

Table B.3a The dependent learner and the independent learner

Dependent learner	Independent learner
Learner wants:	Learner anticipates:
• Structured learning experiences	• Complex problems for which there is no single correct solution
• Tutor to take responsibility for the learning experience	• Extensive self-paced, independent study
• Tutor-centred approach	• Student-centred approach
• Rewards	• Encouragement
• Support	• Judgement-free support
• Intellectual stimulation from studies	• Experimentation
• Reinforcement	• Free to explore and make mistakes
• Esteem	
Learner wants lecturer or tutor to be:	Learner wants lecturer or tutor to be:
• A subject expert	• A facilitator
• An authority figure	• A guide
• An instructor	
and to:	and to:
• Lecture/talk	• Negotiate
• Assess/check	• Encourage
• Examine/test	• Develop
• Design and direct the learning experience	• Motivate
• Control	• Consult
• Lead/direct	• Listen
• Instruct	• Evaluate
• Encourage	• Act as a resource
	• Provide feedback on request
	• Delegate

Source: Payne and Whittaker, 2006: 11