Rethinking Assessment By Examination In The Age Of Contract Cheating

Plagiarism Across Europe And Beyond Conference

Friday 26 May 2017

#contractcheating
Introduction
Opening Question

Are we paying enough attention to the integrity of examinations?
In the age of contract cheating, headlines from May 2017 highlight the issue:

- **Karachi**: Intermediate candidates caught cheating via WhatsApp groups.
- **JAMB**: Over 10,000 candidates caught cheating during an exam in Anambra state.
- **Chinese students**: Face jail for cheating in TOEFL exam.
- **BBC Radio 5 live**: Hi-tech exam cheats are on the rise.
- **Air duct-crawling**: Kentucky students caught trying to steal an exam.

These headlines reflect the seriousness of the problem in various contexts.
The Search Engine Context

- exam cheating
- exam cheating devices
- exam cheating tricks
- exam cheating pen
- exam cheating tools
- cheat exam
- cheat exam calculator
- cheat exam glasses
- cheat exam papers
- cheat exam earpiece
- cheat exam device

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More university students are using tech to cheat in exams

Guardian uncovers 42% rise in cheating cases involving gadgets such as mobile phones and hidden earpieces since 2012

Sarah Marsh
The Guardian
10 April 2017

https://www.theguardian.com/education/2017/apr/10/more-university-students-are-using-tech-to-in-exams

Notes from underlying data

Several UK universities had examples students being caught with smart watches, earpieces and mobile phones during examinations.

Some examples were given where students found with a mobile phone in their possession, but not clear if this was an attempt to cheat.

Many universities chose not to record the information (no baseline regarding academic integrity).
Hidden Technology

“I was aware of a case of a student using a hidden earpiece and the only way [they were] found was when other students reported it. The student had long hair and there was no way we would have known”

Dr. Irene Glendinning
(speaking to The Guardian)
Questions To Be Addressed

Are examinations susceptible to contract cheating?

Can examinations be considered within the wider remit of the contract cheating research field?

How has the use of technology changed how we need to approach assessment and examinations?
Many Opportunities For Your Involvement

Twitter
Please tweet thoughts, observations, comments, quotes, photos, discussion topics
#contractcheating
#plagiarism2017
@DrLancaster

Live
Please join in the discussion, ask questions and contribute stories
Presenter Background
About Us

Dr. Thomas Lancaster
Plagiarism and academic integrity researcher since 2000
Associate Dean at Staffordshire University, United Kingdom

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Robert Clarke
Contract cheating detective
Has identified more than 30,000 attempts worldwide by students trying to outsource their work

Email: robert.clarke@bcu.ac.uk
LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/in/robert-clarke-96712a16
Much of my current contract cheating work ends up being released in non-academic formats (presentations, slides, videos, blog posts, media collaborations etc.)

Slides are archived at http://www.slideshare.net/ThomasLancaster
Most of the written paper accompanying this presentation is based on material from these two talks (each of which also have accompanying YouTube videos)
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Contract Cheating Meaning

The act of a **student attempting to replace themselves** for some or all of the process of obtaining academic credit. They may hence be obtaining an award that is not merited.

A rough “*good enough*” definition.
Contract Cheating Defined In An Examination Context

A friend logs onto the online account of a student and completes a test for them

A student pays an online service to prepare model answers for them to learn in advance of an examination

A student hires an external company to provide answers through a hidden earpiece during an examination

These are few indicative examples – there are many more scenarios

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The Use Of Agency Websites
Posting On An Agency Website

NEED SOMEONE TO PASS ME UK ENGLISH LEVEL 1 EXAM

I NEED SOMEONE TO PASS MY UK ENGLISH LEVEL 1 EXAM....MUST PASS VIA TEAMVIEWER...I WILL PAY 4$ FOR IT..IF SOMEONE INTERESTED THEN BID ON THIS

PROJECT

LOOKING TO HIRE PROFESSIONAL PERSON

THANK YOU
Offering To Complete The Test

Awarded to:

BenchmarkDev

As you can see, I have completed this exam, I can do this no problem. English is my first Language

buttsahib

I already pass that exam for my employer. Before 5 dayz I think so. With 78 percent marks. I already prepare. Kindly contact me. Thanks.
Pass The Test

Mulesoft exam attempt for me

I need someone who is expert in API integration, MySQL, Application development.

