

Jack's Dilemma

Jack is a last semester senior at Miller's college. His current academic record is right on the borderline with a cumulative GPA of 1.99. He realizes that he cannot afford to make any D's or F's if he is going to graduate at the end of the semester. In fact, if he doesn't make a B somewhere, he will be in serious trouble. Unfortunately, Jack is enrolled in a course taught by Professor Smith. Normally, this required course covers some difficult material; but because the course is poorly organized and poorly taught, Professor Smith makes a difficult situation even worse. In addition, student feedback reports that Professor Smith's exams are not fair since the tests often covered material that was never stressed in class. Professor Smith is known as a tough grader who gives many C's, D's and F's and very few A's and B's. The final exam in the course is given in a room in which the students are seated very close to one another. Professor Smith sits at the front of the room reading a magazine while the students take the exam. Although there is a good deal of whispering among the students, Professor Smith does nothing to stop it. In addition, Professor Smith never uses proctors to monitor the students while the test is in progress. Jack, as usual deliberately seats himself as close as possible to one particular person who happens to be one of the best students in the class. He knows that this student has the habit of holding up his answer sheet every once in a while. Jack can see many of the other student's answers and takes this opportunity to copy many of them onto his own answer sheet.

(Roberts, D. & Rabinowitz, W. (1992). *An investigation of student perceptions of cheating in academic situations*. The Review of Higher Education, 15, 179-180.)

- Has Jack done anything wrong?
- Has Prof. Smith done anything wrong?
- Should Jack be punished? How?
- Should Prof. Smith be punished? How?
- What are the implications for Jack/Prof. Smith?
 - personally
 - professionally