



## TASK 1: RESEARCH DOCUMENT

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# Web Accessibility

Web accessibility means making websites easy to use for everyone, including people with disabilities. This includes people who have trouble seeing, hearing, moving, or understanding information.

Web accessibility is important for people without disabilities, for example:

- The people accessing the websites on small technological devices such as mobile phones and smartwatches.
- The older generation.
- Persons with temporary issues such as a broken arm.
- Slow internet connections.

The goal is to help everyone use websites without problems.

The Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) are rules created by the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) to help developers make websites accessible. These rules focus on making sites easy to see, use, and understand.

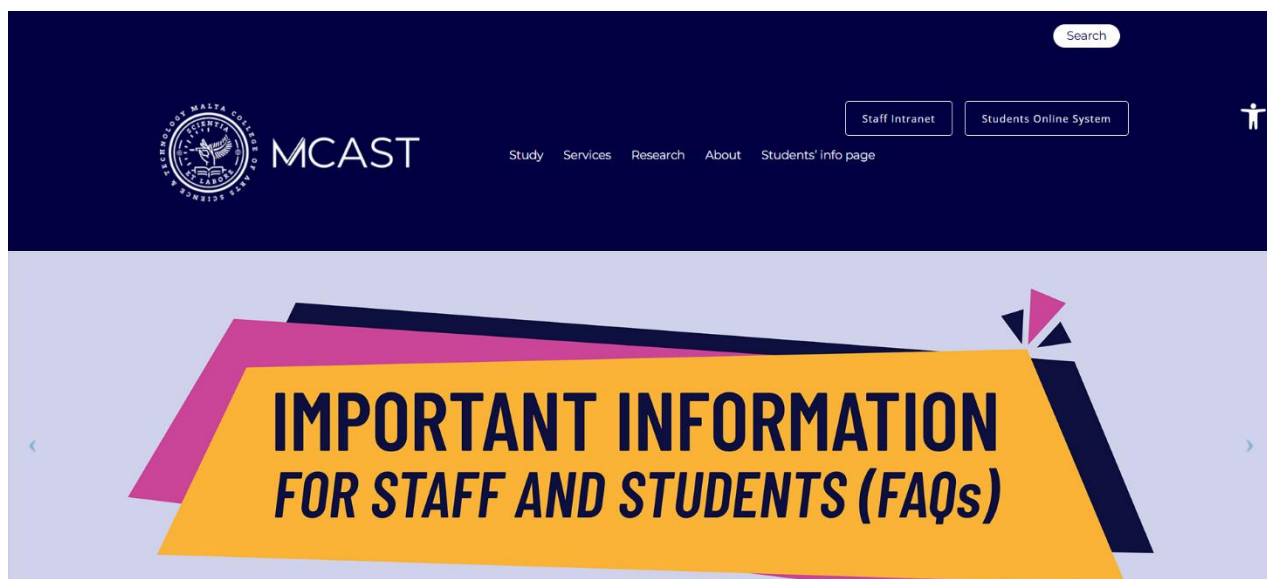
## Four Principles of Accessibility

The WCAG guidelines are based on four important principles: Perceivable, Operable, Understandable, and Robust.

1. **Perceivable:** Information presented must be easy to see for all users.
2. **Operable:** All users need to be able to use controls, buttons, etc. This may also mean being able to operate the above using voice recognition, keyboard, etc.
3. **Understandable:** This means that all users will understand and find it easy to use.
4. **Robust:** The website needs to be robust so that it can still be used by various users in all situations.

