

Opinion - IB must regain trust by **punishing** Hong Kong cheats

Source: SCMP

From links circulating on the online forum Reddit, answers for different IB papers were leaked. Screenshots of a Telegram channel also had links to questions for business management, global politics, mathematics, physics, computer science, biology and chemistry.

A downloading site showed that two documents – Paper 2 Math AA HL and Maths AA HL Questions – had been downloaded by more than 17,000 and 18,000 people, respectively, as of Sunday afternoon. Documents labelled Business Management Paper 1 and Global Politics HL Paper 2 had also been downloaded over 8,000 and 2,000 times, respectively.

International Baccalaureate exams body to **probe** leaks after finding evidence of cheating; Hong Kong pupils among global chorus of outrage. The authority managing the ongoing International Baccalaureate (IB) exams will launch an investigation into test paper questions and answers being leaked online after it found evidence of cheating, but a Hong Kong lawmaker has called for more action to ensure fairness for students.

The IB said on Sunday that it discovered a small number of students had engaged in time zone cheating and there was no evidence the practice was widespread, although the Post found the materials had been downloaded more than 45,000 times. The leaks have prompted widespread outrage among students, including those currently sitting the exams in Hong Kong, with some calling for the tests to be cancelled or sat again.

We have identified the source of this activity and are taking appropriate steps to hold those responsible accountable, the organisation said. Where we have identified students, the IB will open a formal investigation for malpractice, and students may receive no marks for their examinations or no grade for the relevant subject.

Time zone cheating occurs when students who have finished their exams share their recollection of questions to help others in regions who are yet to take the tests. It is prohibited under the IB's academic integrity policy.

We have consistently ensured confidentiality of the examination materials and we are confident that this activity remains at the fringes of what is otherwise a standard exam session, it said.

A Hong Kong-based student who sat two exams for which the answers were leaked online said he did not think the IB was taking the situation seriously enough.

They said only a very small number of students saw the leaks, which is not true, he said, noting that many of the documents containing answers had been downloaded or viewed tens of thousands of times.

He said he was worried that the scale of the leak for some of the harder exams, such as the mathematics and physics tests, would push the grade boundary higher and thus lower legitimate students' scores. It would be nice if they said something to reassure the students who actually tried hard, he said. It makes me question how professional the IB is.

Australian Sandra Dellit, whose daughter is currently taking the exams in Hong Kong, also expressed dissatisfaction with the way the IB was handling the unfolding situation.

I haven't seen one comment where the IB has come out and apologised to the students who are now in this turmoil and stressed about their future, she said. What are they going to do? The kids that have done the right thing are likely to get screwed.

Lawmaker Tang Fei, a vice-chairman of the Hong Kong Federation of Education Workers, said he was shocked to hear of the scandal, given the IB's high credibility.

He said the IB should take action to make it up to the students, such as cancelling the test results of the papers that were leaked, in order to keep the exams as fair as possible.

More than 3,000 people have also signed an online petition urging the IB to cancel this year's exam or to ensure justice for students who did not read the leaked materials.

Questions

1. Where were the answers for different IB papers leaked?

-
2. What does "probe" in paragraph 3 mean?

A. Search and examine thoroughly
B. A ball on a stick
C. Ignore the problem
D. Identify the problem

3. What was the examination body's comment on the scale of the cheating situation and how does it contradict with the actual situation?

-
4. When the IB said "we are confident that this activity remains at the fringes of what is otherwise a standard exam session", what did it imply about most candidates who sat the exam?

-
5. Continuing from the previous question, what was the attitude towards the IB examination body of the student who was interviewed?

A. Reassured
B. Confident
C. Empathetic
D. Angry

6. From the student's own words, determine if the following statements are true, false or NG.

- a. He thinks the examination body is very serious about the situation
- b. He believes a lot of people have an upper hand (compared to him) in the exam because they viewed the leaked answers
- c. He is confident about his grades
- d. He studies Physics and Mathematics

7. What does "turmoil" mean?

-
8. By answering with your own words, why does Sandra Dellit believe that honest students are going to get "screwed".
-
-

9. Which of the following words cannot be used to describe the attitudes of any stakeholders in the article.
- A. Denial
 - B. Worried
 - C. Grateful
 - D. Disappointed
10. Give two examples of what the IB can do to rectify the situation.
-

-
11. Do you agree with cancelling the test results of the leaked papers?