You have to attempt test on Mulesoft for me.

Student manual is attached, passing mark is 75%.

I need this exam to be cleared on Friday. All material and tutorials will be provided to you. Please check the attached file.

My budget for this is $60

Only serial bidders please.
I need to make a marketing ppt for my exam 45 slides and topics are available to read online - open to bidding

I need to make a marketing ppt for my exam 45 slides and topics are available to read online.

I am doing MBA and want you to make a presentation ... i can share a sample ppt and topics on which with the no of slides per topic with you.
Is This Cheating?

CommVault V10 Certified Professional Exam Help

I am looking for assistance with my CommVault v10 certified professional exams:

Core Fundamentals

Implementation and Maintenance

Both are open book, online exams. I require either dumps or exam help.
Exam For Employability

Essay shark essay and exam

I just need someone who is good in GMAt and TOEFL who can do the approval quizz of 25 questions in essay shark and write the essay for me. Payment will be done after qualifying. Please make sure you are good since you can try once. Thanks

As I’ve explored in my presentations on academic ghost writers – getting a job with an essay mill can be a highly sought after position

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Cheating – In A Fashion...

19 question multiple choice final exam - fashion design; textile and other raw materials class final

I have 11 questions already completed out of 30 multiple choice questions. I just do not have time to complete the rest of the assignment. The answers are all easily googleable. I would expect an A on this assignment. I outsource the work but tried googleing - even I (somebody that has never learned a thing about fashion design) was able to get 11 out of 30 within the last hr. I am heading out on vacation tonight so cannot complete on time for sure so just throwing it out to someone else instead here. I need it completed within 15 hrs please! :)

Please somebody, help me out for this assignment. I underbid ($40) so I can't price much real high for this assignment- but it is really important I get it [url removed, login to view]
### Some Types Of “Exam Help” Requests Seen Online

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Request</th>
<th>Help Provided</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Go through previous exam papers and provide model answers</td>
<td>Create exam management/exam seating/exam paper generation system</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Be on Skype/WhatsApp at the time of an examination to provide help</td>
<td>Rework a failed examination as if it were a piece of coursework</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Write a set of examination questions to be used in class</td>
<td>Complete a take-home examination for a student</td>
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The Student Cheating Industry
Widespread issues found surrounding academic integrity of examinations, particularly relating to the hire of mini earpieces.
The Technology Of Student Cheating

These are just some of the devices implicated in contract cheating – allowing students to communicate with hired help outside an examination room.
Need to be alert about the other paid services that are now available to *help* students with examinations… and the wider ways in which they may seek to gain an unfair advantage.
Czech News – Lost In Translation?

V Británii jedou chytré drogy, univerzity zvažují dopingové testy


In Britain ride smart drugs, universities are considering doping tests

Plan how students these substances limit, while universities do not. For example, in Staffordshire University considers drug tests similar doping tests of athletes: "Universities should really consider how to respond to the use of smart drugs. It is important to explain to the students that it is cheating. If the problem persists, universities should consider testing for drugs in the test," he told The Guardian Dean Thomas Lancaster.

http://www.denik.cz/ze_sveta/v‐britanii‐jedou‐chytre‐drogy‐univerzity‐zvazuj‐dopingove‐testy‐20170515.html

Is this cheating? (the original quote did not say it was)
Closing Question
If examinations aren’t a solution to contract cheating, what is?
Contract Cheating Research Papers
(a partial selection)


Connect With Dr. Thomas Lancaster
(Media Enquiries, Speaking/Training Engagements, PhD Supervision, Research Collaborations)

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Twitter: @DrLancaster

General Resources:
http://contractcheating.com

Contract Cheating Special Interest Group
(originally supported by the Higher Education Academy):
https://www.jiscmail.ac.uk/cgi-bin/webadmin?A0=CONTRACTCHEATING

Slides available at http://www.slideshare.net/ThomasLancaster

Rethinking Assessment By Examination
In The Age Of Contract Cheating

34

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