# Can you spot academic misconduct? – transcript.

Choose the correct answer to the following questions:

1. Peter searches the internet for ideas and sources to help him write his essay. He joins an internet chat room to ask for advice. He chats with two students who completed a similar essay last year. Is he at risk of academic misconduct?
   1. It’s fine, he’s only asking for advice.
   2. This is collusion.
   3. This is contract cheating.

The Answer is, a. This isn’t collusion or contract cheating as he is allowed to ask peers for advice. However, there is no way of telling if these internet users are who they say they are, or if their advice is useful.

1. The students give Peter copies of their plans and the essays they wrote. What should he do?
   1. Re-write the best ideas in his own words.
   2. Submit one of the essays as his own.
   3. Try to write the essay without referring to them.

The Answer is, c. Peter is committing academic misconduct if he copies part or all of someone else’s work, even if he re-writes some in his own words.

1. Peter works with Amira to draft and edit his work; Amira re-writes Peter’s introduction and Peter adds some references from her essay to his reference list. Is this academic misconduct?
   1. This is fine: Amira is helping her friend.
   2. This is collusion: Peter will be referred for academic misconduct.
   3. This is collusion: both Peter and Amira will be referred for academic misconduct.

The Answer is, c. Both Peter and Amira are at risk of being referred for academic misconduct, as the marking process will uncover the similarities between their work.

1. Abby has three assignments due in the next two weeks: an essay, a group presentation and a report. The group presentation has taken priority and she is struggling to find academic sources for her essay and report. She copies and pastes parts of articles she has found on the internet into a Word document, with the URLs of the websites, and intends to make these into her essay. What should she do to avoid academic misconduct?
   1. She can reference the sources in her essay using the URLs. She is not at risk of academic misconduct.
   2. She can still plan her time to allow for more research, and to plan a structure for her essay.
   3. She should submit the Word document as it is as it shows her tutor she has done the work.

The Answer is, b. Planning a timetable to make use of her time will help Abby to focus on the tasks she needs to complete. She can allocate time to find more resources, and to plan the structure of her essay.

## So how did you do?

Did you spot when the students were at risk of academic misconduct?

Most academic misconduct occurs because of a lack of planning, or incomplete referencing.

Plan your schedule and individual assignments to avoid the risk of academic misconduct.

The Skills Hub has more support and guidance about academic integrity and how to avoid plagiarism.

## Further reading:

Cottrell, S. (2013) Part A: Managing yourself for study. *The Study Skills Handbook*. 4th ed. Basingstoke: Palgrave McMillan.

Drew, S. and Bingham, R. (2012) Ch.14: Action planning: identifying actions; making recommendations. *The Guide to Learning and Study Skills: For Higher Education and at Work*. London: Routledge.

National Extension College/UCAS [n.d.] *Study skills Guide Series: Time management* [online]. Available from: <https://www.ucas.com/file/62646/download?token=6B3kQ_5Q>