

Statistical Release

Malpractice for GCSE and A Level: Summer 2013 Exam Series

Contents

Introduction.....	1
Key statistics.....	2
Background notes.....	10
Glossary of terms.....	12
Your feedback.....	13
Appendix.....	14

Published:
30th October 2013

Nick Catlow
Policy Lead

Alison Fisher
Head of Statistics

024 7671 6809
statistics@ofqual.gov.uk

Key points

This release provides information on malpractice for GCSE and A level, in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, during the summer 2013 exam series. The key findings for this release are:

- The number of penalties issued to candidates has remained consistent with last year. There were 2,590 penalties issued in the summer 2013 exam series, compared with 2,550 in summer 2012.
- The number of penalties issued to candidates for possessing a mobile phone, or other electronic device, has fallen for the fourth year in a row, to 814, down 16 per cent on last year.
- There were 97 penalties issued to school and college staff in the summer 2013 exam series. This represents a 62 per cent increase on last year, but is down 4 per cent when compared with 2011.
- There were 135 penalties issued to schools and colleges in the summer 2013 exam series. This represents a 4 per cent increase on 2012. Ninety-five per cent of these penalties were written warnings.

Introduction

This statistical release, published on behalf of the qualifications regulators for England, Wales and Northern Ireland, presents data on malpractice for GCSE and A level exams during the summer 2013 exam series. Six exam boards offer these qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland:

- AQA
- Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment (CCEA) (Northern Ireland)
- International Curriculum & Assessment Agency (Examinations) (ICAA(E))
- Oxford Cambridge and RSA Examinations (OCR)
- Pearson
- WJEC.

Exam boards have procedures in place for dealing with malpractice on the part of candidates, school or college staff or others involved in providing a qualification. Malpractice includes any breach of the regulations that might undermine the integrity of an exam, from deliberate attempts by candidates to communicate with each other during an exam to inadvertent failures by school or college staff to comply with exam board instructions.

All tables are in the appendix.

Key statistics

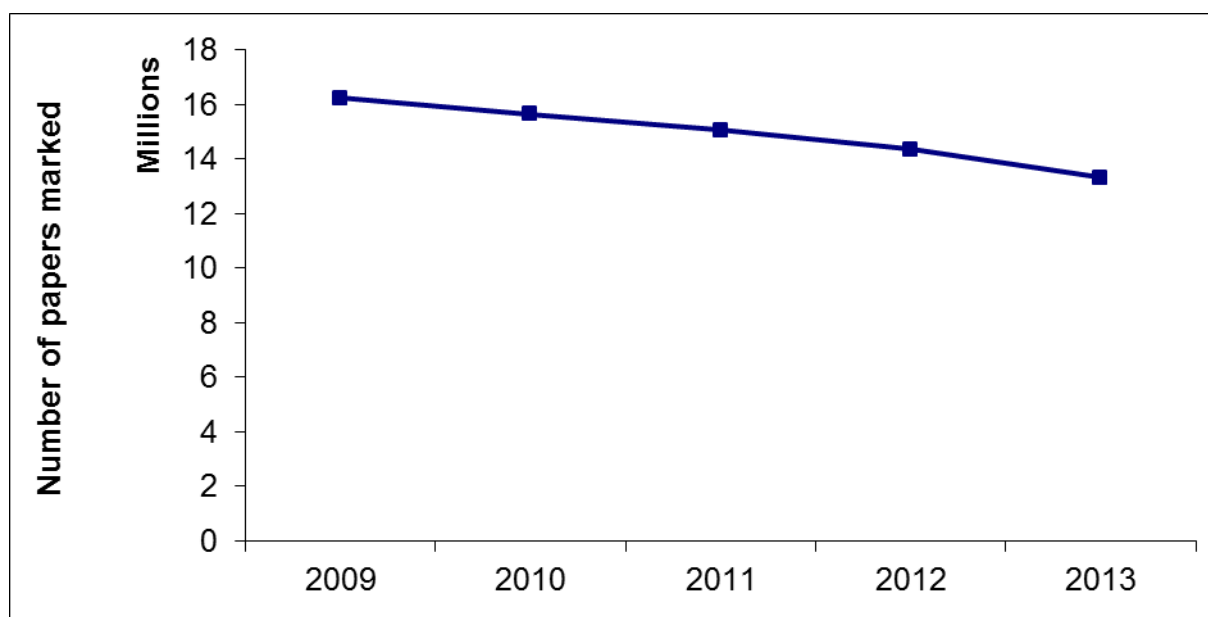
Certifications awarded

In the summer 2013 exam series, more than 2.4 million AS and A level certifications were made. More than 6 million GCSE certifications were made in England, Wales and Northern Ireland during the summer 2013 series¹.

Papers

In the summer 2013 exam series, 13.3 million papers were marked (see table 1 and figure 1). Figure 1 covers A level, applied A level, GCSE, applied GCSE, GCSE short course and overseas entries. There has been a consistent decrease in the number of papers marked in the summer series. The change in structure of qualifications, such as the move from six to four units in A levels and the return to linear assessment in GCSE, is likely to have contributed to the reductions seen over the past five years.

Figure 1: Total papers marked for GCSE and A level, summer exam series 2009–13



Penalties for malpractice may relate to specific assessments or papers, or may be applied at qualification level.

