PUBLISHED RESOURCES POLICY

Policy Owner: Head Office
Oversight Committee: Examinations & Standards Committee
Final Authority: Grand Council
Applies to: All published resources endorsed, approved or referenced by I-PATH
Review Cycle: Annual or following regulatory or operational change
Last updated: 8th February 2026

1. Purpose

This policy sets out how International Performing Arts & Theatre Limited (I-PATH) considers, approves and manages published resources that are produced to support teaching and learning for I-PATH qualifications and assessments.

It ensures that:

- published resources support learning without compromising assessment integrity
- learners are not unfairly advantaged or disadvantaged
- approved resources are accurate, ethical and appropriate
- conflicts of interest are identified and managed
- marketing of resources is transparent and not misleading
- arrangements align with Ofqual expectations via the awarding organisation

2. Scope

This policy applies to all resources that I-PATH:

- formally approves or endorses
- permits to carry I-PATH branding or statements of approval
- references as supportive (but non-essential) learning materials

This includes, but is not limited to:

- textbooks, course books and skills books
- printed or digital learning resources
- published online content produced for qualification support

This policy does not apply to internal I-PATH materials such as specifications, handbooks or examiner guidance.

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3. Core Principles

Approval of published resources is guided by the following principles:

- **Supportive, not essential** - no resource is required to achieve an I-PATH qualification
- **Fair access** - learners must not be disadvantaged by lack of access to any resource
- **Integrity of assessment** - no resource may compromise confidentiality or predictability
- **Transparency** - relationships with publishers must be clear and ethical
- **Independence** - assessment outcomes must not be influenced by commercial arrangements

4. Criteria for Approval of Published Resources

When considering a resource for approval, I-PATH will assess whether it:

- is written by appropriately qualified and reputable author(s)
- supports learning aligned to current I-PATH syllabi, learning outcomes and assessment criteria
- is accurate, balanced and free from bias
- avoids inclusion of confidential, privileged or insider assessment information
- does not claim access to examiner insight or guaranteed assessment advantage
- reflects equality, diversity and inclusion appropriately
- meets acceptable standards of quality and presentation
- responds to a clear educational need or demand
- does not compromise existing resources or assessment security
- aligns with ethical and sustainable publishing practices

5. Prohibited Practices

Approved resources must not:

- be marketed as essential or required for success in an I-PATH qualification
- be presented as a substitute for teaching or the official I-PATH specification
- misrepresent the nature or extent of I-PATH's endorsement
- include live or previously used assessment content
- replicate assessment tasks in a way that increases predictability
- claim superiority over other learning approaches or resources
- promote extremist views or inappropriate content
- be revised or reissued with I-PATH branding without re-approval

6. Conflicts of Interest

I-PATH operates robust conflict-of-interest controls in line with its Conflicts of Interest Policy.

- Any actual or potential conflict relating to authorship, publishing or approval must be declared
- Individuals involved in assessment, examining or standards oversight must not author or influence approved resources where a conflict exists

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- Publishers must declare any connection to individuals involved with I-PATH governance, assessment or examining

Where conflicts cannot be adequately managed, approval will not be granted.

7. Approval and Quality Assurance Process

7.1 All proposed published resources must be submitted to Head Office for review.

7.2 Reviews consider content, alignment with specifications, assessment risk and policy compliance.

7.3 Recommendations are submitted to the Examinations & Standards Committee.

7.4 Final approval is granted by the Grand Council.

7.5 Approval applies only to the specific edition reviewed.

8. Use of Branding and Marketing

8.1 Approved publishers may only use I-PATH branding or statements strictly in accordance with:

- contractual agreements
- I-PATH Branding and Marketing Guidance

8.2 Marketing must not imply:

- that the resource is endorsed by the regulator
- that use of the resource guarantees assessment success
- that the resource contains privileged or confidential assessment insight

9. Protecting Assessment Integrity

I-PATH takes active steps to ensure approved resources do not compromise assessments, including:

- ensuring assessment items do not appear in published resources
- avoiding excessive similarity between textbook examples and live assessments
- ensuring published examples do not train candidates to specific mark schemes
- reviewing assessment design to maintain unpredictability and validity

10. Monitoring and Review

- Approved resources are subject to ongoing review
- Significant changes or new editions require re-submission for approval
- Approval may be withdrawn where risks to standards or compliance are identified

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11. Withdrawal of Approval

I-PATH reserves the right to withdraw approval where:

- policy requirements are breached
- marketing becomes misleading
- conflicts of interest emerge
- assessment integrity is threatened

Withdrawal decisions are documented and communicated formally.

12. Records and Audit

I-PATH maintains records of:

- approved resources
- review outcomes and decisions
- contracts and permissions
- conflicts of interest declarations

Records are available for awarding organisation audit.

13. Review of Policy

This policy is reviewed:

- annually
- following regulatory change
- where risks or issues are identified

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