



Policy on ethical AI use in professional assessments 2026

This document applies to all candidates enrolled on pathways to CIEH professional registration, including Registered Environmental Health Practitioner, Chartered Environmental Health Practitioner, Registered Food Safety Practitioner and Registered Housing & Health Practitioner. It applies to all candidates and assessments referred to in the Examination Regulations.

What is AI?

1. “Artificial intelligence refers to computer systems that can perform complex tasks normally done by human-reasoning, decision making, creating, etc.” – NASA.
2. AI includes AI-powered algorithms, machine learning models and ChatBots. AI use is rapidly increasing, and the range of applications is expanding. The use of generative AI by students is of particular interest due to the risk of plagiarism and the consequential effects on the competence of EHPs.
3. Generative AI can create content that students could pass off as their own. Current examples of GenAI software include Microsoft’s Copilot, OpenAI’s ChatGPT, Google Gemini, Meta’s Llama, and Adobe’s Firefly.

Acceptable use of AI

4. CIEH considers the following uses of AI acceptable:
 - 4.1 Idea generation/ brainstorming: Candidates are permitted to use AI to brainstorm, create ideas and research topics. However, all work submitted for examination must be in the candidate’s own words.
 - 4.2 Summarising documents: Candidates are allowed to use AI to summarise documents.
 - 4.3 Grammar and spelling checks: The use of AI for grammar and spelling checks is permitted.

Unacceptable use of AI

5. CIEH considers the following uses of AI unacceptable:
 - 5.1 Submitting AI generated work as the candidate’s own work, or copying or paraphrasing AI generated content without credit. This includes not acknowledging the use of AI tools for idea generation and brainstorming. All work submitted for examination must be in the candidate’s own words.

Consequences of unacceptable AI use

6. Unacceptable AI use will be treated as plagiarism and managed as described in the Examination Regulations (Breach of the Examination Regulations).

Candidate declaration

7. To ensure that they abide by this Ethical AI use policy, candidates must declare that they will:
 - 7.1 Use AI in line with the Ethical AI use policy.
 - 7.2 Document coursework preparation by saving multiple drafts to show the evolution of the student's own ideas and work. CIEH may request these draft documents from candidates at random.
 - 7.3 Reference any AI use, including but not limited to idea generation, brainstorming, summarising, grammar and spelling checks. This includes integrated AI tools in software such as Word, Google and Grammarly.
8. Candidates will make an 'evidence declaration' when enrolling onto our pathways to registration.
9. CIEH may also randomly screen a percentage of the candidate's draft documents.

This policy was adopted by the Membership Learning and the Profession Advisory Group on 16 September 2025.