¹ These figures include applied subjects, other UK regions e.g. Isle of Man and overseas entries.

Candidate malpractice

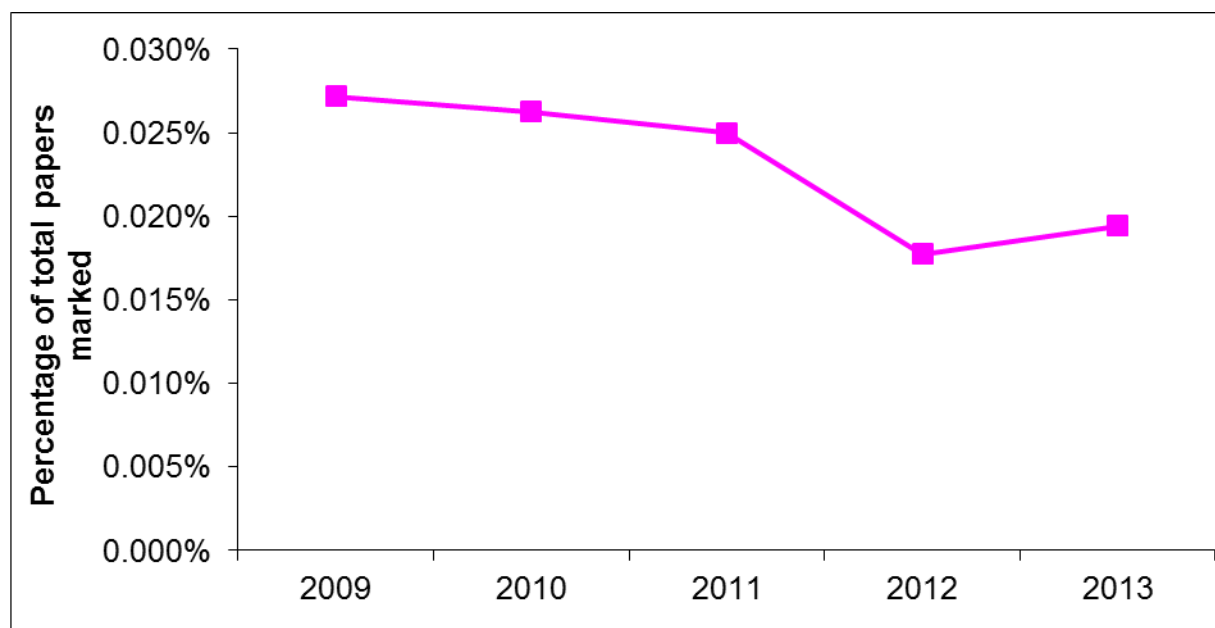
The penalties for candidate malpractice vary depending on the type of offence. They include warnings, loss of marks and disqualification from units, components or qualifications. For example, candidates who bring a mobile phone into an exam room but do not have their phone at their desk might receive a warning, whereas candidates found using a mobile phone during an exam might be disqualified from the unit or the qualification in that exam series.

Exam boards issued 2,590 penalties to candidates in response to malpractice during the summer 2013 exam series, an increase of 1.6 per cent from the previous year. This is in the context of 7 per cent fewer exams when compared with summer 2012 (see table 1).

An individual candidate may be penalised more than once and by more than one exam board.

Penalties for candidate malpractice in the summer 2013 exam series remained extremely rare across all six exam boards. The 2,590 penalties issued represent 0.019 per cent of the total papers marked (see figure 2 and table 2).

Figure 2: Penalties issued as a percentage of total papers for summer exam series, 2009–13

