

University of Edinburgh

Use of dictionaries in examinations policy

Exam Hall Regulation 8

Dictionaries, reference books, computers, calculators, electronic devices or any other material are NOT permitted.

The only exceptions are:-

- 1) if such is specified in a student's Learning Profile as assessed by the Student Disability Service
- 2) for all students taking courses where the provision of a dictionary, reference books, computers, calculators, electronic devices or any other material is an integral part of the assessment process. Such exceptional arrangements requires authorisation by the examiners for use by all students and is recorded in the exam's instructions.

Further Guidance:

- 1) Within the context of the regulation dictionaries are defined as including: monolingual dictionaries; bilingual (i.e. language translation) dictionaries; scientific, technical or other specialist dictionaries. It also includes book and electronic dictionaries.
- 2) The practice of permitting individual students to use dictionaries in an examination via the issuing of authorised letter is no longer permitted.
- 3) Dictionaries (or any other material) should only be permitted for all candidates if their use is essential for the completion of the paper or components of a paper i.e. if a question(s) could only be answered by all students via reference to a dictionary. It is therefore anticipated that very few exams meet this criteria and the permitted use of dictionaries will be rare.
- 4) Dictionaries are NOT permitted based on the English language level of students.
- 5) Students found to be in possession of a dictionary when use is not permitted will have the dictionary confiscated and be reported for cheating (Regulations 13 and 14).