One of the major strategies in minimising plagiarism is the careful design of assessment. Well-designed assessment tasks are less open to plagiarism than poorly designed ones.

Some common design strategies to minimise plagiarism, summarised from empirical studies into plagiarism (such as Carroll, J. (2001). *Plagiarism: A Good Practice Guide*, Oxford Brookes University) include:

- **Assessment volume and difficulty**
  Students will be more inclined to plagiarise if they have been given a very heavy load of assessment and are stretched for time. Similarly, if the degree of difficulty of tasks has been misjudged and they are too difficult for students at this point in their progression, then plagiarism is more frequently resorted to.

- **Design of tasks**
  Avoid common or generic essay topics that involve information that is readily available from the web. Similarly, avoid tasks that require simply repeating information. Rather, students should be encouraged to apply information to particular or unique contexts, and develop arguments based upon their own understanding. Tasks, wherever possible, should be recent and specific. Avoid examination design that encourages rote learning of standard answers.

- **Encourage individualised work**
  Individualised or self-selected assessment tasks are also very effective in deterring plagiarism. Wherever appropriate, assessment tasks should encourage students to showcase the
validity of their own learning. Short reflective commentaries or self-assessments, in which students demonstrate their learning process, can commonly accompany longer tasks. These are very difficult to fabricate.

**Web resources**

*Minimising plagiarism*, University of Melbourne

This page is part of the AUTC project Assessing Learning in Australian Universities (2002). It provides an excellent summary of a range of strategies and resources.

http://www.cshe.unimelb.edu.au/assessinglearning/03/plagMain.html

*Designing assessment tasks to minimise plagiarism*, University of Wollongong

This site provides a number of good practice examples of ways to minimise plagiarism.


http://theelearningcoach.com/elearning_design/rules-for-multiple-choice-questions/