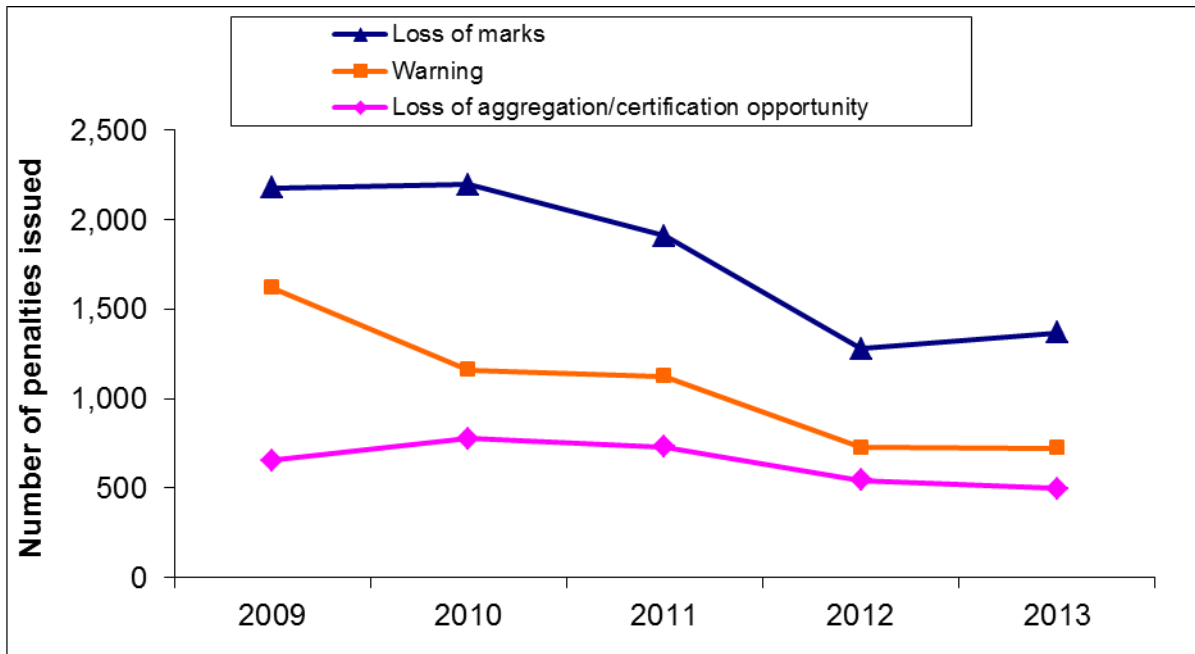


Types of penalties

The penalties issued in summer 2013 comprised 724 warnings (28 per cent of penalties), 1,368 loss of marks (53 per cent of penalties), and 498 loss of aggregation or certification opportunities (19 per cent of penalties), (see table 2 and figure 3).

Compared with the previous year there were slightly fewer warnings (a decrease of 0.5 per cent). The number of loss of aggregation or certification opportunities decreased by 8 per cent and the number of cases of a loss of marks increased by 7 per cent.

Figure 3: Number of penalties issued to candidates for malpractice, 2009–13



Categories of malpractice

The most common type of malpractice penalised was the introduction of unauthorised material into the exam room (1,183 penalties issued, representing 46 per cent of all penalties). This category decreased by 11 per cent compared with 2012 (see table 3 and figure 4).

In most cases the unauthorised material was a mobile phone or other electronic communications device (814 penalties, representing 69 per cent of the 1,183 penalties issued for unauthorised material). This has been steadily decreasing over the past four years, with a 41 per cent decrease since 2010.

Number of penalties issued for possession of a mobile phone or other electronic device 2010-13

England, Wales & Northern Ireland

	Year	Number of penalties issued						Total
		AQA	Pearson	OCR	WJEC	CCEA	ICAA(E)	
Mobile phone or other electronic device	2010	648	302	267	138	22	1	1,377
	2011	570	286	214	161	20	0	1,251
	2012	415	256	172	116	8	0	967
	2013	401	168	140	90	15	0	814

1. '-' indicates data not available. ICAA(E) awarded GCSEs for the first time in 2011

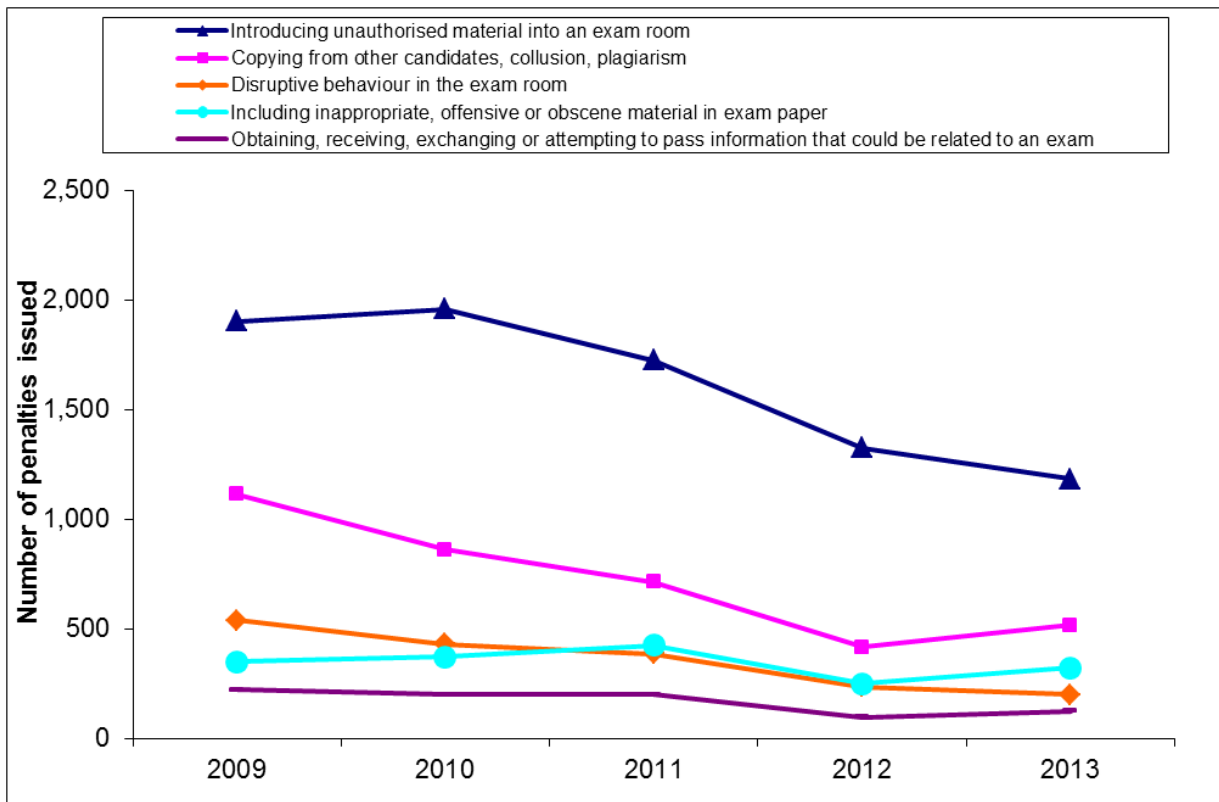
The reduction in the number of papers has impacted on the number of penalties issued for this category. The Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) produces posters for schools and colleges to display in exam rooms, warning of the penalty for candidates caught in possession of an electronic device. It is likely that increased awareness will have also contributed to the decline.

