The moral problem of the scenario observing from Kantianism. The moral problem from John’s side is clear to see that he is the starter of this cheating process. As what Kantian explained the two types of imperatives, categorical imperative is more relevant to the scenario as what I thought. John should not think the processing of learning is the same as getting a letter grade. Obviously, the instructor make a quiz in such format is because instructor want them to learn and know how does they get a wrong answers. As long as they keep taking the quiz, there will be lesser wrong answers shows up so they will understand better of the knowledge. But John took the idea of the quiz as a means which is incorrect.

From another point of view towards Mary in this scenario, I would like to propose act utilitarianism ethical theory. It can also be called as the principle of utility or greatest happiness principle. Based on this ethical theory, Mary gives the answers to John exactly step on the field where harm exceeds benefits for John, which Mary may not realizes. Mary was just trying to be nice, however, she did not realize this reaction will not benefits John. Instead, it might be a trouble for John. Or have bad effects on John’s learning, which may lead John to a lazy person afterwards.

In my point of view, John absolutely should not ask Mary for the answers because it is against the rules and instructor’s purpose. As for Mary, she should not give the answer to John because it’s also against instructor’s purpose and the rules. However, nowadays, from my past experience from junior high and high schools. It’s both considered reasonable that John ask Mary for answers and Mary gives the answer to John. Even though ethically they should not do such thing but it’s acceptable and understandable from most student’s views. Furthermore, if Mary chose not to give answers to John, she might get “mentally bullied” from other students.