

BOEX Artificial Intelligence Policy for Approved Examination Centres and Candidates

Table of Contents

Preamble	4
1 Guiding Principles	4
1.1 Truthfulness and transparency	4
1.2 Human responsibility	4
1.3 Controlled permission rather than blanket prohibition	4
1.4 Protection of confidential and non-public materials	4
1.5 Fair access and reasonable accommodation	5
1.6 Alignment with ISKCON's educational mission	5
2 Purpose	5
3 Scope	5
4 Definitions	5
5 Use Categories	6
5.1 Prohibited Use	6
5.2 Permitted Use Subject to Conditions	7
5.3 Accessibility and Accommodation-Based Use	7
6 General Rules for Candidates	7
6.1 Permitted candidate uses	7
6.2 What remains prohibited even where permitted AI use applies	8
6.3 Candidate responsibility	8
7 Rules by Assessment Type	8
7.1 Closed-book examinations	8
7.2 Open-book written assessments	8
7.3 Oral examinations and presentations	9
7.4 Śloka / memorisation assessments	9
7.5 Administrative and reflective submissions	9
8 Rules for Approved Examination Centres	9
9 Invigilators and Centre Staff	10
10 Confidentiality and Data Protection	10
11 Mandatory AI Disclosure	11
11.1 General requirement	11
11.2 Timing and form	11
11.3 Required content	11
11.4 Model Candidate AI Disclosure Statement	11
11.5 Centre records of disclosure	12
12 Reasonable Adjustments and Accommodation-Based AI Use	12
13 Detection, Evidence and Investigation	12
14 Breaches and Consequences	13
14.1 Minor Breach	13
14.2 Serious Breach	13
14.3 Deliberate or Deceptive Breach	14
14.4 Determining the Appropriate Consequence	14
14.5 Appeals	15
14.6 Centre Non-Compliance	15
15 Record-Keeping	15
16 Review	16

17 Short Operational Summary	16
18 Transitional Provisions and Entry into Force	17
19 Relationship to Other Policies and Standards	17
19.1 Relationship to the BOEX Plagiarism Policy	17
19.2 Relationship to ISKCON Ministry of Education Standards	17
19.3 Relationship to ISKCON Laws and GBC Resolutions	17
20 Language and Translation of this Policy	18
Annex A — Data Protection Guidance	18
A.1 Purpose and Status	18
A.2 Categories of Personal Data	18
A.3 Data Controller Responsibilities	19
A.4 AI-Specific Data Protection Requirements	19
A.5 Data Retention and Deletion	20
A.6 Cross-Border Data Transfers	20
A.7 Jurisdiction-Specific Notes	20

Preamble

The Board of Examinations (BOEX) of the ISKCON Ministry of Education (MOE) issues this Policy in exercise of its mandate, established by the Governing Body Commission (GBC) in 1990, to set and enforce the standards governing the award of śāstric degrees within ISKCON. BOEX operates under the supervision of the ISKCON Ministry of Education and, pursuant to the authority conferred by **GBC Resolution 1990-12**, hereby adopts this Policy as a binding standard applicable to all BOEX-approved examination centres and candidates worldwide.

This Policy establishes the BOEX standard governing the use of Artificial Intelligence in BOEX-approved examinations and assessments. Its purpose is to protect the integrity, fairness, accessibility and credibility of the assessment process by permitting only defined and limited uses of AI, whilst prohibiting any use that undermines the authenticity of candidate performance, the security of assessment materials, or the confidentiality of BOEX records.

Compliance with this Policy is a condition of a centre's approved status. By applying for, and by continuing to hold, BOEX-approved status, a centre accepts this Policy as binding upon itself and upon all candidates and staff involved in the administration, invigilation, assessment, review or processing of BOEX-approved examinations and assessments conducted under its responsibility.

This Policy applies to all BOEX-approved examinations and assessments irrespective of the country, location, mode or language of delivery. Where a requirement of this Policy conflicts with a mandatory provision of applicable local law, the local law requirement shall prevail to the minimum extent necessary to achieve compliance, and the affected centre shall notify BOEX of any such conflict without undue delay.

For matters not addressed by this Policy, the applicable standards of the ISKCON Ministry of Education and the laws of ISKCON shall prevail.

1 Guiding Principles

This Policy shall be interpreted and applied in accordance with the following principles. Where any provision of this Policy is ambiguous or requires contextual judgement, these principles shall serve as the primary interpretive framework.

1.1 Truthfulness and transparency

Any permitted use of AI must be disclosed fully, accurately and in good faith. AI-assisted work must not be presented as wholly unassisted human work.

1.2 Human responsibility

AI may assist, but it may not replace human responsibility. All substantive judgement, interpretation, doctrinal understanding and final academic responsibility remain with the candidate or the relevant human decision-maker, as applicable.

1.3 Controlled permission rather than blanket prohibition

AI is not treated as inherently impermissible. Its use shall instead be categorised, limited and supervised according to the nature of the assessment task and the risk posed to academic integrity.

1.4 Protection of confidential and non-public materials

The protection of non-public BOEX materials, candidate data, internal records and confidential assessment content is a core requirement of this Policy.

