



# THE KENYA NATIONAL EXAMINATIONS COUNCIL

*'On the Frontline in Quality Assessment and Examinations'*

All official correspondence should be addressed to:  
The Council Secretary/Chief Executive

REF: KNEC/EA/EM/TE/ETH/REV.01

JANUARY 2013

To: The Principals of Colleges offering Teacher Education Examinations

RE: EXAMINATION ETHICS

The Kenya National Examinations Council is committed to ensuring that there is objectivity and fairness in the conduct of national examinations. To achieve this objective, the Council has put in place machinery to guard against any candidate gaining undue advantage over others through cheating in examinations.

Among different forms of cheating are collusion, impersonation and smuggling of unauthorized materials into the examination rooms including mobile phones. Any case of detected or reported cheating is diligently investigated by the Council. If it is established that cheating took place, the affected candidates are penalized and College Principals are informed of the action taken through their District Education Officers.

The Council is determined to eliminate any form of cheating in national examinations. It is for this reason that the Council seeks your co-operation and that of your teachers to help stamp out these malpractices. In addition, we would like to appeal to all Principals of colleges to continue sensitizing their students in examination ethics as part of the general morals to them.

It is important for you to remember that high standards of performance and individual development depend on how well your institution develops personal qualities, skills and competence backed by appropriate knowledge. Equally important is the role the college plays in the transmission of values.

Colleges can make a great contribution in fostering sound morals and religious values in students by being concerned with their behaviour and morals. The traditions of the college, the way it operates and its ethics affect students most. There is therefore scope for colleges to make an impact by inculcating honesty and integrity to their students as a way of stamping out cheating in examinations by using every possible opportunity during the college life of the students through the following ways:

## 1.0 Teaching of good values during College Assemblies and Programmes of Pastoral instruction

- 1.1 Teachers should instill in students values that will help them grow up into self-disciplined, self-reliant and integrated citizens. The college assemblies and where applicable, programmes of pastoral instruction could be used to constantly impart to the students examination ethics besides other values and advise them on how to conduct themselves during examinations. The need for integrity, honesty and trustworthiness should be emphasized.

1.2 As a point of departure, the college heads or the tutors on duty can expound these values from a spiritual, religious and experiential or existential perspective. Students should be reminded again and again that 'honesty is the best policy' as tutors use relevant references from the holy books to teach their students the importance of living honest lives.

## 2.0 Guidance and Counseling

2.1 Colleges should inform students that it is morally wrong to cheat in tests or examinations, guide them on the right code of conduct as well as helping them to overcome the tendencies to cheat.

2.2 Other parties including parents, college sponsors, the community, PTA, Board of Governors, the Church and other religious organizations also have a crucial role to play. Colleges should therefore involve knowledgeable individuals to address students on different aspects of their lives, behaviour, education, examinations and spirituality.

## 3.0 Strengthening of Supervision and Invigilation of College Based Tests and Examinations.

While administering class test, quizzes, end of term and end of year examinations, tutors must ensure that students are supervised and invigilated. This will ensure that students do not cheat either by communicating with each other, copying from each other or from their books. Tutors should also penalize students who are caught cheating during these test and examinations. Creating an ideal examination atmosphere will give students practical experience of what is expected of them when they sit for the national examinations. Requirements such as sitting arrangements, preparation of examination rooms and secure handling of examination materials stipulated in the conduct and administration of examination should be adhered to.

Cheating in a college is a manifestation of failure by the principal and the staff to successfully teach the important aspects of moral behaviour and reflects poorly on the administration, professional ethics and moral conduct of a college where it occurs. It should therefore be discouraged.

## 4.0 Penalty for Examination Irregularities

The KNEC Act 2012 rules and regulations, offences and penalties stated in *sections 27 to 40* for cases of examination irregularities will apply. Some of the highlights in these sections state that:

4.1 A candidate who commits an examination irregularity in any paper will have the results for the WHOLE SUBJECT cancelled. Such a candidate will not be entitled to a result and will be awarded result "Y" overall.

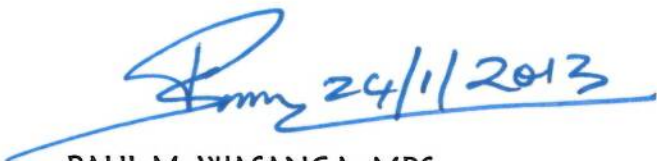
4.2 If there is evidence of wide-spread irregularities in any centre, the whole examination results for the whole centre will be cancelled.

4.3 Any person who:-

- a) gains access to examination material and knowingly reveals the contents, whether orally or in writing, to an unauthorized party, whether a candidate or not will violate section 27 and the penalty will be imprisonment for a term not exceeding *ten years*, or a fine not exceeding *two million shillings* or both.
- b) willfully and maliciously damages examination material will violate section 30 and the penalty will be imprisonment for a term not exceeding *two years* or a fine not exceeding *five million shillings* or both.
- c) is not registered to take a particular Council's examination but, with intent to *impersonate*, presents or attempts to present himself to take the part of an enrolled candidate, shall be guilty of an offence and liable to imprisonment for a term not exceeding *one year* or a fine not exceeding *two million shillings* or both and shall be prohibited from taking an examination conducted by or on behalf of the Council for a period of *three years*.

We hope you will consider what we have said in the same spirit, so that together we may achieve fairness in our examination system for the benefit of your children and our future as a nation.

Please bring this to the attention of all members of your teaching and support staff.



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COUNCIL SECRETARY/CHIEF EXECUTIVE

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