

MALPRACTICE, PLAGIARISM, COLLUSION AND CHEATING POLICY



The Link Training Academy

MALPRACTICE, PLAGIARISM, COLLUSION AND CHEATING POLICY

The Defence Awarding Organisation (DAO) is held to account by the Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation (Ofqual) against the 'General Conditions of Recognition' in order to maintain the integrity of the qualifications and the credibility of the organisations involved in development, delivery and award of those qualifications.

"Malpractice" means any act, default or practice which is a breach of the Regulations or which:

Compromises, attempts to compromise or may compromise the process of assessment, the integrity of any qualification or the validity of an examination result or certificate; and/or damages the authority, reputation or credibility of any awarding body or centre or any officer, employee or agent of any awarding body or centre.

The General/Standard Conditions of Recognition (Ofqual, Qualifications Wales and CCEA) includes two conditions which are particularly relevant to investigative activity: A8 - Malpractice and Maladministration and B3 - Notification to Ofqual of certain events. The SQA Accreditation's Regulatory Principles document (Principle 14) gives guidance on managing and preventing malpractice.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/dao-policies/dao-malpractice-and-maladministration-policy-and-procedure>

Condition A8 sets out the requirements and procedures for preventing, investigating, managing the effects of and dealing with malpractice and maladministration.

Condition B3 specifies the circumstances in which an awarding organisation must notify Ofqual of events which could have an 'adverse effect', it provides examples of adverse effects (see B3.2 (g) in particular) and it gives further information about the timing of notifications to Ofqual.

Regulatory Principle 14 states that it is the awarding bodies responsibility to ensure it and its providers have safeguards to prevent and manage cases of malpractice and maladministration

In accordance with this requirement, The Link Academy will:

- oversee all investigations into suspected or alleged malpractice;
- withhold the issuing of certificates until the conclusion of the investigation
- report the matter to The relevant awarding body if any findings evidence that certificates may be invalid;

Investigations will normally be led by the director of the academy acting on behalf of the awarding body

Any assessor/IQA or candidate found to have breached the integrity of the organisations values will be subject to disciplinary in line with the awarding body recommendations.

Examples of Malpractice

The following are examples of malpractice. It is not an exhaustive list and as such does not limit the scope of the definitions set out earlier in this document. Other instances of malpractice may be identified and considered by the awarding bodies at their discretion.

Part 1 Centre Staff Malpractice

Breach of security

Breaking the confidentiality of question papers or materials, and their electronic equivalents, or the confidentiality of candidates' scripts or their electronic equivalents.

It could involve:

Failing to keep student computer files which contain coursework secure.

Deception

Any act of dishonesty in relation to any examination or assessment, but not limited to: inventing or changing marks for internally assessed components (e.g. coursework) where there is no actual evidence of the candidates' achievement to justify the marks being given; manufacturing evidence of competence against national standards; fabricating assessment and/or internal verification records or authentication statements; **Assessors guilty of deception will be removed from their assessment duties and the awarding body notified**

Part 2 Candidate Malpractice

For example:

The alteration of any results document, including certificates; a breach of the instructions or advice of an invigilator, supervisor, or the awarding body in relation to the examination or assessment rules and regulations; failing to abide by the conditions of supervision designed to maintain the security of the examinations or assessments; collusion: working collaboratively with other candidates, beyond what is permitted; copying from another candidate (including the use of ICT to aid the copying); allowing work to be copied; the deliberate destruction of another candidate's work; disruptive behaviour in the examination room or during an assessment session (including the use of offensive language); exchanging, obtaining, receiving, passing on information (or the attempt to) which could be examination related by means of talking, electronic, written or non-verbal communication; making a false declaration of authenticity in relation to the authorship of coursework or the contents of a portfolio; allowing others to assist in the production of course

| Type of offence - Candidate | Warning | Loss of marks | Loss of aggregation or certification opportunity |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| Plagiarism: (See Plagiarism, Collusion and Cheating policy) unacknowledged copying from published sources (including the internet); incomplete referencing. | | Plagiarism from published work listed in the bibliography. Minor amount of plagiarism from a source not listed in the bibliography | Plagiarism from published work not listed in the bibliography Plagiarised text consists of the substance of the work submitted and the source is listed in the bibliography |
| Making a false declaration of authenticity | | Sections of work done by others, but most still the work of the candidate. | Most or all the work is not that of the Candidate. |
| Mobile phone or other electronic | Not in the candidate's possession but | In the candidate's possession but no | in the candidate's possession and |

| | | | |
|-----------------------|--|--|---|
| communicating devices | makes a noise in the examination room. | evidence of being used by the candidate. | evidence of it being used by the candidate. |
|-----------------------|--|--|---|

Maladministration

Definition: Maladministration is essentially any activity or practice which results in non-compliance with administrative regulations and requirements and includes the application of persistent mistakes or poor administration.