1.5 Fair access and reasonable accommodation

Where appropriate, limited AI use may support linguistic access and accessibility for eligible candidates, provided that it supports access without replacing the candidate's own demonstration of knowledge and understanding.

1.6 Alignment with ISKCON's educational mission

The śāstric degree system exists to fulfil Śrīla Prabhupāda's desire that devotees develop a genuine and personal understanding of scripture. Any use of AI that substitutes for a candidate's own assimilation, reflection and realisation is contrary to this purpose, irrespective of whether it falls within the formal permitted limits of this Policy.

2 Purpose

The purposes of this Policy are:

- to define the conditions under which AI may or may not be used in BOEX-approved examinations and assessments;
- to preserve the authenticity of candidate work and the integrity, fairness and credibility of the assessment process;
- to protect non-public BOEX materials, candidate data and internal records;
- to ensure that any permitted AI use is disclosed clearly and accurately;
- to establish a consistent BOEX standard for application across approved centres; and
- to allow proportionate accessibility support and reasonable accommodation without replacing the candidate's own demonstration of knowledge, understanding and realisation.

3 Scope

This Policy applies to:

- all candidates sitting BOEX-approved examinations or assessments;
- all BOEX-approved examination centres;
- all centre staff involved in the administration, invigilation, assessment, review or processing of such examinations or assessments, including Lead Instructors, invigilators, assessors and relevant administrative personnel; and
- all BOEX-approved assessment formats, including closed-book examinations, open-book assessments, oral assessments or presentations, memorisation or śloka assessments, and related written submissions forming part of the assessment process.

This Policy applies irrespective of whether an examination or assessment is conducted in person or online, and whether it is delivered synchronously or asynchronously, unless BOEX expressly provides otherwise in writing. Where an assessment is delivered asynchronously, centres shall apply such additional procedural safeguards as are necessary to give reasonable effect to the requirements of this Policy in that mode of delivery, in accordance with Section 7.

4 Definitions

For the purposes of this Policy:

- **"Artificial Intelligence" or "AI"** means a computational system that can generate, transform, translate, summarise, classify, reformat or otherwise process content or data in response to user inputs or prompts.

- **“Generative AI”** means AI that can produce new text, audio, images or other content in response to user instructions or prompts.
- **“External AI system”** means any AI tool, platform or service that is not expressly approved by BOEX in writing for use in connection with non-public BOEX materials or assessment processes. This definition explicitly includes all locally hosted, downloaded, or offline generative AI models, ensuring the restriction focuses on the nature of the generation rather than merely the data transmission. All AI tools and platforms are to be treated as external AI systems unless and until BOEX has granted express written approval for a specific tool or platform and specified the purposes for which it may be used.
- **“Substantive academic content”** means the ideas, arguments, explanations, doctrinal analysis, scriptural interpretation, reasoning, examples or evaluative judgement that form part of a candidate’s assessed performance.
- **“Translation”** means word-level or sentence-level rendering from one language into another, without explanation, interpretation, paraphrase, answer suggestion, rewriting or expansion. Where a candidate uses an AI-assisted translation tool, the candidate remains responsible for ensuring that the output does not exceed this permitted scope.
- **“Grammar/style correction”** means correction of spelling, punctuation, grammar and surface-level stylistic errors without materially altering the substantive content or meaning of the answer.
- **“Disclosure”** means a written declaration identifying the AI tool used, the purpose and extent of its use, and confirmation that the substantive academic content remains the candidate’s own work or, where relevant, the centre’s own human judgement.
- **“Designated authority”** means the Lead Instructor, Centre Coordinator, or such other person as is formally appointed in writing by the centre for the purposes of receiving breach reports, conducting investigations and making determinations under this Policy, and whose appointment has been notified to BOEX.
- **“Approved accommodation”** means a formally documented adjustment to the standard assessment conditions, authorised in advance through the centre’s accommodation process in accordance with Section 12 of this Policy, and recorded in the centre’s accommodation records.

5 Use Categories

5.1 Prohibited Use

AI use is prohibited where it:

- generates, revises, expands, restructures or otherwise materially shapes the substantive academic content of a candidate’s response;
- provides explanation, interpretation, paraphrase, rewriting, answer suggestion, argument development, doctrinal analysis, or any other substantive assistance for a candidate response;
- is used to upload, paste, transcribe, disclose or otherwise process any non-public BOEX question, question bank item, assessment rubric, candidate script, candidate data, internal centre record, or internal BOEX document in an external AI system;
- is used without required disclosure, or is accompanied by false, misleading or materially incomplete disclosure;
- is used to impersonate a candidate or to present AI-assisted work falsely as the candidate’s own unaided work; or
- is used by a centre, examiner or other relevant decision-maker to make or determine final academic judgement, pass/fail decisions, misconduct findings or certification decisions without meaningful human review and responsibility.

5.2 Permitted Use Subject to Conditions

The following uses of AI are permitted only within defined limits, subject to mandatory disclosure and compliance with this Policy. The specific application of these permitted uses to individual assessment types is set out in Section 6 for candidates and Section 7 for each assessment format:

- word-level or sentence-level translation;
- grammar and surface-level style correction of the candidate's own text;
- formatting of the candidate's own text, provided that such use does not materially alter the substantive content or reasoning of the response; and
- administrative summarisation by centre staff for non-confidential purposes only, provided that no non-public BOEX material, candidate data, internal records or confidential assessment content is entered into an external AI system.

