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Dictionaries

(Cambridge Assessment International Education regulations)

Electronic dictionaries are not allowed in any exam; this includes tablets and e-readers.

- **Cambridge O Level, Cambridge International AS & A Level and Cambridge Pre-U**
Dictionaries are not allowed in these exams, except where specifically permitted by the syllabus.
- **Cambridge IGCSE**
Simple translation dictionaries are allowed, except in language exams or where they are specifically prohibited in the syllabus. 'Simple translation dictionary' means a dictionary that only translates the word and does not give a translation of the meaning or definition of the word.
- **Cambridge Primary Checkpoint and Cambridge Secondary 1 Checkpoint**
Simple translation dictionaries are allowed in science and mathematics tests. They are not allowed in English and English as a second language tests.

Any candidate failing to follow the above instructions will be in breach of the examinations' regulations and shall be reported to the board.

For Pearson Edexcel examinations please refer to the [Instruction for conducting examinations for regulations related to the use of dictionaries.](#)

(Pearson Edexcel regulations)

[Refer to the JCQ](#)

14.3 Unless an awarding body's specification says otherwise, a bilingual translation dictionary may be used in GCE AS, A2 and A-level examinations.

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A bilingual translation dictionary must not however be used in the following GCE and GCSE examinations:

- a) English/English Language examinations;
- b) Irish or Welsh Language examinations; or
- c) Modern Foreign Language examinations testing one of the languages of the dictionary or a similar language, for example a Portuguese dictionary in a Spanish examination.

Additionally, due to the assessment of Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar, a bilingual dictionary must not be used in:

- a) GCSE English Literature examinations;
- b) GCSE Geography examinations;
- c) GCSE History examinations;
- d) GCSE Religious Studies examinations; and
- e) GCSE Welsh Literature examinations.

Exceptions to these rules are:

The Writing Test in GCSE Bengali, GCSE Modern Hebrew and GCSE Panjabi where the specification states that all candidates must have access to a bilingual dictionary.

14.4 A standard bilingual translation dictionary must be used by the candidate. This may be an electronic bilingual translation dictionary or more typically a hard copy paper bilingual translation dictionary.

Monolingual dictionaries (which define words and phrases), translators (including web-based translators), wordlists or glossaries must not be used.

14.5 The bilingual translation dictionary must not:

- a) contain/display pictures; or
- b) provide an explanation or clarification of words and phrases.

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As an example, a Polish to English bilingual translation dictionary must simply be the word in Polish and the equivalent word in English.

14.6 Bilingual translation dictionaries to be used in the examination must be:

- a) held in the centre under secure conditions; and
- b) thoroughly checked to ensure that no unauthorised information such as notes, or revision data, have been enclosed within or written on the pages of the dictionary.

A candidate using a bilingual translation dictionary which contains notes or revision data will lose their marks and their right to this arrangement.

14.7 Translation of either examination material or the candidate's answers into or from the candidate's first language is not permitted.

14.8 The regulations for the use of bilingual translation dictionaries must be adhered to; failure to do so can lead to the disqualification of the candidate.

(Oxford AQA Regulation)

[Refer to the JCQ](#)

Bilingual dictionaries cannot be used for any GCSE or A Level English Literature or Language qualifications. However, contrary to the advice provided in the JCQ document, bilingual dictionaries can be used for OxfordAQA International GCSE Geography. This is because the OxfordAQA qualification does not test Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar. Always refer to the instructions on the question paper to check whether bilingual dictionaries are permitted.

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