



Academic Plagiarism

The use of custom essay writing services

Reading Test

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Student

Time: *Approximately 1 hour*

Two types of lesson

Lesson #1: [Easy] **** * [B2/C1]

1. Try to predict the content of text / write down key terms / ideas
2. Read text – check words and meanings with a dictionary
3. Answer questions
4. Check answers (pass mark is 70%)

Lesson #2: [Hard] **** * [C1]

1. Read text – no dictionary
2. Answer questions
3. Check answers (pass mark is 70%)

Teacher

Two types of lesson

Lesson #1: [easy] **** * [B2/C1]

1. Give out text a week before the test – students read, check vocabulary and meaning.
2. Test day – give out a new copy of text and the questions (no dictionary or notes)
3. Set 1 hour to read text and answer the questions
4. Take in and correct or go through answers in class (pass mark is 70%)
5. Extra activity – students write the summary* (add 30 minutes to test)

Lesson #2: [hard] **** * [C1]

1. Test day – give out text and questions
2. Set 1 hour to read text and answer the questions
3. Take in and correct or go through answers in class (pass mark is 70%)
5. Extra activity – students write the summary* (add 30 minutes to test)

***Summary writing**

Link: www.academic-englishuk.com/summary

Academic Plagiarism: the use of custom essay writing services

By C.Wilson (April, 2019)

1. Plagiarism at university is a form of cheating and is a serious academic offence. It arises from work submitted that is not the [redacted] a lack of referencing, poor paraphrasing or complete copying. The most common forms of plagiarism are: copying, collusion, [redacted] and commissioning work / buying essays. The focus of this article is on buying essays.

2. Universities use Turnitin plagiarism software to identify copying and collusion but plagiarism has recently evolved into the use of 'custom essay writing services' or 'writing mills' which **circumvents** Turnitin completely. A basic [redacted] company with their assignment brief and is offered a price for a fully written essay that is guaranteed to be '100% plagiarism free'. [redacted] and at this time of writing (April, 2019) they are legal in the UK. In fact, the scale of the problem seems to be severely underestimate [redacted] of possible graduates using writing mills a year (BBC News, 2019). What is clear is that paying a third person to write an essay for you is considered 'contract cheating', a **fraudulent** behaviour that is a serious [redacted] cheating as the same term.

3. A quick search on Google will highlight that there are pages and pages of custom essay writing services available. They also aggressively advertise on social media, in and around universities and even on direct transport [redacted] PhD. The process is quick and simple. For a 3,000-word fully written custom business essay with Harvard [redacted] (www.newessaysuk.co.uk). The sites all claim to have a pool of professional academic writers, offer complete **confidentiality** and are 100% plagiarism free. With regards to ethical **rationalisation** on contract cheating, this is often in the small print whereby many (but not all) state '*our papers are for research purposes only and not to be*' [redacted]. Research by Medway et al (2018) found that some sites did acknowledge that their essay could be handed in as it was. Overall, with claims that the essays have 100% originality or 100% plagiarism free, it seems reasonable to assume that these [redacted].

4. Unfortunately, there is not one specific answer. Generally, poor time management and multiple deadlines are considered the main reasons (Rogerson, 2014). There is also the pressure of such a high investment and fear of failing (Medway et al., 2018). Of course, it is also seen as an easier option to obtain [redacted]. Research by Mostrous & Kenber, (2016) suggests that international students are four-times more likely to use these than native students. The evidence suggests key factors are differing cultural **interpretations** on what is considered being [redacted]. A key point here is that many universities are accepting international students with lower English abilities and thus [redacted] else write your essay (ibid).

