



BISC IB: ACADEMIC HONESTY

The IB is committed to a policy of academic honesty. This means that all candidates' work should be based on their own "individual and original ideas with the ideas and work of others fully acknowledged".¹

Malpractice is considered to be behaviour which results in a candidate "gaining an unfair advantage in one or more assessment component(s). Malpractice includes

- **plagiarism** – the representation of another person's work or ideas as one's own,
- **collusion** – supporting malpractice by someone else e.g. by allowing one's work to be copied,
- **duplication** of work – presenting the same work for different assessment components,
- any other behaviour that gains an unfair advantage for a candidate, e.g. falsifying a CAS record".¹

Plagiarism can be avoided by acknowledging sources in the correct way. Using the words and ideas of another person to support an argument and integrating them with one's own in an accepted and correct way is an important academic skill. But it is wrong to take material from any source, including the internet, and use it as one's own without acknowledgement.

It is not sufficient to list sources in a bibliography or footnote. "Passages that are quoted verbatim must be enclosed in quotation marks and references provided. CD-Roms, web sites and other electronic media must be treated in the same way as books and journals. Sources of photographs, maps, graphs and illustrations must be acknowledged if they are not one's own work"¹

If malpractice is detected, the consequences are likely to be severe. They range from a strong warning, through no grade being issued for that piece of work to no grade being awarded for the subject concerned and **withdrawal of a Diploma or Certificates**. Following IB procedure, the degree of consequence is determined following a judgment of the degree of 'intention' on the part of the student.

If in doubt about acknowledging sources, please consult a teacher, supervisor or the IB Coordinator.

¹"Academic honesty : guidance for schools", IBO, Geneva, 2006.