Chapter Outline

Introduction
Theorizing special education: a historical perspective
The politics of special educational needs and disability
Theorizing special education: a new perspective
Postmodern/poststructural theorizing and special education
Postmodern/poststructural theorizing: a multi-paradigm shift and its implications for special education policy and practice
Theoretical pluralism under scrutiny: implications for political action
Summary
Reflective Exercise

What is the role of power in understanding and analyzing the notion of special educational needs?

In what alternative ways can the notion of ‘special educational needs’ be understood and analyzed?

What is the significance of post-functional theorizing in understanding the complexity of special educational needs and disability?