Examples of maladministration

- Persistent failure to adhere to our learner registration and certification procedures.
- Persistent failure to adhere to our centre recognition and/or qualification requirements and/or associated actions assigned to the centre
- Late learner registrations (both infrequent and persistent)
- Unreasonable delays in responding to requests and/or communications from The Link Academy
- Inaccurate claim for certificates
- Failure to maintain appropriate auditable records, e.g. certification claims and/or forgery of evidence
- Withholding of information, by deliberate act or omission, from us which is required to assure Active

Investigations of any Malpractice, Maladministration, Plagiarism, Collusion or Cheating will normally be carried out by Amanda Lodge-Stewart - head of centre, acting on behalf of the awarding body.

Where there has been a breach of the Awarding Body rules, these must be reported with any supporting evidence to the awarding body Regulation and Quality Improvement Manager (RQIM) by emailing within 20 working days of the incident being identified.

Any administrator/assessor/IQA or candidate found to have breached the integrity of the organisations values will be subject to disciplinary in line with the awarding body recommendations.

Plagiarism, Collusion and Cheating

Plagiarism

Definition

Plagiarism is a specific form of cheating which applies to all assessment. There are many definitions but they all have in common the idea of taking someone else's intellectual effort and presenting it as one's own.

Definition is that plagiarism is the unacknowledged incorporation into a learner's work of materials derived from published or unpublished work by another person and presented as if it were the learner's own work. A strict interpretation could include the original ideas, as well as the actual words, produced by another.

Examples of plagiarism include:

- Extracts from another person's work, published or unpublished, without using quotation marks and/or an acknowledgement of the source

- Summarising the work of another or using their ideas without an acknowledgement of the source
- Copying or using the work of another learner (past or present) without that person's knowledge or agreement
- Purchasing assignments or downloading them from the internet to submit them as your own work.

This policy therefore applies to assessments submitted for all Qualifications. The policy also applies to examinations and online tests, as well as assignment tasks that are completed independently by the learner in their own time.

Preventing plagiarism

This formal identification of the learner will be made prior to registration to avoid the possibility of a substitute. This ensures that the person named on the certificate is the person who did the work. To avoid learners unwittingly finding themselves guilty of plagiarism without knowing the implications, how to avoid Plagiarism will be included in the induction and included in the Candidate Handbook, an explanation to learners what plagiarism is, how we will deal with it and the possible sanctions and also how they should acknowledge someone else's work. This will be reinforced through assignment briefings. (See appendix 1)

On submission of the assignment the learner will make a formal declaration of authenticity (Appendix 2)

Final assignments will not be submitted for certification without a formal declaration of authenticity, which shall also include the learners name and registration number, centre name 'The Link Academy' and centre number

Collusion

Definition

Collusion is a form of plagiarism that involves unauthorised co-operation between at least two people with the intent to deliberately mislead or deceive. Collusion can take the following forms:

- Two or more learners conspiring to produce a piece work together with the intention that it is submitted as his/her own, individual work. Or with the intention of at least one learner submitting it as his/her own, individual work
- A learner submitting the work of another learner (with their consent) as his/her own, individual work. In such cases, both learners would be deemed to be guilty of collusion
- Although also an example of plagiarism, the submission of a piece of work that is not the learners own individual work that has been purchased from a third party. For example, from an essay or assignment writing service or by soliciting another individual to produce a piece or work on their behalf
- Unauthorised co-operation between a learner and a third party in the production of a piece of work that will be submitted as the learners own

Preventing Collusion

It is acceptable to discuss ideas, talk about books, articles, online material and strategies for example with other learners. However, it is not acceptable to help a fellow learner to produce work that will be submitted as their own and an individual piece of work. Learners should never lend their work to another learner under any circumstance as it may be copied or

reproduced. This example would leave both learners vulnerable to an accusation of collusion.

