

An Appraisal of Examination Malpractice in the Perspectives Of Islamic Thought

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Abstract

Examination is conducted to ascertain the comprehension level of a learner; hence it assists a tutor or an institution to determine the knowledge acquired by the learner for certification or scaling to the next level of scholarship. The process is, therefore, guided by defined extant laws. Law and order are part of the major principles of the religion of Islam; thus, the religion attaches special importance to strict observance and adherence to laws. This is because Islamic Thought is built on the oneness of Allah and obedience to divine laws, as contained in the Holy Qur'an and authentic Traditions (Sunnah) of the Prophet of Islam, Muhammad (pbuh). Therefore, this paper examines the stance of Islam on examination malpractice. Documentary Analysis and Survey Research were used as the methods of data collection. The data collected from the Holy Qur'an, the authentic Sunnah of the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) and the Fatwaa (understanding) of prominent Islamic scholars revealed that Islam has forbidden Muslims from engaging in acts of cheating, breach of trust and anything dishonourable. Since examination malpractice, according to the consensus of Islamic scholars, is an act of cheating, Islam therefore abhors it. Examination malpractice distorts the process of evaluating the methods of instruction to ascertain their effectiveness or otherwise. It has major negative impacts on the development and growth of any state. The paper therefore recommended, among others, the full implementation of the provisions made by the Nigerian constitution on those that engage in examination malpractice to serve as deterrence to students, teachers and other stakeholders in the education sector.

Keywords: Examination, Islam, Malpractice, Political thought, Qur'an, Sunnah

Introduction

The religion of Islam forbids disobedience to lay down rules and regulations. Muslims are guided by the command and direction given by Allah in the Holy Qur'an, the guidance given by Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) as contained in his authentic Sunnah, as well as the guidance of the companions of the Prophet (pbuh) and those that follow their footsteps till the day of resurrection. From the foregoing, therefore, it is pertinent to state that many verses of the Holy Qur'an and authentic tradition of the Prophet (pbuh) have prohibited Muslims from engaging in acts that amount to cheating, breach of trust and anything dishonourable. Indeed, examination malpractice

is an act of cheating, it is an act of dishonesty and it affects the integrity and dignity of the person that engages in it.

The issue of examination malpractice is associated with education pursuit. A person who decides to seek education is usually tested by the teacher, instructor or lecturer to understand the comprehension level of the learner to award him an appropriate grade, place him in a suitable position as well as identify the learner's strengths and weaknesses for proper guidance and assistance. The examination also allows for evaluation of the methods of instruction to ascertain their effectiveness or otherwise.

However, the prevalence of examination malpractice in Nigeria has, to a large extent, defeated the major essence of examination, especially the evaluation of teaching methods and students' performance (NTI, 2014 and Odojin & Akanni, 2015). This leads to the production of half-baked graduates that is accompanied by dangerous consequences, especially for the growth and development of the country. Any nation that lacks competent manpower to steer its affairs would find it extremely difficult to make progress, as no nation grows faster than its education system. In the same vein, examination malpractice leads to disasters. One of such is the disaster that leads to loss of lives and property, as the system of education will produce incompetent personnel that will eventually handle vital sectors like medicine, engineering, and agriculture among others. Structures executed by one who becomes an engineer through examination malpractice are likely to fail the test of time, so also a medical doctor who emerged through cheating during his examination is likely to become a killer instead of a saviour and rescuer of lives. Therefore, the danger of examination malpractice can better be imagined. It is based on the foregoing that this paper examines the effects and causes of examination of malpractice in Nigeria. It also x-rays the stance of Islam on examination malpractice to determine the provisions made by the religion on the phenomenon. Through the postulations of Islamic jurisprudence, this paper scrutinises the phenomenon of examination malpractice in Nigeria.

Conceptualising Education, Examination and Examination malpractice

Education does not have a single definition, as different scholars have offered different explanations for the meaning of the concept. However, education can generally be defined as knowledge acquired through the processes of teaching and learning either in formal or informal

settings. A person can only be said to be educated when he has the requisite knowledge and fair mastery of the field or area he has studied. A person who studied Arabic up to PhD level, for example, but cannot speak the language cannot be said to have become an educated person as far as the Arabic language is concerned. (NTI, 2014). One of the processes of determining a student's level of education is examination. Therefore, it becomes expedient for the paper to explain the concept of examination.

