



21<sup>st</sup> October 2024

Dear Parent/Carers

## Artificial Intelligence and Assessments

We are writing to highlight key updates to guidance around use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in assessments as per JCQ regulations. Across Key Stage 4 and 5 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), coursework and internal assessments for General Qualifications (GQs) and Vocational & Technical Qualifications (VTQs). The recent guidance from JCQ is primarily in relation to those assessments.

It is essential that students submit work for assessments which is their own. This means both ensuring that the final product is in their own words, and isn't copied or paraphrased from another source such as an AI tool, and that the content reflects their own independent work. Students are expected to demonstrate their own knowledge, skills and understanding as required for the qualification in question and set out in the qualification specification.

## What is AI?

AI chatbots are AI tools which generate text in response to user prompts and questions. Users can ask follow-up questions or ask the chatbot to revise the responses already provided. AI chatbots generate responses which are statistically likely to be relevant and appropriate. The use of AI chatbots may pose significant risks if used by students completing qualification assessments. As noted above, they have been developed to produce responses based upon the statistical likelihood of the language selected being an appropriate response and so the responses cannot be relied upon. AI chatbots often produce answers which may seem convincing but contain incorrect or biased information. Some AI chatbots have been identified as providing dangerous and harmful answers to questions and some can also produce fake references to books/ articles by real or fake people.

AI use refers to the use of these AI tools to obtain information and content which might be used in work produced for assessments which lead towards qualifications. While the range of AI tools, and their capabilities, is likely to expand greatly in the near future, misuse of AI tools in relation to qualification assessments at any time constitutes malpractice.

## Malpractice

AI misuse constitutes malpractice as defined in the JCQ Suspected Malpractice: Policies and Procedures <https://www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/malpractice/>. Teachers and assessors must only accept work for qualification assessments which is the students' own. Students who misuse AI such that the work they submit for assessment is not their own will have committed malpractice, in accordance with JCQ regulations, and may attract severe sanctions. The malpractice sanctions available for the offences of 'making a false declaration of authenticity' and 'plagiarism' include disqualification and debarment from taking qualifications for a number of years. Students' marks may also be affected if they have relied on AI to complete an assessment and, as noted above, the attainment that they have demonstrated in relation to the requirements of the qualification does not accurately reflect their own work.

Where teachers have doubts about the authenticity of student work submitted for assessment (for example, they suspect that parts of it have been generated by AI but this has not been acknowledged), as a school we are obliged to investigate and take appropriate action. The use of detection tools may be used to consider the authenticity of students' work. Teachers will know their students best and so are best placed to assess the authenticity of work submitted to them for assessment.

Teachers highlight to students in Key Stage 4 and 5 the importance of submitting their own independent work for assessment and for identifying potential malpractice. However, with an update in the use of AI around this we want to highlight the importance to parents so that you can discuss this with your child. Please click on the link [here](#) to view the AI student information poster from JCQ.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mrs Spencer', written in a cursive style.

Mrs Spencer  
Deputy Headteacher