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Listen to me! the voices of some students with dyslexia

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# **Listen to me!**

## **The voices of some students with dyslexia**

### **Jane Mullen and Jean Hatton**



*University of*  
**HUDDERSFIELD**

My earliest memory of school was of the teacher asking me to come up to the board and do some maths in front of the other children. I felt really uncomfortable and upset at having to do this because I felt so stupid because I couldn't do it ...I remember just being stood there because I didn't know what to do and when I look back on it, it was a very painful experience

Perhaps I'm not really stupid....

With my assignments I am totally exhausted when I have finished

**Degrees of Independence Conference**

**April 17<sup>th</sup> 2009**

# The Dangerous Rise of Therapeutic Education

‘Students may come to university already **predisposed** to think of themselves as needing help with any changes and do not find it **problematic to ask for ‘help’**. ... Now everyone looks for a difficulty to declare, like the hundreds of students who register themselves as ‘dyslexic’ when the problem, if it exists, is exceptionally rare.’

Ecclestone and Hayes 2009:89

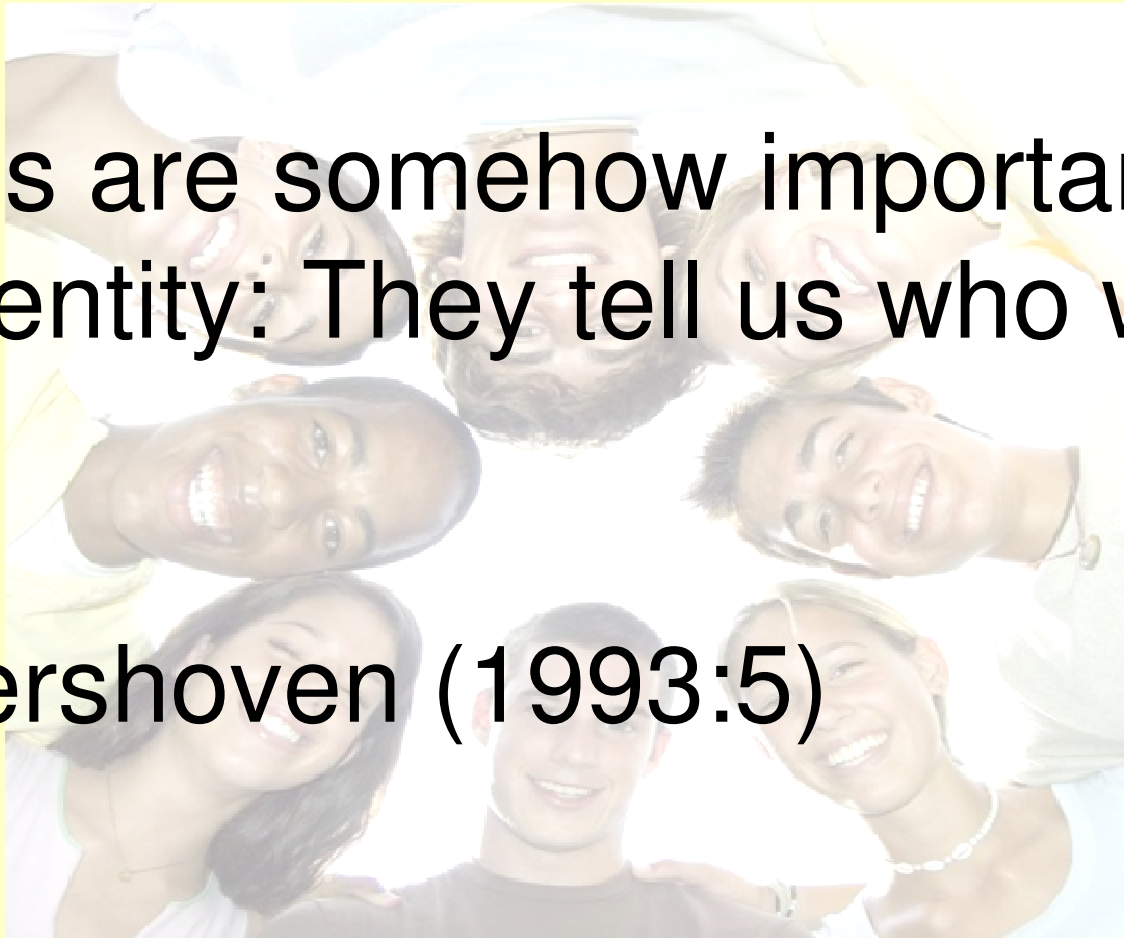
# Statistics

- 2006-2007 199 new students with dyslexia made contact with the Disability Office
- 2007-2008 this figure had risen to 299
- 2007-2008 declared dyslexics -approximately 4% of the undergraduates
- 2007-2008 declared dyslexics on the FdA and BA part time course 23%

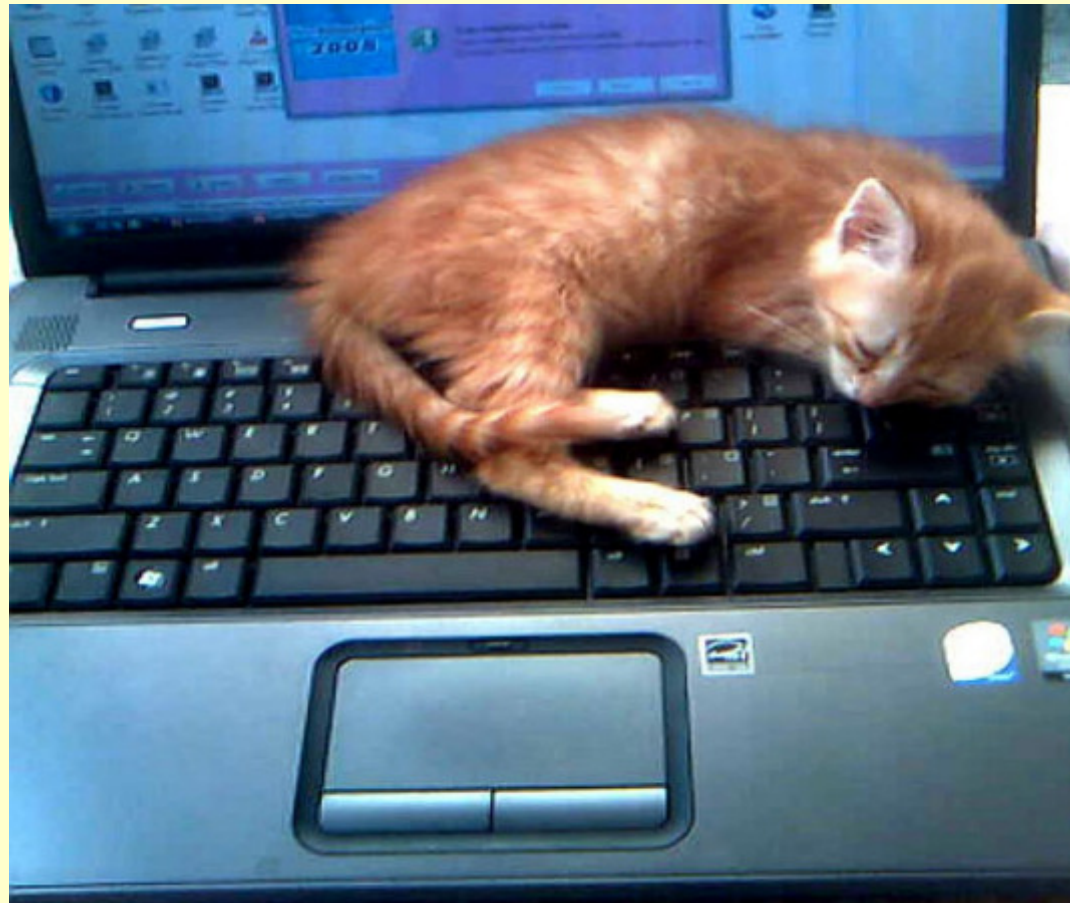


‘stories are somehow important for  
our identity: They tell us who we  
are’

