Report reveals scale of AI cheating

Price of progress: *While a standard version of Cluely is free, the pro version costs around £15 a month. Its creator Chungin Lee claims to have used the app to secure job offers from Amazon, TikTok, Meta and Capital One.*

Is this just progress? As exam season looms, more students than ever are using AI to ace tests and generate essays. Some worry that these tools are rotting our brains.

What's happening?

Studying for exams takes a lot of work. But for some examinees, there is another way: cheating.

Earlier this year, a survey of 1,000 students found that 92% had used AI in their studies, and that some use it to generate entire essays.

Many teachers also use AI marking software. We might reach the point where education is mostly computers marking computer-generated work.

Last month, American student Chungin Lee launched Cluely, an AI app that allows you to invisibly access information at all times. "We want you to cheat on everything," states the app's publicity.

Find out more

Lee says that using devices we now take for granted — calculators, spellcheck, search engines — were once all seen as cheating and that what some call cheating is actually progress.

But technology might be making us dumber, as many believe that the effort it takes to learn something is a key part of any learning process. Research shows that the internet makes us less focused and easily distracted.

Yet for Cluely and its supporters, these are just bumps in the road towards a new way of thinking. Why remember facts, write code or do research when an AI model can do it in seconds?

Is this just progress?

Some say

Yes! AI has made our entire way of studying and working **obsolete**. It might hurt for those who have spent their lives in the old system, but they need to wake up.

Others think

No! The internet has ruined our attention spans and made us crave instant gratification. This is going backwards, not forwards.

Some people say

Six steps to discovery

1. **Connect**

"Progress is impossible without change, and those who cannot change their minds cannot change anything."

George Bernard Shaw (1856 – 1950), Irish playwright

What do you think?

How do you feel about this story? - Have you ever been caught cheating? How did you respond?

2. **Wonder**
What questions do you have? - For example: When did exams become a key part of education? What are the best ways to deal with exam stress?

3. **Investigate**
What are the facts? - Pick out one thing we know for certain about this story and one thing we cannot say for sure.

4. **Construct**
What is your point of view? - Would you use AI tools to help with your schoolwork?

5. **Express**
What do others believe? - Are there any occasions where cheating is ok? Discuss in groups.

6. **Reflect**
What might happen next? - Write a poem about someone who cheats at school.

Glossary

Obsolete - Outdated and no longer useful.