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Curtin College

Curtin College Staff Professional Development

Semester/Trimester 1 2013

What is Academic Integrity?



Academic Integrity

The concept of academic integrity relates to all members of an academic community, including both staff and students. It means acting in a manner which is ethical and which upholds values such as honesty and fairness. An important aspect of academic integrity is respect for intellectual property and proper acknowledgement of other people's work and ideas through correct referencing. Plagiarism is a breach of academic integrity.

Q1: Is there anything wrong with this approach? Your friend is studying the same unit as you but is in a different class. As you have the same assignment to do, you decide to work together. You research and find worthwhile sources – all the same. Then you plan your report together and choose appropriate quotes and paraphrases to use. Then you each write your own report.

1. Yes ✓
2. No

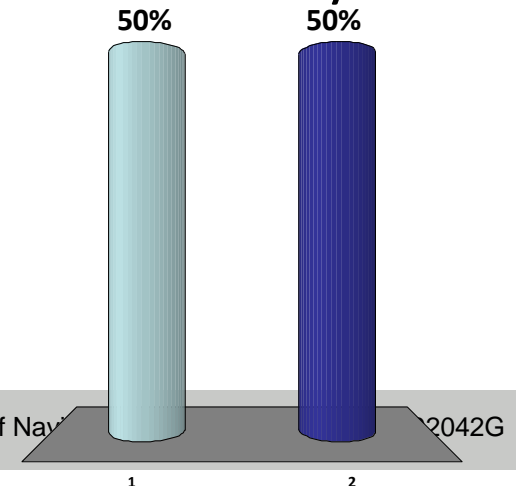
Answer

Yes, this is collusion – a form of plagiarism. Unless the assessment is specifically designed to be completed together, it is very important that you complete assignments completely independently. You could both receive a plagiarism report for this.

Q2: Has the lecturer done anything

wrong? A student hands in an assignment. Someone else has rewritten the assignment for the student, improving the English, but using his information and ideas. Even though he knows the student could not have done the assignment on his own, the lecturer decides to do nothing about it because he likes the student and feels sorry for him because he has already failed the unit once.

1. Yes ✓
2. No



Answer

Yes! Academic integrity is the responsibility of all and it is up to the lecturer to follow this up. Allowing plagiarism to occur without penalty is not fair and devalues the work of the other students.

Q3: Is there anything wrong in getting someone else to rewrite your essay in better English if the ideas are mainly yours?

1. Yes ✓

0%

2. No

0%

Answer

Yes, definitely! When you hand in an assignment it must all be your own work. When you sign the Curtin College Assignment & Report Cover Sheet, you are confirming that the work is all yours. In getting someone else to rewrite it, this student has committed plagiarism.

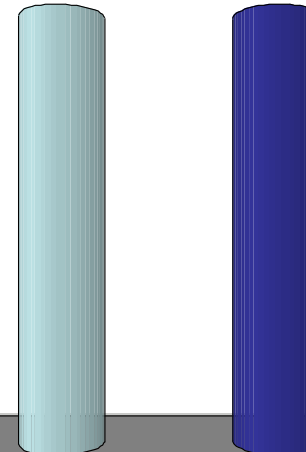
Q4: Are the two HD marks of equal

value? Two students in your class hand in assignments and both score HD's. One has worked very hard for weeks to finish her assignment. The other got an assignment from a past student and made minimal changes to make it fit the topic.

1. Yes

2. No ✓

50% 50%

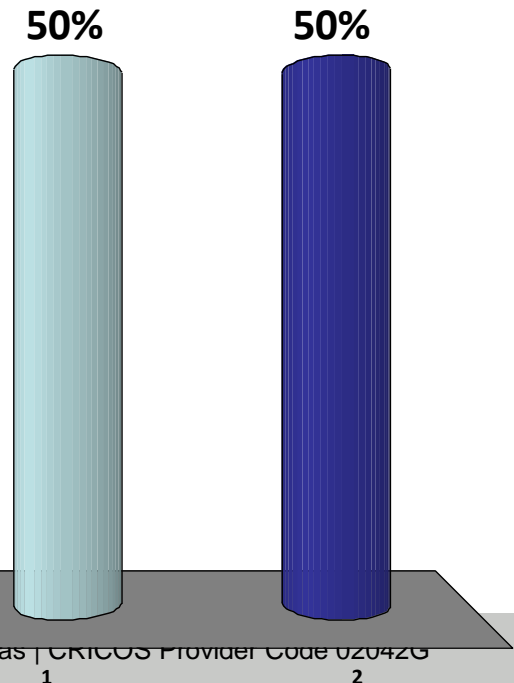


Answer

No! How can they be? One is the result of hard work and diligence, the other is the result of cheating. If this is allowed to happen, the value of your diploma or degree qualification is undermined.

