

# TEST CASES AND TEST CHEATERS





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Cheating is not new. Many of the means to carry it out are. Watches that store data. Internet access is wireless. Cell phones are cameras.

The biggest challenge that almost all testing organizations face is keeping up with technology. There are many ways to cheat, and it is very difficult to stop everyone who wants to try. Though expensive, new technology makes cheating much easier.

It's no surprise that many of the security audit report recommendations focus on areas where cheating can occur and how to combat the rapid advances in technology.



## Poll Question

Have you had to investigate possible cheating at your training institution?



Read the Poll Question and ask for them to raise their hands

Give a brief description of the Coke bottle having examination material on the label.

## Cheating Stories

### Test Cheaters Say The Darnedest Things!



Caught a student on the internet and when the proctor asked her if she was allowed to use the internet she replied, "No, but I don't know the answer."



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## The Smuggler

Recently had a student lock up his cell phone in the designated testing locker. While taking his test, the student pulled out a second phone from his pocket and used it.

When confronted, he at first denied it, but then changed his story claiming that he forgot he was under surveillance.



**In the testing world, the smuggler brings into the test setting, materials or devices intended to provide an advantage over honest examinees. A packet of facial tissues may contain formulas, diagrams, or prepared answers to free-response questions. A pencil, a pair of eyeglasses, or wrist watch that may appear innocent enough, can serve as storage devices for enormous amounts of information that can be used by the cheater.**

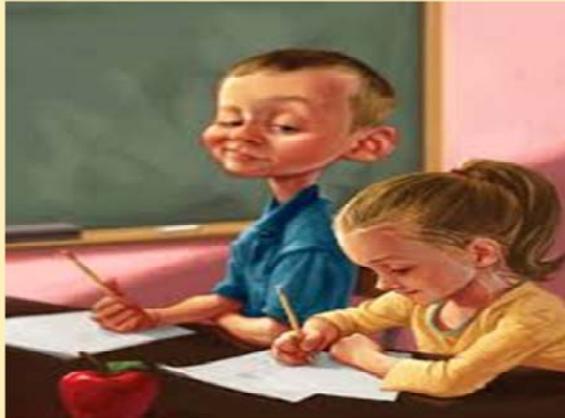
**A cell phone may be employed to send (or receive) answers to or from someone else sitting for the exam. Any test program sponsor can recall an anecdote or two about a smuggler's ingenious method for carrying some version of a "crib sheet" into a testing room.**

## Cheating Stories and some tempting attempts

A student taking a computer test googled the exact questions on the test, and was quite surprised when the proctor froze the student's computer and printed out the screens shots with their monitoring software.



## The Impersonator



When a person who registered for a test under the name "Jane R. Smith" shows up to take the test and presents her identification materials, how can we be sure who is really taking the test?

Impersonators, also known as proxy test takers, try to mislead proctors for virtually all major high stakes examinations.

When proctors personally know all test takers, the task of checking and verifying identification is very different from a situation where the proctor has never seen any of the test takers before the actual administration of the test.



In the testing arena, when we want the results to accurately reflect his/her own knowledge.

One family of collaboration strategies can be likened to Paul Revere's midnight ride. How did he know what route the British forces would follow? He simply observed how many lanterns were lit- "one if by land and two if by sea." Many cheaters use hand signals or their equivalent to communicate within group testing settings

The not-too distant cousins of the Collaborators are the Photographer and the Radioman. These individuals bring to the test setting electronic devices that can be used to steal the items. Unlike Collaborators or Storytellers, these individuals do not depend on memory, but use modern technology to steal the items.

## THE STORYTELLER



We have used the label "Storyteller" for the individual who memorizes test items only to 'retell' them later to others. The storyteller isn't likely to memorize an entire exam in one sitting. There simply isn't enough time.

Instead, storytellers take an exam multiple times and memorize a few items in each testing session. The sharing of items from the storyteller may range from telling just a few colleagues.

## THE CHAIN GANG



Whereas Storytellers work alone, we have dubbed another group of evildoers "The Chain Gang," borrowing from the concept of prisoners linked together to work on roads or other projects.

In the case of a testing chain gang, the group memorizes test items and as is the case with the storytellers, they collect and memorize items.

The difference is that the chain gang members work in concert, often employing carefully developed and coordinated strategies for stealing particular parts of the test or item pool.