## Examples:

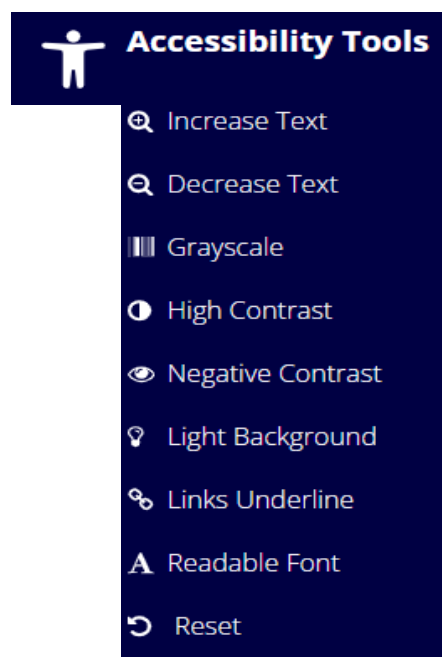
1. MCAST-<https://mcast.edu.mt/>



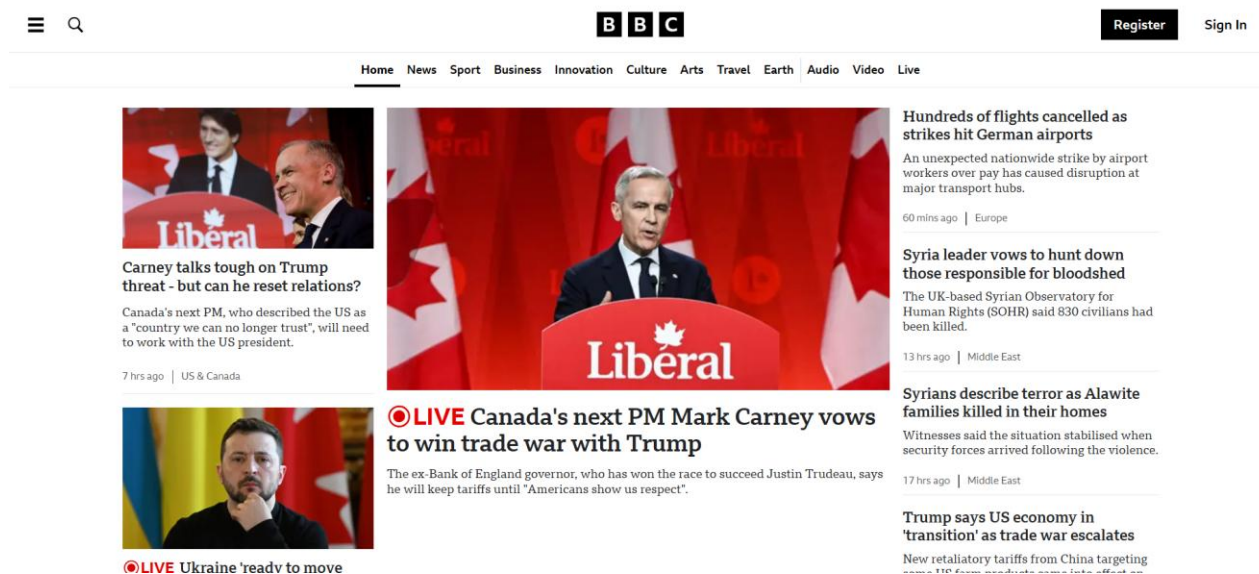
MCAST site features an accessibility toolbar. Users can click on the icon at the side to use the available accessibility features.

In my opinion, this website has good visuals such as colour, organisation and images. As for the principles, I think that the site is:

1. Perceivable: The font size of the menu at the top of the site is too small, making it hard for some users to read the text. I tried to click increase text on the accessibility toolbar, but it does not work on the menu.
2. Operable: The accessibility tools icon can be made more visible.
3. Understandable: The accessibility toolbar could also include easy reading and voice recognition.



## 2. BBC- <https://www.bbc.com/>



The website uses many of the accessibility tools features. One such advantage is that users can use the “Tab” button on the keyboard and move along the pages without using a mouse. This is especially important for persons with limited fine motor skills. They can also use speech input software, sip-and-puff software, on-screen keyboards, and more.

## **Accessibility Features for My Project**

To make my website easy to use for all people, I will include the following features:

1. Text for Images – Every image will have a text description so that screen readers can explain them to blind users.
2. Keyboard Navigation – Users can navigate the website without a mouse.
3. Simple Language – Information will be written in short, clear sentences.
4. Mobile-Friendly Design – The website will adjust to different screen sizes for easy use on phones and tablets.
5. Good Colour Contrast – Text will be easy to read using colours that stand out against the background.
6. Subtitles for Videos – Videos will have captions so that people with hearing difficulties can understand them.

Adding these features will make my website more inclusive and easier to use for everyone, including people with disabilities.

## Reference:

W3C (2024). *Introduction to Web Accessibility*. [online] Web Accessibility Initiative (WAI). Available at: <https://www.w3.org/WAI/fundamentals/accessibility-intro/>.

www.w3.org. (n.d.). *Introduction to Understanding WCAG | WAI | W3C*. [online] Available at: <https://www.w3.org/WAI/WCAG22/Understanding/intro#understanding-the-four-principles-of-accessibility>.