



Artificial Intelligence (AI) Guidance

As AI tools like ChatGPT, Midjourney, and AI-based features in software such as Photoshop become increasingly prominent, we aim to offer guidance and information on their use by learners in assessment work. This is supplementary to the [JCQ AI Use in Assessments](#) guidance.

Pearson understands that these powerful tools could be used as a valid part of learner work, but that there are also inherent risks to their use, particularly in an educational or assessment context. It is important that learners understand the appropriate and ethical use of AI in the context of assessments and in preparation for future careers. It is critical that learners develop and demonstrate their own skills in generating and developing ideas, research, use of technical and practical processes, etc., which are independent of AI input.

Summary

The JCQ Guidance published on the use of AI states that “all work submitted for qualification assessments must be the learners’ own.” This means ensuring that the learner’s submission is their own work, and is not copied, paraphrased, or heavily derived from another source, including content produced by AI tools. Both teacher and learner are required to sign a declaration to this effect.

Acceptable use of AI

AI tools may be used appropriately as part of learners' work, provided that the final submissions are their own. This means both ensuring that the final product/outcome is in their own words and that the content reflects their own efforts. Learners are expected to demonstrate their own knowledge, skills and understanding as required for the qualification in question and set out in the qualification specification. If learners use AI tools, it must be clearly referenced in their submissions. Teachers must acknowledge and recognise this when applying the assessment criteria. Providers of the qualification must ensure that any AI use is acceptable, appropriate and referenced before the work is submitted.

Where final submissions can be AI-generated, this is referenced in the relevant assessment instructions and guidance documentation.

Inappropriate AI use

The [JCQ AI Use in Assessments](#) guidance states that “all work submitted for qualification assessments must be the learners’ own.” This means ensuring that the final product/outcome is their own work, and isn’t copied, paraphrased or heavily derived from another source, including content generated by AI. Within an assessment, this means that learners must independently develop work beyond any AI input to evidence their own skills and knowledge.

A learner will have committed malpractice if they use AI tools without making appropriate references and in such a way that the work they submit is not their own. Where teachers have doubts about the authenticity of the work, they must investigate and take appropriate action. Guidance for what Providers should do in instances of candidate malpractice can be found here [Malpractice: Candidates](#).

Marking candidate submission

When marking learner work that acknowledges AI use and demonstrates no misuse, assessors must ensure learners are not rewarded if they haven't independently met the marking criteria. Depending upon the marking criteria or grade descriptors, assessors may need to consider the failure to independently demonstrate understanding of certain aspects when determining the appropriate mark or grade. For example, where AI tools replace independent thoughts and ideas, independent decision-making, or the independent application of technical skills, they cannot be rewarded for it, even where the AI tools have been referenced. Clear records should be kept, especially if AI use impacts the final marks or grades, to provide feedback to the learner and clarity in case of an internal appeal or the work being selected for moderation/standards verification.

Centres may determine, after careful consideration of any data privacy concerns, whether it is appropriate for their teachers and assessors to use AI tools to help mark learner work. Where AI tools are used by teachers during the marking process, AI should not be used as the sole method of marking the learner's work.

Detecting misuse of AI tools

Potential indicators of AI misuse can be found in the [JCQ AI Use in Assessments](#) guidance.

Monitoring the production of work

Schools, Colleges and Teachers must take steps to ensure that they have appropriate arrangements in place which will allow them to authenticate the work submitted by learners.

Where appropriate, teachers should consider giving time for sufficient work to be done in class, under direct supervision, to allow the teacher to authenticate each candidate's work with confidence.

Teachers should examine at intermediate stages in the production of work, to assist in authentication decisions.

Asking learners to give a verbal presentation of work may be helpful in cases where a teacher suspects that some parts of work have been produced using more assistance than allowed by the specification (for example, if it is suspected that sections of a piece of work have been produced by an AI writer).

If suspected misuse of AI is confirmed, please refer to the JCQ guidance on reporting.

Additional guidance on AI usage for specific qualifications

If you are unsure about the requirements of an assessment regarding the use of AI, please refer to the relevant Pearson documentation for specific qualifications or units. This documentation may include the Specification or Administrative Support Guides, all of which can be found on the Pearson website.

If you still have questions or need further support on AI-related queries, please raise them via the [Customer Contact Portal](#) using the reference: [qualification title] AI Guidance Request.

Further guidance on AI

For further guidance on the use of AI in coursework please see the JCQ's guidance *AI Use in Assessments: Protecting the Integrity of Qualifications* which can be found on the JCQ website:

<https://www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/malpractice/artificial-intelligence/>

Additional information and guidance can be found in the following documents:

JCQ AI Use in Assessments guidance <https://www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/malpractice/artificial-intelligence/>

JCQ Plagiarism in Assessments guidance <https://www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/malpractice/plagiarism-in-assessments---guidance-for-teachersassessors/>

Instructions for conducting non-examination assessments https://www.jcq.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/Instructions_NEA_24-25_FINAL.pdf

JCQ Suspected Malpractice Policies and Procedures <https://www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/malpractice/artificial-intelligence/>