Academic Dishonesty Quiz

Directions: For each of the following 12 scenarios, determine whether or not the students are committing acts of academic dishonesty by violating the UA Code of Academic Integrity, ABOR's Student Code of Conduct, and/or the CS Course Policy on Collaboration. Each scenario has three slides: (1) The scenario and question, (2) the answer, and (3) an explanation. Unless otherwise specified, assume that each assignment is an individual assignment.

Ready?

Question 1

Bob is having trouble getting a list of strings into sorted order within the assignment's execution-time limit. He asks Alice how she got her list sorted so quickly. She tells him that she just used the programming language's built-in sorting routine. Bob knows that the assignment handout specifically forbids students from using the built-in sort for this assignment.

(a) Alice is committing an act of academic dishonesty by using the language's sorting routine.

(b) Bob committed an act of academic dishonesty by asking Alice how her program does its work.

(c) Alice and Bob are both committing acts of academic dishonesty.

(d) Neither student is violating the codes.

Question 1 — Answer

Bob is having trouble getting a list of strings into sorted order within the assignment's execution-time limit. He asks Alice how she got her list sorted so quickly. She tells him that she just used the programming language's built-in sorting routine. Bob knows that the assignment handout specifically forbids students from using the built-in sort for this assignment.

(a) Alice is committing an act of academic dishonesty by using the language's sorting routine.

(b) Bob committed an act of academic dishonesty by asking Alice how her program does its work.

(c) Alice and Bob are both committing acts of academic dishonesty.

(d) Neither student is violating the codes.

Question 1 — Explanation

- Bob is committing a violation by asking for assistance from another student on an individual assignment.
- Alice is committing academic dishonesty by:

(a) Using the built-in sorting routine; deliberately violating rules is a definition of cheating, and cheating is a form of prohibited conduct, **and**

(b) Telling Bob how her program works; she is assisting Bob to complete an individual assignment.

Note:

- Some instructors permit some forms of “high-level” help between students. Find out what your instructor allows!

Question 2

Recently, Carole's professor showed the class how recursive binary search tree insertion works, and gave the students a programming assignment for which they need to write a subprogram that performs insertions of integers into a binary search tree using recursion. Carole doesn't understand recursion very well. Desperate to get her program working, she reads her text book and finds a subprogram that is perfect for her needs – except that it inserts character strings instead of integers. After some effort, she is able to modify the book's subprogram to work with integers, and completes her program.

(a) Carole is committing an act of academic dishonesty by using her textbook's subprogram in her program.

(b) Because she modified the book's code, Carole is not committing an act of academic dishonesty.

Question 2 — Answer

Recently, Carole's professor showed the class how recursive binary search tree insertion works, and gave the students a programming assignment for which they need to write a subprogram that performs insertions of integers into a binary search tree using recursion. Carole doesn't understand recursion very well. Desperate to get her program working, she reads her text book and finds a subprogram that is perfect for her needs – except that it inserts character strings instead of integers. After some effort, she is able to modify the book's subprogram to work with integers, and completes her program.

(a) Carole is committing an act of academic dishonesty by using her textbook's subprogram in her program.

(b) Because she modified the book's code, Carole is not committing an act of academic dishonesty.

Question 2 — Explanation

- Whether or not Carole makes changes to the code, she's submitting the work of someone else as her own; that is, she is committing plagiarism.

> Definition: Plagiarism is the act of using another's words or ideas as your own.

Note:

- Carole's actions would be fine if her instructor said that students are welcome to modify the text's example and use the result in their programs.

Question 3

Donny's instructor has assigned the class a written homework assignment containing questions that were used on last term's midterm exam. Donny's roommate took the course last term. Donny gets his roommate's exam, and uses those answers on the homework.

(a) Donny is committing an act of academic dishonesty by using his roommate's answers as his own.

(b) Donny is doing nothing wrong; the instructor is in the wrong for reusing questions.

Question 3 — Answer

Donny's instructor has assigned the class a written homework assignment containing questions that were used on last term's midterm exam. Donny's roommate took the course last term. Donny gets his roommate's exam, and uses those answers on the homework.

(a) Donny is committing an act of academic dishonesty by using his roommate's answers as his own.

(b) Donny is doing nothing wrong; the instructor is in the wrong for reusing questions.

