

## Issues of plagiarism: the use of Turnitin software

When you submit a written assignment at the University, you are often required to do this through the Turnitin software system.

“Turnitin is an electronic text matching system that compares text in a student assignment against a database of sources. The database contains copies of electronic text on the Internet, in published works, on commercial databases, and in assignments previously submitted to Turnitin by students in universities all over the world, including assignments obtained from internet sites that sell student papers.” (Curtin University. (n.d.) Academic integrity. Overview. Retrieved June 2, 2015 from [https://academicintegrity.curtin.edu.au/overview/Turnitin\\_whatis.cfm](https://academicintegrity.curtin.edu.au/overview/Turnitin_whatis.cfm).)

### Turnitin originality reports: Essay 1

This is a section from an essay which was put through the Turnitin plagiarism software. It was given a 12% ‘similarity’ rating. This might be considered a little too high.

#### Task 1

Look at the phrases on the left that are coloured pink and brown. Do you think that these phrases are plagiarised? Give reasons for your answer.

#### Task 2

Now look at the column of sources on the right. The colour of the source matches with the colour of ‘similar’ (identical) text on the left. The numbers also match text to a source. This system is to show where the phrases have been found.

- What are most of the sources? What do you think that this means?

exclude quoted exclude bibliography exclude small matches mode: show highest matches together

Chakrabarti MSc International Banking and Financial Services  
Introduction The banking system in the UK experienced a variety of changes since the late of the 1940s; especially in 1997 Bank of England was gained its independence. After its independence, the Bank was given the freedom to adjust the level of interest rate which is the main tool of monetary policy. This essay will examine the monetary policy in banking system in the UK. The first part will introduce this system briefly and the recent structure of this system; the second part will focus

**on the monetary policy of Bank of England and evaluate the** 11

effect of the interest rate and the elimination of reserve requirement. The banking system in the UK The development

**of the banking system The recent development of the banking** 6

system in the UK experienced three phases since the postwar. The first phase was "strict demarcation" period from the late

**of the 1940s to the end of the** 6

1960s. During this period commercial banks only offered

- 1 1% match (student papers from 05/04/05)  
[Submitted to Cardiff University](#)
- 2 1% match (student papers from 10/10/03)  
[Submitted to Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine](#)
- 3 1% match (publications)  
[Acumen PI- Title: Fact sheet on the role of the financial institutions. Date: 2005-03-17](#)
- 4 1% match (student papers from 03/14/07)  
[Submitted to JISCPAS](#)
- 5 1% match (student papers from 12/12/05)  
[Submitted to University of Northumbria at Newcastle](#)
- 6 1% match (student papers from 05/26/05)  
[Submitted to University of Central England in Birmingham](#)
- 7 1% match (student papers from 10/05/06)  
[Submitted to University of Greenwich](#)
- 8 1% match (student papers from 09/12/06)  
[Submitted to Queen Mary and Westfield](#)

#### Task 3

Do you think that this student has plagiarised?

### Turnitin originality reports: Essay 2

The following essay had a 27% similarity rating. This is clearly too high.

#### Task 4

Look at the section below.

- To what extent do you think that the student is actually 'cheating'?
- What does the student need to do to avoid the accusation of plagiarism? List the alternatives below.

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.....

The screenshot shows a plagiarism checker interface. On the left, a document is displayed with several paragraphs. Three paragraphs are highlighted with colored boxes and a small box containing a number (1, 2, or 5). On the right, a list of matches is shown, numbered 1 through 8, with their respective similarity percentages and source information.

include quoted include bibliography exclude small matches mode: show highest matches together

debts in pensions and wages. According the WB's outlook economic overview,

**in the early years of transition, prices were liberalized, trade distortions reduced, and small and medium - scale enterprises (SMEs) privatized. The treasury and budget processes were significantly improved.** 2

The government has introduced programme to stimulate

**foreign direct investment (FDI) into its resource – rich and mineral sector. Reforms in banking and pension fields are performed together with** 2

partial privatization and

**the takeover of a large conglomerate with a view to retaining the core business and selling off some of the subsidiaries to help finance the takeover** 5

of the electricity sector. The structure of public resource management has improved significantly which

- 1 7% match (Internet from 1/2/08) <http://ozs.mofcom.gov.cn>
- 2 5% match (Internet from 6/3/09) <http://www.worldbank.org.kz>
- 3 5% match (student papers from 09/17/09) Submitted to University of Reading
- 4 5% match (student papers from 09/17/08) Submitted to University of Reading
- 5 2% match (Internet from 11/23/09) <http://www.thefreedictionary.com>
- 6 1% match (Internet from 11/25/08) <http://www.europeanforum.net>
- 7 1% match (student papers from 01/16/06) Submitted to Royal Holloway and Bedford New College
- 8 < 1% match (student papers from 09/08/08) Submitted to London School of Economics and Political Science

#### Task 5

The passages above need to be rewritten. What steps does the student need to take in order to do this effectively?

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## Self plagiarism

Read the scenario below.

A student on a Pre-session course has the opportunity to write an essay on a topic that will be relevant to the subject that he will be studying for his Master's programme. He does a large amount of reading and researching and produces a detailed essay of a high standard. This is submitted to his writing tutor through Turnitin and they are both pleased to see that the similarity index is only 3%.

After the Pre-session the student moves on to his course of study for the MSc. In the second term of his MSc the assignment that he has to do for one module is very similar to the topic he worked on during the Pre-session. He is very short of time with several assignments to complete, as well as two exams and a dissertation proposal to write. It seems like a sensible idea to use some of the essay that he submitted earlier on the Pre-session. The essay was all his own work, had clear and accurate referencing, so there were no issues of plagiarism and it is just the right information for his current assignment.

The student submits the essay through Turnitin, as required, and is surprised when he receives an e-mail from the School Director of Teaching and Learning who wants to talk to him about Academic Misconduct. What had he done wrong?

- What do you think happened when the MSc module assignment was submitted through Turnitin?
- Do you think that the student had done anything wrong?
- What might happen to a student who is accused of academic misconduct?