Widdershoven (1993:5)

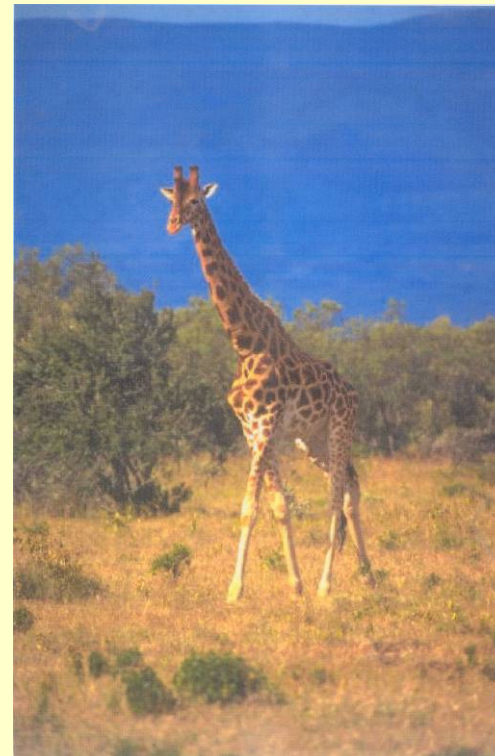


# What animal are you?



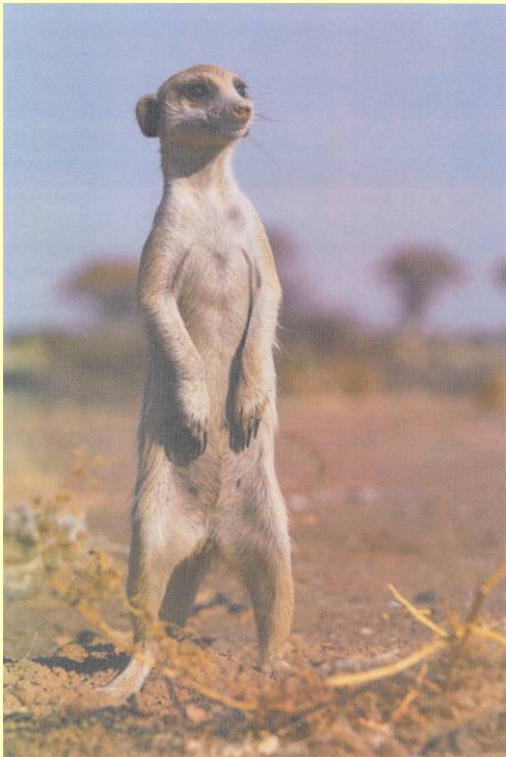


# Humour/head in clouds