Question 3 — Explanation

- Donny has committed plagiarism. By taking his roommate's answers, Donny is creating the impression that he worked out the answers himself.

Notes:

(a) It does not matter whether or not the roommate gave Donny permission to use his answers.

(b) The instructor is not doing anything wrong, but reusing questions in consecutive terms isn't a great idea, either.

Question 4

Edgar is in a bind; his programming assignment is due in 45 minutes. His program works, but he hasn't written any documentation for his code. His friend Fionn has the opposite problem; he's been documenting as he's been coding, but his linked list deletion code still has a bug that he can't find. Edgar and Fionn reach an agreement: Edgar gets Fionn's documentation, and Fionn gets Edgar's linked list deletion code. They each integrate the material they receive into their program, and both submit completed programs on time.

(a) Edgar is committing an act of academic dishonesty by using Fionn's documentation.

(b) Fionn is committing an act of academic dishonesty by using Edgar's code.

(c) Edgar and Fionn are both committing acts of academic dishonesty.

(d) Neither student is violating the codes; barter is a traditional form of commerce, dating back centuries.

Question 4 — Answer

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(a) Edgar is committing an act of academic dishonesty by using Fionn's documentation.

(b) Fionn is committing an act of academic dishonesty by using Edgar's code.

(c) Edgar and Fionn are both committing acts of academic dishonesty.

(d) Neither student is violating the codes; barter is a traditional form of commerce, dating back centuries.

Question 4 — Explanation

- There are no gray areas here; both students are in the wrong. Using the work of another as your own is plagiarism, and is prohibited by the codes.

Note:

- Had this been a team project, this sort of division of labor would be appropriate. On an individual assignment, these actions are improper.

Question 5

Gabrielle and Halima are roommates, and are both taking the same introductory computer science class. Halima is really struggling to understand how to tell a computer how to solve problems. Frustrated, she copies Gabrielle's solution from Gabrielle's computer, changes Gabrielle's name in the documentation, and submits the program as her own.

(a) Gabrielle is committing an act of academic dishonesty because she failed to secure her computer, thus facilitating Halima's copying.

(b) Halima is committing an act of academic dishonesty by using Gabrielle's program as her own.

(c) Gabrielle and Halima are both committing acts of academic dishonesty.

(d) Neither student is violating the codes.

Question 5 — Answer

Gabrielle and Halima are roommates, and are both taking the same introductory computer science class. Halima is really struggling to understand how to tell a computer how to solve problems. Frustrated, she copies Gabrielle's solution from Gabrielle's computer, changes Gabrielle's name in the documentation, and submits the program as her own.

(a) Gabrielle is committing an act of academic dishonesty because she failed to secure her computer, thus facilitating Halima's copying.

(b) Halima is committing an act of academic dishonesty by using Gabrielle's program as her own.

(c) Gabrielle and Halima are both committing acts of academic dishonesty.

(d) Neither student is violating the codes.

Question 5 — Explanation

- By copying Gabrielle's assignment, Halima is clearly committing plagiarism.
- Security practices are not at issue here. If Gabrielle is not aware of her roommate's actions, Gabrielle has done nothing wrong.

Notes:

(a) If Gabrielle offered her program to Halima, Gabrielle also would be in violation, because she would have willingly facilitated Halima's academic dishonesty.

(b) This sort of copying from a friend or roommate is one of the most common types of academic dishonesty – and one of the easiest to detect.

Question 6

Money is no problem for Iban, and thus neither are his computer programming assignments. Iban knows that the 'net is full of programmers willing to code for money, no questions asked. He posts a link to his assignment handout on `willcodefordough.com`, chooses an offer, receives his program, and submits it to his TA well in advance of the due date.

(a) Iban is committing an act of academic dishonesty by using another programmer's solution as his own.

(b) Money makes the world go 'round. Iban not doing anything wrong; he is just fortunate that he can afford to purchase assistance.

Question 6 — Answer

Money is no problem for Iban, and thus neither are his computer programming assignments. Iban knows that the 'net is full of programmers willing to code for money, no questions asked. He posts a link to his assignment handout on `willcodefordough.com`, chooses an offer, receives his program, and submits it to his TA well in advance of the due date.

(a) Iban is committing an act of academic dishonesty by using another programmer's solution as his own.

(b) Money makes the world go 'round. Iban not doing anything wrong; he is just fortunate that he can afford to purchase assistance.

