Honesty in HSC Assessment – the Standard

ACE 9022

Last Updated: 1 April 2019

This standard sets out NESA's requirements for students submitting their own work in HSC assessments.

Candidates for the Higher School Certificate, as well as their teachers and others who may guide them, are required to comply with this standard.

The honesty of students in completing assessment tasks, examinations and submitted works, and of teachers and others in guiding students, underpins the integrity of the Higher School Certificate. Throughout the assessment process, the highest level of honesty is required.

Each student's mark will be determined by the quality of the work produced by the student only. To demonstrate honesty, any component of a student's work that has been written, created or developed by others must be acknowledged in accordance with NESA's subject-specific documentation. Use or inclusion of material from other sources such as books, journals and electronic sources, including the internet, must be acknowledged. General teaching and learning do not require formal acknowledgement.

Dishonest behaviour carried out for the purpose of gaining unfair advantage in the assessment process constitutes malpractice, or cheating. Malpractice in any form, including plagiarism, is unacceptable. NESA treats allegations of malpractice very seriously and detected malpractice will limit a student's marks and jeopardise their Higher School Certificate. Should malpractice be suspected, students will be required to demonstrate that all unacknowledged work is entirely their own. Serious and deliberate acts of malpractice amount to corrupt conduct and, where appropriate, NESA will report matters to the Independent Commission Against Corruption.

These requirements should be read in conjunction with NESA syllabuses and policies in related areas such as malpractice and satisfactory completion of a course. They include:

- Rules and Procedures Guide
- HSC: All My Own Work Program

Honesty in HSC assessment: what constitutes malpractice

ACE 9023

Last Updated: 20 October 2011

All work presented in assessment tasks and external examinations (including submitted works and practical examinations) must be a student's own or must be acknowledged appropriately. Malpractice, including plagiarism, could lead to students receiving zero marks and will jeopardise their Higher School Certificate results.

Malpractice is any activity that allows students to gain an unfair advantage over other students. It includes, but is not limited to:

- copying someone else's work in part or in whole, and presenting it as their own
- using material directly from books, journals, CDs or the internet without reference to the source
- building on the ideas of another person without reference to the source
- buying, stealing or borrowing another person's work and presenting it as their own
- submitting work to which another person, such as a parent, coach or subject expert, has contributed substantially
- using words, ideas, designs or the workmanship of others in practical and performance tasks without appropriate acknowledgement
- paying someone to write or prepare material
- breaching school examination rules
- using non-approved aids during an assessment task
- contriving false explanations to explain work not handed in by the due date
- assisting another student to engage in malpractice.

In the case of suspected plagiarism, students will be required to provide evidence that all unacknowledged work is entirely their own. Such evidence might include but is not limited to the student:

- providing evidence of and explaining the process of their work, which might include diaries, journals or notes, working plans or sketches, and progressive drafts to show the development of their ideas
- answering questions regarding the assessment task, examination or submitted work under investigation, to demonstrate their knowledge, understanding and skills.