KA9003: exec()

Problem Domains:	Advanced Programming Features
Topic Summary:	Built-in Functions
Prerequisites:	Python 1000 Series or Equivalent
Related Code:	KA9003.py
Related Topics:	KA9009, KA2005, KA2006
Version:	1.0 - ROUGH DRAFT

Question

What is the built-in function **exec()** use for?

> (1) Run an external application.
>
> (2) Checks see if an object is callable.
>
> (3) Only runs Python code.
>
> (4) Changes environment variables.
>
> (5) None of the above.

Answer

The best answer is (3): In Python, the built-in **exec()** operation
is used to evaluate and run Python code. Python's **exec()** function
also allows us to inject different local and global variables for
any ad-hoc evaluation to use, as well.

Nagy's Notes

A very good overview of what **exec()** can do for us is part of
Python's help() subsystem.

What needs a note or three here is how we can also use **exec()** to pass different global, as well as local, definitions to our code.

For an example of how we can provide alternative variables to any code under evaluation, see the "Related Code" file, above.