The second most common type of malpractice penalised, as in 2012, was for plagiarism, failure to acknowledge sources, copying from other candidates or collusion. For this, 515 penalties were issued, representing 20 per cent of all penalties. The number of penalties issued for this category of malpractice had been declining since 2009, but increased this year, up by 24 per cent on 2012.

Other common types of malpractice for which penalties were issued comprised:

- the inclusion of inappropriate, offensive or obscene material in the exam paper or coursework (321 penalties, representing 12 per cent of all penalties);
- disruptive behaviour in the exam room (200 penalties, representing 8 per cent of all penalties);
- attempting to pass or receive information that could be related to an exam (123 penalties, representing 5 per cent of all penalties), (see table 3 and figure 4).

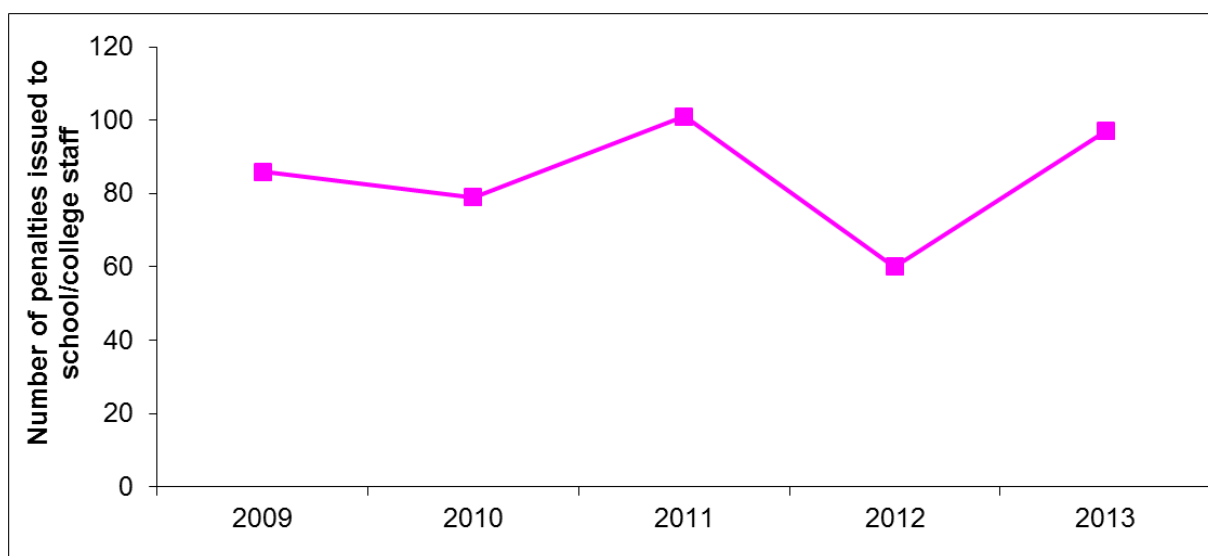
Figure 4: Number of penalties issued for the five most common categories of malpractice, 2009–13



School or college staff malpractice

For the summer 2013 exam series, 97 penalties were issued to school or college staff, an increase of 62 per cent from the previous year when 60 penalties were issued (see figure 5 and table 4). This figure represents the number of penalties issued; more than one penalty may be imposed for an individual case.

Figure 5: Number of penalties issued to school or college staff for malpractice, 2009–13



The most common penalty issued to school or college staff was a written warning (39 cases, representing 40 per cent of penalties). Suspension from involvement in exams or assessments and the imposition of special conditions on an individual's future involvement in exams were the next most common penalties issued (both with 23 cases, representing 24 per cent of penalties). There were also 12 requirements for the training or mentoring of staff (see table 4).

