

Foreword

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The explosion of activity around large language models since the release of ChatGPT in November 2022 has pushed some very important assessment issues aside. It is vital not to forget them. Issues such as the “speededness” of examinations - explored in this edition of *Research Matters* remain fundamental to both measurement and the quality of the experience of candidates during assessment. It's a reminder that core principles of assessment - around validity, reliability, utility, bias and fairness - apply even in times of rapid and exciting development. Digitally-supported and enhanced assessment are likely to supply important, long-anticipated innovations in areas such as adaptive assessment and the “seamless integration of assessment into learning...” But as innovation increases from outside of established communities of assessment researchers and developers, it is vital that the carefully accumulated scientific understanding of the quality of assessment does not take a backseat to impressive technical innovation. The reason for this is simple: assessment relies on trust - at so many different levels: from the candidate expecting high quality, accessible questions and tasks to the selector assuming the dependability of the information and signals from a qualification report, score or grade. The principles and criteria for high quality assessment - whether low or high stakes in character - have been carefully accumulated through experience and research. They are central to the international portability of qualifications. Breakdown of trust in assessments would compromise so many of the domestic and international functions which we have so carefully accumulated: fair recognition of attainment, unlocking of progression, and efficient supply of skills and knowledge to economies. It's extremely important to remember that innovation in assessment should rest on solid foundations.