

Università degli Studi di Brescia

Centro Linguistico di Ateneo

Prova di Lingua Inglese Livello B2

## **READING COMPREHENSION**

**Read the text and answer questions 1 - 10.**

### **Remote learning and cheating**

After a year of remote learning, the issue of cheating among students is probably the most pronounced problem for schools and educators all over the world. The sudden shift to online classes, the absence of effective monitoring systems and the large quantities of online services at students' disposal have resulted in an increase in instances of academic cheating. In the last twelve months, an increasing number of students have started sending questions for experts to answer through specialised websites.

According to some educators and other stakeholders in education, cheating won't come to an end after the pandemic recedes. "Students have found a way to cheat, and they know it works," said John Stetson, senior faculty member in computer studies at Imperial College in London, who has been investigating academic integrity issues for more than fifteen years. He said cheating sites number in the thousands, from individuals to large-scale operations.

Worried about his South Carolina State University students cheating in a biology class, Professor Sam McNamara launched a plan. For the final exam, McNamara said he developed a special program that created a unique set of questions for each student. When those questions appeared on a for-profit homework website, he was quickly able to spot who had posted them. About 200 students were caught cheating - 25% of the course students. In general, instances of academic cheating more than doubled in the 2019-20 academic year at SC State University.

Louisiana State University had 50% more academic dishonesty allegations in spring than a year earlier. There was also the case of 193 students who admitted academic dishonesty to avoid heavy punishment, according to a university official report.

At Texas A&M University, cheating case investigations rose by 71% in the 2019-20 academic year, school data show.

A large number of cadets at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point were caught cheating on an online Maths exam last year, sharing answers with each other from home. Why do students tend to cheat more in online classes? According to some educators, the pandemic has put too much pressure on students, who find it stressful to learn in a new environment.

Another worrying tendency resulting from the shift to online education is the increasing use

of purchased assignments. A growing number of students now turn to online resources and tutorials to better understand a subject. However, some students choose to copy answers found online or even pay an online essay-writing service to write their assignment for them.

Alan Walsh, an 18-year-old undergraduate at Northern Illinois University, confirmed that students have been using homework help sites for studying and for cheating. He said students, including himself, feel isolated in a virtual learning environment as there's obviously much less interaction, and courses and lessons tend to be much less structured. "I have never had so many difficulties with learning material," he said. "It's just really hard to learn and memorise what you are studying alone."

Some schools block a range of homework help websites from district computers to prevent academic misconduct - though that doesn't stop students from visiting the very same websites from a different device. Middle-school teacher Charlotte Parker in Orefield, Pennsylvania, has taken the decision to eliminate emphasis on testing during online learning to alleviate stress and limit the desire to cheat. "It's impossible to control exactly what a student is doing when learning online," she said.

Another industry has been boosted by online cheating: surveillance-type companies that hire online proctors to conduct cheat proof tests and exams. During a remote proctored exam, students' activities are invigilated and any suspicious event, such as the student disappearing from camera view, is flagged. In some cases, special facial-detection software is used to detect unusual movements.

*Adapted from 'Why is cheating at school so easy now?' by Silvia Minardi.*

1. During the pandemic, schools and universities have seen \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. the development of a remote learning educational model
  - B. an effective monitoring system
  - C. a surge in academic dishonesty
  - D. a slow shift to online classes
  
2. New online services for students \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. have become easily accessible
  - B. are the most pronounced problem for educators
  - C. resulted in a shift to online classes
  - D. are not a big problem
  
3. Experts are convinced this trend \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. will stop soon
  - B. won't stop when the pandemic is over
  - C. will last forever
  - D. will come to an end after the pandemic recedes

4. A plan devised by Professor McNamara helped him to detect \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. 20 students cheating  
B. 20% of the students cheating  
C. 2000 students cheating  
D. 200 students cheating
5. Some students admitted academic dishonesty \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. because they felt guilty  
B. because they wanted to avoid heavy punishment  
C. because they didn't want to be expelled  
D. because they wanted to help their professors
6. Students tend to cheat more in online classes because \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. it's easier to copy  
B. they aren't scared to be caught cheating  
C. they find it stressful to learn in this new learning environment  
D. they are bored
7. Teachers maintain that students tend to cheat more when they \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. feel stressed and under pressure  
B. are safe at home  
C. are using a computer  
D. are alone
8. According to Alan Walsh what students miss the most in online learning is \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. interaction with their classmates  
B. organised lessons  
C. interaction and structured courses  
D. the university environment
9. Schools and teachers have been struggling to find ways to \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. easily catch cheaters  
B. eliminate a range of homework help websites from district computers  
C. denounce academic misconduct  
D. prevent academic dishonesty

10. During online tests and exams, academic misconduct can be detected by \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. a proctoring software  
B. a professor who controls any suspicious event  
C. techniques that detect unusual movement  
D. other students

## GRAMMAR AND VOCABULARY

For each of the following sentences, choose the correct option (A, B, C or D). Only one option is correct.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ to Italy every summer for your holidays?  
a. Do you go  
b. Are you going  
c. Were you going  
d. Have you gone
2. Lucy \_\_\_\_\_ me that you're thinking of moving.  
a. told  
b. is telling  
c. are telling  
d. tells
3. I was sure that I \_\_\_\_\_ him before.  
a. had met  
b. am meeting  
c. meet  
d. met
4. The next train to Rome \_\_\_\_\_ at 6:25. (*station announcement*)  
a. is leaving  
b. are leaving  
c. is going to leave  
d. leaves
5. When you \_\_\_\_\_ Sarah, tell her to call me.  
a. are going to see  
b. are seeing  
c. see  
d. will see

6. We \_\_\_\_\_ a party next saturday. Can you come?
- a. 're to have
  - b. 're having
  - c. have
  - d. 'll have
7. \_\_\_\_\_ me to get you something to eat?
- a. Would you like
  - b. Should you like
  - c. Shall you like
  - d. Will you like
8. I \_\_\_\_\_ London two times last year.
- a. would visit
  - b. used to visit
  - c. visit
  - d. visited
9. The children \_\_\_\_\_ to the cinema.
- a. were enjoyed taken
  - b. enjoyed being taken
  - c. were enjoyed taking
  - d. enjoyed taking
10. \_\_\_\_\_ to see in Milan?
- a. What there are
  - b. What is there
  - c. What are there
  - d. What there is
11. Give me that \_\_\_\_\_, I need to stir the stew.
- a. kettle
  - b. ladle
  - c. scale
  - d. cooker
12. Two \_\_\_\_\_ broke in and stole my new TV yesterday.
- a. stealers
  - b. robbers
  - c. thieves
  - d. killers
13. My grandma is a great \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. cooker
- b. cooking
- c. cook
- d. cooked

14. The \_\_\_\_\_ faulty.

- a. equipments are
- b. equipment was
- c. equipments were
- d. equipment were

15. Edinburgh is \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. a nice city
- b. nice city
- c. the nice city
- d. the nice cities