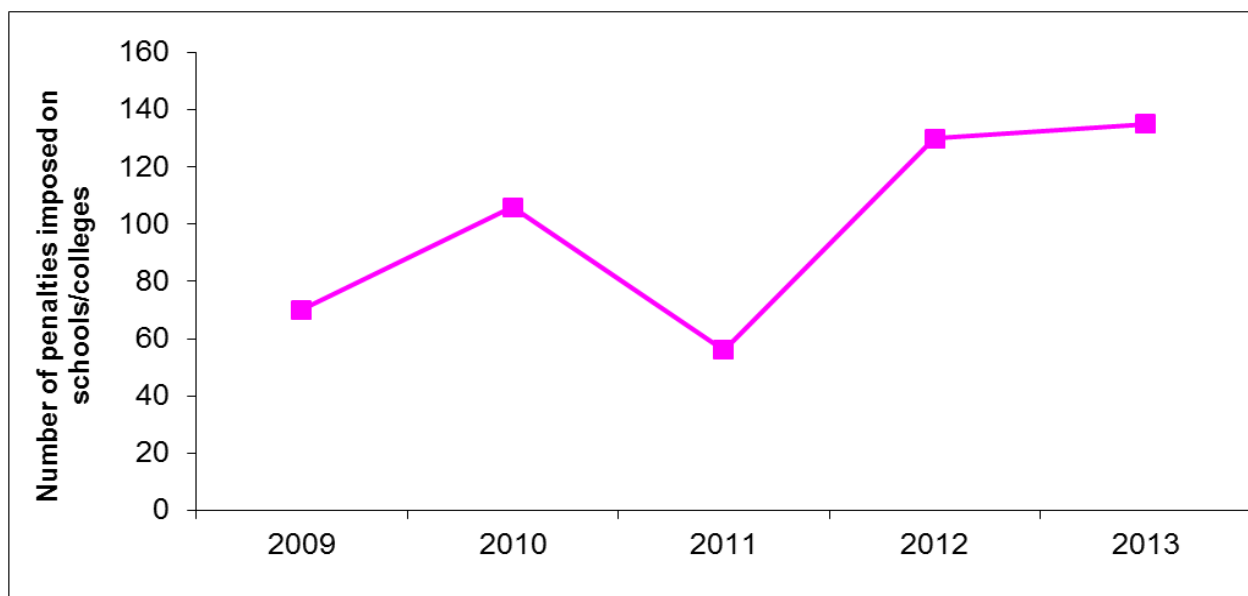
Most of these penalties were issued as a result of school or college staff giving inappropriate assistance to candidates (59 cases, representing 61 per cent of all penalties imposed on school or college staff). The second most common cause for issuing a penalty was for other reasons, such as entering the exam room to coach or prompt candidates, and allowing candidates to continue working for an extended period after the official finishing time (35 cases, representing 36 per cent of penalties), (see table 5).

School or college malpractice penalties

There are more than 6,000 schools, colleges or other centres in the UK delivering GCSE and/or A level exams. Where there is evidence that malpractice is the result of a serious management failure, an exam board may apply sanctions against the whole

department or the school or college. For the summer 2013 exam series there were 135 penalties issued to schools and colleges, a 4 per cent increase on the previous year (see figure 6 and table 6). This figure represents the number of penalties issued; more than one penalty may be imposed for an individual case. Penalties and special conditions on schools and colleges can be applied individually or together, depending on the circumstances and evidence.

Figure 6: Number of penalties imposed on schools and colleges for malpractice, 2009–13



The penalties that an exam board can issue as a result of school or college malpractice range from a written warning about the implications of repeating the offence to withdrawing approval for a school or college to offer some or all qualifications.

For the summer 2013 exam series, the most common penalty issued was a written warning (128 cases, representing 95 per cent of penalties). As was the case last year, almost all these warnings were issued by one exam board, which has stated this is the result of a new internal management procedure and a more rigorous warning process in relation to malpractice.

The second most common penalty issued was for schools or colleges to review and provide a report on malpractice (four cases, representing 3 per cent of penalties issued), (see table 6).

The three categories for reasons why exam boards issue penalties to schools and colleges are: as a result of a breach of security; giving assistance to candidates; or other reasons. Other reasons include schools and colleges not adhering to the

requirements of an exam, such as opening question papers early without authorisation, allowing candidates to sit an exam at the wrong time or a lack of appropriate invigilation during an exam.

There were 128 penalties imposed as a result of other reasons (representing 95 per cent of penalties imposed on schools and colleges). There were seven penalties imposed as a result of schools and colleges breaching the security of confidential exam materials (5 per cent of penalties), (see table 7).

Background notes

Malpractice

The qualifications covered by this release are regulated by us, the Welsh Government and the CCEA. Each qualifications regulator publishes conditions² that set out the requirements the exam boards it regulates have to meet. These conditions state that 'An awarding organisation must take all reasonable steps to prevent the occurrence of any malpractice or maladministration in the development, delivery and award of qualifications which it makes available or proposes to make available.' The conditions require all exam boards to investigate and manage the effect of any malpractice where they have established that malpractice or maladministration has occurred. They must take steps to prevent reoccurrence and take action against those responsible that is proportionate to the gravity and scope of the occurrence.

In addition, the *GCSE, GCE, Principal Learning and Project Code of Practice (2011)*³ aims to promote quality, consistency, accuracy and fairness in assessment and awarding. This code of practice helps maintain standards, both within and between exam boards, and from year to year. The code of practice lays down agreed principles, processes and practices for the exam boards that develop and deliver these qualifications.

Section 8 of the code of practice requires exam boards to have procedures in place for dealing with malpractice on the part of candidates, school or college staff or others involved in providing a qualification. Malpractice includes any breach of the regulations that might undermine the integrity of an exam, from deliberate attempts by candidates to communicate with each other during an exam to inadvertent failures by school or college staff to comply with exam board instructions.

