



Malpractice Policy

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Introduction

ATC Training treats all cases of suspected malpractice very seriously and will investigate all suspected and reported incidents of possible malpractice.

Where a case of suspected or reported malpractice is being investigated, ATC Training, where appropriate, will advise the relevant Awarding Organisation for the qualification. It is accepted that in certain circumstances, the Awarding Organisation may take actions of its own, including imposing sanctions, where appropriate.

Scope

The purpose of this policy is to set out how allegations of malpractice in relation to all qualifications are dealt with. The scope of the policy is to provide:

- a definition of malpractice and maladministration.
- Information regarding the use of AI in assessments.
- examples of student and centre malpractice and maladministration.
- possible sanctions that may be imposed in cases of malpractice.

Definitions

Malpractice is defined as any act, or failure to act, that threatens or compromises the integrity of the assessment process or the validity of qualifications and their certification. This includes: maladministration and the failure to maintain appropriate records or systems, the deliberate falsification of records or documents for any reason connected to the award of qualifications, acts of plagiarism or other academic misconduct and/or actions that compromise the reputation or authority of ATC Training, its centres, associates and employees.

Maladministration is defined as any activity, neglect, default or other practice which results to non-compliance with administrative requirements and regulations, this includes the application of persistent mistakes or poor administration within the centre including inappropriate learner records.

Plagiarism is defined as the practice of taking someone else's work or ideas and passing them off as one's own.

AI is the abbreviation for Artificial Intelligence. It refers to the development of computer systems that can perform tasks that typically require human intelligence, including natural language processing and generation.

Use of AI in Assessments

The use of AI is expanding rapidly and the misuse of AI tools in relation to qualification assessments at any time constitutes malpractice.

ChatGPT is an example of an AI tool which generates text in response to a user prompts or question. Users can ask follow-up questions or ask the chatbot to revise the responses already provided. AI chatbots respond to prompts based upon patterns in the data sets (large language model) upon which they have been trained. They generate responses which are statistically likely to be relevant and appropriate.

AI chatbots can complete tasks such as the following:

- Answering questions
- Analysing, improving, and summarising text
- Authoring essays, articles, fiction, and non-fiction
- Writing computer code
- Translating text from one language to another
- Generating new ideas, prompts, or suggestions for a given topic or theme
- Generating text with specific attributes, such as tone, sentiment, or formality

Misuse of AI

Students must submit work for assessments which is their own. This means both ensuring that the final product is in their own words and isn't copied or paraphrased from another source such as an AI tool, and that the content reflects their own independent work.

Students are expected to demonstrate their own knowledge, skills and understanding as required for the qualification in question and set out in the qualification specification.

AI misuse is where a student has used one or more AI tools but has not appropriately acknowledged this use and has submitted work for assessment when it is not their own.

Examples of AI misuse include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Copying or paraphrasing sections of AI-generated content so that the work submitted for assessment is no longer the student's own
- Copying or paraphrasing whole responses of AI-generated content
- Using AI to complete parts of the assessment so that the work does not reflect the student's own work, analysis, evaluation or calculations
- Failing to acknowledge use of AI tools when they have been used as a source of information
- Incomplete or poor acknowledgement of AI tools
- Submitting work with intentionally incomplete or misleading references or bibliographies.

Source: AI Use in Assessments: Protecting the Integrity of Qualifications (JCQ Feb 2024)

Examples of Malpractice (by the learner)

Some examples of student malpractice are described below. These examples are not exhaustive, and all incidents of suspected malpractice will be fully investigated, where there are sufficient grounds to do so.

