



National Qualifications 2017

Candidate Malpractice Data

On Tuesday 27 February 2018, under its statutory duty as the regulator for National Qualifications in Scotland, the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) publishes information on malpractice in the 2016-17 academic session.

The data shows the number of reported incidents of malpractice investigated in the 2017 diet of examinations for National Courses at National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher. We also provide data on the outcome of the investigations.

The number of candidates accused of malpractice while sitting SQA examinations in 2017 remains extremely low. Penalties were applied in 183 cases - 0.036 per cent of the total number of entries (512,145).

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 out with 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 DATA

	NQ 2017	NQ 2016
Category	Number of penalties issued to candidates by category	Number of penalties issued to candidates by category
Collusion	27	29
Frivolous/Offensive	5	*
Misconduct	5	*
Personation	0	*
Plagiarism	76	99
Prohibited Items: Mobile Telephones	48	26
Prohibited Items: Notes etc	22	10
Totals	183	169

	NQ 2017	NQ 2016
Penalty	Number of penalties issued to candidates by consequence	Number of penalties issued to candidates by consequence
Warning	55	33
Warning - Revision of Marks	15	10
Cancellation	113	126
Totals	183	169

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