Like education, scholars have offered different definitions of examination. However, examination is a process of ascertaining the level of knowledge acquired by a learner at a certain level. It is conducted at certain intervals to serve as feedback to the trainer or teacher to measure the comprehension level of the trainees or students. Consequently, any misconduct or irregularity during examination distorts this feedback mechanism and can lead to false assessment (NTI, 2014 and Odojin & Akanni, 2015). This leads the paper to the concept of examination malpractice which entails the various misconducts that occur during examination.

Examination malpractice is any act that violates the rules and regulations guiding the conduct of an examination by students, teachers, trainers and any other persons who are entrusted directly or indirectly with the preservation of those rules and regulations. From here, the negative effects of examination malpractice can be better imagined, as it disrupts the processes of effective teaching and learning, and subsequently affects the quality of graduates produced at different levels of education (NTI, 2014 and Odojin & Akanni, 2015).

Literature Review and Discoveries from Survey

In the following themes, the paper reviews the related literature per the objectives of the research. Therefore, the paper adopts a thematic method of literature review:

Manifestations of Examination Malpractice

Examination malpractice manifests in different forms. Therefore, many scholars have shed light on the different types of examination malpractice that are common in Nigeria. Although not exhaustive, but following can be regarded as the different types of examination malpractice that are common in Nigeria:

Disobedience of Laws and Regulations: All the bodies, institutions and schools that set examination have their rules and regulations. Bodies like the National Board for Arabic and Islamic Studies (NBAIS), West African Examination Council (WAEC), and National Examination Council (NECO), especially, used to come out with stringent measures to safeguard the integrity of their examinations. However, examination malpractice becomes a common phenomenon during the conduct of examinations administered by these bodies, largely because the rules and regulations set by these bodies are violated. Therefore, the first form of examination malpractice that gives birth to the rest is the refusal to obey rules and regulations set by different examination bodies, institutions and schools (Odojin & Akanni, 2015 and Survey, 2021).

Leakage: This usually happens when part or whole of an examination question is released before the date and time of examination. Leakage usually comes about when those entrusted with examination content compromise the trust vested in them. Those that facilitate leakage are usually examination officers, printers, banks, messengers, etcetera (Okoh, 2016, Onyibe & Ibina 2015 and Survey, 2021).

Unauthorised Materials in Examination Centres: Often, examinees take illegal materials into examination centres or halls to copy answers from those materials or view them as guides to answer the questions asked. In some extreme cases, examinees get examination questions before the date or time of the examination. They solve them and take the scripts to the examination hall to submit after some minutes or hours from the commencement of the examination. Such materials that are smuggled into examination rooms or halls may include textbooks, lecture notes, cheat notes, handsets etcetera (Odojin & Akanni, 2015, Onyibe & Ibina 2015 and Survey, 2021).

Facsimile: This is a situation where somebody writing examination copies from another person who is sitting close to him. In common Nigeria students' parlance, it is called “grapping”, “long-neck”, “photocopying” et cetera (Survey, 2021).

Communication and Exchanges: This involves passing information among people writing an examination to address the question asked. Candidates writing examinations sometimes exchange written materials between themselves. In extreme cases, candidates exchange their answer scripts where, for example, candidate ‘A’ writes answers for candidate ‘B’ (Survey, 2021).

Teachers/Examiners/Makers: Sometimes, those responsible for assessing students' scripts deliberately award wrong marks either in favour of the candidate or against him. This largely comes about when the lecturer or teacher is compromised or the student has refused to do the bidding of the lecturer or teacher, as the case may be. On many occasions, it happens to female students who refuse to surrender themselves for sexual abuse. Such cases were investigated and established at many tertiary institutions in Nigeria. Some lecturers have lost their jobs as a result (Survey, 2021).

Falsification of Examination Card: In some examinations, candidates are only allowed into a designated hall or centre upon presentation of a tag or card that was issued by the school or examination body. Making fake cards or tags to gain access to the examination hall or centre amounts to malpractice (Odojin & Akanni, 2015 and Survey, 2021).

Impersonation: This is a situation where another person writes an examination for the candidate who is supposed to sit for the examination. Usually, a student who is seen as more knowledgeable is "hired" for this purpose (Onyibe & Ibina, 2015, Survey, 2021).

Use of Unofficial Scripts or Answer Booklets: Some candidates enter the examination hall or centre with an answer script that was not officially issued. They do this for cheating. This script may contain the answers to a leaked examination question. Many students were expelled for this reason across Nigerian universities (Survey, 2021).

