A PRACTICAL GUIDE

The Layered Assessment Framework

Start with the decision.
Build the evidence.
Add only the assurance you need.

1 Start with the decision

What are we trying to establish: knowledge, application, professional judgement, practical performance, authorship or readiness for practice? What is at stake if we get it wrong?

2 Define the evidence

What evidence would genuinely support that decision? Does the current task generate it, or just preserve a familiar format?

3 Identify the risks

What could weaken confidence in the result?

- Identity
- Authorship
- Inappropriate assistance
- AI and digital tools
- Collusion
- Weak task design
- Unreliable marking
- Operational failure

4 Build the layer mix

Which combination of layers gives sufficient confidence, proportionately?



Example mix. Not every assessment needs every layer.

5 Test resilience

Can the assessment remain credible if conditions change? What could change without weakening the decision, and what must not?

Venue · Platform · Supplier · Invigilation · Candidate circumstances

THE LAYERED ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK

Putting the framework into practice

Pick one assessment. Don't redesign your whole programme, just choose one and ask:

Across every step: fair, accessible, proportionate?

1 **The decision**
What are we trying to establish about this candidate?

2 **The evidence**
What would we need to see, hear or observe to be confident in that decision?

3 **The risks**
What could make us less confident in that evidence?

4 **The layers**
What combination of layers would give sufficient, proportionate confidence, without adding unnecessary control?

5 **The resilience test**
What could change without undermining the credibility of the decision, and what must not?

Which layer is carrying too much of the burden?

Rate how much each layer carries in your chosen assessment.

	Light → Heavy		Light → Heavy
Design	○○○○○	Identity	○○○○○
Environment	○○○○○	Process	○○○○○
Human judgement	○○○○○	Marking / QA	○○○○○
Support	○○○○○	Technology	○○○○○

The goal is not to maximise control. It is to create the right combination of evidence and assurance for the decision being made.