Any AI use not expressly permitted under this Policy, or not compliant with the conditions attached to such permitted use, shall be treated as prohibited.

5.3 Accessibility and Accommodation-Based Use

Limited AI use may be authorised where it is necessary to support linguistic access, accessibility, or an approved accommodation, provided that:

- the use remains within the limits set by this Policy;
- it supports access rather than replacing the candidate's own demonstration of knowledge, understanding and realisation;
- it is proportionate to the identified need;
- it does not permit explanation, interpretation, answer-generation, doctrinal substitution, or any other form of substantive performance by AI;
- it is approved in advance where the applicable assessment process so requires; and
- it is fully and accurately disclosed where disclosure is required under this Policy.

6 General Rules for Candidates

6.1 Permitted candidate uses

A candidate may use AI only for the following purposes, and only in compliance with the conditions set out in this Policy:

- word-level or sentence-level translation;
- grammar and surface-level style correction of the candidate's own text;
- formatting of the candidate's own text, provided that such use does not materially alter the substantive content, reasoning or meaning of the response; and
- accessibility support authorised under an approved accommodation.

6.2 What remains prohibited even where permitted AI use applies

Regardless of the form of permitted AI use, a candidate must not use AI to:

- explain or interpret the meaning of a question beyond literal translation;
- suggest how the question should be answered;
- paraphrase the question in a way that introduces interpretation, emphasis or substantive guidance;

- rewrite the candidate's answer so as to improve its content, reasoning, persuasiveness or substantive structure;
- generate summaries of scriptural passages or other source material for direct use in the answer; or
- produce examples, arguments, analogies, conclusions or evaluative judgements.

6.3 Candidate responsibility

Any permitted use of AI under this Policy does not reduce or transfer the candidate's responsibility for the response. The candidate remains fully responsible for the accuracy of the response, any required disclosure, and for ensuring that the response reflects the candidate's own knowledge, understanding and realisation.

7 Rules by Assessment Type

The use of AI under this Policy depends on the nature and purpose of the assessment. The following provisions apply specific AI rules to the principal forms of BOEX assessment, including closed-book, open-book, oral, memorisation and related written submissions.

7.1 Closed-book examinations

In a closed-book examination, AI may be used only within the limits expressly permitted by this Policy and any applicable assessment instructions. Subject to those limits, AI may be used only for:

- word-level or sentence-level translation, where such use is expressly permitted for the assessment;
- grammar and surface-level style correction of the candidate's own already-written text, where such use is expressly permitted for the assessment; and
- accessibility support provided under an approved accommodation.

AI must not be used to generate, explain, interpret, expand, restructure, or otherwise materially shape the substantive content, reasoning or meaning of the candidate's response.

7.2 Open-book written assessments

In an open-book written assessment, AI may be used only within the limits permitted by this Policy and any applicable assessment instructions. Subject to those limits, AI may be used only for:

- word-level or sentence-level translation;
- grammar and surface-level style correction of the candidate's own text; and
- non-substantive formatting of the candidate's own text.

AI must not be used to:

- produce draft answers;
- propose arguments, lines of analysis, or substantive answer structures;
- synthesise readings or source materials into a ready-made response;
- paraphrase source material in a manner intended for substantive use in the response; or
- convert notes, extracts or reading materials into a polished substantive answer.

Open-book assessment is intended to assess the candidate's own understanding, selection, application and judgement, rather than outsourced substantive processing or composition. Where an open-book assessment is delivered asynchronously, the centre shall apply such additional procedural safeguards as are necessary to give reasonable effect to these requirements, which may include post-submission oral confirmation or a signed declaration of compliance.

7.3 Oral examinations and presentations

In an oral examination or presentation, AI may be used in preparation only for:

- word-level or sentence-level translation of the candidate's own notes; and
- grammar and surface-level style correction of the candidate's own notes, where such use is not excluded by the applicable assessment instructions or by the centre for the particular task.

AI must not be used to generate scripts, talking points, analyses, likely answers, or other substantive material for memorisation, rehearsal or delivery as part of the candidate's own oral performance.

7.4 Śloka / memorisation assessments

In a śloka or memorisation assessment, AI may not be used to support recall, reconstruction, prompting or interpretation. Any permitted use must be expressly limited to translation or approved accessibility support.

7.5 Administrative and reflective submissions

Where a candidate is required to submit an administrative note accompanying an examination or assessment, AI may be used for formatting and grammar and surface-level style correction of the candidate's own text.

Where a candidate is required to submit a reflective submission or personal statement, AI may be used only for formatting and grammar and surface-level style correction of the candidate's own text. It must not be used to generate, develop, restructure or materially improve the substantive content of that reflection or statement.

8 Rules for Approved Examination Centres

Approved examination centres shall apply this Policy directly and shall ensure that it is implemented consistently in all BOEX-approved examinations and assessments conducted under their responsibility.