Coded Language and Signs: Candidates or even teachers or lecturers use coded language to communicate answers to examination questions, especially during secondary school exit examinations. "Aa", "Ba", "Ca", "Da" in Hausa means A, B, C, D, respectively, for example. Therefore, where options A, B, C, D, are given, a teacher can mislead a non-Hausa-speaker invigilator to give answers to his students' writing examination. Similar signs can be used to communicate answers to students, especially in objective questions. In extreme cases, for example, raising of one finger may mean 'A', two fingers 'B', among others (Survey, 2021).

Use of Toilet or Other Excuses: Some candidates pretend with the excuse of going to the toilet to allow them to read or copy the answer to an examination question. Some give or raise frivolous excuses to have a chance to cheat. Some candidates may pretend to be sick to have a chance of

moving out of the hall to get answers to an examination question. All these are common manifestations of examination malpractice in Nigeria (Survey, 2021).

Using Mobile Phones or Other Devices to Cheat: With advancements in technology, mobile phones and other devices are now used to carry out malpractice. This is common now where candidates store possible answers to examination questions in their mobile phones or other devices or use such devices or phones to browse for answers from the internet. Some students store answers in these devices and hide them in unsuspecting parts of their bodies to cheat during examinations. Students were caught with devices hidden inside their hair, underwear, shoes, et cetera, for example (Odojin & Akanni, 2015, Okoh, 2016, Onyibe & Ibina 2015 and NTI, 2014).

Abuse of Religious and Traditional Attires: Often, religious and traditional attires are used to perpetrate examination malpractice. These attires, because of their spacious nature, are used in concealing cheat notes, lecture notes, textbooks, mobile phones, et cetera, which are subsequently used in examination halls. Many students were caught across Nigerian secondary and tertiary institutions with prohibited materials hidden in their gowns, veils (Mantillas and Hijabs), “wrappers” et cetera (Survey, 2021).

Causes of Examination Malpractice

Scholars such as Okoh (2016), Onyibe and Ibina (2015) and NTI (2014) have identified reasons that cause examination malpractice in Nigeria and elsewhere. All these reasons are largely products of inefficiency on the part of the government to provide the necessary facilities and policies that will ensure the emergence of a malpractice-free environment through the strict adherence to rules and regulations as well as deterrence mechanisms for both deviants and actual offenders, lawbreakers and wrongdoers.

The first spectacle that leads to examination malpractice, especially according to the aforementioned scholar, is the idea of attaching value to a certificate more than the real skill of an individual. In Nigeria, most employers of labour, governments inclusive, employ staff largely based on the certificate a candidate presents. Skills and real knowledge often don't count, or are less important, in most recruitment processes in the country. This makes Nigerians strive to obtain certificates at all costs hence the prevalence of examination malpractice in different tiers and layers of Nigeria's education system.

The desire of some students to acquire laurels on the platter of silver and gold without really working hard to deserve any form of reward is another phenomenon that causes examination malpractice. Many learners in Nigeria would prefer “shortcut and crosscut” in their academic pursuits. Students are often lazy. They perceive hard work as the absence of wisdom. Wisdom, for this category of learners, is to achieve success through cunning and this philosophy is a product of laziness, greed and indolence. This researcher once sampled the opinion of a 100-level class on whether they would agree to pay their four-year school fees and graduate in one year. The majority responded in the affirmative. Therefore, the issue of students’ determination to graduate at all costs also leads to examination malpractice. This viewpoint brings about corruption in the art of teaching and learning, as it is this attitude that leads to the inducement of teachers, lecturers and other managers of examination.

The desperation of parents to “force” their wards to graduate at a young age also brings about examination malpractice. This is often done through jumping off level/class. This category of parents deliberately refuse to give value to knowledge, while they also strive to save costs by reducing the years their wards will spend in school which will translate to a reduction in school fees to be paid, hence malpractices ensued to achieve the desired objective (Odofoin & Akanni, 2015 and Survey, 2021).

Some schools don't have the requisite facilities that would allow students to acquire the necessary skills that allow them to sit for examinations on their own. Inadequate teaching and learning facilities is a problem that is bedevilling both public and private schools in Nigeria. According to Okoh (2016); Onyibe and Ibina (2015), students are often lagging, hence do not acquire the necessary skills and knowledge to face and pass the hurdles of examination; the only way out and option left for the students is to cheat to pass a given examination. Similarly, poverty and other economic vices are also factors that make students engage in examination malpractice. With the dereliction of public schools in Nigeria, parents who don't have the means to sponsor their children’s education can resort to examination malpractice for their wards to excel (Survey, 2021).