# Timid



# Spikes and Shells





# The big black monster



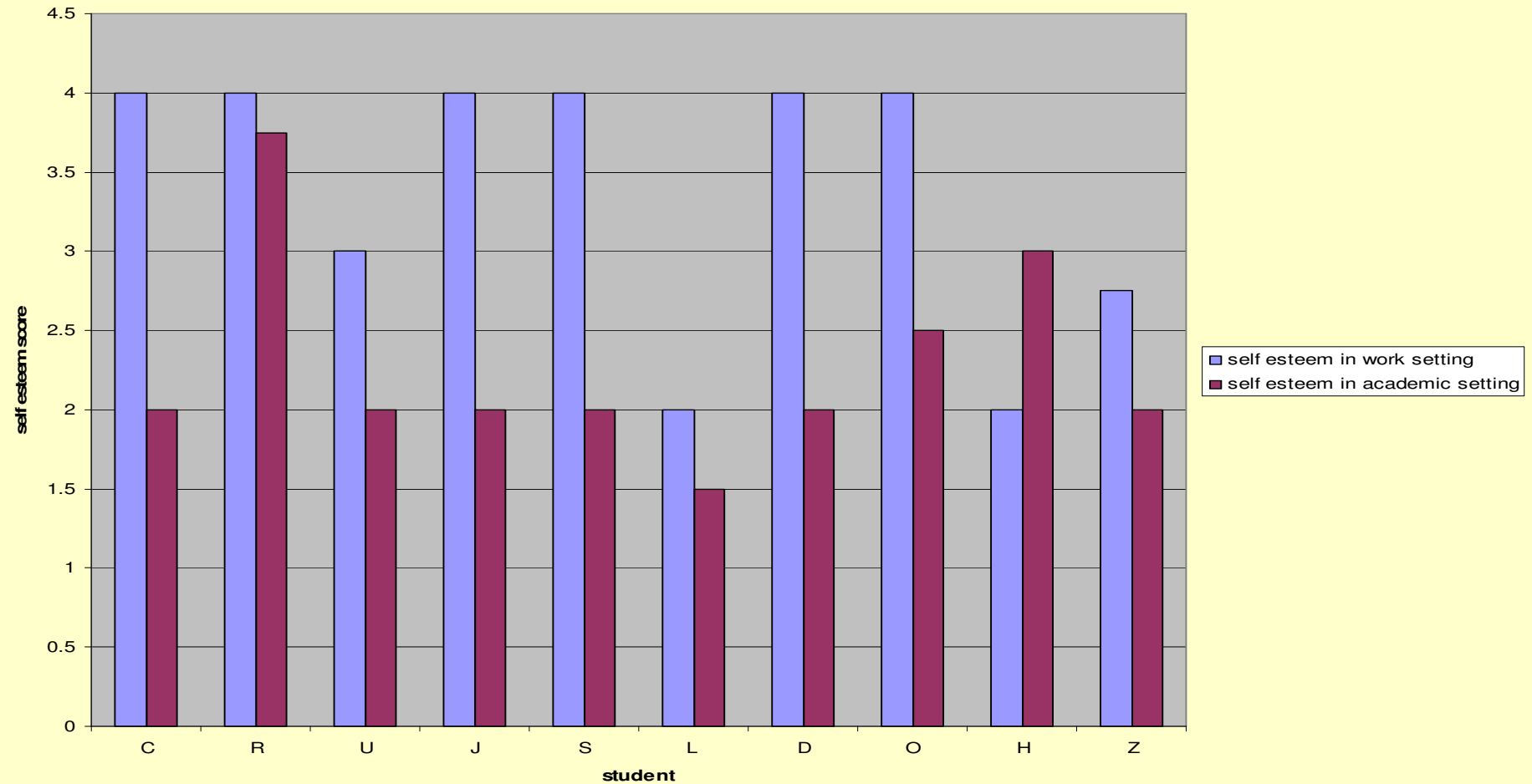
# The developing self

I feel the school system failed me (S)