## THE TIME TRAVELER



In our testing environment where many exams are given during the same day, the illegitimate sharing of test questions, keys, and similar test content information is aimed at producing a "big score" or at least a passing score.

Of course not all evil schemes turn out as planned. This is the case when different versions of the test are used, so that the test given at a later time is not the same as the test used for the earlier time.

## ROBIN HOOD



Some cheating occurs after testing is completed; without the active participation of the test taker.

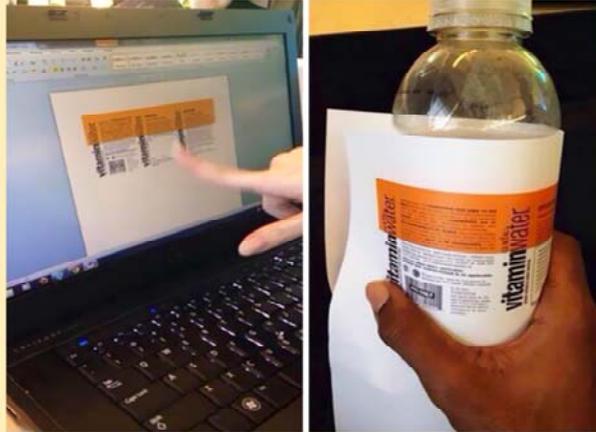
An instructor or others may view himself or herself as a modern-day Robin Hood - giving answers to the poorer students to inflate their test standings, often at the expense of all the other students who sat for the exam.

A similar problem can occur when a test is being administered orally to an individual or group. The reader's facial expressions, tone of voice, or body language can easily lead test takers toward particular answers.

## The Label Maker

A candidate that removes a drink label from a beverage and scans it into a computer. They add notes to the label, print it and then re-attach it to the bottle.

If done carefully, the results are almost indistinguishable from the authentic item.



## The Label Remover

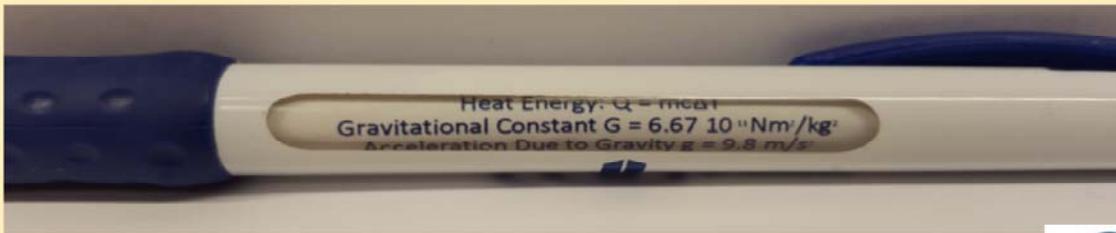
This is a candidate that removes the label from a beverage with clear plastic bottle. They place the notes on the inside of the label and re-attach it to the bottle.

Once the exam begins, the candidate can view the notes while drinking from the bottle.



## The Trick Pen

A pen that a candidate uses to hide notes inside. This example contains a rotating barrel. The notes can be printed on mailing labels and then affixed to the inside barrel of the pen. Once the test begins, simply clicking on the pen will display multiple lines of notes.



## The Snack Bag

A candidate prints out their notes of choice on a sheet of thin paper.

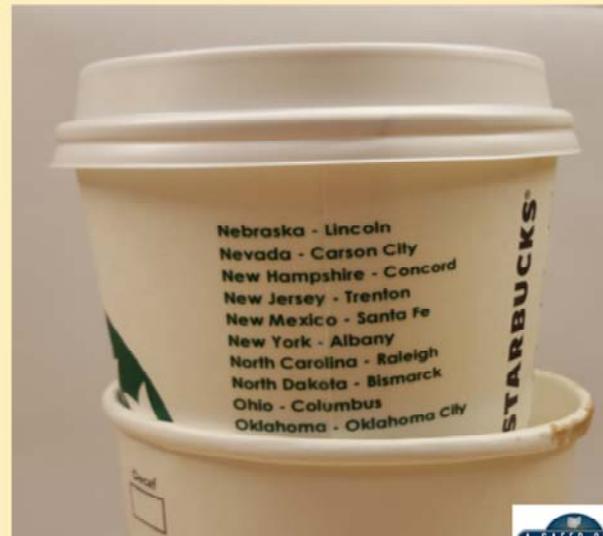
The notes are taped inside a popular snack bag. Once the test begins, the notes can be viewed while accessing the food.