Q5: Is this plagiarism? A friend completed the same unit as you last trimester and gives you her assignment. You make a few changes and hand it in as your own.

1. Yes ✓
2. No



Answer

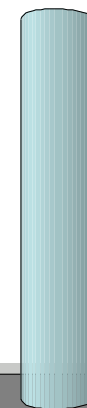
Yes, definitely! It is not the student's own work. This is high level plagiarism.

Q6: Is your friend guilty of plagiarism?

Your friend has been sick and is behind in her work. You both have to submit the same assignment. She begs to borrow your completed assignment – just to see how to go about it and make a start. You lend her the assignment on a USB, making her promise not to copy it. She copies it and submits almost the identical assignment.

1. Yes ✓
2. No

50%



1

50%



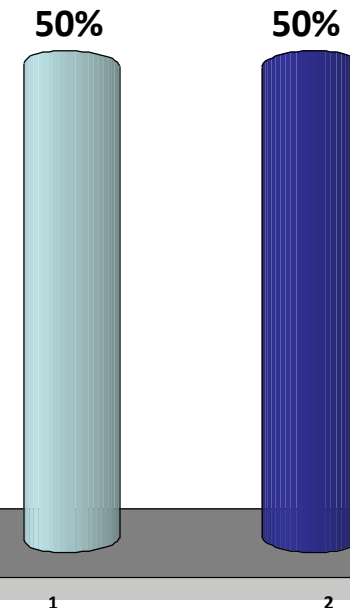
2

Answer

Yes, this is high level plagiarism.

Q7: Are you guilty of plagiarism? You loan your USB to a friend so he can have a read of your essay. You want to help him because he has been struggling. He tells you he just wants to get an idea of how to go about it but he copies the whole thing and submits it to his lecturer.

1. Yes ✓
2. No

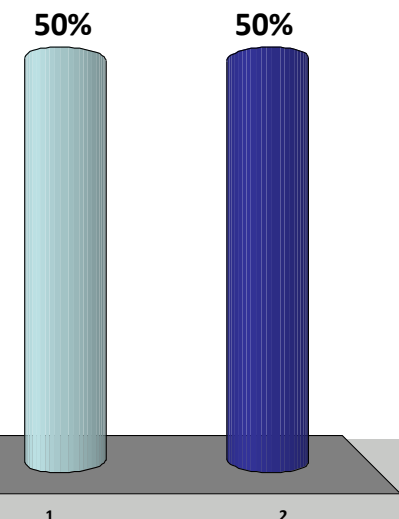


Answer

Yes, you have provided the means for another student to cheat and this is considered plagiarism. Do not be persuaded to lend other students your assignments. Ever!

Q8: Is this a problem? The final assessment in your class is a take-home test. The teacher's instructions clearly state that you may only consult the following resources: library books, class notes and the textbook. You and your friend discuss one of the questions, before writing your own answers.

1. Yes ✓
2. No



Answer

Yes, this is an example of collusion. Studying together before the test would have been all right, but once you were given the test and knew the questions, the lecturer expected you to complete the answers totally individually.

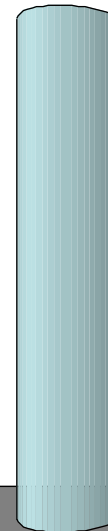
Q9: Is it ok to just hand in the same

report? You spent hours writing a very good report in one of your previous subjects and got a very high mark. You have to do another report on any topic for another class this semester.

