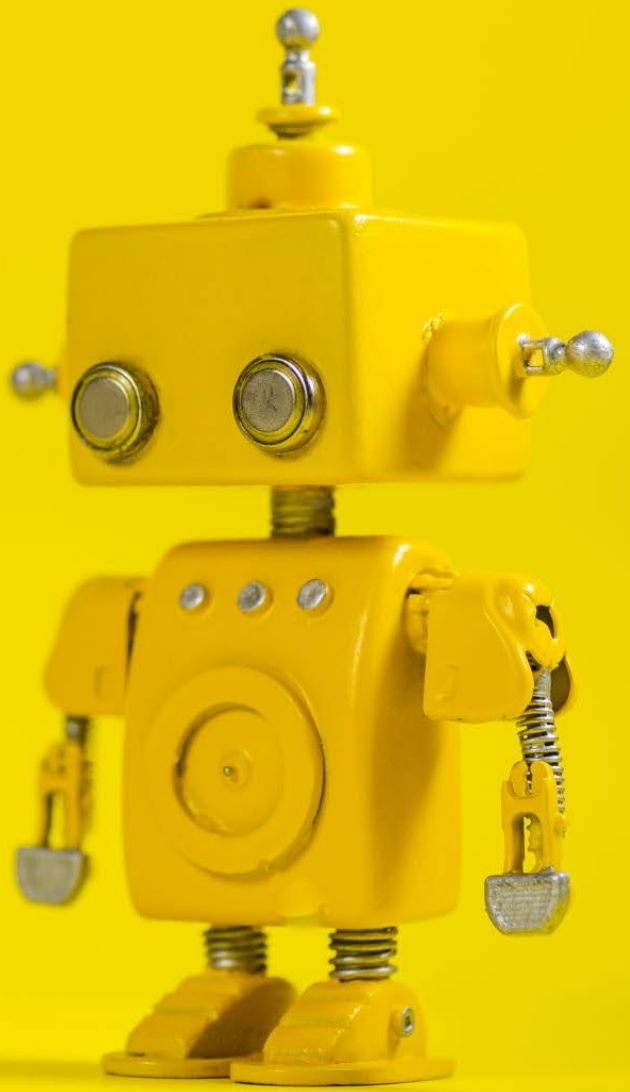




AI use in Design and Technology Assessments

Frequently Asked Questions



AI Use in Design and Technology Assessments Frequently Asked Questions

AI is a hot topic, and its role in Design and Technology assessments is evolving rapidly!

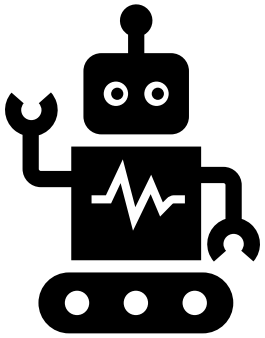
Design & Technology is a subject that embraces innovation and emerging technologies , including AI, which is acceptable when used appropriately and with clear acknowledgement.

This booklet has been created to give clear, practical guidance and quick access to answers for the most frequently asked questions about AI use in WJEC/Eduqas Non-Examined Assessments.

Please note: Eduqas Design and Technology does not have an official social media outlet and is not a member of any other social media groups. In a time of active social media there have been several instances where information, opinions and individual comments have been misinterpreted and, in some cases, resulted in centres / teachers / candidates following incorrect guidance for certain qualifications. Therefore, we would strongly urge centres to follow guidance provided on our official websites and not inaccurate comments, posts, or releases on 'other' social media forums. If in any doubt, contact the Eduqas Design and Technology Team.

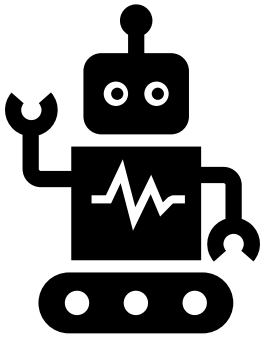
- Is AI use allowed in D&T NEA work?
- What is the JCQ guidance on AI, and where can I find it?
- When does AI use become problematic?
- Do candidates need to declare AI use?
- Can AI-generated images count as design ideas?
- Is AI like CAD in this context?
- Can a candidate submit a wholly AI-generated NEA?
- Are AI design tools like ‘Viscom’ allowed?
- What if a candidate uses AI to enhance a sketch?
- Can candidates get high marks just for generating ideas with AI?
- Can AI be used to generate user feedback?
- What is the teacher’s role in managing AI use?
- Any other questions?

Is AI use allowed in D&T NEA work?



Yes. AI is considered an emerging technology and can be used to **support** the design process. It should **complement** candidate work, not replace it. Centres are expected to follow the **JCQ Guidance on AI in Assessments (April 2025)**, which outlines acceptable use and responsibilities.

What is the JCQ guidance on AI, and where can I find it?



