



**POLICY FOR USE OF WORD  
PROCESSORS DURING EXAMS**

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| Responsibility | D L Davies     |
| Review         | September 2018 |

## **Introduction**

This policy on the use of word processors in examinations and assessments is reviewed and updated annually, on the publication of updated JCQ regulations and guidance contained in the publications Access Arrangements and Reasonable Adjustments and Instructions for conducting examinations. References to 'AA' relate to JCQ Access Arrangements and Reasonable Adjustments 2017/18 and 'ICE' to JCQ Instructions for conducting examinations 2017/18

## **Purpose of the policy**

This policy details how the centre manages and administers the use of word processors (including laptops and tablets) in examinations and assessments.

## **Principles for using a word processor**

Llantwit Major School complies with AA chapter 4 Adjustments for candidates with disabilities and learning difficulties regulations and guidance as follows:

(AA 4.2.1)

- Candidates with access to word processors are allowed to do so in order to remove barriers for identified candidates to prevent them from being placed at a substantial disadvantage as a consequence of persistent and significant difficulties
- The use of word processors is only permitted whilst ensuring that the integrity of the assessment is maintained, at the same time as providing access to assessments for an identified candidate

(AA 4.2.2)

- The use of a word processor is not granted where it will compromise the assessment objectives of the specification in question. Leaders of learning must check specification constraints to ensure computer access meets regulation compliance.

(AA 4.2.3)

- Candidates may not require the use of a word processor in each specification. As subjects and their methods of assessments may vary, leading to different demands of our candidates, the need for the use of a word processor is considered on a subject-by-subject basis

(AA 4.2.4)

- The use of a word processor is considered and agreed where appropriate at the start of the course. Candidates are subsequently aware that they will have the use of a word processor for examinations and controlled assessments/coursework. To support the decision making process existing access arrangements/SEN requirements are available for staff to review via our student records.
- Candidates are made aware that they will have the use of a word processor for examinations and non-examination assessments (including controlled assessments/coursework)

(AA 4.2.5)

• The use of a word processor for candidates is only granted if it reflects the support given to the candidate as their 'normal way of working', which is defined as support:

- in the classroom; or
- working in small groups for reading and/or writing; or
- literacy support lessons; or
- literacy intervention strategies; and/or
- in internal school tests and mock examinations

The only exception to this is where an arrangement may need to be put in place as a consequence of a temporary injury or impairment at the time of an exam or assessment. Where possible the candidate should provide medical letters to verify the injury.

### **The use of a word processor**

Llantwit Major School complies with AA chapter 5 Access arrangements available as follows:

(AA 5.8.1)

- Provides a word processor with the spelling and grammar check facility/predictive text disabled (switched off)
- Grant the use of a word processor to a candidate where it is their normal way of working (see 4.2.5 above) within the centre
- Grant the use of a word processor to a candidate if it is appropriate to their needs (for example, the quality of language or legibility significantly improves as a result of using a word processor due to problems with planning and organisation when writing by hand) (The above also extends to the use of electronic brailers and tablets)

(AA 5.8.2)

- Provides access to word processors to candidates in non-examination assessments (including controlled assessments or coursework) components as standard practice unless prohibited by the specification

(AA 5.8.3)

- Allows candidates to use a word processor in an examination to type certain questions, i.e. those requiring extended writing, and handwrite shorter answers
- Are also aware that examinations which have a significant amount of writing, as well as those that place a greater demand on the need to organise thought and plan extended answers, are those where candidates will frequently need to type. Examinations which require more simplistic answers

are often easier to handwrite within the answer booklet and the candidate avoids the difficulty of visually tracking between the question paper and screen

(AA 5.8.4)

- In all cases, where a word processor is used in an examination setting ensures that a word processor cover sheet (Form 4) is completed and included with each candidate's typed script.
- Does not simply grant the use of a word processor to a candidate because he/she prefers to type rather than write or can work faster on a keyboard, or because he/she uses a laptop at home Word processors and their programmes. We look to use appropriate testing as well as student books where pertinent to identify needs

*Llantwit Major School complies with ICE 8.8 Word processors instructions by ensuring:*

- exam word processors are used as a type-writer, not as a database, although standard formatting software is acceptable
- exam word processors have been cleared of any previously stored data, as must any portable storage medium used
- an unauthorised memory stick is not permitted for use by a candidate
- where required, candidates are provided with a memory stick, which has been cleared of any previously stored data, by a nominated member of centre staff
- exam word processors are in good working order at the time of the examination
- exam word processors are accommodated in such a way that other candidates are not disturbed and cannot read the screen
- where a candidate using a word processor is accommodated separately for examination purposes, a separate invigilator is used
- exam word processors have the facility to print from a portable storage medium
  - documents are printed after the examination is over
- candidates are present to verify that the work printed is their own
- word processed scripts are inserted in any answer booklet which contains some of the answers
- exam word processors are used to produce scripts under secure conditions, and if they are not then the centre is aware that they may be refused by the awarding body

*for controlled assessment tasks, where it contravenes specification regulations*

- word processors are not used to perform skills which are being assessed
- word processors are not connected to an intranet or any other means of communication.

- candidates are not given access to other applications such as a calculator (where prohibited in the examination), spreadsheets etc when using a word processor
- graphic packages or computer aided design software is not included on a word processor unless permission has been given to use these
- predictive text software or an automatic spelling and grammar check is disabled unless the candidate has been permitted a scribe or is using voice recognition technology (the script must have a completed scribe cover sheet included), or the awarding body's specification permits the use of automatic spell checking.
- voice recognition technology is not included on word processors unless the candidate has permission to use a scribe or relevant software
- word processors are not used on the candidate's behalf by a third party unless the candidate has permission to use a scribe

### **Laptops and tablets**

Llantwit Major School further complies with ICE 8.8 instructions by ensuring:

- the battery capacity of all laptops and/or tablets is checked before the candidate's examination(s) with the battery sufficiently charged for the entire duration of the examination or that a power supply is provided where necessary.
- candidates with laptops are seated in a separate room where IT support can be provided where necessary.
- candidates are reminded that their centre number, candidate number and the unit/component code must appear on each page as a header or footer
- candidates using Notepad or Wordpad software (which do not allow for the insertion of a header or footer) are instructed to handwrite their details as a header or footer once they have finished the examination and printed off their typed script; candidates are also supervised to ensure that they are solely performing this task and not re-reading their answers or amending their work in any way
- candidates are instructed to appropriately number each page
- candidates are instructed to use a minimum 12pt font and double spacing
- invigilators remind candidates to save their work at regular intervals
- where it is possible 'autosave' is set up on each laptop/tablet
- candidates are present at the end of the examination when their script is printed off so they can verify that the work printed is their own.

### **Accommodating word processors in examinations**

Candidates using word processors (including laptops or tablets) are internally accommodated in the following manner:

- Candidates using word processors will normally be accommodated in a small room which is easily accessible by IT support.

### **Invigilation arrangements relating to the use of word processors**

- Llantwit Major School uses the same invigilation arrangements for candidates using word processors as we would for those taking an onscreen test with a ratio at least 1 invigilator per 20 candidates. Other arrangements relating to the use of word processors include:
- Candidates using word processors for exams must use a specially created “Exams” account if the machines is on the school network.

This account is restricted and has no access to unsecured areas.

As an alternative a number of standalone laptops are used in exams which have no access to the internet or school network. Files are then stored on memory stick to assist in storage and printing.