5. The key problem is that using custom essay writing services is academic misconduct and is becoming deemed an ever-present threat to academic integrity. The QAA Report (2016) states that when a student [redacted], brings the validity of

the qualification into question and **poses a threat** to the reputation of that university. What seems much more significant paying [redacted] learning which is based on having a series of lectures / seminars and then extensively researching that given area to independently and individually shape that knowledge and understanding. This experience then [redacted] of self-discovery, then they have failed to thoroughly educate themselves and maximize their investment. Thus, when graduating they are falsely claiming to be a competent qualified professional. Furthermore, The Times [redacted] leaks or even future software that identifies patterns and similarities in the way the shadow author has written contracted essays. This would lead to a degree being formally **revoked** and ending their career.

6. It is true to state that it is incredibly difficult to prove that a student has used a custom essay writing service or handed in a contracted essay. Students can claim a variety of reasons why their essay is above their usual standard of writing; *'a friend checked it for me'*, *'I had a professional proofread'* or *'I've used translation software'*. [redacted] all U.K. universities strongly **condemning** all forms of plagiarism but in particular focusing on the use of custom essay writing services. It seems fair to suggest that universities need to play a much more leading role in discouraging custom essay [redacted] supporting students in understanding contract cheating and proofreading rules. This information should [redacted] Unfortunately, much tougher penalties need to be applied with instant **expulsion** for any type of work expected to be not the emphasises [redacted] deterrent whereby students sign a declaration of plagiarism and are completely clear on what is plagiarism and the consequences of contract cheating. In addition to awareness building, as plagiarism has evolved so should writing procedures. A possible change would ask for a closer working academic relationship between. [redacted] of their essay writing (outline, first draft, second draft, final draft) to the extent of even providing the sources and content where they had paraphrased certain elements if questioned. Assessments should also evolve to clarify a student's understanding of their work through the student presenting their essay to a group of tutors or [redacted] what they had written, this would constitute as a fail. A final point, is that legislation needs to be brought in to shut down writing mills in the UK. The QAA Report (2016) and leading Russe Group Vice Chancellors are presently calling [redacted]. This would follow similar regulation in line with New Zealand and America.

7. Whether custom essay writing services can be completely controlled remains to be seen. The recent media attention and a [redacted] to stop focusing on ratings and rankings and start to show more commitment in **tackling** fraudulent academic misconduct that is becoming [redacted] affect academic integrity, the fairness of assessment processes and the reputation of the U.K Higher Education system.

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Comprehension Questions

1. **Headings** – choose a subtitle for each paragraph – one title is not needed

1	B	A	What are custom essay writing services?
2		B	What is plagiarism?
3		C	[REDACTED]
4		D	Why do students cheat?
5		E	Final thoughts
6		F	[REDACTED]
7		G	Possible ways to limit contract cheating

___ / 6

2. **What is plagiarism?**

___ / 3

3. **The most common forms of** [REDACTED]

i.	<i>copying</i>	
ii.		
iii.		
iv.		

___ / 4

4. **Why isn't** [REDACTED] **working efficiently?**

___ / 1

5. **What do these figures mean?**

i.	20,000	
ii.	hundreds of thousands	

___ / 2

6. **What is the difference between these three terms:**

'custom essay' [REDACTED] 'cheating'?

___ / 1

7. How are custom essay writing services advertising?

i.	
ii.	
iii.	

___ / 3

8. What is the cost for a 3,000-word business essay?

	class	cost
i.		
ii.		

___ / 4

9. How do custom essay [redacted] contract cheating?

i.	
ii.	

___ / 2

10. What has Medway et al (2018) found?

--

___ / 1

11. Why do students cheat?

i.	<i>poor time management</i>
ii.	
iii.	
iv.	
v.	

___ / 4

12. Why are [redacted] writing mills?

i.	
ii.	
iii.	

