

CHAPTER 8: UNFAIR MEANS PRACTICES

8.1 Unfair Means Practices and Breach of Examination Rules

Definition: Unfair Means practices refer to any activity or action that gives a candidate an unfair advantage over others during an examination. As per the **Public Examination (Prevention of Unfair Means Act, 2024)**, the following actions are considered Unfair Means practices:

- a) **Possession of Prohibited Items:** Being in possession of any prohibited item or article that can be used for unfair practices. This includes, but is not limited to, stationery items, communication devices, accessories, eatables, ornaments, or any material (whether relevant or not) related to the examination.
- b) **Impersonation:** Engaging someone to write the examination on the candidate's behalf (either physical or virtual impersonation) or preparing material to aid copying during the examination.
- c) **Wrong Examination Centre:** Attempting to write the examination at a centre other than the one allotted to the candidate.
- d) **Violation of Examination Rules:** Disregarding any examination rules or directives issued by NTA/NIFT in relation to the NIFT Entrance Examination – 2025.
- e) **Assisting Malpractices:** Helping other candidates to engage in malpractices, or giving/receiving assistance in any form, directly or indirectly, or attempting to do so.
- f) **Unauthorized Communication:** Attempting to contact or communicate with any person other than examination staff during the examination, whether physically or through any electronic means.
- g) **Threatening Officials or Candidates:** Threatening any examination official or other candidates connected with the conduct of the examination.
- h) **Use of Undesirable Methods:** Using or attempting to use any unauthorized or illegal methods to influence the examination.
- i) **Manipulation of Examination Documents:** Fabricating or manipulating any official documents related to the examination, such as Confirmation Page, Application Form, Admit Cards, Score Card, Rank Letters, Self-Declaration forms, etc.
- j) **Forceful Entry or Exit:** Forcibly entering or exiting the examination centre or hall.
- k) **Use of Electronic Devices:** Using or attempting to use any electronic device after entering the examination centre, which is prohibited under examination guidelines.

- l) **Affixing Morphed Documents:** Affixing or uploading false, altered, or morphed photographs or signatures on the application form, admit card, or any related documents.
- m) **Disrupting Examination Process:** Creating obstacles or disturbances that interfere with the smooth and fair conduct of the examination.
- n) **Misuse of Scribe or Compensatory Time:** Availing of a scribe and/or compensatory time without fulfilling the required criteria and proper documentation justifying such a request.
- o) **Other Malpractices:** Engaging in any other malpractices, whether explicitly listed here or determined by NTA, that fall under Unfair Means as per the **Public Examination (Prevention of Unfair Means Act, 2024)**.

8.2 Punishment for Unfair Means Practices

As per the **Public Examination (Prevention of Unfair Means Act, 2024)**, if a candidate is found to have engaged in any of the above-mentioned practices during, before, or after the examination, they shall be treated as having committed an **Unfair Means (UFM) offense** and will be subject to the following penalties:

- **Debarment:** The candidate shall be debarred from appearing in future public examinations for a period of **3 years**.
- **Criminal Action:** The candidate shall be liable for **criminal action** in accordance with the provisions of the law.
- **Other Disciplinary Actions:** Any additional action deemed appropriate by the examination authorities, in line with the severity of the offense, may also be taken, including cancellation of examination results or other administrative actions.

These provisions aim to ensure the integrity and transparency of the examination process and provide a fair environment for all candidates, as per the regulations outlined in the **Public Examination (Prevention of Unfair Means Act, 2024)**

Disclaimer- The decision of NTA shall be final and binding for declaration of any person / candidate guilty of foregoing or such offence as shall be classified as Unfair Means Case (UMC).