Learners should leave themselves enough time to check their work thoroughly before submitting it for marking or evaluation. Keeping to strict deadlines will limit the temptation of colluding with another learner or third party or purchasing work with the intention of submitting it as their own.

Learners should make sure that if they use a shared or public computer that they protect their work by saving it to their own personal drive, USB or memory stick. If a learner uses a shared or public printer to print hard copy versions of work they should ensure that any work is collected promptly from the printer and that any additional copies are securely destroyed.

Cheating

Cheating is an attempt to deceive assessors, examiners and/or external verifiers and includes:

- Providing or receiving information about the content of an examination before it takes place, except when allowed (e.g. case study materials issued before an examination)
- Centres giving excessive help to learners in writing assignments, or writing any of it for them
- Impersonating or trying to impersonate a learner, or attempting to procure a third party to impersonate oneself
- Learners using books, notes, instruments, computer files or other materials or aids that are not permitted (usually relevant only to examinations and online tests)
- Assistance or the communication of information by one learner to another in an assessment where this is not permitted (usually relevant only to examinations and online tests)
- Copying or reading from the work of another learner or from another learner's books, notes, instruments, computer files or other materials or aids, unless expressly permitted
- Offering a bribe of any kind to an invigilator, examiner or other person connected with assessment
- Any attempt to tamper with assignment or examination scripts after they have been submitted by learners
- Fabricating or falsifying data or results by individual learners or groups of learners

Because of the nature of cheating, this mainly applies to examinations and online tests. The Centre should bear in mind that cheating may involve any member of staff (e.g. tampering with assessment or examination scripts or results after learners have submitted them), which would be a case of centre malpractice (see Malpractice and Maladministration policy).

Preventing cheating

It is important that the centre check the instructions ILM/Pearson/VTCT provides for assessments, examinations or online tests and complies with them, especially regarding materials which can and cannot be used in the examination and the required arrangements for invigilation. Learners and others connected with the test or examination shall be made

aware of the consequences of cheating. The ILM/Pearson/VTCT Instructions for Conducting Examinations specify announcements that must be made at the beginning of every exam or online test

Staff administering exams shall be responsible for the supervision of examinations and the provision of appropriate invigilation in accord with regulations. Staff shall familiarise themselves with the ILM/Pearson/VTCT Instructions for Conducting Examinations.

ILM/Pearson/VTCT has a zero tolerance approach to all incidents of plagiarism, collusion or cheating, especially those incidents that are an attempt by the learner to gain marks without having completed the work themselves. Plagiarism, collusion or cheating can reflect badly on both the learner and the centre and both can be sanctioned.

Originality checking services

Where appropriate, ILM/VTCT may request that centres, along with formal declarations of authenticity, use an online originality checking service to ensure the work that is presented is the learners. If an originality check is requested by ILM/VTCT, a copy of the originality report shall be attached to all learner work at external verification or on submission of a learners work to the

Appendix 2 Formal Declaration of Authenticity

It is a regulatory requirement that every assessment submission is authenticated as the work of the named learner (whether submitted to the centre). Therefore this cover sheet, must be completed with each of your assignments is are submitted.

Any submission that does not carry a cover sheet or a formal declaration of authenticity will not be verified.

| | |
|---|--|
| Centre Name | |
| Centre Number | |
| Candidate Name | |
| Candidate Registration Number | |
| Assignment Title | |
| Statement of confirmation of authenticity By the act of making this submission I am declaring that this is all my own work and that: <i>The work has not, in whole or in part, been knowingly submitted elsewhere for assessment Where submission includes work from a previous assessment, this has been identified Where materials have been used from other sources it has been properly acknowledged If this statement is untrue, I acknowledge that an assessment offence has been committed.</i> | |
| Signature | |
| Date | |

Permission to use this script

Learners' submissions – on an anonymous basis – for assessment standardisation.
By submitting, both the centre and the learner agree that The Link Academy may use this script on condition that identifying information is removed.

**However, if you are unwilling to allow The Link Academy to use this script,
please refuse by ticking the box**

Attention is drawn to the plagiarism, collusion and cheating policies of both the centre and the awarding bodies. Proven incidents of plagiarism, collusion or cheating can result in a learner being withdrawn from a qualification.