Centres are not required to adopt separate AI policies. They may, however, issue local procedural instructions, provided that such instructions are consistent with this Policy and do not weaken, contradict or reduce its requirements.

Each centre shall:

- appoint a designated authority in accordance with the definition set out in Section 4, and notify BOEX of that appointment;
- provide, at the commencement of training, instruction on the ethical use of AI grounded in BOEX standards and relevant scriptural principles, so that candidates understand both the permitted limits of AI use and the moral importance of truthfulness, personal responsibility and authenticity in assessed work;
- notify candidates in advance that this Policy applies to the relevant examination or assessment;
- ensure that any permitted AI use is disclosed in accordance with this Policy;
- ensure that invigilators, assessors and relevant administrative staff understand their responsibilities under this Policy and receive appropriate briefing or training on its application;
- ensure that non-public BOEX materials, candidate data and confidential assessment content are not entered into external AI systems;
- maintain fair, accurate and consistent records of suspected breaches, the steps taken in response, and the outcomes reached; and
- implement approved accommodations consistently, proportionately and confidentially.

Centres remain responsible for compliance with this Policy in the conduct of BOEX-approved examinations and assessments, subject to BOEX oversight and any applicable centre review or approval processes.

9 Invigilators and Centre Staff

Invigilators are not expected to prove AI misuse by technical means, nor are they expected to have specialist knowledge of AI tools or detection methods. Their responsibility is to maintain procedural integrity, identify apparent irregularities, and refer concerns through the proper process.

An invigilator or other relevant member of centre staff shall:

- confirm that the applicable AI rules have been communicated to candidates before the assessment begins;
- record and report any apparent or admitted irregularity relevant to this Policy;
- ensure that any required disclosure is obtained in accordance with the relevant assessment process; and
- refer suspected serious or deliberate breaches to the centre's designated authority as defined in Section 4, without making or purporting to make a final misconduct determination themselves.

10 Confidentiality and Data Protection

Non-public BOEX materials, confidential assessment content, and personal data relating to candidates, staff or centre records must not be entered into an external AI system unless expressly authorised under BOEX-approved safeguards. For the purposes of this Policy, personal data includes any information that identifies or could identify a specific candidate or member of centre staff, including names, identifiers, assessment scripts, performance records and misconduct records.

The following must not be uploaded, pasted, transcribed, disclosed or otherwise processed in an external AI system:

- non-public examination papers;
- BOEX question bank items;
- marking keys, unpublished rubrics or moderation notes;
- candidate names, identifiers, scripts or performance records;
- internal BOEX documents; and
- internal centre reports prepared for BOEX or relating to candidate performance, misconduct or certification.

Each approved centre is responsible as the relevant data controller for the personal data it holds in connection with BOEX-approved assessments conducted under its responsibility. Centres shall ensure that any handling of personal data under this Policy is carried out only to the extent necessary, under appropriate confidentiality controls, and in accordance with any applicable data protection law.

Where applicable law requires additional safeguards for personal or sensitive data, the centre shall apply those safeguards in addition to this Policy. Where a centre identifies a conflict between the requirements of this Policy and applicable local data protection law, it shall notify BOEX without undue delay.

11 Mandatory AI Disclosure

11.1 General requirement

Where any AI use is permitted under this Policy, disclosure is mandatory. Any permitted AI use must be disclosed at the time required by the applicable assessment process. Disclosure provided after the

required point of submission or assessment event shall be treated as a failure to disclose for the purposes of this Policy, unless the centre's designated authority determines that exceptional circumstances justify an alternative approach.

11.2 Timing and form

Any required disclosure must be provided at the point of submission, presentation, or other applicable assessment event, in the manner required by the centre or the relevant assessment instructions.

11.3 Required content

The disclosure must state:

- the AI tool or tools used;
- the specific function or functions used;
- the purpose for which the AI was used;
- the extent of that use; and
- confirmation that the substantive academic content remains the candidate's own work and reflects the candidate's own knowledge, understanding and judgement.

Furthermore, to establish a verifiable audit trail, candidates are required to retain and, upon request, submit their full prompt history or chat logs for the specific assessment. This provides a clear, verifiable audit trail for the designated authority during any subsequent investigations.

11.4 Model Candidate AI Disclosure Statement

A candidate disclosure may be required in substantially the following form:

Candidate AI Disclosure Statement

I declare that I used the following AI tool(s): [insert tool name(s)]. I used the tool(s) only for the following permitted purpose(s): [insert permitted use(s)]. I did not use AI for explanation, interpretation, paraphrase, answer suggestion, rewriting, doctrinal analysis, argument generation, or substantive content creation. I confirm that the substantive academic content of this work is my own and that this disclosure is complete, accurate and truthful.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

11.5 Centre records of disclosure

Approved centres shall ensure that required disclosures are retained with the relevant assessment record in accordance with the record-keeping requirements set out in Section 15.

