

PLAGIARISM QUIZ

Inspired (with permission) by quizzes from the universities of Concordia, McGill, Laval, Montréal, UQAM, Université du Québec (head office), and Ottawa.

Topic	Question	Answer
1. Oral statements	TRUE or FALSE? Plagiarism includes quoting oral statements from public presentations (e.g., films, interviews, and lectures) without mentioning sources.	TRUE. Plagiarism is not limited to written material but includes all borrowing, including oral information.
2. General	TRUE or FALSE? Lea has not yet begun a course assignment that is due in one week. One of her friends, who has already taken the course, suggests that Lea use her work, word for word. Since Lea has her friend's permission, this is not a case of plagiarism.	FALSE. Given that Lea is not the author of the work, passing it off as her own is an act of plagiarism, even if the author has given Lea permission to do so. The same goes for any work obtained on the Web or elsewhere.
3. References and the Internet	TRUE or FALSE? Khalil copy-pastes a few sentences from a website into his work. Since the website mentions no author, publisher, or date, Khalil may use the content without needing to use quotes (""") or give a reference for the website.	FALSE. Because the sentences copy-pasted by Khalil are not his work, he must use quotes (""") and mention the sentences' source. Even if a website gives no author, publisher, or date, the source must be mentioned, at the very least by indicating the site's title and URL address, as well as the date it was consulted.
4. Individual work done in a team	YES or NO? Guillaume has a graded individual assignment to do. He gets together with two other students in his class to prepare for this work. The three students discuss and exchange sources, texts, etc. Each one hands in an individual assignment, but all three assignments have parts that are similar, bordering on identical. Is this a case of plagiarism?	NO, but BEWARE! Strictly speaking, this is not a case of plagiarism, since none of the students "copied off" another student per se. However, since the teacher's instructions were to hand in an individual assignment, all three students are guilty of cheating. While students may reflect on an individual assignment within a team setting, each student must produce an assignment that is a result of his or her own personal reflection.
5. Team assignments	YES or NO? Three students have a graded assignment to do as a group. They agree on who will do which section. When the teacher hands back corrected assignments, he informs these students that he found plagiarism in their work. Two of the students argue that the plagiarized excerpts are all in the section	YES. If any member of a team engages in plagiarism, all team members can be penalized, since each member shares responsibility for verifying the integrity of an assignment before it is handed in to the teacher. The same principle of verifying integrity also applies to academic articles with multiple authors.

	written by the third student and that they were unaware plagiarism had occurred. Can these two students be accused of plagiarism?	
6. Handing in the same assignment more than once	TRUE or FALSE? Handing in the same assignment in two different courses is a form of plagiarism.	TRUE. This is in fact a case of self-plagiarism, i.e., reusing material already used in a previous course while passing it off as original or new material (in the sense that it has not been used before) even though it is actually... leftovers! With the teacher's permission, it is sometimes possible to reuse a past assignment if it is adapted and enriched to meet the requirements of a current course.
7. Paraphrasing	TRUE or FALSE? It is not plagiarism to copy-paste a passage found on the Internet, then replace a few words with synonyms and flip one or two sentences around.	FALSE. Proper paraphrasing may involve replacing some words in the copy-pasted passage, but this is not enough. The sentence structure must also be changed, along with certain parts of speech and any other elements deemed to be relevant. Proper paraphrasing implies that the writer readily understands what the author was trying to say and expresses it in his or her own words. Paraphrasing requires a reference to the authors of the ideas, statements, and writings involved.
8. References – quotes	TRUE or FALSE? To avoid being accused of plagiarism in a written assignment, a student must use quotations (“ ”) and give references for any and all statements, writings, or ideas of which he or she is not the author.	IT ALL DEPENDS. Quotation marks (“ ”) are required if the student quoted the statements, writings, or ideas of others verbatim (word for word). Quotation marks (“ ”) are not required if the student paraphrased (reformulated in his or her own words) the statements, writings, or ideas of others. In both cases, a complete reference to the source is required.
9. Quotation - translation	YES or NO? Maryse finds an English-language article containing an argument that could support her own work (in French). She chooses to translate this argument and include it in her text, and provides a reference, but without quotes (“”). Is this plagiarism?	IT ALL DEPENDS. YES if the translation is word for word: quotation marks (“”) are required. NO if it is a free translation (as in the case of a paraphrase): quotation marks (“”) are not required. In all cases, a complete reference to the source is required.
10. References and the Internet	TRUE or FALSE? The information on the Internet (writings, ideas, images, videos, etc.) is public in nature and consequently belongs to everyone. Accordingly, it is	FALSE. The rules of proper referencing apply regardless of the information source. But there's more. The <i>Copyright Act</i> requires the permission of authors in order to use their material, in particular for

	unnecessary to cite Internet sources.	images and PowerPoint presentations, whether in part or in full. A growing number of authors grant permission to use their material via CREATIVE COMMONS (cc) . In addition, certain sites offer copyright-free images. In all cases, a complete reference to the source is needed when borrowing; for text, quotation marks (“”) are required.
11. References and common knowledge	TRUE or FALSE? When referring to facts that are common knowledge (e.g., Apple manufactures iPhones), it unnecessary to cite the source.	TRUE. Common-knowledge facts do not require references. “A fact is said to be common knowledge when it is contained in several different information sources and is likely to be known to the vast majority of people. Examples include the dates of major events, expressions such as <i>la Grande noirceur</i> , etc.” http://www.bibliotheques.uqam.ca/InfoSphere/fichiers_communs/module7/pourquoi.html Certain concepts specific to a given discipline may be common knowledge to a group of people within that discipline.
12. Research	YES or NO? In a presentation made at an international colloquium, Kevin, a doctoral student, uses a chart based on the research of Sonia, another member of his research group, without mentioning her work. Is this plagiarism?	YES. Even on the same research team, each individual must request permission to use research material produced by another team member, and give an exact reference to the author. <i>Politique sur la protection de la propriété intellectuelle des étudiantes et des étudiants et des stagiaires postdoctoraux de l'Université de Sherbrooke.</i>
13. Penalties	TRUE or FALSE? An individual found guilty of plagiarism may be subject to more than one disciplinary measure.	TRUE. The Disciplinary Committee or the person in charge of disciplinary matters at the faculty may apply more than one disciplinary measure in order to penalize an individual found guilty of plagiarism. For example, a reprimand may be issued, in addition to a failing mark or the obligation to redo an assignment. In severe cases, penalties can go up to expulsion from the program and even from the university.

There are many different ways to cite references. Proper citation information can be found in the methodology guides in effect for each faculty, department, or program. When in doubt, do not hesitate to ask your teacher questions.