

JCQ Guidance

What constitutes malpractice?

- breach of security
- deception
- improper assistance to students
- maladministration
- student malpractice
- failure to co-operate with an investigation

The biggest issue

In the summer 2022 exam series, the biggest malpractice issue was students having a mobile phone on them in the exam, accounting for 43% of our malpractice cases. Remember, just having a mobile phone in their possession, even if they do not use it, will lead to a total loss of marks for a student. Using or attempting to use a phone will lead to disqualification. Please make sure all your students know about the serious penalties that come with having a phone with them in the exam.

No watches allowed

A new requirement introduced in 2021/2022 is that students are no longer allowed to have any type of watch in their possession during an exam – this includes smart watches, digital watches and traditional analogue watches. As with mobile phones, please make sure your students are aware of this.

Artificial intelligence (AI) use in assessments

JCQ has [published guidance](#) to help identify, report and investigate student malpractice, including the misuse of artificial intelligence (AI).

Fake exam material on social media

We're aware of reports of summer 2023 exam materials being advertised on social media platforms, such as TikTok, Instagram and Telegram. We constantly monitor these platforms and we're in touch with them to try and remove these posts.

Please let your students know that exam boards do not release digital copies of exam material in advance of the exam and that the images in these posts are nearly always fake documents designed to extort money from students. We'd be grateful if you or your teachers could also remind students that attempting to access exam materials is an offence which can result in a loss of marks or disqualification.

If you or your students have any materials advertised as AQA exam materials, please let us know by emailing our Exams Integrity Team on irregularities@aqa.org.uk