The code of practice requires that exam boards investigate any instances of alleged or suspected malpractice in either the internally or externally assessed components

² www.ofqual.gov.uk/documents/general-conditions-of-recognition/

www.rewardinglearning.org.uk/docs/accreditation/general_conditions_of_recognition_september_2013.pdf

<http://wales.gov.uk/docs/dcells/publications/120329generalconditionsen.pdf>

³ www.ofqual.gov.uk/downloads/category/93-codes-of-practice?download=680%3Agcse-gce-principal-learning-and-project-code-of-practice-2011

and take such action, with respect to the candidates and schools or colleges concerned, as is deemed necessary to maintain the integrity of the exam. Schools or colleges must report all incidents of malpractice to the relevant exam boards and cooperate with subsequent investigations. Each case of malpractice, whether reported by the school or college or identified by the exam board, is considered and judged on an individual basis in the light of all the information available, and the outcome should be commensurate with the gravity of the malpractice as determined by the exam board.

School or college malpractice

Exam boards must investigate and, where necessary, penalise schools or colleges and their staff involved in malpractice. Instances of malpractice by school or college staff can range from actions intended to give an unfair advantage to candidates in an exam or assessment to ignorance of, or inappropriate application of, the assessment regulations.

School or college staff malpractice

Exam boards will normally impose sanctions and penalties on school or college staff found guilty of malpractice. These sanctions and penalties can include a written warning about the implications of repeating the offence, imposing special conditions on an individual's future involvement in exams and assessments, requiring specific training or mentoring as a condition of future involvement in exams, or suspending an individual from all involvement in delivering exams and assessments for a set period.

Data source

Exam boards provide the data. They submit data to us for GCSEs and A levels they have awarded in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Data also includes other UK regions such as the Isle of Man and overseas entries.

Glossary of terms

A level

Available as advanced level (A level) and advanced subsidiary (AS) qualifications. They are the qualifications that the majority of students use to gain entry to university.

Awarding organisation

An organisation recognised to develop, deliver and award descriptions of qualifications. Also referred to as an exam board.

GCSE

General Certificates of Secondary Education are the main school leaving qualification in England Wales and Northern Ireland. They are available in a range of subjects and can be studied alongside other qualifications. They are generally sat by 15–18 year olds in schools and colleges but are open to anyone who wants to gain a qualification.

Your feedback

We would like to hear from the users of our statistical releases.

Users of these statistics

These statistics are of particular interest to recognised exam boards and the Department for Education. Other users include government policy officials, academics, researchers, the public, government departments in Northern Ireland and Wales, and other interested parties and individuals.

If you use these statistical releases, we would be interested in hearing what you use them for and how well they meet your requirements. We also welcome your feedback on any aspect of these statistical releases, including content, timing and format.

We are continually striving to improve the quality and content of our statistical releases, and we welcome your suggestions or comments. Please send your comments to the Statistics team at statistics@ofqual.gov.uk.

Appendix

Table 1	Total number of papers marked during the summer exam series, by qualification, 2009–13
Table 2	Penalties issued to candidates for malpractice during the summer exam series by type of penalty, 2009–13
Table 3	Penalties issued to candidates during the summer exam series by category of malpractice, 2009–13
Table 4	School or college staff - penalties imposed for malpractice during the summer exam series, 2009–13
Table 5	School or college staff - penalties imposed for malpractice during the summer exam series, by offence, 2009–13
Table 6	Schools or colleges - penalties imposed for malpractice during the summer exam series, 2009–13
Table 7	Schools or colleges - penalties imposed for malpractice during the summer exam series, by offence, 2009–13

Table 1: Total number of papers marked during the summer exam series, by qualification, 2009–13

England, Wales & Northern Ireland

Year	Number of papers						Total
	AQA	Pearson	OCR	WJEC	CCEA	ICAA(E)	
2009	6,800,493	3,778,240	3,829,081	1,335,063	492,576		16,235,453
2010	6,411,172	3,619,804	3,660,339	1,423,949	538,131		15,653,395
2011	6,089,628	3,661,614	3,238,906	1,610,075	444,771	19,858	15,064,852
2012	5,719,303	3,661,462	2,939,135	1,573,038	467,825	898	14,361,661
2013	5,433,228	3,435,229	2,529,587	1,513,666	422,811	253	13,334,774

Source: EPG exams monitoring data

Notes:

1. Data are supplied by exam boards.
2. 2009 includes GCE, GCSE, Principal Learning, and overseas entries.
3. 2010 includes GCE, GCSE and overseas entries.
4. ICAA(E) awarded GCSEs for the first time in 2011. In previous years, specifications were delivered in conjunction with CCEA.