Largely, education, and to some extent examination, in Nigeria has been commercialised. The failure of the government to ensure free education makes the sector to now become a commercial enterprise where people invest to make a profit. This is why there is incessant setting

up of “miracle” centres where examination grades are for the highest bidders. In this direction, examination bodies and their workers are often compromised. This, also, accounts for poor invigilation. Invigilators who are supposed to supervise examinations and ensure that rules and regulations guiding such examinations are respected often compromise. Therefore, when invigilators fail to perform their duty, examination malpractice will prevail.

Related to the above is the issue of poor sitting arrangements. No matter the zeal of an invigilator to ensure sanity during an examination, that objective would be difficult to achieve if there is no proper sitting arrangement in an examination hall. A large number of candidates during examination most times hinder proper sitting arrangement, as it is a common sight in some schools to see candidates sitting close to one another, which makes it difficult for an invigilator to stop malpractice, especially communication between and among students writing examination.

Non-implementation of laws that are meant to check examination malpractice encourages the perpetrators of this monster. The penalty stipulated for perpetrators of examination malpractice is often not applied even where the culprits are apprehended. Article 33 of the 1999 constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria stipulates cancellation of results, a fine of One Hundred Thousand Naira (N100,000) or a jail term of up to 21 years as punishment, but these provisions are often not applied where offenders are apprehended (Constitution FRN, 1999 and Survey, 2021).

Many factors can be classified as causes of examination malpractice in Nigeria, but examination malpractice is largely a product of greed, indiscipline, eccentricity and deviance from the established principles and laws. Despite the official lapses and shortcomings, some universities, other tertiary institutions and examination bodies in Nigeria treat issues of examination malpractice with all seriousness. Some institutions go as far as expelling offenders, rusticating them or even prosecuting them.

Effects and Consequences of Examination Malpractice

For Muslims, examination malpractice is a sin that can attract Allah's punishment and this will be discussed in detail later. Therefore, examination malpractice is an act that can take one who engages in it to hellfire. Again, examination malpractice is a crime against humanity, as the actions taken by personnel who got their qualifications through examination malpractice often result in deaths, permanent disability or injuries. This is aside from economic loss in terms of money, assets

or valuable time. One can imagine what would happen if an engineer who emerged through examination malpractice is saddled with the responsibility of building a 12-storey building or a medical doctor who excelled to that status through examination malpractice and handled a patient during surgery.

According to Uthaymeen (2013) and Bn-Baaz (2012), graduates who emerge through the process of examination malpractice finish their studies without the requisite knowledge and experience that would allow them to discharge their professional responsibilities efficiently. These types of products are often described as square pegs in round holes. Students who earn their qualifications through examination malpractice often lack the moral standing to discharge their duties. They don't have the motivation to perform the functions assigned to them having known the process that brought them to such positions. Therefore, such graduates lack academic values and therefore find it difficult to benefit themselves or society. They find it difficult to realise their ambition. This is when they are lucky to escape the wrath of the law.

Examination malpractice usually affects the progress of society. Young members of society that supposed to take over from the older generation would end up without the requisite knowledge to perform such functions. Examination malpractice leads to the prevalence of corruption and the emergence of corrupt officials at the helm of society's affairs. This is because examination malpractice exposed young people to corruption tendencies.

Examination malpractice leads to a dearth of professionals. A society that allows examination malpractice to prevail will live without qualified professionals. Engaging in examination malpractice lays the wrong foundation for educational pursuit. Therefore, genuine acquisition of knowledge is done through examination malpractice-free processes (Qur' an 8:27, Okoh, 2016. NTI, 2014, Uthaymeen, 2013 and Bn-Baaz, 2012).

Methodology

This paper utilises Documentary Analysis and Survey Research as research methods. Inferences were made to the Holy Qur'an, related textbooks, academic journals and other documented materials for data collection. Similarly, the participant observation method of Survey Research was also adopted where the experiences of the researcher were used as part of the data for this research. The researcher has been engaged in examination invigilation for many years,

hence he was privileged to come across many new forms of examination malpractice that students innovate over time.

