



UNIVERSITY OF LONDON INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY ACADEMIC COMMITTEE

Assessment offences – ‘smartwatch’ use in the examination hall

The Academic Committee is invited to *discuss* potential responses to ‘smartwatch’ technology.

During the 2014 May/June examination session the International Programmes received two reports of ‘smartwatches’ being referred to in the examination hall, which were subsequently considered under the *Procedures for the Consideration of Assessment Offences*. Smartwatches are digital devices worn on the wrist, capable of internet access and file storage, amongst other varied functions typically found on smartphones.

In September 2014, Apple (manufacturer of the iPad and iPhone) announced the launch of the Apple Watch, which will become available to purchase from early 2015. At this stage it is difficult to know how easy it will be to identify the Apple Watch, or other smartwatches, from standard digital or mechanical timepieces but it is thus possible that smartwatches may become a problem in the examination hall from 2015 and beyond.

The use of a smartwatches is already broadly, although not specifically, addressed in the Regulations.

The 2014-15 General Regulations state:

*Unless you are told otherwise, the only materials you must enter the examination room with are your Admission Notice and pens. You will be informed in advance by us if any further materials (for example, statute books or calculators) are permitted. It is an assessment offence for you to take into, or use in, the examination room any materials or aids which are not permitted. This includes, but is not limited to, notes, **mobile phones, tablets or electronic devices** and materials that are allowed but which have been amended or annotated.*

The Rules for Examinations document, provided to all students with their Admission Notice, states:

Mobile telephones, tablets or other portable electronic devices are not permitted in the examination room.

Some possible responses to the rise of this new technology include:

- Accepting that the current regulations make adequate provision for this issue, but that the issue should be monitored during the May/June 2015 examination session
- Providing new written guidance, with specific reference to smartwatches as an unauthorised aid, in documentation provided to students
- Providing new written guidance for invigilators
- Specifically referencing smartwatches in the invigilator’s announcement at the beginning of the examination
- Prohibiting the wearing of wristwatches in the examination hall altogether

The Academic Committee is invited to consider the issue and discuss potential responses and the timeframe that should be assigned to any actions.

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