## The Hidden Cup

A candidate purchases one coffee and requests a second cup. They place notes on the outside of the first coffee cup, then cover it with the second cup. During the exam, the cup can be lifted to reveal the attached notes.

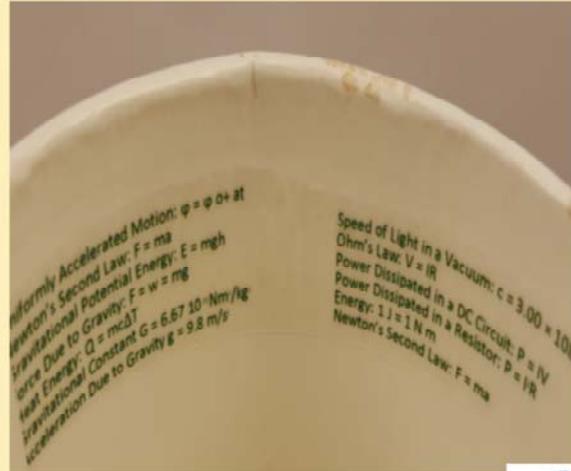
Here's an example using a U.S. states and capitals.



## The Submerged Notes

A cheat sheet is printed on a piece of paper and then “laminated” with clear tape. Once sufficiently waterproof, it can be taped inside a cup, right below the surface of the liquid.

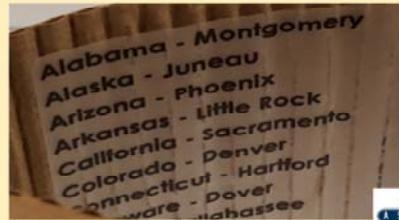
During the exam, the candidate removes the top of the cup and takes a drink, revealing the notes.



## Coffee Cup Sleeves

This is another tricky one that emphasizes how creative candidates have become.

Notes are placed inside a coffee cup sleeve. The sleeve is removed at some point during the exam and the notes are revealed.



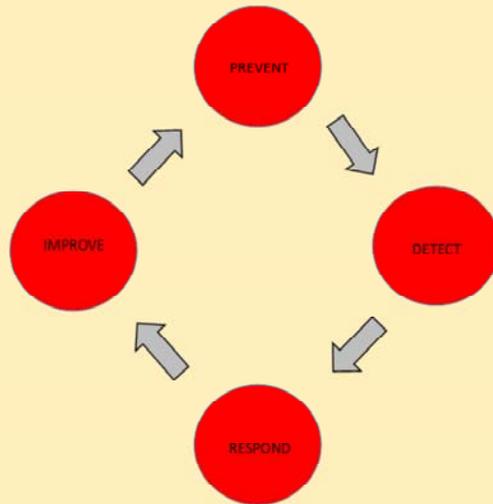
## The Coffee Sleeve Drop

Last example where a candidate places notes on the side of a coffee cup under the coffee sleeve. If placed correctly, the candidate can view the notes on one side of the cup, while the proctor is not able to see them from the opposite side.

Once the exam has begun, the sleeve can be dropped to reveal the notes. Here's an example showing the second half of an alphabetical listing of the U.S. states and capitals.



# Test Security Process



## What's Is At Stake Consider what you are Protecting

- Validity of Examination
- Accountability Determination
- Educational Resource Decisions
- Examination Content
- Public Trust and Confidence
- Public Welfare



## Prevention

- Know the test security Policies and Procedures
- Make sure all Testing staff is thoroughly trained.
- Identify stakeholders in the testing process
- Create an Incident Response Plan



## Detect

- Have a mechanism in place to detect incidents or cheating on the examination.
- Incentive to Cheat on Tests has never been Higher – cheating is a very real problem



# Respond

- How Do I Respond?
  - Dictates what to do when a testing irregularity occurs
  - Consistent process for treating infractions and breaches.
- Who Involved?
  - Identify and document those involved and document evidence
  - Witness Statements
- How Do I Deal With It?
  - Preserve Evidence
  - Preserve Chain of Custody
  - Conduct Interviews after reviewing evidence
  - Report Findings



## Improve

- A review of your processes, policies and procedures
- Review Test preparation guidelines and administrative procedures
- Develop an action plan to minimize incidents
- Provide annual Proctor Training

