

Testing an approach for AI-proof online examination

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Roundtable discussion

Abstract

The advent of AI chatbots has radically limited our ability to offer distance students opportunities for online examination at home. This makes it more difficult for students who have chosen to read by distance for geographical, work- or family-related reasons to participate in distance education. We conducted an experimental examination of the field-based part of an orientation course (Discovery of the Elements) in an attempt to overcome the challenge posed by AI chatbots. The examination of 50 students was conducted using Zoom. Twenty questions were presented, one at a time, using "share screen". Questions were structured so as to refer to an image and/or knowledge acquired while on the excursion (which could be participated in virtually) and in a manner that could be answered with a short answer, or by multiple choice selection. Students were given a limited period of time (2 minutes) to write their answer to each question in the Chat (which was setup so that students could only "Chat" with the examiner), before the examiner changed slides, moving on to the next question. The Chat output was then saved and sorted in Excel before marking. The method could allow for anonymization by students using examination codes rather than screen names in Zoom. We noted that the short time and visual and/or site-specific nature of the questions asked made it difficult (impossible) for students to gain support from an AI chatbot. We further noted that some students experienced the examination form as too stressful and that solutions need to be provided for students who have the right to extra time. We also note that other problems with distance examination (such as being certain that the person completing the exam is who they say they are) are not overcome by this approach. Nevertheless, we do see an opportunity for overcoming some of the challenges posed by AI chatbots to distance examination. Question to be discussed; "Do AI-proof home examinations exist? Please bring your own ideas to the discussion."

References

N/A