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# 50 in Jadavpur University found cheating, some swapped scripts

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KOLKATA: Around 50 students from the engineering faculty of Jadavpur University have been found to be using 'unfair means' during the examination. Among them, around 27 are from the civil engineering department. The semester exam was conducted in December. While some were consulting mobile phones and notes, there were some from the civil engineering department who resorted to an innovative way — swapping of answer scripts with the student sitting beside him/her after both of them had written sections of answers for each other in different answer scripts.

The engineering question papers have two parts — each having 50 marks. Professors said that it has been noticed that students with successive roll numbers probably divide the syllabus among themselves. While a student prepares for part one, another takes preparation for part two.

“During examination, as the seating arrangements are according to roll numbers, a student writes part one twice in different answer scripts for himself as well as for the one sitting beside him. Similarly, the other student writes part two of the paper twice in different scripts. At the end of the exam, both exchange the answer scripts,” said a source. A teacher pointed out that there can be another possibility that after the invigilator signs the top sheet of the answer script, they exchange them and write each other's answers. At the end, they again swap it so that each one has part one and part two of the paper answered.

A teacher feels that since part one and part two of the question paper are in different answer scripts and are corrected by two different teachers, it becomes difficult to spot the handwriting changes.

“The RA (reported against) committee met in Jan with 50 cases. Among them around 27 were from the civil engineering department. During correction of answers, the examiner found similar answers as well as mistakes in the papers of the civil engineering students. The examiner put a note on the answer scripts and gave less numbers but did not report them to the committee. After the results were published, the students were unhappy with their marks and appealed for a review and that’s when the malpractice was found out and reported,” a professor said. Sources said that probably students from second-year civil engineering department resorted to the innovative way of cheating in a particular exam.

A professor said, “The RA committee has recommended strict action by cancelling the answer papers in question and they are asked to rewrite in future supplementary exams. Along with that, some more additional papers were cancelled as part of the examination rule of JU.” Head of the civil engineering department Partha Bhattacharya acknowledged that exchanging answer scripts between students with successive roll numbers has happened. He said, “These are the after-effects of Covid. These students have become used to online learning and examinations. So, when they are taking physical exams, they are resorting to these unfair means.”

Among the other engineering departments from where cheating was reported included mechanical, electrical, instrumentation, power engineering, IT and others. Very few cases are reported from arts and science faculty.