

## 10 Sanctions applied against candidates

**10.1** Candidates may be subject to one or more sanctions (see Appendix 6).

**10.2** Awarding bodies may, at their discretion, impose the following sanctions against candidates (it should be noted that, whilst the sanctions are numbered for ease of reference, the sequence of numbers does not imply that the sanctions become progressively more severe. Not all sanctions are applicable to all qualification types):

### 1. Warning

The candidate is issued with a warning that if he/she commits malpractice within a set period of time, further specified sanctions may be applied.

### 2. Loss of all marks for a section

The candidate loses all the marks gained for a discrete section of the work. A section may be part of a component, or a single piece of non-examination assessment if this consists of several items.

### 3. Loss of all marks for a component

The candidate loses all the marks gained for a component.

A component is more often a feature of a linear qualification than a unitised qualification, and so this sanction can be regarded as an alternative to sanction 4. Some units also have components, in which case a level of sanction between numbers 2 and 4 is possible.

### 4. Loss of all marks for a unit

The candidate loses all the marks gained for a unit. This sanction can only be applied to qualifications which are unitised.

For linear qualifications, the option is sanction 3. This sanction usually allows the candidate to aggregate or request certification in that series, albeit with a reduced mark or grade.

### 5. Disqualification from a unit

The candidate is disqualified from the unit. This sanction is only available if the qualification is unitised. For linear qualifications the option is sanction 7.

The effect of this sanction is to prevent the candidate aggregating or requesting certification in that series, if the candidate has applied for it.

For qualifications with assessments taken throughout the academic year, the candidate will be disqualified from the unit and will not be able to use the unit to aggregate/certify. The candidate will need to redo the unit in order to be eligible for aggregation/certification, subject to the awarding body's qualification requirements.

### 6. Disqualification from all units in one or more qualifications taken in that series or academic year

If circumstances justify, sanction 5 may be applied to other units taken during the same examination or assessment series. (Units which have been banked in previous examination series are retained.) This sanction is only available if the qualification is unitised. For linear qualifications the option is sanction 8.

For qualifications with assessments taken throughout the academic year, the candidate will be disqualified from the unit(s) and will not be able to use the unit(s) to aggregate/certify. The candidate will need to redo the unit in order to be eligible for aggregation/certification, subject to the awarding body's qualification requirements.

## 7. Disqualification from a whole qualification

The candidate is disqualified from the whole qualification taken in that series or academic year. This sanction can be applied to unitised qualifications only if the candidate has requested aggregation. Any units banked in a previous examination series are retained, but the units taken in the present series and the aggregation opportunity are lost. If a candidate has not requested aggregation, the option is sanction 6. It may also be used with linear qualifications.

## 8. Disqualification from all qualifications taken in that series or academic year

If circumstances justify, sanction 7 may be applied to other qualifications. This sanction can be applied to unitised qualifications only if the candidate has requested aggregation. Any units banked in a previous examination series are retained, but the units taken in the present series and the aggregation opportunity are lost. If a candidate has not requested aggregation, the option is sanction 6. It may also be used with linear qualifications. **This sanction is only applied by the affected awarding body.**

## 9. Candidate debarral

The candidate is barred from entering for one or more examinations for a set period of time. This sanction is applied in conjunction with any of the other sanctions above, if the circumstances warrant it.

**10.3** Unless a sanction is accompanied by a bar on future entry, all candidates penalised by loss of marks or disqualification may re-take the component(s), unit(s) or qualification(s) affected in the next examination series or assessment opportunity if the awarding body qualification permits this. **For qualifications which have an endorsement component (such as GCSE English Language or A level Chemistry), candidates can carry forward their endorsement result to the next assessment opportunity, as long as there has been no indication that it has been affected by malpractice.**

**10.4** Heads of centre may wish to take further action themselves in cases of candidate malpractice.