

Measures to Assess Students' Ability to Perform Key Learning Tasks without AI Assistance

Published on 07 Oct 2024 | [News, Parliamentary replies](#)

Name and Constituency of Member of Parliament
Mr Jackson Lam, Nee Soon GRC

Question

To ask the Minister for Education whether the Ministry intends to develop measures to assess students' ability to perform key learning tasks without AI assistance, particularly in writing, research, and problem solving.

Response

1. The Ministry of Education (MOE) recognizes the importance of ensuring that students continue to develop strong foundational knowledge and skills, while learning to use AI appropriately and responsibly.
2. Our assessments are designed according to their intended purpose, including assessing what students can do independently. National and school-based examinations are typically proctored and disallow the use of AI, so that students' independent abilities can be assessed.
3. For assessments where some AI use is appropriate to the task, such as in certain research or coursework, students must state how AI is used and they remain responsible for their own work. While AI is permitted, assessments are designed to require students to demonstrate their own thinking, judgement and understanding.
4. MOE will continue to review our assessment approaches as AI capabilities evolve, ensuring they reflect what students have learnt and can do.

National exams stay AI-free, and students who use AI in coursework must declare how they used it

Description

National and school-based examinations in Singapore remain proctored with no AI allowed, and students who use AI in permitted coursework have to state how they used it. The Ministry of Education set out the position in [a written parliamentary reply](#) published on 7 October, and no separate test of AI-free ability is planned.

Nee Soon GRC MP Jackson Lam had asked whether the ministry would develop measures to assess whether students can do key learning tasks without AI, particularly writing, research and problem solving.

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MOE's reply on assessment without AI was published on 7 October 2026. Photo:
Ministry of Education

Exams test what students do alone

Assessments are designed for their intended purpose, and one of those purposes is measuring what a student can do independently. That is the job of the national examinations and school-based exams, which are typically proctored and bar AI.

For families, the practical line is the exam hall. PSLE, O-Level and A-Level papers, and most school tests, are taken without AI tools, so the foundational skills in writing and problem solving are still examined directly.

When AI is allowed in coursework

Some tasks allow AI, such as certain research assignments and coursework. In those, students must declare how AI was used, and the work remains their responsibility.

The tasks are also set so that a student still has to show their own thinking, judgement and understanding, even with AI permitted. The ministry is reviewing its assessment approaches as AI tools develop, without committing to a date or a specific change.

Universities and polytechnics set their own guardrails

A second reply on the same day, to Sengkang GRC MP He Ting Ru, covered institutes of higher learning (IHLs) that give students free access to premium AI tools. She had asked what oversight MOE has over such decisions, and how risks such as cognitive offloading and over-reliance are handled.

Decision on Introducing Free Premium AI Access for Students in Institutes of Higher Learning

Published on: 07 Oct 2026 | [News](#), [Parliamentary replies](#)

Name and Constituency of Member of Parliament

Ms He Ting Ru, Sengkang GRC

Question

To ask the Minister for Education (a) what oversight role the Ministry plays in Institutes of Higher Learning's decisions to introduce free premium AI access for students; (b) what considerations, including risks of cognitive offloading and over-reliance, are made in assessing such proposals; and (c) what safeguards will be put in place to prevent adverse effects on learning outcomes.

Response

1. MOE provides guidelines on the use of AI in education and assessment to the Institutes of Higher Learning (IHLs). In line with these guidelines, all IHLs have institutional policies to ensure that AI use support learning, with guardrails against misuse and adverse impacts on learning.
2. The IHLs safeguard learning outcomes by reviewing their curricula, pedagogy and assessment practices to address risks such as cognitive offloading and over-reliance arising from AI use. For example, AI use is prohibited where students are required to demonstrate in-depth mastery of concepts and understanding. Where AI use is allowed, assessments are designed to continue testing students' knowledge, judgement and application of learning, such as through presentations and projects. The IHLs also train students to understand AI's limitations and use it discerningly.

AI is prohibited in IHL assessments that test independent mastery of concepts. Photo:
Ministry of Education

MOE issues guidelines on AI in education and assessment to the IHLs, and every IHL has its own institutional policy with guardrails against misuse and harm to learning. The universities, polytechnics and ITE review their curricula, teaching and assessment to deal with over-reliance.

In practice, that means two kinds of assessment:

- Where a student has to show independent mastery of concepts, AI is prohibited.
- Where AI is allowed, the assessment is redesigned to keep testing knowledge, judgement and application, for example through presentations and projects.

Students are also taught AI's limitations and how to use it with discernment.

At the IHLs, each institution's own AI policy is the rule that applies to its students.

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