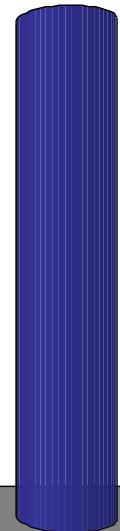
1. Yes

✓ 2. No

50%



50%



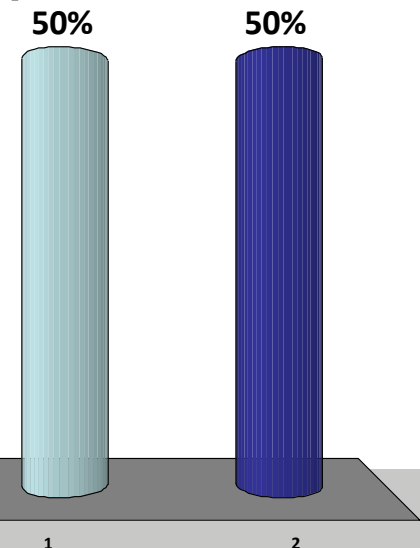
Answer

No, not without the permission of both lecturers.

Curtin College rules prohibit using the same essay, report or project in more than one subject without permission of the instructors. It is considered academic dishonesty if your action results in an unfair academic advantage. You would benefit from your previous lecturer's comments and instructions and also save all the time that your classmates are using to write the report. Your lecturer assumes that you are writing an original report.

Q10: We know the other student is cheating, but are you guilty of academic dishonesty? You realise that another student is looking at your paper during a test. You don't know the other student, but you don't make any effort to cover your paper.

1. Yes ✓
2. No



Answer

Yes. Even though you and the other student didn't work together, once you became aware that the other student was looking at your paper, it was your responsibility to take steps to make it difficult for him/her to cheat. You could both be awarded a mark of 0 for the paper.

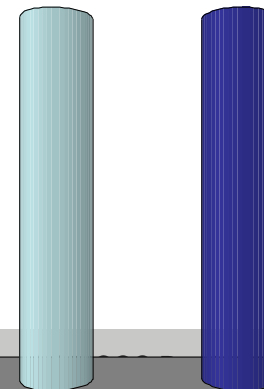
Q11: Should you change the medical certificate?

You have been ill and have fallen behind in your classes. You want to ask your lecturer for a deferred assessment in his class, but as you did not see a doctor while you were ill you do not have a medical certificate. You are worried that you won't be granted an extension. You have a medical certificate from another time and could easily change the dates. You were genuinely sick so decide it would be ok.

1. Yes

✓ 2. No

50% 50%

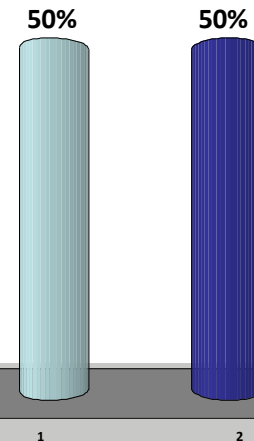


Answer

No! Not a good idea. Documentary falsification is considered academic misconduct, whether or not the falsification supports "the truth". Lecturers often check on medical excuses and if caught your reputation will be damaged. Students often neglect the obvious in this kind of case: talk to your lecturer. He may be able to offer other alternatives to help.

Q12: Is this a problem? Due to the size of the class, your lecturer has two tutors who mark the mid-semester tests. As the lecturer hands back the tests, she encourages all students to check their results carefully, with the instruction to resubmit any test which may have been marked unfairly. Looking over your test, you notice that you accidentally left out one sentence which changed the meaning of your answer. Since you actually knew the material at the time of the test, you pencil in the missing sentence and resubmit the test for remarking.

1. Yes
2. No



Answer

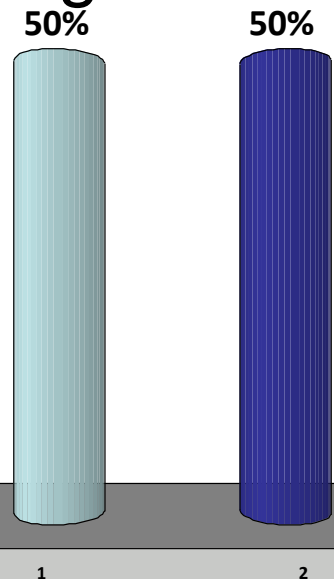
Yes, tests submitted for remarking may not be altered in any way. By the way, lecturers are encouraged to photocopy tests before returning them and can therefore clearly track any new markings on exams submitted for remarking.

Q13: Should you copy the solution and use it?

