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Exam cheating in UK is rife

www.thestudentroom.co.uk

One student in ten has cheated in the latest set of exams, finds a new survey* released today by the world's largest online student community, The Student Room.

Of the 1,000 students surveyed across the country, 11% admit to cheating in their current exams, while one in five students labelled the cheating problem as "very concerning".

Despite widespread media coverage of online cheating, the principle methods remain far lower tech. These include smuggling in notes, and writing on a range of (often intimate) body parts.

Other cheating methods range from using UV light pens and concealed headphones, to developing complex code systems – particularly for multi-choice exams. Common techniques include coughing, hair flicks and chair scraping.

Notes written on a wide range of body parts seem to be a major way of cheating – with girls most commonly writing on their thighs. Students have witnessed information being smuggled in to exam rooms in pen lids, water bottle labels, hacked calculators and – according to one student – a tampon.

The Student Room's engagement director Jack Wallington said: "Cheating is seen as a big area of concern by a lot of students, and this can only add to the exam stress they experience, which we know from our own research is on the increase. The Student Room goes to great lengths to work with exam boards to inform students of the risks and consequences of breaking examination rules. However, we would like to see a wide review of the most effective ways of reducing the practice."

GCSE age students appear to be the most prolific cheaters, with 14% admitting to using dishonest methods, compared to 6% of A-level students. Male students (40%) are marginally more likely to cheat than their female counterparts (36%).

There is also a wide regional variation in cheating practices. Wales comes out on top for exam honesty, with 19% admitting to having ever cheated, followed by the North West (30%) and the West Midlands (33%). The areas where cheating is most widespread are Yorkshire (50%), East of England (49%) and Scotland (47%).

** The survey by The Student Room polled 985 UK students between 5 June and 15 June 2015. See the full survey finding here*

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ABOUT THE STUDENT ROOM

Founded in 2001, The Student Room is the world's largest online student community and the UK's no.1 education website according to ComScore data. The Student Room has over 3 million registered members, primarily aged between 14-24 and attracts over 8 million visitors

a month. It provides student-to-student advice on studying, educational career choice and lifestyle issues. The Student Room works directly with most UK universities as well as a wide range of leading brands and companies.

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