

Information for candidates Using social media and examinations/assessments



Image by Patrice Jones

This document has been written to help you understand examination rules. Please read it carefully.

We all like to share our experiences when taking examinations. However, it is important to think about what you say and to think about what information is being shared.

Sharing ideas with others online could be helpful when you're studying or revising.

However, there are limits to the amount of information you can share and you need to be careful not to break the rules. We'd like to ask you to keep the rules when talking online. If you're not sure about what you can and can't say online about your exams, it's always best to check with your teacher.

If you get or see something that is or that looks like information about an exam or assessment through social media, or any other means, you must tell your teacher or another member of staff. You must show them what you have seen or been given (if available). They will then report it to the awarding body and it will be investigated.

Where candidates break the rules for examinations, controlled assessments, coursework or non-examination assessments, awarding bodies have to investigate and may apply penalties (a penalty is like a punishment).



Image by Ben Wight

You should be aware that the following are not allowed:

- copying or allowing work to be copied – e.g. posting written work on social networking sites before an examination/assessment;
- collusion: working together with other students taking the exam, more than what is already allowed;
- asking others about what questions will be in your exam (even if no-one tells you);
- having secret information about the exam or assessment before the examination;
- sharing, finding, being given (even if not requested) or giving assessment related information by any means of communication (even if just trying to), even if you don't think they are real;
- not telling school or the exam boards about exam information being shared

Penalties (punishments) that awarding bodies give include:

- a written warning;
- taking away some of your marks for a section, component or unit;
- disqualification (this means no marks at all) from a unit, all units or qualifications; or
- a ban from taking assessments or exams for a set period of time.



Please take the time to understand the JCQ rules

Effective from 1 April 2020