



Information for candidates – GCSE controlled assessments

This document tells you some things of the things you must and must not do when you are completing your work.

When you submit work for marking, you will be asked to sign an authentication statement confirming that you have read and followed these regulations and the work is your own.

If there is anything you do not understand, you **must** ask your teacher or lecturer.

Controlled assessment may provide you with an opportunity to do some independent research into a topic. The research you do may involve looking for information in published sources such as textbooks, encyclopedias, journals, TV, radio and on the internet.

Using information from published sources, including the internet, as the basis for your assignment is a good way to demonstrate your knowledge and understanding of a subject. However, you must take care how you use this material – you cannot copy it and claim it as your own work.

You can demonstrate your knowledge and understanding of a subject by using information from sources, or generated from sources, which may include the internet and artificial intelligence (AI) tools. Remember though, you must take care how you use this material – you cannot copy it and claim it as your own work. You must also ensure you adhere to the requirements of the specification (for more information, refer to Section 6 of each subject specification).

The controlled assessment regulations state:

“the work which you submit for assessment must be your own;”

“you must not copy from someone else or allow another candidate to copy from you.”

When producing a piece of work, if you use the same wording as a published source you must place quotation marks around the passage and state where it came from. This is called “referencing”. You must make sure you give detailed references for everything in your work which is not in your own words. A reference from a printed book or journal should show the name of the author, the year of publication and the page number, for example: Morrison, 2000, pg.29.

For all material taken from the internet, your reference must; show the date when the material was downloaded and the precise web page, not the search engine used to locate it. This can be copied from the address line. For example <https://cea.org.uk/students-parents/choosing-qualifications/case-student-guides> downloaded 5 February 2011.

Where computer-generated content has been used (such as an AI Chatbot), your reference must show the name of the AI bot used and should show the date the content was generated. For example: ChatGPT 3.5 (<https://openai.com/blog/chatgpt/>), 25/01/2024. You should retain a copy of the computer-generated content for reference and authentication purposes.

You may be required to include a bibliography at the end of your work. Your teacher or lecturer will tell you whether a bibliography is necessary. If required, your bibliography must list the full details of publications you have used in your research, even where these are not directly referred to, for example: Morrison, A. (2000) ‘Mary, Queen of Scots’, London: Weston Press.

If you copy the words, ideas or outputs from other sources, and don’t reference those sources in a bibliography, this will be considered as cheating.

Preparing your work – good practice

If you receive help and guidance from someone other than your teacher, you **must** tell your teacher who will then record the nature of the assistance given to you.

If you worked as part of a group on an assignment, for example undertaking field research, you must each write up your own individual assignment. Even if the data you have is the same, you **must** describe in your own words how that data was obtained and **you must independently draw your own conclusions from the data.**

You must meet the deadlines your teacher gives you. Remember – your teachers are there to guide you. Although they cannot give you direct assistance, they may help you to sort out any problems before it is too late.

Take care of your work and keep it safe. Do not leave it lying around where your classmates can find it. You must always keep your work secure and confidential whilst you are preparing it. If your work is stored on the computer network, keep your password secure. Collect all copies from the printer and destroy those you do not need. Do not share your work with your classmates. Should a classmate be found to have copied work that you lent them, you will have enabled them to cheat and you will also receive a penalty.

Don't be tempted to use any pre-prepared or AI-generated solutions and try to pass them off as your own work – this is cheating. Electronic tools used by CCEA can detect this has occurred.

You must not write inappropriate, offensive or obscene material.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism involves taking someone else's words, thoughts, ideas **or outputs** and trying to pass them off as your own. This includes AI-generated content. **It is a form of cheating which is taken very seriously.**

Do not think you will not be caught; there are many ways to detect plagiarism.

- Markers can spot changes in the style of writing and use of language.
- Markers are highly experienced subject specialists who are very familiar with work on the topic concerned – they may have read the source you are using (or even marked the essay you have copied from!).
- Internet search engines and specialised computer software can be used to match phrases or pieces of text with original sources and to detect changes in the grammar and style of writing or punctuation.

Penalties for breaking the regulations

If your work is submitted and it is discovered that you have broken the regulations, one of the following penalties may be applied:

- the piece of work will be awarded zero marks;
- you will be disqualified from that unit for the examination series in question;
- you will be disqualified from the whole subject for that examination series;
- you will be disqualified from all subjects and barred from entering again for a period of time.

The awarding body will decide which penalty is appropriate.

REMEMBER – IT'S YOUR QUALIFICATION SO IT NEEDS TO BE YOUR OWN WORK