



Running Case Study 13

Fieldwork: questionnaire and responses

Rebecca designed an online questionnaire and sent out emails with links to the questionnaire. An online questionnaire is built up in separate screens; below you can see the 12 screens of Rebecca's questionnaire.

SCREEN 1

Dear participant!

Thank you very much for participating in this research. It represents an essential part of my Master's Thesis. The study is concerned with investigating unethical behaviour among students. The questionnaire will take about 15 minutes. The collected data will be used for academic purposes only and will be treated strictly confidentially.

Thank you for your support and your time invested.

Rebecca

If you have any questions and comments do not hesitate to contact me:

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SCREEN 2

In the following you will be provided with five case scenarios. Please read them carefully and answer the questions. In order to provide you with a better understanding of the questions to be answered please read through a short description of relevant variables:

Plagiarism: Refers to taking and using another person's ideas, writing or inventions as one's own; it also includes copying answers from other students during exams

Free-riding: Refers to a situation in which one or more members of a group do not do their fair share of the work project and rely on others to compensate their behaviour

Information sharing: Refers to individuals' unwillingness to share relevant information such as learning materials, expertise, knowledge or job vacancies

But before we start, let me ask you one simple question:

Have you ever cheated in an exam during the last 12 months?

never once twice three or more times

SCREEN 3

Scenario 1

Rules and regulations at your faculty state that if you do not pass an exam and/or fail a project or participation, you will have the chance to do a retake. Unethical practices are common at your faculty and tend to be accepted by your social surrounding. Tutors assign project groups to be worked in so that you don't know other group members beforehand. You neither feel a strong commitment to fellow students nor do you feel a strong commitment to your teachers.

Given this situation, on a percentage scale from 0–100 (0 = definitely not; 100 = definitely), how likely are you to:

Plagiarism: _____

Free-riding: _____

Unwillingness to share information: _____

SCREEN 4

Scenario 2

Rules and regulations at your faculty state that if you do not pass an exam and/or fail a project or participation, you will have the chance to do a retake. Unethical practices are uncommon at your faculty and tend to be disrespected by your social surrounding. Tutors assign project groups to be worked in so that you don't know other group members beforehand. You neither feel a strong commitment to fellow students nor do you feel a strong commitment to your teachers.

Given this situation, on a percentage scale from 0–100 (0 = definitely not; 100 = definitely), how likely are you to:

Plagiarism: _____

Free-riding: _____

Unwillingness to share information: _____

SCREEN 5

Scenario 3

Rules and regulations at your faculty state that if you do not pass an exam and/or fail a project or participation, you run the risk of being expelled from university. Unethical practices are common at your faculty and tend to be accepted by your social surrounding. Tutors assign project groups to be worked in so that you don't know other group members beforehand. You neither feel a strong commitment to fellow students nor do you feel a strong commitment to your teachers.

Given this situation, on a percentage scale from 0–100 (0 = definitely not; 100 = definitely), how likely are you to:

Plagiarism: _____

Free-riding: _____

Unwillingness to share information: _____

SCREEN 6

Scenario 4

Rules and regulations at your faculty state that if you do not pass an exam and/or fail a project or participation, you run the risk of being expelled from university. Unethical practices are uncommon at your faculty and tend to be disrespected by your social surrounding. Tutors assign project groups to be worked in so that you don't know other group members beforehand. You neither feel a strong commitment to fellow students nor do you feel a strong commitment to your teachers.

Given this situation, on a percentage scale from 0–100 (0 = definitely not; 100 = definitely), how likely are you to:

Plagiarism: _____

Free-riding: _____

Unwillingness to share information: _____

SCREEN 7

Scenario 5

Rules and regulations at your faculty state that if you do not pass an exam and/or fail a project or participation, you will have the chance to do a retake. Unethical practices are uncommon at your faculty and tend to be disrespected by your social surrounding. You select project groups to be worked in yourself so that you know other group members beforehand. You neither feel a strong commitment to fellow students nor do you feel a strong commitment to your teachers.

Given this situation, on a scale from 0–100% how likely would:

Plagiarism: _____

Free-riding: _____

Unwillingness to share information: _____

SCREEN 8

How old are you?

_____ years

What is your nationality?

Dutch

Other, please specify _____

What is your gender?

Female

Male

At which University are you currently studying?

Universiteit van Amsterdam (UVA)

Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (VU)

Universiteit Maastricht (UM)

Erasmus Universiteit Rotterdam (EUR)

Other _____

What is your realistic final average grade?

8,0 and better

Above 7,0 but below 8,0

7,0 and worse

How important is a career to you?

Very unimportant

Unimportant

Indifferent

Important

Very important

SCREEN 9

The following questions do not ask about a hypothetical situation as the ones above, but they ask you about your real behaviour and thoughts. Please, be honest and be assured that your answers are confidential.

Have you cheated in an exam during the last 12 months?

- never once twice three or more times

Cheating in exams is unfair with respect to fellow students.

- fully disagree partly disagree neutral partly agree fully agree

Cheating in exams is acceptable if study pressure is very high.

- fully disagree partly disagree neutral partly agree fully agree

Cheating in exams is acceptable if the exam is very difficult.

- fully disagree partly disagree neutral partly agree fully agree

Cheating in exams is acceptable if the lecturer has been bad.

- fully disagree partly disagree neutral partly agree fully agree

The university should introduce and enforce tougher sanctions if cheating in an exam is discovered.

- fully disagree partly disagree neutral partly agree fully agree

SCREEN 10

Below you find several methods to cheat in exams, please indicate their severity.

	No cheating	A little bit cheating	A bit cheating	Cheating	Strong cheating
Copying from your neighbour					
Whispering with your neighbour					
Preparing and using a crib sheet					
Asking a friend who has good marks to take the exam in your place					
Secretly sending an SMS to a friend who looks up answer and replies					
Other (please describe)					

SCREEN 11

Have you ever cheated in an exam?

- yes no

If you answered yes, can you please describe the situation and why you cheated?

SCREEN 12

Thank you very much for your cooperation.

- 1 Should Rebecca ask the questions on ethics at the start (not the very start), the middle or the end of her questionnaire?
- 2 What do you think about her idea to repeat questions and use the similarity of the given answers as an indicator for honesty?
- 3 Check one or some of the questions Rebecca is thinking about against the 21 issues mentioned in the chapter.