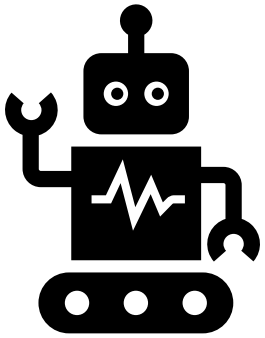
The latest JCQ guidance is titled **AI-Use-in-Assessments_Apr25_FINAL.pdf**. All centres and awarding bodies must adhere to this document. It should be embedded in your centre's:

- Assessment policy
- NEA policy
- Malpractice, Appeals, and Plagiarism policy

The **centre is responsible** for ensuring compliance.

When does AI use become problematic?

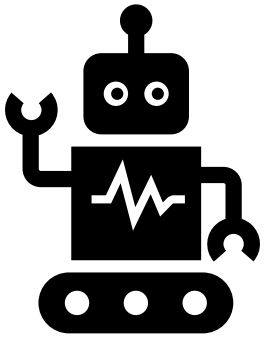
AI use is problematic if:



- A candidate presents AI-generated work as their own.
- Marks are awarded for work that was generated by AI without proper candidate input.
- AI is used to bypass the iterative design process.

Moderators are trained to understand that AI is **not banned**, but it becomes an issue **only if it replaces** key design activities such as **designing, development, testing, modelling, or refining ideas**

Do candidates need to declare AI use?

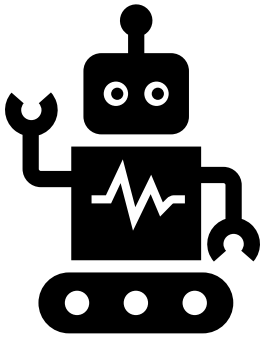


Yes. Candidates must:

- Acknowledge any use of AI.
- Specify which app or tool was used.
- Explain how AI contributed to their work.

This is already part of the **DT Assessment Sheet** and was required on **Summer 2025 marksheets**.

Can AI-generated images count as design ideas?



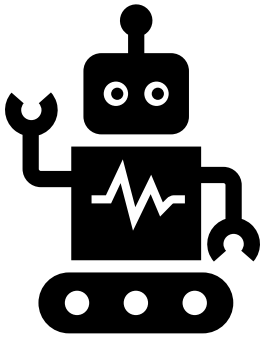
No. AI-generated images (e.g., 200 variations from keywords like “hedgehog” and “house”) do **not** count as candidate-generated ideas. The candidate must:

- Sketch or communicate the idea.
- Model, test, analyse, and refine it.
- Engage with the target market and reflect against the specification.

AI may assist with some steps, but it cannot replace the candidate’s own design thinking.

Moderators are instructed that **generating large volumes of AI images does not earn more credit** than a few hand-drawn sketches. The assessment does **not reward idea generation in isolation**.

Is AI like CAD in this context?

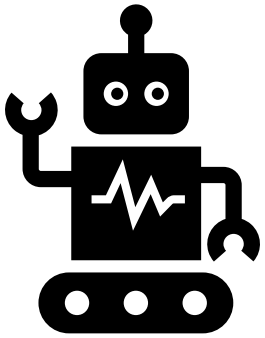


Yes. AI can be seen as an extension of CAD. For example, it can enhance a candidate's sketch or render it in different finishes.

AI tools are **encouraged** when used to **quickly visualise an idea**, but this is **only the start** of the design process.

This does **not** automatically result in higher marks unless it contributes meaningfully to the assessment criteria.

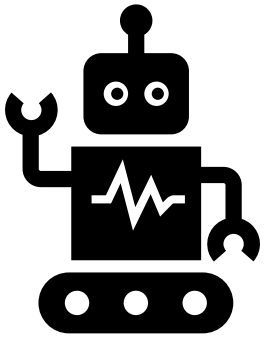
Can a candidate submit a wholly AI-generated NEA?



No. A fully AI-generated NEA would not meet the assessment criteria and is likely impossible. The criteria require candidate-led modelling, testing, analysis, and refinement.

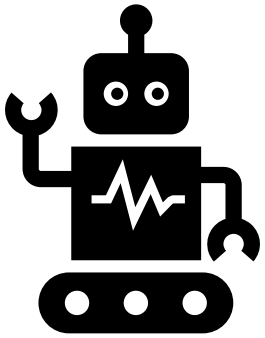
AI outcomes **cannot replace the iterative process** and **won't justify top band marks** without evidence of the full design journey.

Are AI design tools like ‘Viscom’ allowed?



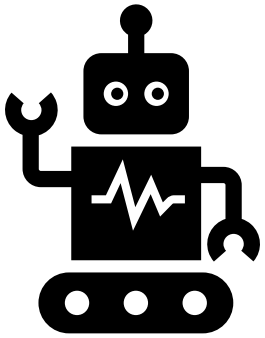
Yes. Tools like Viscom are used in some centres and are acceptable. Features like rendering in different colours or finishes have existed for decades and do not contravene assessment rules.