You have been working on a major class project when you find related material on a Curtin College computer. The solution is for the problem from a previous semester, but it would form a good basis for solving the problem you are working on now.

1. Yes

✓ 2. No

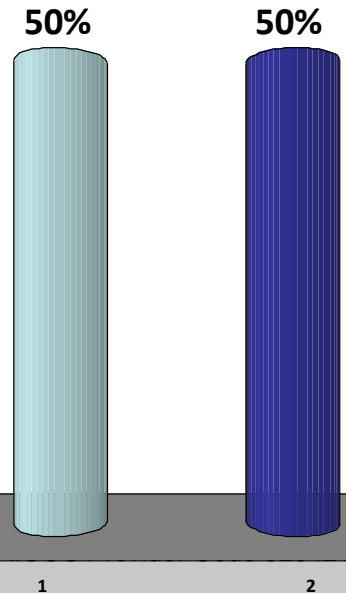


Answer

Do not copy it. Lecturers expect individual, original work in response to assignments. Copying from previous semester's assignments, solutions manuals or other sources defeats the educational purpose of the assignment. It is unacceptable for students to obtain solutions, copy assignments or collaborate with others without the knowledge and permission of the lecturer

Q14: Is referencing required? It is late at night and your essay is due at 9:00 am the next day. You have used a lot of material from a number of books and websites, but you didn't directly quote anything. You have lost track of what exactly came from where and have no time to reference anyway. As you used all your own words, you decide no references are required.

1. Yes ✓
2. No



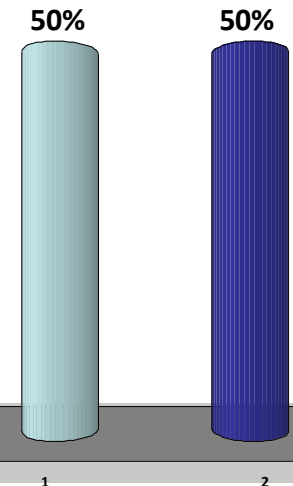
Answer

Yes, it is not only words but information, ideas and opinions which need referencing. Failure to reference in this situation would be plagiarism. Anything which comes from another source – books, websites, journals etc must be referenced appropriately.

Q15: Should you take the risk? You have had a tough semester and are having trouble focusing on an essay you must write. You have found an essay on your topic on the internet. You don't really know how to start. With all the other pressures, it seems tempting to make a few minor changes and hand the essay in. You think it unlikely that anyone would know.

1. Yes

2. No ✓

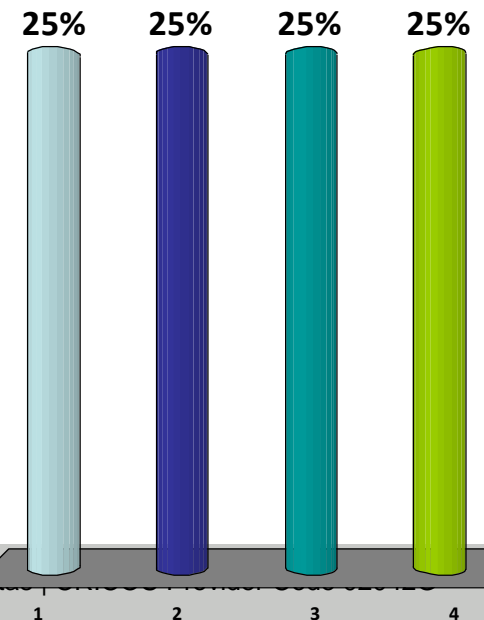


Answer

Answer: No! Don't! Lecturers can usually spot assignments that were not written specifically for the topic or which are not a student's own work, In addition, Curtin College makes use of Turnitin, plagiarism software which matches assignments and other materials on its database and on the internet. This is high level plagiarism and the consequences could be very severe. Researching for essays and reports is an integral part of your Curtin College education.