12 Reasonable Adjustments and Accommodation-Based AI Use

Approved centres may authorise limited additional AI-supported accommodation for candidates with approved access needs, in accordance with the centre's documented accommodation process as described in the definition of "approved accommodation" in Section 4. This may include, where appropriate, candidates with disabilities, specific learning difficulties (SpLDs) such as dyslexia or dyspraxia, language-access needs, or other documented grounds recognised under that process. AI tools used strictly for neurodivergent accessibility (e.g., text-to-speech, speech-to-text, or structural organisation assistance) are welcomed, provided they are vetted in advance, demonstrating the ISKCON Ministry of Education's commitment to inclusive, fair access.

Any such accommodation must satisfy all of the following conditions:

- it must be approved in advance through the centre's documented accommodation process;
- it must be proportionate to the identified need and no broader than necessary;

- it must support access without replacing the candidate's own demonstration of knowledge, understanding and realisation;
- it must be recorded and applied consistently and confidentially;
- it must remain consistent with BOEX standards and the integrity of the qualification; and
- where required by this Policy or the applicable assessment process, it must be disclosed in the same manner as any other permitted AI use, in accordance with Section 11.

For the avoidance of doubt, an accommodation under this section may widen access to word-level or sentence-level translation, surface-level linguistic support, or other approved accessibility support, but it may not permit explanation, interpretation, answer-generation, doctrinal substitution, or any other form of substantive performance by AI.

13 Detection, Evidence and Investigation

A suspected breach of this Policy must be reviewed and investigated fairly, proportionately and on the basis of human judgement.

A centre shall not make a finding of misconduct solely on the basis of an AI-detection score, flag or similar software output. Such outputs may, at most, form part of a wider review, but no adverse finding may be based solely on automated or software-generated indicators.

To strengthen human verification further, the designated authority is explicitly empowered to mandate a brief viva voce (oral defence) for any candidate whose written submission exhibits significant irregularities or is flagged by software. An oral examination is the most rigorous method to verify whether the substantive academic content genuinely reflects the candidate's own knowledge, understanding, and realisation.

In considering a suspected breach, the centre shall have regard to all relevant circumstances, including, where appropriate:

- the candidate's own admission or explanation;
- the absence, incompleteness or falsity of a required disclosure;
- comparison between the disclosed use and the submitted or presented work;
- inconsistencies identified through viva, follow-up questioning, or other human review;
- logs, records or other material lawfully available to the centre; and
- any other relevant surrounding circumstances.

Before a finding of serious or deliberate breach is made, the candidate shall be given a reasonable opportunity to respond to the concern in accordance with the applicable BOEX or centre procedures.

Any determination under this section shall be made by the centre's designated authority as defined in Section 4, or other properly authorised decision-maker, and shall be recorded with brief reasons.

14 Breaches and Consequences

Breaches of this Policy shall be assessed according to their nature, seriousness, impact on the integrity of the assessment, and any evidence of deception, concealment, recklessness or repetition.

A breach may be classified as a Minor Breach, a Serious Breach, or a Deliberate or Deceptive Breach. In all cases, the candidate shall be notified in writing of any finding made against them, the classification of the breach, the consequence imposed, and their right of review under Section 14.4.

14.1 Minor Breach

A Minor Breach means a low-level or first-time non-compliance that appears inadvertent, does not involve dishonesty or concealment, and does not materially compromise the authenticity, fairness or integrity of the assessment.

Examples may include:

- incomplete or inaccurate disclosure where the actual AI use was otherwise permitted;
- minor over-use of formatting or surface-level language correction without substantive alteration of the response; or
- a procedural error in the timing, form or submission of a required disclosure.

A Minor Breach shall result in at least a written warning and a requirement to correct or resubmit the disclosure. The centre may additionally impose one or more of the following:

- educational guidance or remedial instruction; or
- notation on the centre's internal record.

14.2 Serious Breach

A Serious Breach means a use of AI that exceeds the permitted limits of this Policy and materially affects the authenticity, fairness or integrity of the assessment, but where deliberate deception, concealment or repeated misconduct is not clearly established.

Examples may include:

- use of AI for partial paraphrase, substantive restructuring, or limited content development beyond what this Policy permits;
- failure to disclose AI use that went beyond translation, formatting, or surface-level language correction;
- unauthorised use of AI in an assessment component where AI use was tightly limited or expressly restricted; or
- careless or unauthorised entry of non-public materials or candidate-related information into an external AI system.

A Serious Breach shall result in at least a reduction or nullification of marks for the affected component. The centre may additionally impose one or more of the following:

- a requirement to repeat or resit the assessment;
- temporary withholding of results pending determination;
- a formal misconduct finding at centre level; or
- referral to BOEX where required by this Policy or other applicable procedures.

14.3 Deliberate or Deceptive Breach

A Deliberate or Deceptive Breach means intentional, reckless, concealed or repeated conduct that seriously undermines the authenticity, confidentiality, fairness or credibility of the assessment process.

Examples may include:

- presenting AI-generated or AI-shaped substantive content as the candidate's own unaided work;
- using AI during an assessment to obtain answer suggestions, interpretation, doctrinal explanation, rewritten responses, or other prohibited substantive assistance;
- uploading, pasting, transcribing, disclosing or otherwise processing non-public BOEX materials, question bank items, candidate data, scripts, or internal documents in an external AI system;

- falsifying, concealing or materially misrepresenting a required disclosure; or
- repeated Serious Breaches or any pattern of conduct showing disregard for this Policy.