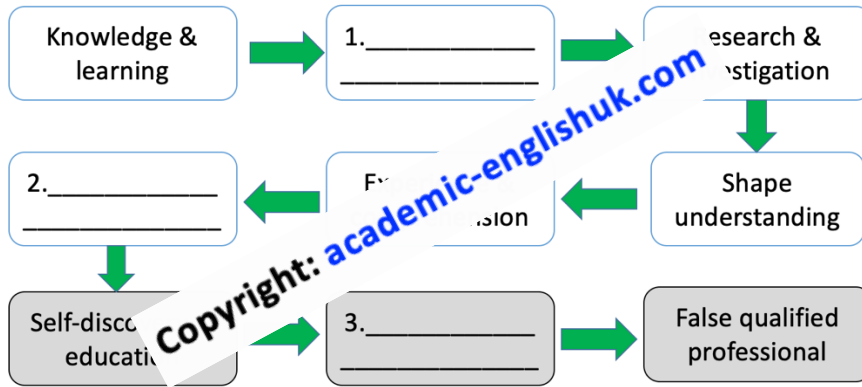
___ / 3

13. What are the Key problems highlighted by the QAA Report (2016)?

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___ / 3

14. University education: fill in the gaps. [Up to three words can be used].



___ / 4

15. What two points _____ revoke your degree in the future?

i.	
ii.	

___ / 2

16. Decide if these statements from the solution section are True / False / Not Given (NG).

T/F/NG

i.	Custom essay writing service essays are incredibly difficult to prove.	
ii.	Students _____ usual standard.	
iii.	Universities are _____ custom essay writing services.	
iv.	U.K. universities use 'honour codes' and these work as a deterrent.	
v.	New writing _____ sources and where they paraphrased content.	
vi.	Assessments should include more reading and writing tests in timed conditions in the university.	
vii.	New assessments would _____ discuss and answer questions about their essay.	
viii.	Legalisation is needed to make it illegal to use writing mills.	

___ / 8

17. What is the author's stance? Is he optimistic about the control of writing mills?

Yes / no

Why?

___ / 2

18. Reference words – explain what these reference words connect to: (underlined in the text)

Paragraph	Word	Connection
1	<i>it</i>	<i>plagiarism</i>
2	<i>they</i>	
3	<i>this</i>	
4	these	
5	<i>this</i>	
6	<i>writing procedures</i>	
7	<i>this</i>	

___ / 6

12. Key language – explain these terms from the context / use synonyms where appropriate

Paragraph	Word	Explanation
1	<i>fabrication</i>	<i>An invention of the truth or a lie / untruthful statement</i>
2	<i>circumvents</i>	
2		
3	<i>confidentiality</i>	
3		
4	<i>interpretations</i>	
4	<i>competence</i>	
5		
5	<i>formally revoke</i>	
6	<i>strongly condemning</i>	
6	<i>Instant expulsion</i>	
6		
7	<i>a recognition</i>	
7	<i>tackling</i>	

___ / 10

Overall Total: ___ / 68

Comprehension Questions

1. **Headings** – choose a subtitle for each paragraph – one title is not needed

1	B	A	What are custom essay writing services?
2	F	B	What is plagiarism?
3	A	C	Associated problems using essay writing services
4	D	D	Why do students cheat?
5	C	E	Final thoughts
6	G	F	The evolution of plagiarism
7	E	G	Possible ways to limit contract cheating

___ / 6

2. **What is plagiarism?**

Plagiarism at university is a form of **1. cheating** and is a serious academic **2. offence**. It arises from work submitted that is not the student's own and has been taken from another source usually including lack of **3. referencing**, poor **4. paraphrasing** or completely copied.

___ / 3

ALL ANSWERS INCLUDED IN PAID VERSION

Academic Plagiarism: the use of custom essay writing services

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1. Plagiarism at university is a form of cheating and is a serious academic offence. It arises from work submitted that is not the student's own and has been taken from another source usually including a lack of referencing, poor paraphrasing or complete copying. The most common forms of plagiarism are: copying, collusion, **fabrication** or misrepresentation, unacceptable proofreading and commissioning work / buying essays. The focus of this article is on buying essays.

The evolution of plagiarism

2. Universities use Turnitin plagiarism software to identify copying and collusion but plagiarism has recently evolved into the use of 'custom essay writing services' or 'writing mills' which **circumvents** ...

FULL ARTICLE INCLUDED IN PAID VERSION