Artificial Intelligence (AI) Use in Assessment: Family Guidance

Students complete the majority of their exams and a large number of other assessments under close staff supervision with limited access to authorised materials and no permitted access to the internet. The delivery of these assessments will be unaffected by developments in AI tools as students will not be able to use such tools when completing these assessments.

There are some assessments in which access to the internet is permitted in the preparatory, research or production stages. The majority of these assessments will be Non-Examined Assessments (NEAs) for General Qualifications, Coursework for Cambridge National and Vocational qualifications, and internal assessments.

As has always been the case, and in accordance with JCQ regulations, all work submitted for qualification assessments must be the students' own, therefore;
- students who misuse AI such that the work they submit for assessment is not their own will have committed malpractice, and may attract severe sanctions;
- students must be aware of the risks of using AI and must be clear on what constitutes malpractice;
- students must make sure that work submitted for assessment is demonstrably their own. If any sections of their work are reproduced directly from AI generated responses, those elements must be identified by the student and they must understand that this will not allow them to demonstrate that they have independently met the marking criteria and therefore will not be rewarded (AI use must be acknowledged).

Students should also be aware that AI tools are still being developed and there are often limitations to their use, such as producing inaccurate or inappropriate content.

What are AI chatbots?

AI chatbots are AI tools which generate text in response to user prompts and questions.   They generate responses which are statistically likely to be relevant and appropriate. AI chatbots can complete tasks such as the following:
- Answering questions
- Analysing, improving, and summarising text
- Authoring essays, articles, fiction, and non-fiction
- Writing computer code
- Translating text from one language to another
- Generating new ideas, prompts, or suggestions for a given topic or theme
- Generating text with specific attributes, such as tone, sentiment, or formality
- Generate images

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Students own work

To emphasise; students must submit work for assessments which is their own. Any use of AI which means students have not independently demonstrated their own attainment is likely to be considered malpractice.

AI tools must only be used when the conditions of the assessment permit the use of the internet and where the student is able to demonstrate that the final submission is the product of their own independent work and independent thinking.

If a student uses an AI tool which provides details of the sources it has used in generating content, these sources must be verified by the student and referenced in their work in the normal way. Where an AI tool does not provide such details, students should ensure that they independently verify the AI-generated content – and then reference the sources they have used.

Examples of Misuse

Examples of AI misuse include, but are not limited to, the following:
- Copying or paraphrasing sections of AI-generated content so that the work is no longer the student's own
- Copying or paraphrasing whole responses of AI-generated content
- Using AI to complete parts of the assessment so that the work does not reflect the student's own work, analysis, evaluation or calculations
- Failing to acknowledge use of AI tools when they have been used as a source of information
- Incomplete or poor acknowledgement of AI tools
- Submitting work with intentionally incomplete or misleading references or bibliographies.

If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards

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