

The Knowledge Bank at The Ohio State University

Ohio State Engineer

Title: Mechanics Exam System Preferable to EE Honor System?

Issue Date: 1943-12

Publisher: Ohio State University, College of Engineering

Citation: Ohio State Engineer, vol. 27, no. 2 (December, 1943), 30-31.

URI: <http://hdl.handle.net/1811/36025>

Mechanics Exam System Preferable To EE Honor System?

What do you think about the present system of conducting examinations in engineering classes? The system referred to is the one under which students are compelled by University decree to exchange blue books with the instructor. Moreover, the instructor usually requires one or more seats between individuals.

Take the mechanics department as an example. It is "Ready, Hut, Two, Three, Shift" and two chairs separate individuals, by orders. An added refinement is the twenty degree clockwise rotation of all chairs wherever possible.

In striking contrast to this situation as exemplified by the mechanics department is the routine of examination conduct in the electrical engineering department. No instructors are present in the room unless it is inconvenient for them to go elsewhere and students keep books beside them; but cheating is something that is not done—not even thought of. Verily, it seemeth as a paradise after an examination in the mechanics department.

One of the professors in the College of Arts and Sciences has stated that the "honor system" will never work for as large a body as the College of Engineering due to the heterogeneity of the group.

The electricals have made it work because they wanted to make it function. The success of this system is *entirely* dependent on the desires of the participants. The honor system can be given wider usage if the students in other departments initiate the action within their department. For more information about the operation of this plan, question any EE; he wouldn't part with it.

Below is an outline of the "honor system" as conducted by students in the electrical engineering department. No fuller praise can be said of it than this: "It works".

RULES OF CONDUCT IN EXAMINATIONS UNDER THE HONOR SYSTEM

APPLICATION OF RULES

These rules are to apply to all electrical engineering courses given for sophomore, junior and senior electrical engineering students enrolled at The Ohio State University.

SEATING ARRANGEMENT

In order to facilitate the working of the examination, students will sit in alternate seats. If this is not possible in the classroom, students will use two rooms, as prescribed by the instructor,

or students may be placed at tables, but only on one side of said table and a vacant chair apart.

INSTRUCTOR'S REQUIREMENTS

Instructors are required to announce the date, scope, and type of examinations (excluding written recitations) at least three days before the examination. It is suggested that for general practice, a one-week notice be given.

The instructor at the beginning of the examination will submit the questions to the students and instruct them to read through the entire examination. He shall then ask if there are any questions concerning the problems and shall answer all queries concerning the questions stated. Having completed this action he may leave or remain in the room at his own discretion. However, if he does leave the room he must remain within a reasonable distance from the classroom at a pre-designated location.

USE OF BOOKS, NOTES, AND TABLES

1. *Closed-book examinations.* Textbooks and notes which are brought to an examination which is designated as a closed-book examination must not be used. Tables and handbooks may be used only if the instructor approves of this action.
2. *Open-book examinations.* Students are permitted the use of any textbooks, handbooks, tables, and notes, except those which are specifically prohibited by the instructor, during an examination designated as open-book.
3. The use of the same books, tables, or notes by two or more students during an open-book examination will not be allowed without the consent of the instructor, and will be permitted then only in cases of serious necessity.

LEAVING THE ROOM

Students are permitted to leave the room during an examination under the condition that they do not discuss the examination or refer to any illegitimate source of information.

THE HONOR PLEDGE

At the end of the examination students should sign the following pledge, which is to be copied onto the same sheet as the last problem and immediately following it:

PLEDGE: NO AID GIVEN, RECEIVED OR OBSERVED

Instructors are required to have the above pledge printed on the examination sheet or written on the board. It is strongly advised that all

students remember to sign the pledge at the end of the examination paper. Failure to do so will be looked upon as an admission of guilt until proven otherwise. Members of the staff are instructed to inform the Council whenever the pledge has not been signed.

CHEATING DURING EXAMINATIONS—PENALTIES

If a student sees another student cheating during an examination he shall draw attention to the fact by rapping on his desk. Should the latter continue to cheat, the former shall call it to the attention of one or more of his neighbors. The Council shall be notified as soon as possible by all witnesses.

If a student is reported cheating during an examination, he shall be called before the Council as soon as is practicable and given a chance to plead his case. If, having heard all the evidence, the Council finds him guilty, it shall make recommendations to the staff as to the disposal of his case.

It is suggested that the penalty for the first offense be (1) a grade of E in the course. (2) five hours added to the required number of hours for graduation. (In the case that the student will graduate with more than the required number of hours the latter penalty will be of small consequence.) It is suggested that the penalty for the second offense be suspension or expulsion from the University.

Failure to report cheating if and when it is observed will mean the discontinuance of the Honor System.