Table 2: Penalties issued to candidates for malpractice during the summer exam series by type of penalty, 2009–13

England, Wales & Northern Ireland								
	Year	Number of penalties issued						Total
		AQA	Pearson	OCR	WJEC	CCEA	ICAA(E)	
A warning	2009	701	464	355	85	14		1,619
	2010	467	276	348	52	16		1,159
	2011	435	311	272	101	5	0	1,124
	2012	243	205	196	69	15	0	728
	2013	268	216	176	60	4	0	724
Loss of marks	2009	957	406	549	200	64		2,176
	2010	919	347	699	203	27		2,195
	2011	790	442	480	169	27	0	1,908
	2012	486	339	277	167	10	0	1,279
	2013	596	240	330	185	17	0	1,368
Loss of aggregation or certification opportunity	2009	228	154	210	33	29		654
	2010	300	154	254	42	27		777
	2011	244	156	232	84	14	0	730
	2012	230	105	155	45	8	0	543
	2013	232	106	102	56	2	0	498
Total	2009	1,886	1,024	1,114	318	107		4,449
	2010	1,686	777	1,301	297	70		4,131
	2011	1,469	909	984	354	46	0	3,762
	2012	959	649	628	281	33	0	2,550
	2013	1,096	562	608	301	23	0	2,590
Percentage of scripts to which a penalty was applied	2009	0.03%	0.03%	0.03%	0.02%	0.02%		0.027%
	2010	0.03%	0.02%	0.04%	0.02%	0.01%		0.026%
	2011	0.02%	0.02%	0.03%	0.02%	0.01%	0.00%	0.025%
	2012	0.02%	0.02%	0.02%	0.02%	0.01%	0.00%	0.018%
	2013	0.02%	0.02%	0.02%	0.02%	0.01%	0.00%	0.019%

Source: EPG exams monitoring data

Notes:

1. Data are supplied by exam boards.
2. ICAA(E) awarded GCSEs for the first time in 2011. In previous years, specifications were delivered in conjunction with CCEA.

Table 3: Penalties issued to candidates during the summer exam series by category of malpractice, 2009–13

England, Wales & Northern Ireland		Number of penalties issued						
	Year	AQA	Pearson	OCR	WJEC	CCEA	ICAA(E)	Total
Introducing unauthorised material into an exam room ¹	2009	799	488	418	157	40		1,902
	2010	817	390	561	153	35		1,956
	2011	770	418	305	204	28	0	1,725
	2012	567	347	239	155	17	0	1,325
	2013	570	268	203	119	23	0	1,183
Copying from other candidates, collusion, plagiarism (including misuse of ICT)	2009	434	261	282	74	61		1,112
	2010	244	205	310	76	25		860
	2011	173	198	301	25	15	0	712
	2012	116	112	132	45	10	0	415
	2013	160	117	136	102	0	0	515
Disruptive behaviour in the exam room (including use of offensive language)	2009	262	80	156	36	5		539
	2010	250	68	81	28	4		431
	2011	158	88	83	54	2	0	385
	2012	92	59	53	29	2	0	235
	2013	134	29	19	18	0	0	200
Including inappropriate, offensive or obscene material in exam papers or coursework	2009	159	48	132	10	0		349
	2010	134	29	196	13	0		372
	2011	136	87	187	13	0	0	423
	2012	64	38	133	15	0	0	250
	2013	96	72	137	16	0	0	321
Obtaining, receiving, exchanging or attempting to pass information that could be related to an exam	2009	77	60	51	32	0		220
	2010	85	43	59	11	0		198
	2011	79	50	30	39	0	0	198
	2012	22	33	18	23	0	0	96
	2013	47	30	16	30	0	0	123
Failing to follow exam board supervision requirements	2009	50	42	14	2	0		108
	2010	102	7	19	16	0		144
	2011	98	8	22	14	0	0	142
	2012	42	25	22	10	1	0	100
	2013	49	14	58	8	0	0	129
Failing to follow instructions from invigilators, supervisors or the exam board	2009	72	9	48	1	2		132
	2010	28	30	68	0	0		126
	2011	34	47	53	4	0	0	138
	2012	25	24	24	4	0	0	77
	2013	20	16	28	7	0	0	71
Other ²	2009	30	36	13	6	1		86
	2010	26	5	7	0	6		44
	2011	21	13	3	1	1	0	39
	2012	31	11	7	0	3	0	52
	2013	20	16	11	1	0	0	48
Total number of penalties issued	2009	1,883	1,024	1,114	318	109		4,448
	2010	1,686	777	1,301	297	70		4,131
	2011	1,469	909	984	354	46	0	3,762
	2012	959	649	628	281	33	0	2,550
	2013	1,096	562	608	301	23	0	2,590

Notes:

Source: EPG exams monitoring data

- Notes or notes in the wrong format, study guides, materials with prohibited annotations, calculators and dictionaries where prohibited, personal stereos and mobile phones.
- Misusing exam materials, deliberate destruction of work, impersonation, theft, altering results documents or other behaviour that undermines the integrity of the exam.
- Data are supplied by exam boards.
- ICAA(E) awarded GCSEs for the first time in 2011. In previous years, specifications were delivered in conjunction with CCEA.

Table 4: School or college staff - penalties imposed for malpractice during the summer exam series, 2009–13

England, Wales & Northern Ireland

	Year	Penalties imposed
		Total
Written warning	2009	26
	2010	32
	2011	43
	2012	22
	2013	39
Requirement for staff training or mentoring	2009	14
	2010	5
	2011	19
	2012	8
	2013	12
Staff suspension from involvement in exams or assessments	2009	17
	2010	13
	2011	13
	2012	23
	2013	23
Special conditions to an individual's future involvement in exams or assessments	2009	29
	2010	29
	2011	26
	2012	7
	2013	23
Total	2009	86
	2010	79
	2011	101
	2012	60
	2013	97

Source: EPG exams monitoring data

Notes:

1. Data are supplied by exam boards.

Table 5: School or college staff - penalties imposed for malpractice during the summer exam series, by offence, 2009–13

	Year	Number of penalties imposed						Total
		AQA	Pearson	OCR	WJEC	CCEA	ICAA(E)	
Breach of security	2009	7	0	4	0	0		11
	2010	14	3	0	0	0		17
	2011	4	0	2	0	3	0	9
	2012	5	0	1	0	0	0	6
	2013	2	0	0	0	1	0	3
Giving assistance to a candidate(s)	2009	17	6	30	1	4		58
	2010	35	4	11	1	1		52
	2011	20	8	34	4	1	0	67
	2012	14	0	17	4	5	0	40
	2013	35	1	12	5	6	0	59
Other reasons ³	2009	7	0	10	0	0		17
	2010	0	4	6	0	0		10
	2011	14	2	9	0	0	0	25
	2012	3	2	8	0	1	0	14
	2013	12	21	2	0	0	0	35
Total	2009	31	6	44	1	4		86
	2010	49	11	17	1	1		79
	2011	38	10	45	4	4	0	101
	2012	22	2	26	4	6	0	60
	2013	49	22	14	5	7	0	97

Source: EPG exams monitoring data

Notes:

1. Data are supplied by exam boards.
2. ICAA(E) awarded GCSEs for the first time in 2011. In previous years, specifications were delivered in conjunction with CCEA.
3. Other reasons can involve, but are not limited to, entering the exam room to coach or prompt candidates, and allowing candidates to carry on working for an extended period of time after the official finishing time.

Table 6: Schools or colleges - penalties imposed for malpractice during the summer exam series, 2009–13

England, Wales & Northern Ireland		Penalties imposed
	Year	Total
Written warning	2009	44
	2010	43
	2011	35
	2012	119
	2013	128
School/college to review and provide report on malpractice	2009	16
	2010	53
	2011	18
	2012	4
	2013	4
Approval of specific assessment tasks	2009	0
	2010	0
	2011	0
	2012	0
	2013	1
Increased level of inspection and monitoring of school/college	2009	7
	2010	5
	2011	0
	2012	0
	2013	1
Restriction on school's/college's access to exam materials	2009	0
	2010	3
	2011	0
	2012	1
	2013	0
Independent invigilators	2009	3
	2010	0
	2011	0
	2012	0
	2013	0
Suspension of entries	2009	0
	2010	0
	2011	0
	2012	1
	2013	0
Withdrawal of school/college recognition	2009	0
	2010	2
	2011	3
	2012	5
	2013	1
Total	2009	70
	2010	106
	2011	56
	2012	130
	2013	135

Source: EPG exams monitoring data

Notes:

1. Data are supplied by exam boards.
2. An exam board introduced a new internal management procedure and a more rigorous warning process for malpractice in 2012, so care should be taken when comparing figures with previous years.

Table 7: Schools or colleges - penalties imposed for malpractice during the summer exam series, by offence, 2009–13

England, Wales & Northern Ireland

	Year	Number of penalties imposed					ICAA(E)	Total
		AQA	Pearson ¹	OCR	WJEC	CCEA		
Breach of security	2009	1	0	1	0	0		2
	2010	4	47	4	0	1		56
	2011	0	17	3	0	4	0	24
	2012	4	15	2	0	0	0	21
	2013	0	7	0	0	0	0	7
Giving assistance to a candidate(s)	2009	3	12	5	0	0		20
	2010	4	12	1	0	0		17
	2011	1	5	1	0	0	0	7
	2012	0	2	1	0	0	0	3
	2013	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other reasons ²	2009	9	35	2	0	2		48
	2010	1	26	1	0	5		33
	2011	1	14	2	0	8	0	25
	2012	0	105	1	0	0	0	106
	2013	0	126	1	0	1	0	128
Total	2009	13	47	8	0	2		70
	2010	9	85	6	0	6		106
	2011	2	36	6	0	12	0	56
	2012	4	122	4	0	0	0	130
	2013	0	133	1	0	1	0	135

Source: EPG exams monitoring data

Notes:

1. Pearson changed its data collection process during 2010 and also introduced a new internal management procedure and a more rigorous warning process for malpractice in 2012, so comparison of figures with previous years is not advised.

2. Other reasons include schools/colleges not adhering to the requirements of an exam, such as opening question papers early without authorisation, schools/colleges allowing candidates to sit an exam at an incorrect time and a lack of appropriate invigilation during an exam.

3. Data are supplied by exam boards.

4. ICAA(E) awarded GCSEs for the first time in 2011. In previous years, specifications were delivered in conjunction with CCEA.

We wish to make our publications widely accessible. Please contact us if you have any specific accessibility requirements.

First published by the Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation in 2013

© Crown copyright 2013

You may re-use this publication (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the [Open Government Licence](#). To view this licence, visit [The National Archives](#); or write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 4DU; or email: psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk

This publication is also available on our website at www.ofqual.gov.uk

Any enquiries regarding this publication should be sent to us at:

Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation	
Spring Place	2nd Floor
Coventry Business Park	Glendinning House
Herald Avenue	6 Murray Street
Coventry CV5 6UB	Belfast BT1 6DN

Telephone 0300 303 3344
Textphone 0300 303 3345
Helpline 0300 303 3346