A Deliberate or Deceptive Breach shall result in at least invalidation of the relevant assessment or examination attempt. The centre may additionally impose one or more of the following:

- failure of the relevant paper, unit or assessment;
- a requirement to resit under conditions determined by the centre or BOEX;
- suspension or delay in progression to certification;
- formal report to BOEX; and
- disciplinary action under the applicable centre or BOEX procedures.

14.4 Determining the Appropriate Consequence

In determining the appropriate consequence beyond any applicable mandatory minimum, the centre or BOEX, as applicable, shall take into account all relevant circumstances, including:

- the seriousness of the breach and the extent of any advantage gained;
- the impact on the integrity, fairness and credibility of the assessment;
- whether the conduct was intentional, reckless or inadvertent;
- whether the breach was an isolated incident or forms part of a pattern of conduct;
- the extent to which the candidate admitted the breach, cooperated with the process, or took corrective action; and
- any other relevant mitigating or aggravating circumstances.

Where multiple breaches arise from the same assessment event, the centre shall treat them as a single matter for the purposes of classification and consequence, unless the nature or combination of the conduct warrants separate treatment.

14.5 Appeals

A candidate against whom a finding of Serious Breach or Deliberate or Deceptive Breach has been made may request a review of that finding within fourteen days of written notification of the determination.

The request shall be directed to BOEX, or to a centre review panel comprising persons not involved in the original determination, and shall be accompanied by a written statement setting out the grounds for review. Valid grounds for review include a material procedural irregularity in the original determination, new evidence not reasonably available at the time of the original determination, or a decision that was manifestly unreasonable in light of the evidence considered.

The imposition of consequences shall not be suspended pending the outcome of a review unless the centre's designated authority or BOEX determines that exceptional circumstances justify a temporary suspension.

The reviewing body shall issue its determination within thirty days of receiving the request, and shall notify the candidate in writing of the outcome and the reasons for it. The outcome of the review shall be final at centre level, subject to any further rights available under applicable BOEX procedures.

14.6 Centre Non-Compliance

Where the non-compliance of an approved centre with this Policy is serious, repeated or systemic, BOEX may take one or more of the following steps:

- require the centre to implement specified remedial measures within a defined timeframe;
- impose additional oversight or reporting requirements on the centre;

- suspend the centre's authority to conduct specific categories of BOEX-approved assessment pending remediation; or
- review and, where appropriate, withdraw the centre's approved status in accordance with applicable BOEX standards and procedures.

Before taking any step under this section that would materially affect a centre's approved status, BOEX shall give the centre a reasonable opportunity to respond.

15 Record-Keeping

Each approved centre shall maintain accurate, secure and retrievable records relating to the operation of this Policy. Records shall be kept in a manner that protects their confidentiality and restricts access to those with a legitimate need to review them.

Such records shall include, where applicable:

- candidate AI disclosure statements or other required disclosure records;
- reports of suspected breaches, together with any outcomes, determinations and brief reasons recorded under this Policy;
- records of any appeals made under Section 14.5, including the grounds submitted, the reviewing body's determination, and the reasons given;
- records of approved accommodations or accommodation-based AI use;
- any relevant assessment instructions or local procedural notices issued under this Policy; and
- any other record that the centre is required to maintain under BOEX standards or applicable local requirements in connection with AI use in assessment.

Records under this section shall be retained for a minimum of three years from the date of the relevant assessment event, or for such longer period as is required by applicable BOEX standards or applicable local law. Where BOEX standards or applicable local law require a longer retention period for related assessment records, the centre shall comply with that requirement.

16 Review

This Policy shall be reviewed by BOEX at least annually, and sooner where required by material technological, legal, operational or assessment-related developments.

Any review under this section shall consider whether amendments are necessary to maintain the integrity, fairness, accessibility, clarity and practical enforceability of the Policy. In conducting a review, BOEX may consult approved centres and other relevant stakeholders as it considers appropriate.

Where BOEX amends this Policy following a review, it shall notify approved centres of the amendments and their effective date within a reasonable time before the amendments take effect, so as to allow centres to update their local procedures accordingly. Each version of this Policy shall be identified by a version number and the date of adoption, and prior versions shall be retained by BOEX for reference.

17 Short Operational Summary

This section provides a plain-language summary of the core requirements of this Policy for practical reference. It does not replace or modify the detailed provisions set out in the preceding sections, which shall prevail in all cases of doubt or ambiguity.

For practical purposes, the core rules are as follows:

- **Candidates may use AI only for:** Word-level or sentence-level translation, grammar and surface-level style correction of their own text, non-substantive formatting of their own text, and accessibility support authorised under an approved accommodation.

- **Candidates must not use AI for:** Explanation, interpretation, paraphrase, answer suggestion, rewriting, doctrinal analysis, argument generation, or any other form of substantive content creation or substantive performance, regardless of the assessment type.
- **Any permitted AI use must be disclosed:** At the point of submission or assessment event, in the form required by the centre or the applicable assessment instructions, and in accordance with Section 11.
- **No non-public BOEX material may be entered into an external AI system:** This includes examination papers, question bank items, marking keys, candidate scripts, candidate data, and internal centre or BOEX documents.
- **Candidates have the right to request a review:** Of any finding of Serious Breach or Deliberate or Deceptive Breach, within fourteen days of written notification of the determination, in accordance with Section 14.5.

