

School 'President' Academic Honesty Policy

(Updated August, 2017)

School 'President' students should maintain the highest standards of academic behavior. Therefore, cheating is regarded a serious offence. A special emphasis is placed on academic honesty, which is regulated by this policy that, in particular, includes rules for testing and examination procedures, for subject Olympiads and other academic contests as well as for students' projects, IAs and other academic-related activities.

This issue is of highest importance due to a number of reasons. First, academic honesty directly corresponds to the principles of the society of equal opportunities. Second, it forms the very basics of IB educational concept. Third, malpractice undermines the school community since the cheaters can gain better marks undeservedly. And last but not least, cheaters deprive themselves of an invaluable learning experience which is crucial for life-long learning.

KEY PRINCIPLES

According to the International Baccalaureate, academic honesty must be seen as a set of values and skills that promote personal integrity and good practice in teaching, learning and assessment. It is influenced and shaped by a variety of factors including culture, parental expectations, role modeling, taught skills as well as a set of emotional pressures the students experience, e.g. the peer pressure, "the pressure to perform on summative assessments, the stress of the university admission process, time pressure. Thus, teaching and learning in the DP must develop the positive behaviours that students will need to demonstrate clearly that they complete their work carefully, honestly and authentically"¹.

Key Principles of Academic Honesty for Students²:

1. When you say you did the work yourself, you actually did it. Your work reflects your learning and performance.
2. When you rely on someone else's work, you cite it. When you use their words, you quote them openly and accurately, and you cite them, too. Be aware that any form of intellectual and creative expression must be respected and is normally protected by law.
3. When you present research materials, you present them fairly and truthfully. That is true whether the research involves data, documents, or the writing of other scholars.

Teacher responsibilities

- To explain principles of academic honesty and make sure the students understand them
- Teach students the proper procedures of referencing
- In case of any malpractice report to the School administration

MALPRACTICE³

¹ "Academic honesty in the IB educational context"

(ibpublishing.ibo.org/server2/rest/app/tsm.xql?doc=g_0_malpr_sup_1408_1a_e&part=2&chapter=4)

² Based on www.cubanxgiants.com/berry/416/readings/3principles.doc

³ <http://nhs.stvrain.k12.co.us/ib/ib%20diploma/Malpractice.pdf>

<http://www.cs.auckland.ac.nz/webdav/site/cs/shared/future-undergraduates/studyoptions/documents/22-Academic-Honesty-and-Special-Circumstances.pdf>

IB defines malpractice as behavior that results in, or may result in, the candidate or any other candidate gaining an unfair advantage in one or more assessment components.

Malpractice includes:

Plagiarism: this is defined as the representation of the ideas or work of another person as the candidate's own;

Collusion: this is defined as supporting malpractice by another candidate, as in allowing one's work to be copied or submitted for assessment by another;

Duplication of work: this is defined as the presentation of the same work for different assessment components and/or diploma requirements;

Fabricating data. This includes using false data in the writing up of laboratory reports, or using made-up quotations from interviewees;

Using material obtained from commercial essay or assignment services, including web-based sources and materials produced by artificial intelligence systems. Buying or otherwise acquiring essays, answers or ideas (in whole or in part) and using them in a coursework assignment is unacceptable;

Misrepresenting disability, temporary illness or injury or other exceptional circumstances beyond control, and then claiming special conditions;

Deception: Providing false information to an instructor concerning any formal academic exercise and asking for a deadline extension or other special conditions;

Any other behavior which gains an unfair advantage for a candidate or which affects the results of another candidate (for example, taking unauthorized material into an examination room, misconduct during an examination, improper use of modern technologies and devices such as Apple Watch, Google Glasses, falsifying a CAS record, disclosure or receipt of confidential information about examinations).

OFFENCES AND PENALTIES

In case of malpractice, a student faces certain penalties depending on the situation:

- a lowered mark for the assignment
- a lowered mark for the resubmitted assignment provided the latter has been allowed
- a failing mark
- a retake of the exam
- written disciplinary warning in the candidate personal portfolio if case of repeated offence
- suspension of a candidate in case of a more serious offence
- dismissal based on an official decision of a special meeting of the School Pedagogical Leadership Team