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## Word Processor Policy 2025-2026

Approved by the LAB:	March 2026
Date of next review:	February 2027
Responsible Officer	R Partock

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### **Purpose of the Policy**

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 2025-2026 and ICE to JCQ Instructions for conducting examinations 2025-2026.

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**

Comberton Village College 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 disabled candidates which 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 a disabled 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.

(AA 4.2.3)

- Candidates may not require the use of a word processor in each specification. As subjects and their method 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.
- 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.

## **The use of a Word Processor**

Comberton Village College 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)
- Only grants 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
- Only grants the use of a word processor to a candidate if it is appropriate to their needs (for example, the quality of language 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)

- The use of word processors in non-examination assessment components will be considered 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. The candidate avoids the difficulty of visually tracking between the question paper and screen.

(AA 5.8.4)

- An awarding body may require, 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**

Comberton Village College complies with ICE 14.20 Word processors instructions by ensuring:  
(ICE 14.25)

- Word processors are used as a type-writer, not as a database, although standard formatting software is acceptable
- An unauthorised memory stick is not permitted for use by a candidate
- Word processors are in good working order at the time of the examination
- Word processors are accommodated in such a way that other candidates are not disturbed and cannot read the screen
- Word processors are either connected to a printer so that a script can be printed off, or have the facility to print from a portable storage medium
- 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
- 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
- Must not include computer reading (text to speech) software, unless the candidate has permission to use a computer reader.
- 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

(ICE 14.25.E)

- 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

(ICE 14.26)

- Any awarding body may require a word processor coversheet to be included with the candidate's script.

(ICE 14.27)

- Centres may retain electronic copies of word-processed scripts. The electronic copy of a word-processed script, maybe accepted by an awarding body where the printed copy has been lost. However, the centre would need to demonstrate to the awarding body, that the file had been kept securely and the Head of Centre, would be required to confirm this in writing.

## **Laptops and Tablets**

Comberton Village College further complies with ICE 14 instructions by ensuring:  
(ICE 14.21 – 14.24)

- Tablets used during examinations/assessments are designed to run for a long period of time once fully charged and are 'free-standing'
- 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
- Candidates with fully charged laptops or tablets are given the opportunity to be seated within the main examination hall without the need for separate invigilation and power points
- 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:

- SEN COORDINATOR lets EO know which students require laptops and in which specifications
- Candidates sit in the main exam hall, sat away from other students so they a) don't disturb other students and b) so other students can't see the work being produced on the word processor
- Candidates are encouraged to save their work regularly

Invigilation arrangements relating to the use of word processors include the following:

- Head invigilator briefed by EO of any students requiring WP
- EO indicates the use of WP on the seating plan
- Invigilators set-up WP using instructions and user guide, provided by EO
- Invigilators escort WP candidates to print paper