Question 6 — Explanation

- Iban is definitely committing plagiarism by using another's solution as his own, no matter how he acquired it.

Note:

- If you should ever hire someone to tutor you in a subject, make sure that s/he does not do any of your assigned work for you. That would also be academic dishonesty.

Question 7

Juan, Kedem, and Lyle are working together on a big team-oriented software design project. With the deadline fast approaching, Lyle decides to withdraw from the class. Juan and Kedem realize that they have no hope of finishing without the work Lyle's already done, so even though Lyle is no longer a member of their team, they leave Lyle's work in their project.

(a) Juan and Kedem are committing academic dishonesty by using Lyle's work in a project for which Lyle will receive no credit.

(b) Lyle is committing academic dishonesty because he did not insist that Juan and Kedem remove his contributions.

(c) Both (a) and (b)

(d) No one is in the wrong here.

Question 7 — Answer

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(a) Juan and Kedem are committing academic dishonesty by using Lyle's work in a project for which Lyle will receive no credit.

(b) Lyle is committing academic dishonesty because he didn't insist that Juan and Kedem remove his contributions.

(c) Both (a) and (b)

(d) No one is in the wrong here.

Question 7 — Explanation

- Lyle made those contributions while part of the team. His contributions are still valid after he leaves the team.

Note:

- Compare this to an employee who retires while the company is in the middle of reorganizing. The reorganization does not start over just because the employee is no longer participating.

Question 8

Millie's program keeps entering an infinite loop, and after two hours of staring at her screen, she has no idea why the computer refuses to leave that loop. Her friend Natasha, who is in the same class, walks into the lab. Millie asks Natasha to look at her loop, hoping that she can find the problem. Naturally, Natasha finds the error in mere moments: "Don't you want a less-than operator here instead of a greater-than?"

(a) Millie is committing academic dishonesty by soliciting help from Natasha.

(b) Natasha is committing academic dishonesty by suggesting a fix to Millie.

(c) Both (a) and (b)

(d) Neither student is in violation of any academic codes of conduct.

Question 8 — Answer

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(b) Natasha is committing academic dishonesty by suggesting a fix to Millie.

(c) Both (a) and (b)

(d) Neither student is in violation of any academic codes of conduct.

Question 8 — Explanation

- Technically, both students are committing violations of the codes:
  - By getting help from another student on an individual assignment, Millie is cheating.
  - Natasha, by offering assistance, is facilitating Millie's cheating.

Notes:

(a) Instructors often encourage students to help one another in this way, but . . .

(b) To be safe, don't offer or accept this type of help unless you know that your instructor approves.

Question 9

Odessa is retaking a class. This term the class is being taught by the same instructor, and he's using the same assignments. Odessa has her graded assignments from last time, and rather than redoing the work, she just copies her correct answers into her solutions for this term.

(a) Odessa is committing academic dishonesty by reusing answers from her old assignments.

(b) Odessa is doing nothing improper; she created those answers herself.

Question 9 — Answer

Odessa is retaking a class. This term the class is being taught by the same instructor, and he's using the same assignments. Odessa has her graded assignments from last time, and rather than redoing the work, she just copies her correct answers into her solutions for this term.

(a) Odessa is committing academic dishonesty by reusing answers from her old assignments.

(b) Odessa is doing nothing improper; she created those answers herself.

Question 9 — Explanation

- Perhaps hard to believe, but true!

> Prohibited conduct includes "submitting an item of academic work that has previously been submitted without fair citation of the original work or authorization by the faculty member supervising the work."
>
> — UA Code of Academic Integrity, point 2.

Notes:

(a) Odessa is retaking the class; she should be (re)learning everything, not taking short-cuts.

(b) Do you know someone who wrote a paper for one class and also used it for another class? That is also a violation of this rule.

Question 10

Preston and Quinn are both in a second-semester computer science class. Their instructor assigned an individual programming exercise today, and over lunch after class they start to discuss it. By the time they have finished eating, they've got a good idea of the steps a program will have to perform to satisfy the assignment requirements. Over the next week, based on the ideas they developed over lunch, they each write their own program.

(a) Both Preston and Quinn are committing academic dishonesty by jointly discussing how to approach the solution to an individual assignment.

(b) Neither student is violating the codes.

