including Section 508 and the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.0 (WCAG 2.0).

## C Assistive Technology Compatibility

On test day, some students with disabilities will rely on assistive technology (AT) to access the assessment and its accommodations. This should be an opportunity for the students to show their mastery of the subject matter, not to struggle with technology issues, subpar image descriptions, or incomplete markup.

- NCAM can test your delivery platform with commonly used AT, media players, and browsers in order to advise you on how to ensure that each student's access to the test is smooth and unhindered.

## D Alternative Accommodations

Sometimes, students with disabilities prefer or require a human reader or other non-digital accommodations.

- NCAM can create, review, or revise guidelines and practices for alternate methods of access to assessments.

### NCAM Expert Staff

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**Contact us to discuss how NCAM can help you meet the needs of all of your students.**

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