

Interrogation checklist for others' assessment tasks

1. Are you sure the students **have been taught the skills** they will need to display in the assessment? Can you list the skills? Can you point to explicit teaching?
2. Have you built in ways to encourage students **to invest time** in doing the task? Can you check whether they have started? Is evidence of their activity authenticated?
3. Has anyone else **seen the work during production**? Is peer review or feedback required? Do you observe the work at any point before submission? Do others (peers, workplace mentors, tutors etc) observe the work in progress?
4. For the task itself, can the student **find the answer**? Does the task ask for knowledge and understanding of the topic (i.e. 'discuss', 'describe', 'explain')? Is the topic 'Google- friendly' or likely to be in Wikipedia?
5. Can the student **copy the answer**? Is there one way (or a small number of ways) to answer the question or do the task? Has the tasks ever been set before? Is it likely that an answer already exists because the problem is well-known or well-covered?

THE KEY QUESTION: When the student looks at the task, are they more likely to think, 'How do I **find that answer**? or 'How do I **make that answer**?']

6. Is the **brief clear** as to what aspects of the work will be assessed? Does it explain what 'your own work' means?Does the brief say how much help is acceptable? **inform** about who may help during the process of making the assignment?

TASK: For each of the assignments/essay titles below, make changes in the task / task brief which would encourage (or even require) authorship and discourage finding and copying from a text book or the Web:

1. Discuss the link between reducing smoking and improving Public Health.
2. Outline the pressures and events in the 1920s in Europe which lead to the Spanish Civil War a decade later.
3. Using social identity theory, analyse the Eurovision song contest.
4. What is the law of supply and demand?
5. *[example of a pre-HE level task]* Choose one of the planets in the Solar System. What would it be like if you moved there to live?
6. 'Obesity is as great a challenge as climate change'. Discuss.