- Obtaining examination or assessment material without authorisation.
- Arranging for an individual other than the student to sit an assessment or to submit an assignment not undertaken by the student.
- Impersonating another student to sit an assessment or to submit an assignment on their behalf.
- Collaborating with another student or individual, by any means, to complete a coursework assignment or assessment, unless it has been clearly stated that such collaboration is permitted.
- Damaging another student's work.
- Inclusion of inappropriate or offensive material in coursework assignments or assessment scripts.
- Failure to comply with published examination regulations.
- Disruptive behaviour or unacceptable conduct, including the use of offensive language, at centre or assessment venue (including aggressive or offensive language or behaviour).
- Producing, using or allowing the use of forged or falsified documentation, including but not limited to:
 - personal identification;
 - supporting evidence provided for reasonable adjustment or special consideration applications.
- False results documentation, including certificates.
- Falsely obtaining, by any means, an awarding body certificate.
- Misrepresentation or plagiarism.
- Fraudulent claims for special consideration while studying.
- Possession of any materials not permitted in the assessment room, regardless of whether or not they are relevant to the assessment, or whether or not the student refers to them during the assessment process, for example notes, blank paper, electronic devices including mobile phones, personal organisers, books, dictionaries / calculators (when prohibited).
- Communicating in any form, for example verbally or electronically, with other students in the assessment room when it is prohibited.
- Copying the work of another student or knowingly allowing another student to copy from their own work.
- Failure to comply with instructions given by the assessment invigilator, i.e., working beyond the allocated time; refusing to hand in assessment script / paper when requested; not adhering to warnings relating to conduct during the assessment.

Examples of Malpractice/Maladministration (by centre employees, associates and other stakeholders)

Examples of malpractice/maladministration by, teachers, tutors and other officers, (including, external invigilators and examination administrators) are listed below. These examples are not exhaustive, and all incidents of suspected malpractice will be fully investigated, where there are sufficient grounds to do so.

Failure to adhere to the relevant regulations and procedures, including those relating to centre approval, security undertaking and monitoring requirements as set out by the awarding organisation.

- Knowingly allowing an individual to impersonate a student.

- Allowing a student to copy another student's assignment work, or allowing a student to let their own work be copied.
- Allowing students to work collaboratively during an assessment, unless specified in the assessment brief.
- Completing an assessed assignment for a student or providing them with assistance beyond that 'normally' expected.
- Damaging a student's work.
- Disruptive behaviour or unacceptable conduct, including the use of offensive language (including aggressive or offensive language or behaviour).
- Allowing disruptive behaviour or unacceptable conduct at the centre to go unchallenged, for example, aggressive or offensive language or behaviour.
- Divulging any information relating to student performance and / or results to anyone other than the student.
- Producing, using or allowing the use of forged or falsified documentation, including but not limited to:
 - personal identification;
 - supporting evidence provided for reasonable adjustment or special consideration applications; and
 - awarding organisation results documentation, including certificates
- Falsely obtaining by any means an awarding organisation certificate.
- Failing to report a suspected case of student malpractice, including plagiarism, to the awarding organisation.
- Moving the time or date of a fixed examination.
- Failure to keep examination question papers, examination scripts or other assessment materials secure, before during or after an examination.
- Allowing a student to possess and / or use material or electronic devices that are not permitted in the examination room.
- Allowing students to communicate by any means during an examination in breach of regulations.
- Allowing a student to work beyond the allotted examination time.
- Leaving students unsupervised during an examination.
- Assisting or prompting candidates with the production of answers.
- Administration errors with course paperwork, i.e. incorrect marking of learner portfolios, worksheets, not signing the declaration, tracking sheets etc.
- Failure to adhere to the awarding body and/or centre learner registration and certification procedures
- Late learner registrations (both infrequent and persistent)
- Failure to maintain appropriate auditable records, e.g. certification claims and/or forgery of evidence.

Possible Malpractice Sanctions

Following an investigation, if a case of malpractice is upheld, ATC Training may impose sanctions or other penalties on the individual(s) concerned. Where relevant we will report the matter to the awarding organisation, and the awarding organisation may impose one or more sanctions upon the individual(s) concerned. Any sanctions imposed will reflect the seriousness of the malpractice that has occurred.

Listed below are examples of sanctions that may be applied to a student, or to a teacher, tutor, invigilator or other officer who has had a case of malpractice upheld against them. Please note that this list is not exhaustive and other sanctions may be applied on a case-by-case basis.

- A written warning about future conduct.
- Notification to an employer, regulator or the police.
- Removal from the course.

Possible sanctions that may be applied to teachers, tutors, invigilators, and other officers:

- A written warning about future conduct.
- Imposition of special conditions for the future involvement of the individual(s) in the conduct, teaching, supervision or administration of students and/or examinations.
- Informing any other organisation known to employ the individual in relation to courses or examinations of the outcome of the case.
- ATC Training may carry out unannounced monitoring of the working practices of the individual(s) concerned.
- Dismissal.
- Review.