Why Muslims Should Take the Path of Honour

The lives of Muslims are guided by the direction of the Holy Qur'an and Sunnah of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh). Therefore, a path of honour for Muslims is to always adhere to the teachings of the Holy Qur'an, Sunnah and authentic jurisprudence. The following verses are confirmation of the position of Islam on all forms of cheating, fraud, treachery or dishonesty and examination malpractice is one.

Chapter 8 (Anfal) verse 27 of the Holy Qur'an says: "O you who believe! Betray not Allah and His messenger, nor betray knowingly your Amanat (things entrusted to you, and all the duties which Allah has ordained for you)".

Chapter 2 (Baqara) verse 9 of the Holy Qur'an says: "They deceive Allah and those who believe, while they only deceive themselves and perceive not."

In a Hadith narrated by Abu Huraira (RA) as reported in the Sahih Muslim, the Prophet (pbuh) said: "Anyone who defrauds (cheat) us, he is not among us." (Muslim, 1975, Hadith No. 102).

On the above, Uthaymeen (2013) said "cheating is haraam, whether it is in buying and selling, in exams, or any other matter, because of the general meaning of the words of the Prophet (pbuh): Whoever cheats is not one of us." He further said that "cheating in exams is forbidden; in fact, it is a major sin, especially since this cheating will lead to several things in the future; it will affect the person's salary and position, and other things that are needed to succeed." Furthermore, Uthaymeen (2013) advised students to disobey their parents if they instructed them to engage in examination malpractice. He said it is not permissible "to cheat to please one's father or mother, because it is not permissible to seek to please them by disobeying Allah in any circumstances."

On the above, the Messenger of Allah Muhammad (pbuh) said: "Whoever seeks to please people by displeasing Allah, Allah will be displeased with him and cause people to be displeased with him." (Ibn-Hibbaan, 2008). Therefore, Islam has given children the right to disagree, politely, with their parents if they push them into the art of examination malpractice.

One of the companions of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh), Ibn Mas'ud, said one cannot attain the pleasure of Allah if he tries to please people by displeasing Allah (Bayhaqi, 2008, p. 209). On this, Bn-Baaz (2012) said in response to a question that cheating is haram (illegal) in exams just as it is haraam in transactions. No one has the right, according to him, to cheat in tests in any subject, and if the teacher approves of that then he is a partner in the sin and betrayal.

How Muslim Students Can Pass Examination without Engaging in Malpractice

Islam encourages hard work and self-reliance. Therefore, the first remedy to examination malpractice that Islam has is commanding its faithful to avoid laziness in all the endeavours they engage in. Aside from urging the faithful to read hard to be able to stand on their feet during an examination, Islam also offers divine solutions to examination malpractice. The following prayers were recommended as a means of passing any form of examination. This examination can be academic, interview for employment and many others.

One can recite chapter 20 (Taha), verses 25-28 and 114 of the Holy Qur'an before starting an examination: "O my Sustainer! Open up my heart and make my task easy for me, and loosen the knot from my tongue so that they might fully understand my speech."..... "O my Lord, increase me in knowledge!"

Chapter 26 (Shura), verses 83-85 of the Holy Qur'an can also be recited: "My Lord grant me wisdom, join me with the righteous; give me a good name among later generations, make me one of those given the garden of bliss."

The Prophet of Islam (pbuh) taught his followers to always recite this prayer when they are faced with any difficulty: "Oh Allah, there is nothing easy except the one You make easy, You can make difficult things easy if You so wish." (Muslim, 1975).

Again, this prayer taught by the Prophet (pbuh) simplifies any difficult endeavour like examination. The Prophet (pbuh) usually recites it when he wakes up from sleep thus:

There is no deity worthy of worship but You, glory be to You. O Allah, I seek Your forgiveness of my sins and ask for Your mercy. O Allah, increase me in knowledge and let not my heart deviate after You have guided me on the right path. Grant me mercy from You, for You are the Grantor of bounties without measure. (Sabiq, 1991).

