

12. Malpractice, Sanctions and penalties applied against candidates

12.1 The awarding bodies will determine the application of a sanction or penalty according to the evidence presented, the nature and circumstances of the malpractice, and the type of qualification involved.

Not all the sanctions and penalties are appropriate to every type of qualification or circumstance.

12.2 These penalties may be applied individually or in combination. The table in Appendix 5 shows how the sanctions and penalties might be applied.

12.3 Awarding bodies may, at their discretion, impose the following sanctions against candidates.

1 Warning

The candidate is issued with a warning that if he/she commits malpractice within a set period of time, further specified sanctions will be applied.

2 Loss of all marks for a section

The candidate loses all the marks gained for a discrete section of the work.

A section may be part of a component, or a single piece of non-examination assessment if this consists of several items.

3 Loss of all marks for a component

The candidate loses all the marks gained for a component.

A component is more often a feature of a linear qualification than a unitised qualification, and so this penalty can be regarded as an alternative to penalty 4.

Some units also have components, in which case a level of penalty between numbers 2 and 4 is possible.

4 Loss of all marks for a unit

The candidate loses all the marks gained for a unit.

This penalty can only be applied to qualifications which are unitised. For linear qualifications, the option is penalty 3.

This penalty usually allows the candidate to aggregate or request certification in that series, albeit with a reduced mark or grade.

5 Disqualification from a unit

The candidate is disqualified from the unit.