HTML Forms A11y – The Basics

Labels

- Create descriptive HTML label tag for every form field
  - Labels should describe the purpose of each form field
  - Provide a visual label adjacent to the form field

Fieldsets & Legends

- Enclose groups of related checkboxes and radio buttons in a fieldset with a legend tag
- Ensure the "legend" element the first element in the fieldset and is descriptive of the grouped form fields
  - For example, if the label for the checkboxes or radio buttons are "yes" and "no" then the legend would be "would you like to sign up to our mailing list?"

Error Prevention and Feedback

- Give clear instructions, including providing formats for dates and phone numbers etc.
- Use words for "required" or "optional" instead of the asterisk
- If the form has legal commitments or financial transactions, allow for reviewing, confirmation and correction before submission
- Locate error alerts and suggestions near the input field to which the error refers
- Ensure all errors are read by screen readers
- Avoid using colour alone, such as a red outline around the form field, to show an error. If you do use colour, ensure that the colour contrast ratio is at least 3:1

CAPTCHAs

- As CAPTCHAs are notoriously inaccessible. Check out W3C's Wiki on Alternatives and Thoughts to CAPTCHA[1]
  - Consider the "Honeypot" method
  - Consider using multi-factor authentication
  - Consider using biometric security means such as fingerprint, eye scan or facial recognition.

Non-Text Colour Contrast

- Ensure borders for input fields, checkboxes, CTA buttons and radio buttons have a colour contrast ratio of at least 3:1. Informative icons also need to meet this ratio.

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[1] https://www.w3.org/WAI/GL/wiki/Captcha_Alternatives_and_thoughts