What if a candidate uses AI to enhance a sketch?



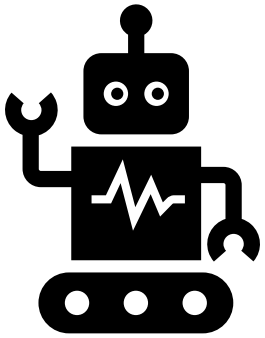
That’s acceptable, provided the original sketch (e.g., a pencil thumbnail) is present. The sketch shows the originality of the idea. If the sketch is missing, the origin of the idea is unclear—similar to using an image from a website or catalogue.

Can candidates get high marks just for generating ideas with AI?



No. The assessment criteria require more than idea generation. Candidates must provide evidence of modelling, testing, analysis, and refinement—much of which requires physical or documented input beyond AI.

Can AI be used to generate user feedback?

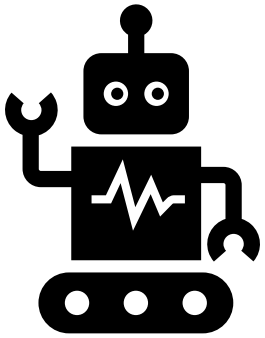


Yes, with conditions:

- Candidates must declare the use of AI and specify the app/tool used.
- AI-generated feedback must be used **alongside real user feedback**.
- Candidates must **respond to the feedback** in their design work (e.g., refining ideas, making modifications).
- A wholly AI-generated evaluation presented as the candidate's own is **not acceptable**.

In D&T, there are **no direct marks for obtaining feedback**, but it is part of the **iterative cycle**. AI-generated feedback is acceptable **if used transparently and reflected upon**.

What is the teacher's role in managing AI use?



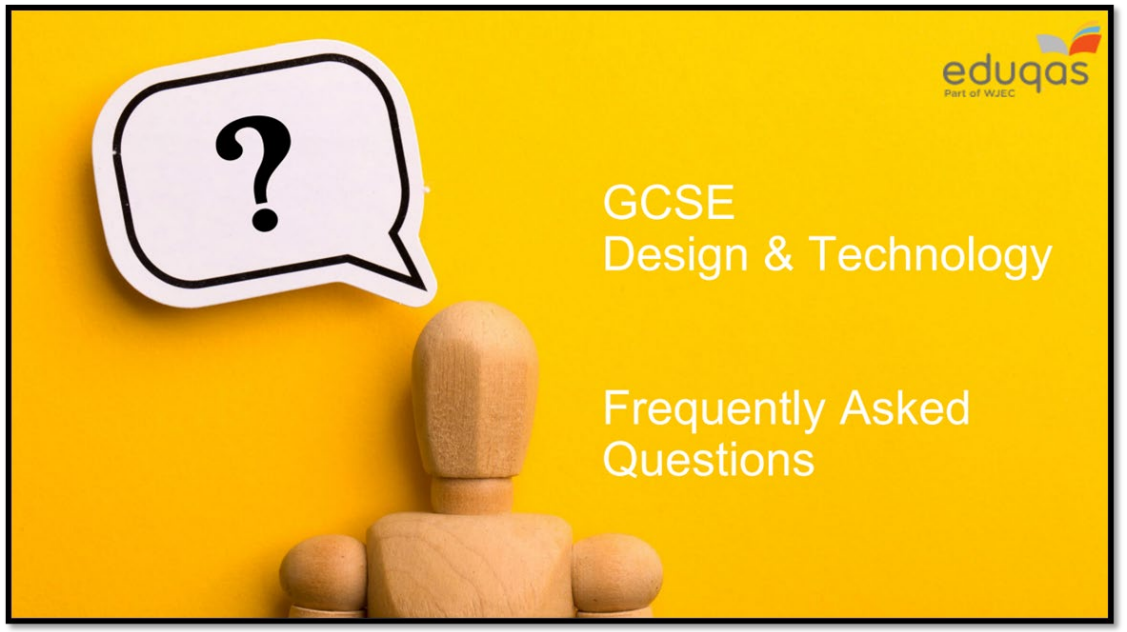
Teachers must:

- Authenticate the candidate's work.
- Identify where and how AI has been used.
- Ensure **no marks are awarded directly** for AI-generated content.
- Confirm that AI use supports, not replaces, the candidate's design process.

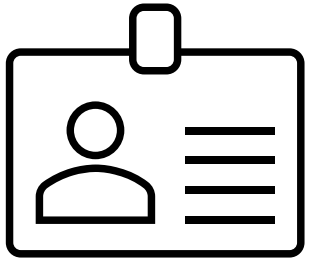
Teachers must be able to **identify the quantity and nature of AI use** and ensure it does **not infringe JCQ policy** by being credited as original candidate work.

Any Other Questions?

If you have any other questions that are not related to AI and concern GCSE Design & Technology, please click the Subject FAQs icon below or contact the subject team directly.



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