

# Circular S/IF/38/15

October 2015

To: The Principals of Post-Primary schools and Directors of Further and Higher Education

For circulation to: The Head of Drama/Music/Dance and Performing Arts

## Plagiarism in GCE Performing Arts

It was noted that there was a significant increase in the incidents of plagiarism in the work of candidates in this summer series. Centres are to be reminded that plagiarism by candidates in the following documents will be regarded as malpractice and will be referred to the Malpractice Committee leading to a possible loss of marks.

- AS1-Portfolio
- AS2-Supporting Document
- A21-Record of Work
- A22-Record of Work

The Joint Council's *Guidelines for Dealing with Instances of Suspected Malpractice* defines plagiarism as: "The failure to acknowledge sources properly and/or the submission of another person's work as if it were the candidate's own."

The most common instances of plagiarism occurred in Unit 1 when candidates used cut and paste to present work from existing internet sources. Plagiarism also refers to "artefacts, or essays or pieces of work previously submitted for examinations" (JCQ).

### Preventing plagiarism

The JCQ guidelines state that "If you are a teacher or an assessor entering candidates for a qualification with a coursework component, you must accept the obligation to authenticate the work which is submitted for assessment. You must confirm that the work produced is solely that of the candidate concerned. You must not accept work which is not the candidate's own. If plagiarism is discovered prior to the signing of a declaration of authentication the incident need not be reported to the Awarding Body, but you should deal with the matter in accordance with your own centre's procedures."

In order to prevent plagiarism please refer to the very useful and clear guidelines which can be accessed at the websites below.

<http://www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/malpractice/plagiarism-in-examinations>

<http://www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/coursework>

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