

HSC: All My Own Work

Module 5 - Working with others

1. Is there a difference between collaborative learning, collusion and copying?

True or False?

1. A situation where all students in a group are expected to participate equally is called collaborative learning. **True**
2. If collusion or copying have taken place, students may be given zero marks. **True**
3. There is usually no penalty for a student who allows others to copy his or her work. **False**
4. Collusion can happen when students collaborate inappropriately. **True**
5. It is collusion if I allow another student to copy my work. **True - if this happens you are also guilty of plagiarism and will face the same penalties as the student who copied from you.**

2. Is it appropriate for students to seek assistance from others with their assignments?

True or False?

1. It's okay for external tutors to do your assignments for you. **False**
2. Coaching colleges are not permitted to assist you with your work at all. **False - coaching colleges can help you but you must be careful that there is no collusion or copying. Work you submit must be your own!**

Yes or No?

1. You are working on a research project and the deadline is approaching. Part of your research involves getting information through a survey but you only have a few days to access respondents and get them to complete the survey. You ask four friends to complete three surveys each and pretend to be other people in their households. Do you think this is acceptable?
No - it is dishonest and is unethical practice. You are fabricating evidence and any conclusions you draw from this data will be inaccurate.
2. You have a friend who has an out-of-school tutor. You know that your friend seeks her tutor's advice several times when doing assessment tasks before submitting them to be marked by the teacher at school. She even told you that, with the last assessment task, the tutor actually wrote one of the paragraphs for her. Can this be right?
No - it is not right and is unethical of your friend to allow her tutor to write the paragraph for her. This is plagiarism and your friend could have her whole HSC compromised.

3. How can students appropriately acknowledge the support of others?

True or False?

1. It's fine to use the ideas of others as long as you acknowledge them appropriately. **True**
2. You must give references for your own experiences and your own experimental results in your work. **False - you don't need to give references for your own experiences or your own experimental results.**
3. Information that is 'common knowledge' needs to be cited. **False**
4. A commonsense observation is an example of "common knowledge". **True**

Yes or No?

1. I let my sister who is in Year 12 read my recent English assignment. She advised me to change the structure of it and showed me one of her Business Studies assessments from last year. I studied the structure of her assignment and could see its advantages. On the basis of this learning, I revised the structure of my own assignment. Is this an example of copying?

Yes - try again. This is not copying.

No - it's more an example of collaboration. The assistance given is advisory and you have been able to learn by analysing another, quite different, piece of work.

4. What are the benefits of producing your own work?

True or False?

1. Correct citation will help to avoid any accusation of plagiarism. **True**
2. Teachers are not concerned about whether or not your work is original. They are only interested in marking it. **False - teachers are very concerned that the work you produce is your own. For an HSC submitted work, the teacher needs to be able to certify that the work is the student's.**
3. Students develop new skills through producing their own work. **True**
4. It is impossible to know how well you understand a subject if you plagiarise. **True - this is a very important part of why plagiarism is damaging for a student.**
5. It is not possible to give credit for an individual's contribution to a group project. **False - ask your teachers how they are able to do this! There are a number of methods.**

5. What strategies can be used to ensure appropriate collaboration in a group work context?

Use the following words to fill in the blanks below:

unequal	citation	responsibility	understanding	journal
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1. Group work contexts require a clear **understanding** by students of what the ground rules are.
2. Careful division of **responsibility** is necessary in group work situations.
3. Your teacher can help if there are problems with **unequal** contributions in completing a group task.
4. Keeping a personal **journal** can help each group member to identify the contribution each person has made.
5. Checking the final draft is important for each group member. This helps to ensure that there is consistency in **citation** formatting.