One of the companions of the Prophet (pbuh), Zayd Bn Arqam, said the Prophet (pbuh) taught them this prayer as a remedy to all difficult situations, including examination thus:

O Allah, I seek refuge in You from incapacity, from sloth, from cowardice, from miserliness, decrepitude and from torment of the grave. O Allah, grant my soul the sense of righteousness and purity for You are the Best Purifier thereof. You are the Protecting friend thereof, and Guardian thereof. O Allah, I seek refuge in You from the knowledge which does not benefit, from the heart that does not entertain the fear (of Allah), from the soul that does not feel contented and the supplication that is not responded (Muslim, 1975)

The literature reviewed in this paper revealed that examination malpractice is of different kinds. The menace, according to the literature, has many causes and effects. The paper established the different types of examination malpractice that are common in Nigeria. Examination malpractice usually starts with disobedience of the laid down rules and regulations. Many examination bodies in Nigeria usually compromise the provisions of their statutes and this is where malpractice usually starts.

Similarly, the paper has also identified many causes of examination malpractice. The prominent was the value that employers of labour, including governments, attached to paper qualification, which makes students strive to get paper qualifications at all costs and often at the detriment of competence and skill. Another important factor that is aiding examination malpractice in Nigeria is the failure of the relevant authorities to apply the sanctions provided by the Nigerian constitution on those involved in examination malpractice. The prevalence of examination malpractice, as this paper established, contributed to the developmental challenges that are facing Nigeria. Competent personnel who are supposed to steer the development of the country are often not available, as many of them obtained their qualification through malpractice, hence seeing corruption as a normal endeavour.

The paper established that Islam views examination malpractice as a sin in the sight of Allah. This is because Qur'an 8:27 commands Muslims not to breach trust and involving in examination malpractice is a breach of trust. Again, a Hadith of the Prophet of Islam, Muhammad (pbuh), categorically warned Muslims against engaging in any act of fraud. This Hadith ruled that anyone who engages in fraud is not part of the Muslim community.

Again, the paper established how Muslims can pursue education and come out successful without engaging in examination malpractice. Hard work and diligence were the first command. Similarly, Qur'an 20:25-28 and 114 provide supplication that can assist Muslims during an examination. Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) has also taught Muslims faithful many supplications that can assist during an examination. These supplications are only useful when one discharges his

primary responsibility of working hard to achieve his goal of coming out successful after every examination.

Conclusion

Examination malpractice has become a menace that is threatening the foundation of the education sector in Nigeria. The trend is posing a serious challenge in the production of the right manpower that would steer the country's development. There is therefore the need for all stakeholders to come together to check the menace. Islam as a religion has provided solutions to the issue of examination malpractice because the religion views examination malpractice as a grave sin. Therefore, any Muslim that goes into the practice of examination malpractice is doing something that Allah hates. It is therefore the position of the paper that since examination malpractice is against the teachings of Islam, Muslims are expected not to be involved in the act. However, students who sit for examinations are expected to pass their examinations through hard work. There is other divine guidance that Muslims are supposed to follow, aside from working hard, to pass any type of examination.

Recommendations

It is based on the foregoing that this paper recommends the following as a means of curbing the menace of examination malpractice in Nigeria. The findings of the paper informed the recommendations:

- The desire of parents in the education of their wards is to train them to become responsible adults. Therefore, cheating during examinations should be avoided as it serves as a precursor to the emergence of irresponsible and corrupt adults who do not value hard work as a gateway to success. Examination malpractice is a crater on truthfulness and honesty because it amounts to treachery and lying that good citizens should avoid at all costs.
- Nigerians, Muslims in particular, should stop allotting much value on certificates because this encourages examination malpractice. Good educational policies that would give priority to skills instead of certificates alone should be put in place. In this vein, the competence of teachers and other instructors should be improved, as this would allow the production of students who can sit for examination without engaging in malpractice.
- Schools should ensure that only qualified students are admitted. Tertiary institutions, especially, are also advised to admit students who are commensurate with their carrying capacity to avoid failure and lapses during instruction, which affects students' comprehension. If this happens, students will move to higher levels based on their abilities.

- Government and other stakeholders should ensure that only people of proven integrity are employed to manage schools at different levels. This should also apply to teachers, lecturers, workers in examination bodies and other associated institutions. Similarly, the application of the law on those found engaged in examination malpractice should be to the fullest. Article 33 of the 1999 constitution on examination malpractice should always be applied to deter those who engage or want to engage in examination malpractice.
- Clerics and other stakeholders should continue to preach on the dangers and illegality of examination malpractice. Therefore, governments and other stakeholders in various sectors of education should ensure that examinations administered to students are commensurate with what is obtained in the syllabus. Teachers, lecturers and other instructors should fear Allah and discharge their duties diligently. This would bring to an end a situation where students are asked questions that were not taught in class.

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