18 Transitional Provisions and Entry into Force

This Policy enters into force on (the “Effective Date”).

From the Effective Date, this Policy applies to all BOEX-approved examinations and assessments commencing on or after that date. Assessments that commenced before the Effective Date and are still in progress at that date shall be completed under the assessment conditions applicable at the time they commenced, unless the centre and BOEX agree otherwise in writing.

Within sixty days of the Effective Date, each approved centre shall:

- communicate the requirements of this Policy to all candidates enrolled in active BOEX-approved programmes at that time;
- ensure that all relevant centre staff, invigilators and assessors have been briefed on their responsibilities under this Policy; and
- appoint a designated authority in accordance with Section 4 and notify BOEX of that appointment, if this has not already been done.

BOEX shall provide implementation guidance to approved centres within thirty days of the Effective Date to support consistent application of this Policy across all approved centres.

To the extent that any prior BOEX standard, guidance or practice relating to AI use in BOEX-approved assessments conflicts with this Policy, this Policy shall prevail from the Effective Date.

19 Relationship to Other Policies and Standards

19.1 Relationship to the BOEX Plagiarism Policy

This Policy applies specifically to the use of Artificial Intelligence in BOEX-approved examinations and assessments. It does not replace or supersede the BOEX Plagiarism Policy, which continues to apply independently to all forms of academic dishonesty not involving AI.

Where conduct constitutes both a breach of this Policy and a breach of the BOEX Plagiarism Policy, the centre shall determine which policy is the more directly applicable to the conduct in question and shall proceed under that policy. Where both policies are equally applicable, the centre shall apply this Policy in respect of any AI-specific elements of the conduct, and the BOEX Plagiarism Policy in respect of any non-AI elements, unless BOEX directs otherwise. A single course of conduct shall not give rise to double jeopardy by being sanctioned separately under both policies in respect of the same act.

19.2 Relationship to ISKCON Ministry of Education Standards

This Policy is issued under the authority of BOEX as a binding standard applicable to all approved centres and candidates. It operates within the broader framework of the ISKCON Ministry of Education's educational standards and policies.

Where a matter is not addressed by this Policy, the applicable standards and policies of the ISKCON Ministry of Education shall apply. Where this Policy conflicts with an MoE standard or policy, the matter shall be referred to BOEX and the MoE for resolution, and BOEX shall notify affected centres of the applicable requirement pending resolution.

19.3 Relationship to ISKCON Laws and GBC Resolutions

This Policy is subject to the laws of ISKCON and any applicable GBC resolutions. Where a GBC resolution or ISKCON law requires a standard inconsistent with this Policy, that requirement shall prevail to the minimum extent necessary, and BOEX shall amend this Policy accordingly at the earliest opportunity.

20 Language and Translation of this Policy

The authoritative version of this Policy is the English-language text as adopted by BOEX. In the event of any inconsistency or ambiguity between the English-language text and any translation, the English-language text shall prevail.

Approved centres may prepare translations of this Policy into their local language for the purpose of communicating its requirements to candidates and centre staff. Any such translation shall be clearly identified as a non-binding working translation and shall include the following notice in a prominent position:

"This is a working translation of the BOEX Artificial Intelligence Policy. It is provided for reference purposes only. The authoritative version is the English-language text as adopted by BOEX, which shall prevail in all cases of inconsistency or ambiguity."

Translations prepared by approved centres shall be submitted to BOEX for review before use. BOEX may prepare and publish official reference translations for languages in common use across approved centres, which shall be made available to all centres. Where an official reference translation exists for a given language, centres are encouraged to use it in preference to a separate local translation.

No translation of this Policy, whether prepared by a centre or published by BOEX as a reference translation, shall be construed as modifying, limiting or extending the requirements of the English-language text.

Annex A — Data Protection Guidance

A.1 Purpose and Status

This Annex provides supplementary guidance on the handling of personal data in connection with this Policy. It does not replace or satisfy the data protection obligations of approved centres under applicable local law. Each centre remains independently responsible for ensuring that its handling of personal data complies with all mandatory requirements of the law applicable in its jurisdiction.

Where local data protection law imposes requirements that are stricter than those set out in this Annex, the stricter local requirement shall apply. Where local law permits a less stringent standard, the requirements of this Annex shall nonetheless apply as the applicable BOEX minimum standard.

A.2 Categories of Personal Data

For the purposes of this Policy, personal data held in connection with BOEX-approved assessments includes, but is not limited to:

- candidate names, contact details and identifiers;

- candidate enrolment and registration records;
- assessment scripts, written submissions and oral assessment records;
- examination results, grades and performance records;
- AI disclosure statements submitted by candidates;
- records of suspected breaches, misconduct findings and outcomes;
- records of appeals and their outcomes;
- approved accommodation records; and
- centre staff names and roles, to the extent held in connection with BOEX-approved assessment administration.