Question 10 — Answer

Preston and Quinn are both in a second-semester computer science class. Their instructor assigned an individual programming exercise today, and over lunch after class they start to discuss it. By the time they have finished eating, they've got a good idea of the steps a program will have to perform to satisfy the assignment requirements. Over the next week, based on the ideas they developed over lunch, they each write their own program.

(a) Both Preston and Quinn are committing academic dishonesty by jointly discussing how to approach the solution to an individual assignment.

(b) Neither student is violating the codes.

Question 10 — Explanation

- The assignment is an individual assignment, and Preston and Quinn are helping each other with the design of the solution. This is cheating.

Notes:

(a) Most instructors permit, and often encourage, students to have such discussions, so long as they then implement the ideas individually.

(b) As always, make sure that you know what your instructor is allowing you to do on each assignment.

Question 11

Roderick's program is too slow. His assignment is to write a program to solve a particular problem in fewer steps than does the instructor's sample solution. Nothing Roderick has tried has even come close to besting the sample solution's performance. In desperation, Roderick changes his program's output to report a number of steps that is just a bit below the number required by the sample solution.

(a) Roderick is committing academic dishonesty by falsifying his program's performance.

(b) Roderick's program might have needed fewer steps if he'd tried running it enough times. By changing the result, he's just saving time, saving electricity, and reducing his carbon footprint. Isn't that more important?

Question 11 — Answer

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Question 11 — Explanation

- Changing the results (“fabrication”) is most definitely an example of academic dishonesty.

Note:

- We admire Roderick’s commitment to the environment . . . and his ability to rationalize. Regardless, he is still cheating.

Question 12

“Psst! What do we have to change in Step 6?” This week’s lab exercise is baffling Simon, so as the instructor is helping another student, he does not hesitate to whisper a plea for help to Tiffany. Tiffany doesn’t hesitate with her reply: “You know this isn’t a group project, Simon; do your own work!”

(a) By asking Tiffany for help, Simon is committing an act of academic dishonesty.

(b) Tiffany is committing a violation by reminding Simon of the assignment’s conditions.

(c) Both Simon and Tiffany are guilty of academic dishonesty.

(d) Neither student is violating any rules.

Question 12 — Answer

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(a) By asking Tiffany for help, Simon is committing an act of academic dishonesty.

(b) Tiffany is committing a violation by reminding Simon of the assignment's conditions.

(c) Both Simon and Tiffany are guilty of academic dishonesty.

(d) Neither student is violating any rules.

Question 12 — Explanation

- Attempting to cheat on an assignment is just as much a violation of academic integrity principles as is successfully cheating.

Notes:

(a) This is similar to “attempted murder” being a crime just as much as is “murder.”

(b) Reminding Simon of the conditions of the exercise is not an academic integrity violation. Tiffany has done nothing improper.

(c) Of course, it is perfectly acceptable for Simon to seek assistance from his instructor or TA.

What Have You Learned?

1. Know the academic integrity policies of your school, departments, and instructors
   - What seems OK to you may not be OK with them
   - Read the course syllabus; academic dishonesty details are often included

2. Read assignment directions carefully and completely
   - They are probably provided for a reason!

3. When in doubt, ask your instructors/TAs what you are and are not allowed to do on each of your assignments
   - Instructors and TAs would much rather that you ask them if an action is permissible before you attempt it.

What Else Have You Learned?

4. Start early on your assignments
   - Many cases of academic dishonesty are motivated by nothing more than a lack of time

5. Consider the consequences before helping another student with an assignment
   - Better to say ‘sorry’ and cause hurt feelings than to say ‘yes’ and get both of you in trouble

6. Do your own work
   - Makes it pretty hard to get into trouble!

In This Class You MAY Help Each Other:

(a) Understand assignment directions

(b) Discuss *general* approaches to solving written exercises and programming assignments.

(c) Find and understand errors reported by a compiler

(d) Locate specific logic errors in a program

(e) Solve sample practice problems from the text, internet, etc. that are not part of a current assignment

(f) Study for quizzes and exams

But – In This Class You MAY NOT:

(a) Tell another student your specific approach to solving a problem (on individual assignments)

(b) Ignore assignment directions or announced corrections

(c) Do anything prohibited by the academic policies of the class, department, or university, unless we have specifically permitted an exception for this class or for a particular assignment

Any Questions?