

Use of AI tools in assessed work¹

AI tools capable of writing sophisticated program code and natural language text are now available, including but not limited to ChatGPT, Github CoPilot, and Google Gemini. This document gives the department policy on the use of AI tools in assessed work, which includes examinations, ticks, Part II/III/MPhil Module assessments, and Part II/III/MPhil Dissertations. This complements departmental and university guidance on misconduct and plagiarism; in any case where the use of AI tools for assessed work is permitted by this guidance, their use will not be judged to constitute misconduct or plagiarism.

During examinations, the use of AI tools is not allowed, unless explicitly permitted. This applies regardless of whether the examination is being sat in an exam hall, in College, or in another location under alternative arrangements. It also applies regardless of whether the candidate is writing answers by hand or on a computer.

For other assessed work, the use of code generation tools that produce at most a few lines of code in response to a specific natural language or code-based prompt is permitted. (This permits certain uses of tools such as Github CoPilot.) Simple refactoring tools, spell-checkers, grammar assistants, and other similar tools, capable of localised text improvements at the level of at most a few words, are also permitted. Beyond these limited use-cases, under no circumstances should the text or code generated by AI tools be presented within assessed work as your own, either taken directly or paraphrased, unless explicitly permitted.

For Ticks and Part II/III/MPhil Module Assessments, you may use AI tools as permitted by this policy without declaring them. For Part II/III/MPhil Dissertations, any use of AI tools must be declared as part of the Declaration of Originality. Where the use of AI tools is explicitly required for an assessment, this is also permitted (for example, where a dissertation involves research into the capabilities of AI tools.)

The use of AI tools for background research and general subject understanding is always allowed, and does not have to be declared. However, for any use of AI tools, it should be remembered that they may hallucinate details or make factual errors, while producing very believable text, and they may also reproduce others' content without acknowledgement. Good academic standards require fact checking for correctness, and where appropriate, citation of suitable sources for any information presented within assessed work.

For all assessed work, the Examiners may use software for detecting AI-generated answers, text or code. In case of any suspicion of academic misconduct, the examiners will investigate in accordance with University procedures, which may lead to a student being called to a viva, where they will have the opportunity to demonstrate that the submitted work is their own.

If you are unsure whether a particular use of AI tools is permitted under this guidance, please contact either the undergraduate or graduate teaching offices as relevant:

- teaching-admin@cst.cam.ac.uk
- acs-admin@cst.cam.ac.uk

The Examiners for 2023-2024
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¹ Subject to Faculty Board approval on 23 April 2024.