



NQ 2016 MALPRACTICE STATISTICS

2016 National Qualifications – Malpractice Statistics

On Tuesday 28 February 2017, under its statutory duty as the regulator for National Qualifications in Scotland, the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) publishes information on malpractice in the 2015-16 academic session.

The statistics show the number of reported incidents of malpractice investigated in the 2016 diet of examinations for National Courses at National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher. They also provide information on the outcome of the investigations.

The number of candidates accused of cheating while sitting SQA examinations in 2016 remains extremely low. Penalties were applied in 169 cases - 0.033 per cent of the total number of entries (516,652).

Any kind of malpractice is totally unacceptable. The number of reported cases sends a strong message that each and every instance will be investigated thoroughly. SQA will continue to work with schools, colleges and the teaching profession to ensure that our zero tolerance approach is applied everywhere and every time.

Malpractice Terminology

Categories of malpractice

Collusion - Collusion with others when an assessment must be completed by individual candidates. Copying work from another candidate (including using ICT to do so) and/or working collaboratively with other candidates on an individual task.

Frivolous content - Producing content that is unrelated to the examination paper/question in exam scripts or coursework.

Misconduct - Behaviour in the examination room that causes disruption to others. This includes talking, shouting, abusive and/or aggressive behaviour and/or language, and having a prohibited electronic device that emits any kind of sound in the examination room.

Offensive content - Content in scripts or coursework that includes vulgarity and swearing that is outwith the context of the assessment, or any material of a discriminatory nature (including racism, sexism and homophobia).

Personation - Assuming the identity of another candidate or a candidate having someone assume his/her identity during an assessment.

Plagiarism - Failure to acknowledge sources properly and/or the submission of another person's work as if it were the candidate's own.

Prohibited Items - Physical possession of prohibited materials (including mobile phones, electronic devices, handwritten notes, etc) in the examination room.

Penalty definitions

- a. **Warning** - Warning given to candidate that will be taken into account should there be any future breach of SQA rules.
- b. **Warning with Revision of Marks** - Marks awarded are revised in cases of collusion and plagiarism in the candidate's work.
- c. **Cancellation** - Cancellation of external award.

CANDIDATE MALPRACTICE STATISTICS

| | NQ 2016 | NQ 2015 |
|-------------------------------------|---|---|
| Category | Total Number of penalties issued to candidates by category | Total Number of penalties issued to candidates by category |
| Collusion | 29 | 39 |
| Frivolous/Offensive | * | 11 |
| Misconduct | * | * |
| Personation | * | * |
| Plagiarism | 99 | 87 |
| Prohibited Items: Mobile Telephones | 26 | 9 |
| Prohibited Items: Notes etc | 10 | 14 |
| Totals | 169 | 163 |

| | NQ 2016 | NQ 2015 |
|-----------------------------|--|--|
| Penalty | Total number of penalties issued to candidates by consequence | Total number of penalties issued to candidates by consequence |
| Warning | 33 | 31 |
| Warning - Revision of Marks | 10 | 13 |
| Cancellation | 126 | 119 |
| Totals | 169 | 163 |

*The number of penalties are not reported for categories with fewer than 5 instances, in order that individual candidates cannot be identified.

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