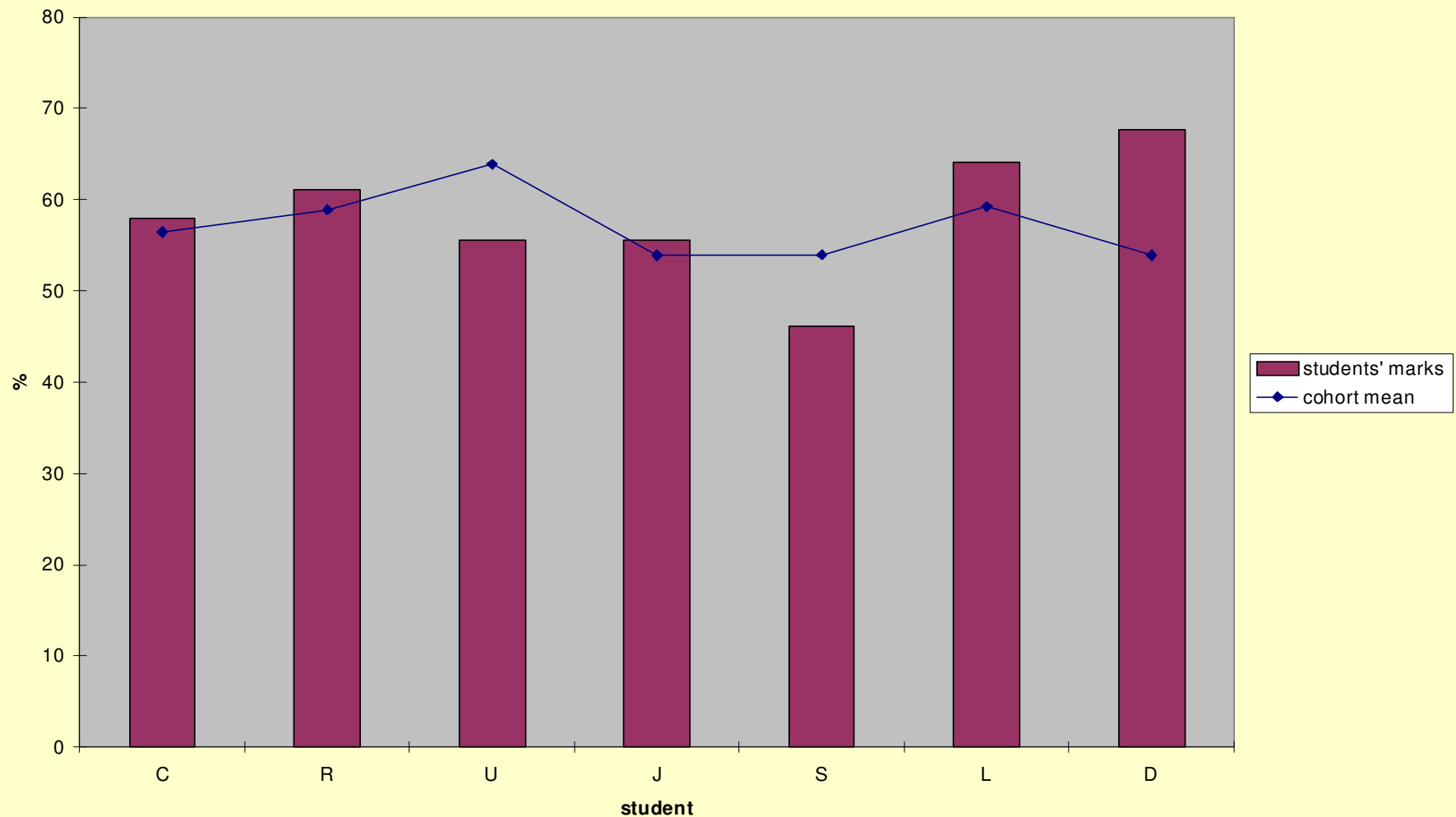
Nowadays I probably would have an ASBO (J)

I remember one particular instance where a teacher asked me to read in front of a class and I knew I couldn't do it - I had done it before when people would giggle and laugh, but it was year 10 and I knew I couldn't get away with missing words and getting it wrong, so I just said I did not feel well and ran out of the room. Those feelings of insecurity and inadequacy still haunt me today. (R)

