

Dear student

Performance in examinations doesn't define you or determine whether and how you will succeed in life, nevertheless, we want you to have a fair chance to show what you have learnt during your GCSE or GCE course. To help achieve this, we'd like to make sure you're aware of the importance of exam paper security during the exam period.

How do Exam Boards keep exams secure?

All exam boards take a number of steps to protect the security of your exam papers. This includes using technology to track the distribution of the exam papers and strict controls within all schools on how your papers are received and stored.

What you can do to help

- If you are offered any exam materials which might be confidential for this summer's exams, please inform your teachers so they can inform the exam board.
- Make sure you know the rules – mobile phones, or any unauthorised materials, are not allowed in exam rooms and can lead to disqualification.
- If you are not familiar with the exam regulations, or have any questions or concerns, please ask your teachers or Exams Officer.

Unfortunately, a very small number of people do try to break the rules. Whilst this is extremely rare, the consequences can be very severe for those involved and can lead to them being disqualified from their exams, and therefore unable to receive any results from any exam board – not just in the year that they were due to take them, but for a number of years afterwards. In the most extreme cases, these security breaches can result in criminal proceedings.

Reporting concerns about malpractice

If you have any information about potential malpractice or question paper security, please ensure that you or your parent/guardian contact your Headteacher as soon as you become aware of the issue. Alternatively, you can contact us directly and in confidence by emailing pqsmalpractice@pearson.com.

This can be a difficult time for students. We want to take the right steps to ensure you are supported and that there is a level playing field for everyone taking their exams this summer. I'd like to thank you for your support and wish you the best of luck with your exams.

Yours sincerely,



Derek Richardson
Vice President, Responsible Officer