

Notes on Plagiarism, Collusion, Poor Referencing and other Malpractice (some examples)

These are examples of misdemeanours that markers will typically look for.

PLAGIARISM

- Direct, unattributed copying from books, articles, internet, and lecture slides. This can be of *text* or *ideas*. Exact copying is known as **verbatim** copying.
- Self-plagiarism – using work that has previously been submitted by the student for assessment elsewhere (either within this University or at another institution).
- “String of Quotes” essay, attributed but not the student’s own work.
- “Borrowing” another student’s work. (Not always possible to distinguish between collusion and copying by one student of the other’s work.)
- Too close paraphrasing – even though the student has altered some of the wording, it is still easily identifiable (aka ‘modified plagiarism’).

COLLUSION

- Working too closely together – essays almost identical in structure and wording. Use of identical quotations. Essay can still be properly referenced.

POOR REFERENCING

- Failure to use quotation marks but attributed or alluding to source material.
- Source material is too vague – i.e. no web reference or no page numbers.
- Omission of referencing when others’ ideas are clearly discussed.
- Use of too much quoted material – not enough to be plagiarism, but above the 10% ‘rule of thumb’ and from passages that should be paraphrased.

POOR QUALITY SOURCES

- Taken from essay banks or other sources of existing, already-submitted work.
- Specially commissioned, bespoke essay for a certain subject at a given classification level – i.e., a purchased essay.