

Exercise 2 - Cheating in Exams (Core)

STUDENT A

This happened when I was about 14 years old. The last exam of the year was history, which had always been my worst subject. I was useless at remembering dates and people's names so I decided to write the dates and names of the important events we'd studied on the inside of my arm and then wore a jumper to cover it up so no-one could see. Unfortunately though, it was a really hot day. I really wanted to take my jumper off but I couldn't. I realised after about ten minutes that there was no way I would be able to look at what I'd written without the teacher seeing and I just wished I hadn't done it. I felt so hot and uncomfortable and was really worried about the teacher seeing and catching me that I didn't do very well in the test at all. I was too distracted. I think I probably would have got a better result if I hadn't tried to cheat. I learnt a good lesson though. I never tried to cheat again after that.

STUDENT B

My friend and I had the same surname so we always ended up sitting next to each other, or one behind the other, in exams at school. We worked out this system where we would pass a piece of paper to each other with the answers to the questions. Sometimes we just passed it by hand if we were sitting close enough and other times we'd throw it on the floor for the other person to pick up. It was quite a good system and I think over lots of exams we probably helped each other equally so it was fair and I'm sure we both got higher marks. Unfortunately a teacher did see us doing it once. I was just leaning down to pick up a paper my friend was passing back to me when a teacher appeared out of nowhere and picked it up first. There was no way we could deny what we were doing it was so obvious. The teacher didn't say anything until the end of the exam and then when she collected our papers she wrote a big zero at the top. We didn't do it anymore after that, it had been good before but we decided it wasn't worth the risk.

STUDENT C

I've never cheated in an exam and really don't see the point. I mean sooner or later people will find out if you know something or not. If you cheat to get better results then you're lying to yourself as well as to everyone else. Rather than spending your time thinking of really clever and original ways to cheat without anyone realizing, you should just spend that time studying. I'm sure it will help you a lot more in the long run. A friend once tried to read my answers in an exam while pretending to pick something up off the floor. As soon as I realised I covered my work so he couldn't see. He was quite annoyed with me afterwards but I didn't think it was fair that he should do well because of my hard work.

You are going to read part of an article in which four people talk about cheating in exams at school. For questions 1-8 choose from the people (A-C). The people may be chosen more than once.

1. Which person was caught cheating in an exam? _____
2. Which person didn't let a friend copy their work? _____
3. Which person probably got better marks as a result of cheating? _____
4. Which person regrets trying to cheat in an exam? _____
5. Which person cheated more than once? _____
6. Which person only tried to cheat in the subject they weren't good at? _____
7. Which person tried to cheat by writing notes on a part of their body? _____
8. Which person thinks it is always wrong to cheat? _____

ANSWERS

- 1 B (a teacher did see us doing)
- 2 C (I covered my work so he couldn't see)
- 3 B (I'm sure we both got higher mark)
- 4 A (I probably would have got a better result if I hadn't tried to cheat)
- 5 B (I think over lots of exams we probably helped each other equally)
- 6 A (The last exam of the year was history, which had always been my worst subject)
- 7 A (the important events we'd studied on the inside of my arm)
- 8 C (If you cheat to get better results then you're lying to yourself as well as to everyone else)