**Chinese tech firms freeze AI tools in crackdown on exam cheats**

***Suspension comes as 13m students take four-day gaokao tests for limited spots at country’s universities***

Big Chinese tech companies appear to have turned off some AI functions to prevent cheating during the country’s highly competitive university entrance exams.

More than 13.3 million students are sitting the four-day gaokao exams, which began on Saturday and determine if and where students can secure a limited place at university.

This year, students hoping to get some assistance from increasingly advanced AI tools have been stymied.

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The Guardian has contacted the relevant companies for comment, none of which have made public statements about the functions freeze. The suspension appears to have been publicised largely by university students who have been locked out of tools to assist them in their study and assignments.

“College entrance exam candidates, you are all shit,” read one tongue-in-cheek complaint on Weibo. “I can’t use DeepSeek to upload pictures, I have to download ChatGPT again, I hope you all go to community college​​​​.”

The AI suspension is not the only tool being used to prevent cheating in the gaokao exam week, which can decide a young person’s entire future. Several regions have previously announced they would be using AI monitoring tools to watch for “abnormal behaviours”, [such as whispers or repeated glances](https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202506/09/WS6846338aa310a04af22c3da7.html) between students, during exams.