

EXAMINATIONS MALPRACTICES; STRATEGIES STUDENTS USE IN EXAMINATIONS MALPRACTICE

EXAMINATIONS MALPRACTICES

Examination is one of the major means of assessing and evaluating students' or learners' skills, knowledge and attitude in both general and specific areas of studies. It is a crucial mode of assessment of the learner's mastery of certain required significant corpus of knowledge.

Educational assessment seeks to determine how well students are learning and is an integral part of the quest for improved education. It provides feedback to students, educators, parents, policy makers, and the public about the effectiveness of educational services. With the movement over the past two decades toward setting challenging academic standards and measuring students' progress in meeting those standards, educational assessment is playing a greater role in decision making than ever before.

However, owing to the high premium prices the public attaches on paper qualifications, this has resulted into significant numbers of examinations malpractices over the years. Examinations malpractices in public examinations compromise the validity and reliability of these examinations and therefore impact negatively on the authenticity and credibility of the certificates awarded by the examination bodies.

UBTEB emphasizes Competence Based Education and Training (CBET) where training with production is mandatory, and is part of the examinations. UBTEB is committed to conduct quality applied knowledge and skills Examinations with an ultimate goal of enabling the students to access further upward academic progressions and employment in the world of work.

The Board has successfully conducted examinations series since 2011. Rules on the assessment of competences and conduct of business, technical and vocational examinations in Uganda 2014 statutory instruments are used to guide the entire examinations management process. These rules have made provisions on key

areas that required to be regulated among the key rules are, -Responsibilities of Examination Managers and Supervisors, Conduct and Supervision of UBTEB Examinations, Rules on Malpractice, Offences and Penalties as a means of curbing the vice of Examination malpractice.

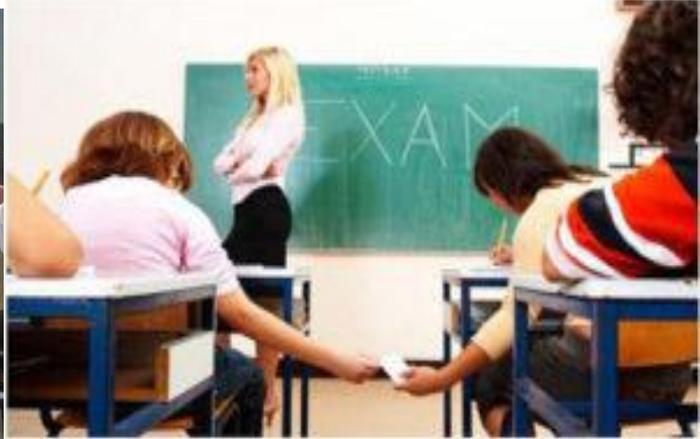
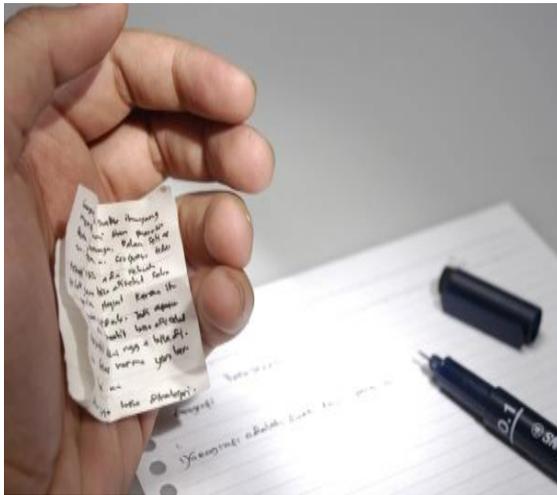
Examination malpractice according to World Bank (2001) is defined as “a deliberate wrong doing that is contrary to official examination rules and is purposed to place a candidate at an unfair advantage or disadvantage”.

“Examination malpractice” means any act, default or practice which is in breach of the rules or which compromises, attempts to compromise or may compromise the process of assessment, the integrity of the board examinations and the validity of the certificates awarded”, (UBTEB, 2015, pg. 46). The Board has been able to combat Examinations malpractices to a very big percentage. Here are some of the strategies that students use in Examinations Malpractice.

Strategies students use in examinations malpractice

- Collaborative cheating. In this way, the colleague is willing to participate in the scheme. He or she allows their work to be copied.
- Students sit in V-formation which makes it easier to look at someone else's paper.
- Wandering eyes and whispering.
- Students observing the supervisor carefully and pretends to pay attention.
- Too much Confidence.
- Tactical deployment where students position themselves in relation to others.
- Students using signals to receive communication and answers to and from others.
- Ordinary Objects like having a cheat sheet in the pen
- Eyes which do not stay on their own papers. They provide a perfect angle for peeking at a neighbor's answers.
- Distracting the supervisor for example asking questions about clarity of the questions. Clarification on a ridiculously obvious point.
- Repeated coughs to convey answers to one another from across the room. This draws attention to them.
- Students who take bathroom breaks and they end up going too long.
- Students who are not free most especially with their hands, this shows that they wrote on their hands.

- Students getting the same scores in an exam. This is detected in seating locations and identical scores.



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