

Algeria turns off Internet to stop exam cheats

23rd June, 2018



Algeria has turned off its Internet all over the country to stop students cheating in high school exams.

Algeria's government said it wanted to do something to stop students secretly going online

during nationwide school tests. All Internet service was stopped for an hour after the start of each of the exams. The government will shut the Internet down during the whole exam season, between June 20 and June 25. In addition, all electronic devices with Internet access have been banned from the country's 2,000 exam centers. Even teachers cannot take phones into the exam halls. There were many problems in 2016 when test questions were leaked online both before and during exams.

Algeria's Education Minister Nouria Benghabrit told the Algerian newspaper Annahar that Facebook would also be blocked across the country for the six days the exams were taking place. She said she did not like doing this but she could not do nothing and give opportunities to students to cheat in tests. As an added security measure, metal detectors will be placed in all exam halls, and security cameras and mobile-phone blockers have been set up at the printing companies where the exams are printed. Many students thought the government was doing the right thing. Rania Salim, 16, said it wasn't fair that students who didn't study could get help in exams by using their mobile phone to cheat.

Sources: bbc.com / theguardian.com / time.com

Writing

There is no way to stop students cheating in exams. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

Algeria / Internet / high school / exams / government / cheating / devices / questions / blocked / opportunities / security measure / metal detectors / printing / the right thing

True / False

- a) Algeria has turned off the Internet in high schools but not universities. T / F
- b) Algeria's Internet is being cut off for 24 hours on exam days. T / F
- c) Students can take smartphones into exam halls but must turn them off. T / F
- d) Many exam questions were leaked online in 2016. T / F
- e) Algeria's education minister has blocked Facebook for six days. T / F
- f) The government has put metal detectors in all exam halls. T / F
- g) The government has put security cameras in test-printing companies. T / F
- h) A 16-year-old student disagreed with the government's actions. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------|
| 1. turned | a. chances |
| 2. stop | b. entire |
| 3. nationwide | c. happening |
| 4. whole | d. prevent |
| 5. leaked | e. just |
| 6. taking place | f. national |
| 7. opportunities | g. proper |
| 8. added | h. switched |
| 9. right | i. extra |
| 10. fair | j. revealed |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think of the Algerian government's actions?
- b) How big a problem is cheating in your country?
- c) Have you ever cheated in an exam?
- d) What do you think of exam cheats?
- e) Should all countries do what Algeria is doing?
- f) How effective do you think this action will be?
- g) Do you think exam scores will go down because of this?
- h) How can we get students to stop cheating?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|--|----------------------|
| 1. Algeria has turned off its Internet all | a. exam season |
| 2. stop students secretly | b. detectors |
| 3. during the whole | c. fair |
| 4. electronic | d. measure |
| 5. test questions were leaked | e. over the country |
| 6. for the six days the exams | f. devices |
| 7. As an added security | g. going online |
| 8. metal | h. the right thing |
| 9. the government was doing | i. online |
| 10. Rania Salim, 16, said it wasn't | j. were taking place |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- Would you report someone you saw cheating?
- Should all exams have metal detectors and security cameras?
- Where else should mobile phone blockers be installed?
- What else could the government have done?
- What advice do you have for cheating students?
- Is there a better way to assess students than exams?
- What questions would you like to ask the education minister?

Spelling

- stop students ecretsly going online
- atonwniide school tests
- ruding the whole exam season
- all electronic vdciees
- Internet ccases
- test questions were elkaed online
- Facebook would also be lcobked
- give potoiunrtipes to students
- an added csrueity measure
- metal tceetdros
- printing ampncioes
- the rvenoemgnt was doing the right thing

Answers – Synonym Match

| | | | | |
|------|------|------|------|-------|
| 1. h | 2. d | 3. f | 4. b | 5. j |
| 6. c | 7. a | 8. i | 9. g | 10. e |

Role Play

Role A – Do Old Test Papers

You think doing old test papers is the best way to pass exams. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): cramming the day before, sleeping well or getting a private tutor.

Role B – Cram the Day Before

You think cramming the day before is the best way to pass exams. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): doing old test papers, sleeping well or getting a private tutor.

Role C – Sleep Well

You think sleeping well is the best way to pass exams. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): cramming the day before, doing old test papers or getting a private tutor.

Role D – Get a Private Tutor

You think getting a private tutor is the best way to pass exams. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): cramming the day before, sleeping well or doing old test papers.

Speaking – Passing exams

Rank these with your partner. Put the best ways to pass exams at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------------------|
| • pray | • do old test papers |
| • eat well | • prepare 3 months before |
| • private tutor | • prepare good study notes |
| • sleep well | • cram the day before |

Answers – True False

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| a | F | b | F | c | F | d | T | e | T | f | T | g | T | h | F |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|

Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.