# Self esteem in different settings

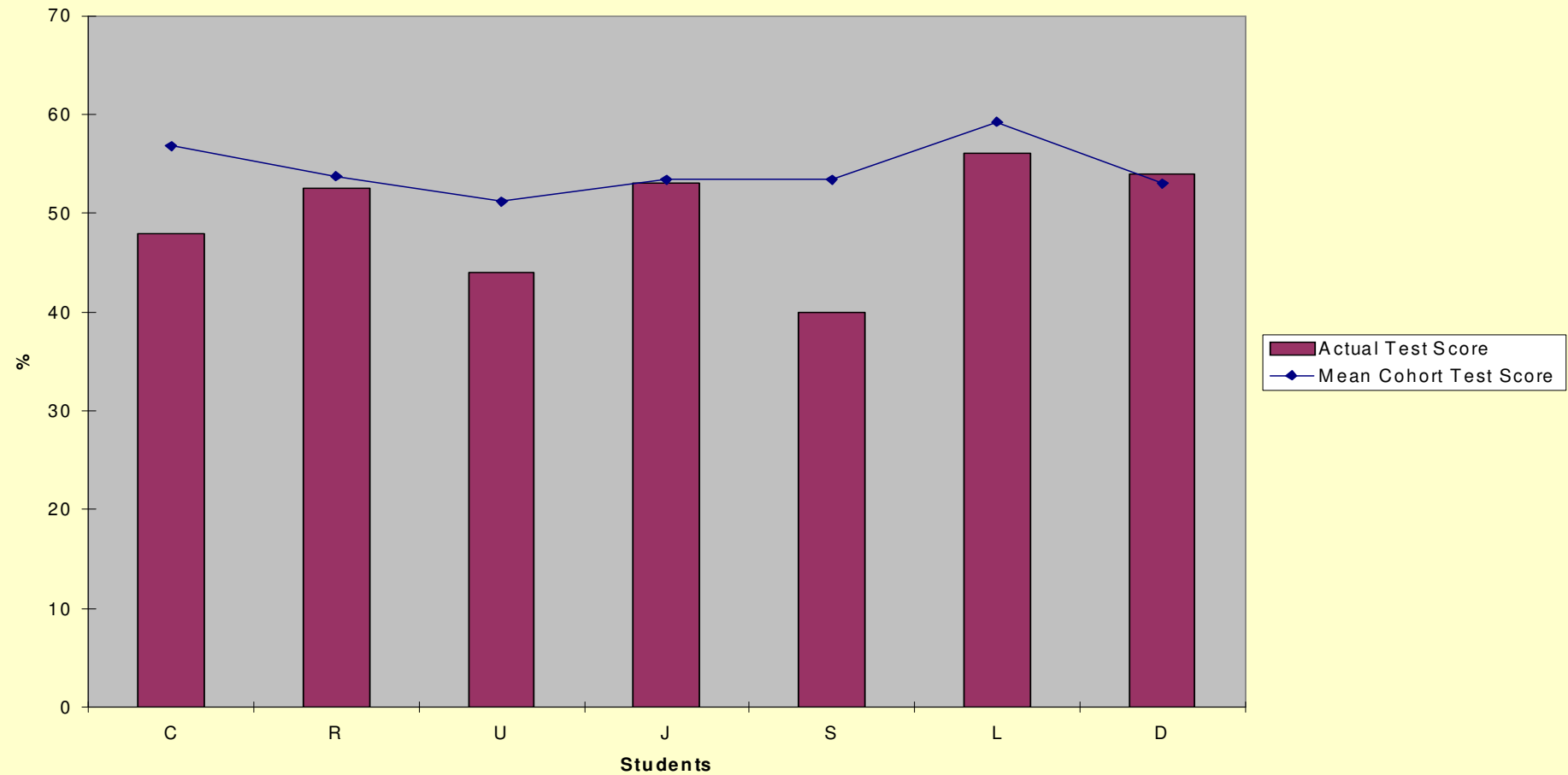


# Comparison of marks for written assignments

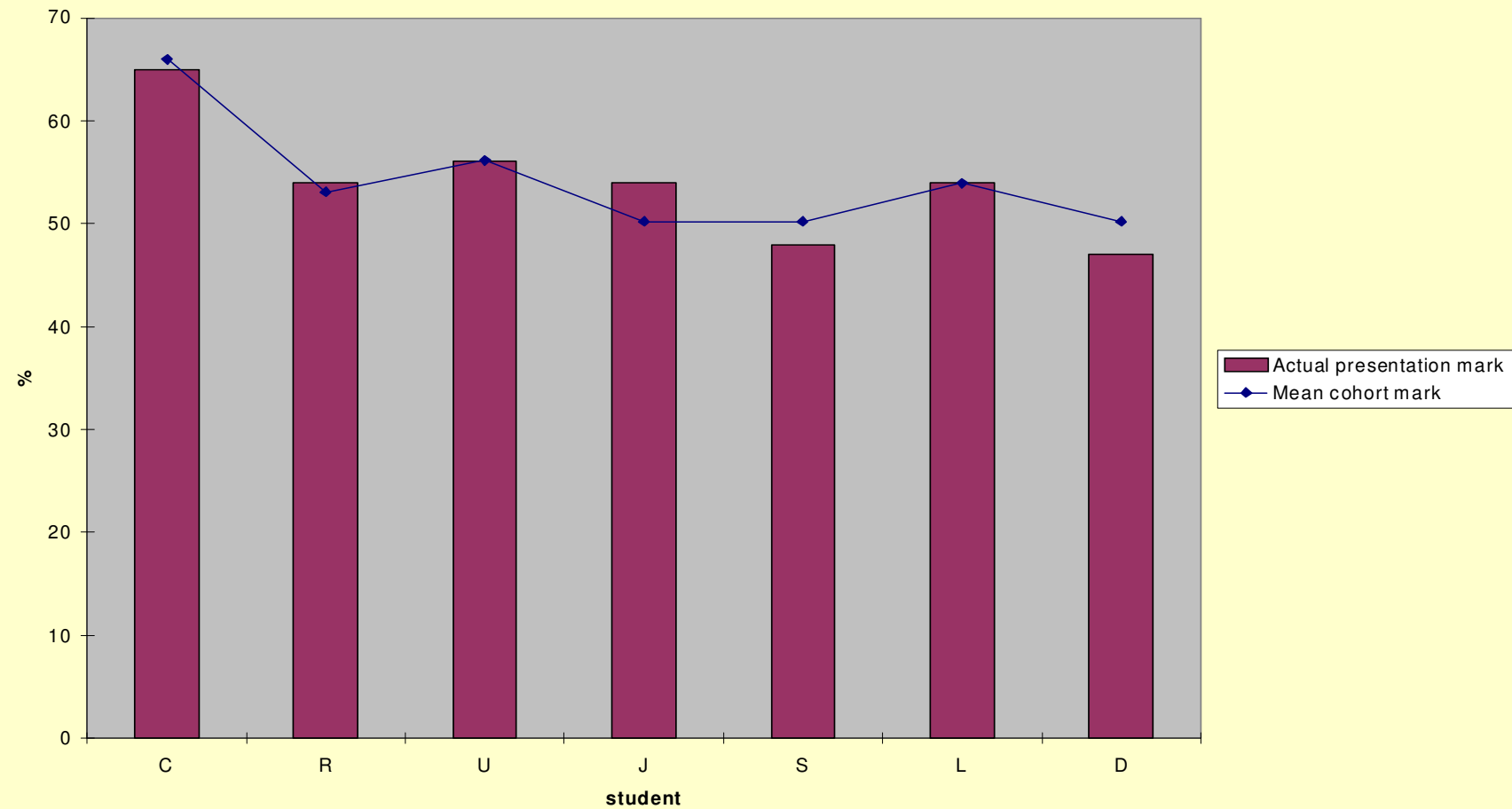




# Comparison of scores for timed tests



# Comparison of marks for presentations



# Help!

‘in many cases dyslexic adults have to be assertive about their entitlement for support. For some adults this is difficult to achieve’ (Reid and Kirk 2001:153).

Normally I don’t have a problem asking for help, but because I was out of my comfort zone I felt I couldn’t ask for help from anybody because I didn’t want to look a fool (D)

# Journeying towards a comfortable identity:

It used to be my dyslexia and me and certainly over the last few years, and hopefully it will continue, we have amalgamated into one and this is who I am and it just lets me get on with my life, so it's less debilitating I guess! (R)