

Overview of Modern Exam Cheating

A toolkit to help exam administrators spot risks and strengthen integrity

- **Imposter/Proxy Test Taking:** An imposter takes the test on behalf of the legitimate candidate. This is often arranged through illicit third-party services.
- **Digital Deepfake:** Using real-time deepfake technologies or synthetic face generation to deceive ID verification and liveness detection systems.
- **Agentic Browsers:** Using AI enabled browsers such as Atlas, Edge with Co-Pilot or Comet by Perplexity to summarise and present answers in the browser window.
- **Computer Use Models:** AI agents which can take control of browsers and complete assignments and interactive actions on behalf of the candidate.
- **Smart Devices:** Devices purpose built or adapted for cheating such as invisible watches, smartwatches, or advanced calculators. These are able to share preset notes or used for communication with collaborators.
- **Virtual Proxy Test Testing:** The registered candidate sits in front of the computer (appearing legitimate to the proctor) while a person sitting remotely (e.g., via remote desktop applications) enters the responses to the exam.
- **Smart Ring:** Rings that are capable of Bluetooth two-way audio communication.
- **AR/Contact Lens:** Embedded augmented reality display within a contact lens.
- **Covert Communication (Audio):** Using small audio devices, such as magnetic earpieces (delivered deep into the ear) or capsule earpieces, to play pre-recorded information or communicate with a third party/app that sends back answers.

- **Hidden Cameras:** Using buttonhole cameras or cameras concealed in glasses to capture exam questions and transmit them to a conspirator or AI platform. Answers are then relayed back to the test taker via audio in the glasses or via an earpiece.
- **DWM Hijacking:** Hijacking the Desktop Window Manager (DWM) executable to capture screen content before secure browser protections can block it.
- **Concealed Notes:** Exploiting concealed features in permitted devices, such as pencil cases, modified rolling paper pens, super pens (with LCD Screens)
- **AirPods:** Audio communication via regular AirPods concealed by the user's air.
- **Bone Conduction Headset:** A regular music listening device that can be worn on the leg and used to communicate answers via morse based vibrations.
- **Wireless Messaging:** Using specialised devices like 'Magic' calculators or purpose-built cheating smartwatches to send and receive messages or emails during the test.
- **Generative AI Apps/Plugins/Extensions:** Leveraging AI, these apps are available for browsers and are able to answer test questions in real time
- **Overlay Software:** Apps such as Cluey read content on the screen and prompt the user with responses. This overlay is often difficult for screen mirroring or recording software to detect.
- **AI Voice Assistant:** The candidate whispers the question and receives the answer as an audio prompt.
- **Computer Use Models:** AI agents which can take control of browsers and complete assignments and interactive actions on behalf of the candidate.
- **Visual Recording/Photography:** Using hidden cameras (e.g., concealed in clothing, pens, or glasses) to record or photograph exam papers to share or post online.

- **Simple Impersonation:** Having a person who physically resembles the examinee (e.g., a cousin) take the test using the examinee's identification.
- **Screen Share Hardware with AI:** Using physical devices, such as HDMI splitters or in-line devices to mirror/duplicate the exam screen to another computer via a capture card, which has a full view of the test content and can relay answers automatically via audio or via vibration.
- **Bypassing Content Protection:** Utilizing technical vectors such as Man-in-the-Middle attacks or Accessibility APIs to retrieve test content.

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