Special categories of personal data — including health information, disability records and other sensitive personal data held in connection with accommodation requests — shall be treated with heightened care and shall be processed only to the minimum extent necessary for the approved accommodation purpose.

A.3 Data Controller Responsibilities

Each approved centre is the data controller for the personal data it holds in connection with BOEX-approved assessments conducted under its responsibility. As data controller, each centre is responsible for:

- ensuring that personal data is collected and processed only for legitimate assessment-related purposes and only to the extent necessary for those purposes;
- implementing appropriate technical and organisational measures to protect personal data against unauthorised access, disclosure, loss or destruction;
- ensuring that personal data is not shared with third parties, including external AI systems, except as expressly permitted by this Policy or required by applicable law;
- responding to data subject requests in accordance with applicable local law; and
- notifying BOEX without undue delay where the centre becomes aware of a personal data breach that may affect BOEX records, candidate data or the integrity of BOEX-approved assessments.

BOEX holds personal data in connection with its oversight and certification functions, including records of approved centres, certified candidates and assessment outcomes. BOEX is the data controller for the personal data it holds directly.

A.4 AI-Specific Data Protection Requirements

The use of external AI systems presents specific data protection risks in the assessment context. The following requirements apply in addition to the general prohibitions set out in Section 10 of this Policy:

- No personal data relating to candidates or centre staff shall be entered into an external AI system, whether in identifiable or pseudonymised form, unless expressly authorised under BOEX-approved safeguards.
- Where a centre uses AI tools for administrative purposes that do not involve non-public BOEX materials or candidate personal data, the centre shall nonetheless satisfy itself that the AI tool's data handling practices are consistent with applicable local data protection law before use.
- Where a centre is subject to data protection law that requires a data processing agreement, data transfer mechanism or other formal safeguard before personal data may be shared with a third-party processor, those requirements must be satisfied before any AI tool is used in connection with personal data, even for permitted administrative purposes.

- Centres shall not use AI tools that retain, store or use entered data for model training purposes in connection with any personal data or non-public BOEX materials. To operationalise this effectively at an institutional level, approved centres must strictly utilise enterprise-tier or specifically configured AI accounts where "zero data retention" and "opt-out of model training" features are contractually guaranteed by the AI provider. Relying on consumer-grade AI tools inherently risks data leakage into public training sets and is strictly prohibited.

A.5 Data Retention and Deletion

Personal data held in connection with BOEX-approved assessments shall be retained for the minimum period necessary for the purposes for which it was collected, and in any event for no longer than:

- the minimum retention period specified in Section 15 of this Policy; or
- such longer period as is required by applicable local law or applicable BOEX standards.

At the end of the applicable retention period, personal data shall be securely deleted or anonymised. Records that have been anonymised such that individuals can no longer be identified may be retained for longer periods for legitimate administrative or statistical purposes.

Special category personal data, including accommodation records, shall be deleted promptly once the purpose for which it was collected has been fulfilled and any applicable retention obligation has expired.

A.6 Cross-Border Data Transfers

Where an approved centre transfers personal data to BOEX or to another centre located in a different country, the centre shall ensure that the transfer complies with any applicable restrictions on international data transfers under local law.

Centres subject to the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) or the UK GDPR shall ensure that appropriate transfer mechanisms are in place before transferring personal data outside the European Economic Area or the United Kingdom respectively. Centres subject to other data protection regimes with cross-border transfer restrictions shall apply the equivalent requirements of their applicable law.

Where a centre is uncertain whether a proposed transfer complies with applicable law, it shall seek appropriate legal advice before proceeding and shall notify BOEX of any constraint that may affect the operation of this Policy.

A.7 Jurisdiction-Specific Notes

Given the international scope of this Policy, the following non-exhaustive notes are provided for guidance. They do not constitute legal advice and do not replace jurisdiction-specific legal assessment by each centre.

- **European Union and European Economic Area (GDPR):** Centres operating within the EU or EEA are subject to the General Data Protection Regulation. Key obligations include lawful basis for processing, data subject rights, mandatory data breach notification to supervisory authorities within seventy-two hours, and restrictions on transfers outside the EEA. Centres should ensure that any AI tools used for permitted administrative purposes are covered by an appropriate processor agreement under Article 28 GDPR.
- **United Kingdom (UK GDPR and Data Protection Act 2018):** The UK operates a largely equivalent regime to the EU GDPR following its departure from the European Union. Centres in the UK should apply the same standard of care as EU centres, noting that transfers between the UK and EU are currently covered by adequacy decisions that are subject to periodic review.
- **India (Digital Personal Data Protection Act 2023):** Centres operating in India are subject to the Digital Personal Data Protection Act 2023. Key obligations include obtaining consent for processing personal data, appointing a Data Fiduciary, and complying with cross-border transfer restrictions as notified by the Central Government. Centres should monitor the implementation rules issued under the Act, which were still being finalised at the time this Policy was adopted.

- **Other jurisdictions:** Centres in jurisdictions not listed above shall identify and comply with their applicable local data protection law. Where no data protection law applies in a given jurisdiction, centres shall nonetheless apply the minimum standards set out in this Annex as the applicable BOEX standard.