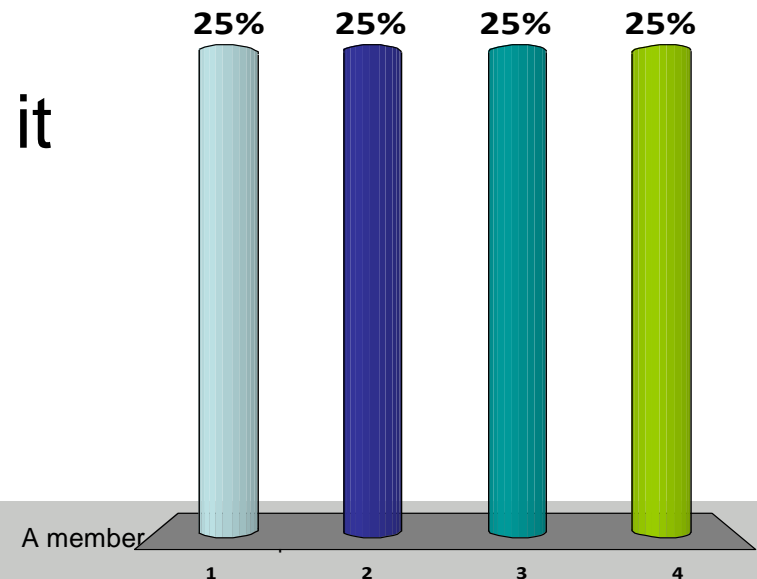
Q16: Who does the concept of Academic Integrity apply to?

1. Only students at top universities
2. Staff in universities and colleges
3. The administrators and lecturers in colleges and universities
4. All members of an academic community



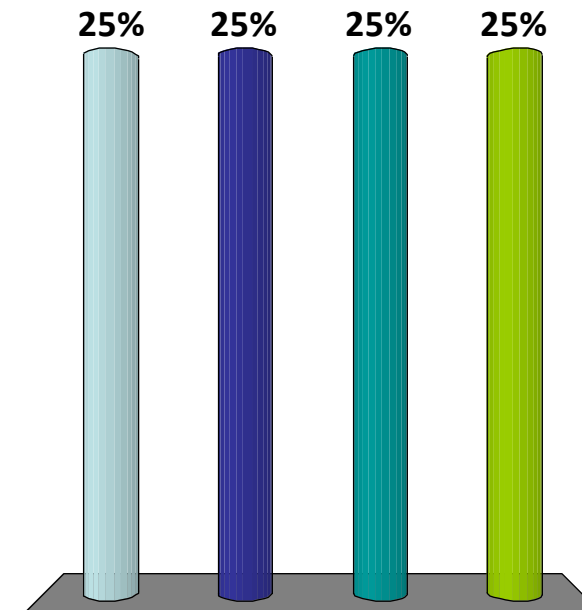
Q17: A lecturer who allows some students to submit work he knows to have been copied is ...

1. A great teacher
2. Breaching (acting against) academic integrity
3. Realistic
4. Unable to do anything about it



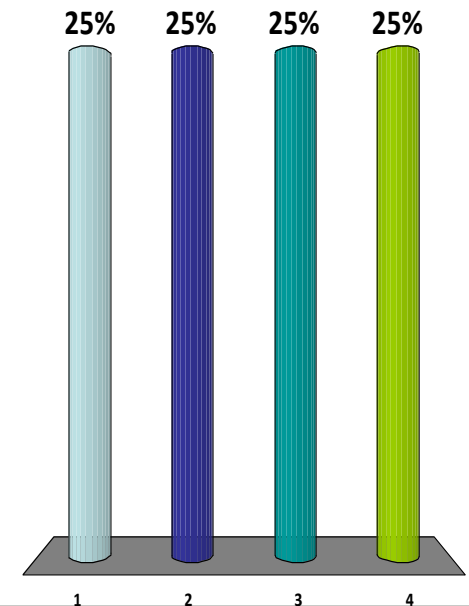
Q18: Using a past student assignment and submitting it as your own is...

1. Acceptable if the student gives it to you
2. Acceptable only if the student has already left the college
3. A form of plagiarism
4. Acceptable if some words are changed



Q19: Plagiarism breaches academic Integrity because it...

1. Fails to acknowledge ownership of other people's ideas and information
2. Is against the rules
3. You can be terminated for serious plagiarism
4. Is a form of referencing



Q20: Which of the following would NOT be a breach of academic integrity?

1. A student submitting an assignment downloaded from the internet
2. Getting someone else to rewrite your essay in better English
3. A lecturer giving a student the answers to an examination question
4. A lecturer not accepting an assignment because it was previously submitted by a past student

