

## CANDIDATE BEHAVIOUR AND MALPRACTICE POLICY

Policy reviewed: November 2024

Next review: October 2025

This policy is reviewed and updated annually to ensure that candidate behaviour in the examination room at Palmers Green High School is managed in accordance with current requirements and regulations.

### Purpose of the policy

The purpose of this policy is to confirm that candidate behaviour in the examination room at PGHS is managed in line with JCQ regulations.

### Briefing candidates

To ensure candidates are aware of the standard of behaviour that is required in the examination room, PGHS will:

- ensure the JCQ Information for candidates (coursework, non-examination assessments, on-screen tests, Use of AI in Assessments, social media and written examinations) is distributed to all candidates whether electronically or in hard copy format prior to assessments and/or examinations taking place;
- ensure candidates are also made aware of the content of the JCQ Unauthorised items and Warning to candidate's posters prior to assessments and/or examinations taking place;
- ensure candidates are briefed on what they must and must not do when sitting written examinations and/or on-screen tests, and when producing coursework and/or non-examination assessments.

At PGHS, candidates are made aware of JCQ information as follows:

- The Exams Officer with the Deputy Head or Head briefs all candidates at the start of Y10 and again in Y11 on the JCQ expectations for external examinations;
- Candidates are given the JCQ information relating to the completion of NEA and AI and Assessments: A quick guide for Students infograph
- A further briefing takes place with Y11 before study leave at which they are issued with the PGHS Examinations Handbook.

### Candidate Malpractice

- Inappropriate behaviour by a candidate in the examination room is deemed 'candidate malpractice'.
- 'Candidate malpractice' means malpractice by a candidate in connection with any examination or assessment, including the preparation and authentication of any controlled assessments, coursework or non-examination assessments, the presentation of any practical work, the compilation of portfolios of assessment evidence and the writing of any examination paper.

- 'Malpractice', means any act, default or practice which is a breach of the Regulations.
- Failure by the Centre to notify, investigate and report to an awarding body all allegations of malpractice or suspected malpractice constitutes malpractice in itself.
- Suspected malpractice means all alleged or suspected incidents of malpractice.

Examples of inappropriate behaviour/actions that constitute 'candidate malpractice' are provided in the final section of this policy.

### **Instructions for conducting examinations - malpractice in the examination room**

The following requirements are applied at PGHS:

- Where a candidate is being disruptive, the invigilator must warn the candidate that they may be removed from the examination room. The candidate must also be warned that the awarding body will be informed and may decide to penalise them, which could include disqualification
- The Head of Centre must report to the awarding body immediately all cases of suspected or actual malpractice in connection with the examination
- Form JCQ/M1 - Report of suspected candidate malpractice must be completed
- The Head of Centre has the authority to remove a candidate from the examination room but should only do so if the candidate would disrupt others by remaining in the room.
- Where candidates commit malpractice, the awarding body may decide to penalise them, which could include disqualification. Candidates should be warned of the possible penalties an awarding body may apply as detailed in the JCQ publication Suspected Malpractice: Policies and Procedures
- In cases of suspected malpractice, examination scripts must be packed as normal and Form JCQ/M1 must be submitted separately to the relevant awarding body.

### **Roles and Responsibilities**

#### **The role of the invigilator**

- Be vigilant and remain aware of incidents or emerging situations, looking out for malpractice
- Warn a disruptive candidate that they may be removed from the examination room
- Record what has happened and actions taken on the examination room incident.

#### **The role of the Exams Officer**

- Ensure that the JCQ Information for candidate's documents (coursework, non-examination assessments, on-screen tests, the use of AI, social media and written examinations) are distributed to all candidates prior to assessments and/or examinations taking place and make sure that candidates are also be made aware of the content of the JCQ Unauthorised items and Warning to candidate's posters
- Ensure the JCQ Unauthorised items and Warning to candidate's posters are displayed in a prominent place for all candidates to see prior to entering the examination room

- Where a candidate is being/has been disruptive in the examination room, warn the candidate that the awarding body will be informed and may decide to penalise them, which could include disqualification.

### **The role of the Head of Centre**

- Where a candidate is seriously disrupting others, make the decision to remove the candidate from the examination room
- Report to the awarding body immediately all cases of suspected or actual malpractice in connection with the examination by completing form JCQ/M1.

### **The role of the Senior Leader**

- Ensure support is provided for the Exams Officer and invigilators when dealing with disruptive candidates in examination rooms
- Ensure that internal disciplinary procedures relating to candidate behaviour are instigated, when appropriate.

### **Examples of Candidate Malpractice**

These include but are not limited to:

#### **Introduction of unauthorised material into the examination room**

Own blank paper

- used for rough work
- used for final answers

Calculators, dictionaries (when prohibited)

- not used
- used or attempted to use
- Bringing into the examination room notes in the wrong format or prohibited annotations
- notes/annotations go beyond what is permitted but do not give an advantage; notes irrelevant to subject
- notes/annotations are relevant and give an unfair advantage
- notes/annotations introduced in a deliberate attempt to gain an advantage

Unauthorised notes, study guides and personal organisers

- content irrelevant to subject
- content relevant to subject
- relevant to subject and evidence of use

Mobile phone or similar electronic devices (including iPod, PM3/4 player, memory sticks, Smartphone, Smartwatch, Smartglasses)

- not in the candidate's possession but make a noise in the examination room
- in the candidate's possession but no evidence of being used by the candidate
- in the candidate's possession and evidence of being used by the candidate

Watches

- in candidate's possession

### **Breaches of examination conditions**

A breach of the instructions or advice of an invigilator, supervisor, or the awarding body in relation to the examination rules and regulations

- minor non-compliance: e.g. sitting in a non-designated seat; continuing to write for a short period after being told to stop
- major non-compliance: e.g. refusing to move to a designated seat; significant amount of writing after being told to stop
- related non-compliance

Failing to abide by the conditions of supervision designed to maintain the security and integrity of the examinations

- leaving examination early (no loss of integrity); removing script from the examination room, but evidence of the integrity was maintained
- removing script from examination room but with no proof that the script is safe; taking home materials
- deliberately breaking a timetable clash supervision arrangement; removing script from the examination room and with proof that the script has been tampered with; leaving examination room early so integrity is impaired

Disruptive behaviour in the examination room or assessment session (including use of offensive language)

- minor disruption lasting a short time; calling out, causing noise, turning around
- repeated or prolonged disruption; unacceptably rude remarks; being removed from the examination room; taking another's possessions
- warnings ignored; provocative or aggravated behaviour; repeated or loud offensive comments; physical assault on staff or property.

Exchange, obtaining, receiving, or passing on information which could be examination related (or the attempt to):

Verbal communication

- isolated incidents of talking before the start of the examination or after papers have been collected
- talking during the examination about matters not related to the exam; accepting examination related information
- talking about examination related matters during the exam; whispering answers to questions.

Communication

- passing/receiving written communications which clearly have no bearing on the assessment
- accepting assessment related information
- passing assessment related information to other candidates; helping one another; swapping scripts.



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### **Offences relating to the content of candidates' work**

The inclusion of inappropriate, offensive or obscene material in scripts, controlled assessments, coursework, non- examination assessments or portfolios

- isolated words or drawings, mildly offensive, inappropriate approaches or responses
- frequent mild obscenities or drawings; isolated strong obscenity; isolated mild obscenities or mildly offensive comments aimed at the examiner or member of staff
- offensive comments or obscenities aimed at a member of staff, examiner or religious group; homophobic, transphobic, racist or sexist remarks or lewd drawings.



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