Technology Enhanced Cheating

Jarret Dyer
Coordinator, Specialized Testing Services
Technology Enhanced Cheating

How does technology change the testing landscape?

“An unintended consequence of improving technology is that there are many new and more sophisticated ways to cheat on tests.”

Cohen and Wollack (2006)
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• How Prevalent is Cheating?
  – Chinese civil service exam – AD 606
    • First documented case of cheating (Suen & Yu, 2006)
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• How Prevalent is Cheating?

  – 2008 – 400 AP scores in California were voided (Mehta, 2008)

  – 2009 – 178 educators in 44 schools (Georgia) engaged in cheating (Vogel, 2011)

  – 2012 - 140 students in New York were caught receiving answers to an exam by a fellow classmate during the test (Kolker, 2012)
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• Texting

He got bolder. Turning to page one of his completed exam, Nayeem lifted his phone just enough to snap a picture of that page, then put the phone down again. Over the next few minutes, he photographed the whole test booklet—all fifteen pages.

The night before, Nayeem had sent a group-text message to 140 classmates: “If you guys get this, I’ve got the answers for you tomorrow.” The students on
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• Mota SmartRing*

* Available June 2015
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• Looxcie Earbud Camera*

(Service discontinued 1/1/2015)
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- Mont Blanc Smart Band*

* Available June 2015
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• Ringly Smart Rings*

*Available Spring 2015
Security Issues in Classroom Testing

- Students should never be permitted to choose their own seats
- Test taker ID’s should be checked
- All electronic devices should be turned off and stored in a purse or bag
Proctoring Best Practices
(ATP & NCTA, 2015)

Proctor Responsibilities in Paper Based Testing

– All test taker personal belongings should be placed into a secure storage area.....and will be inaccessible to test takers throughout the entire examination
Top Ten Security Issues in Classroom Testing

1. Hard copies of tests should never be out of the instructor’s direct control.
   a. Never allow a student to transport a test.
   b. In closed, distribute only the exact number of exams needed. Count exams collected to ensure all have been turned in.
   c. At the conclusion of testing, collect the test booklets and answer sheets from students individually. Students shouldn’t put in completed test materials or test books by handing them to other students.
   d. Take caution when photocopying tests.
2. Students should never be permitted to choose their own seats.
   a. Randomly assigned seating charts are ideal.
   b. Pseudo-randomly assigned seating is possible if the faculty breaks up students who come in together.
3. Test taker ID’s should be checked if the instructor does not know every student by sight. This is especially true if the faculty member is absent and has scheduled a substitute for test day.
4. Test takers should not be allowed to have access to any electronic devices or objects not required to test. All items must be turned off and stored out of reach in a bag or purse.
5. Students should never be left unattended. Testing is the most important security-related activity in which the instructor will be involved.
6. Walking around the room during a test session increases the likelihood that cheating will be prevented.
7. If permitted to prohibit restroom breaks during a test, if a break is necessary, only one student should be allowed to go at a time.
8. If scored tests are returned to students as part of the learning process, the instructor should create a new exam for the next test administration.
9. Non-religious headwear and calculators are commonly used by students as cheating tools. Instructors should take care when allowing headwear during test administrations. Calculators should always be inspected.
10. For computer-based exams, password security is essential. Passwords should be changed frequently.

References
National Issue

Top Cell Phone Cheating Stories
Closing Thoughts

“There is right and there is wrong, and there is what people around us tell us is right and wrong. The people around us are often more powerful.”