

Exams Come to the Bedroom.

The US firm Software Secure Inc. has developed a new system that allows students to take tests from their bedrooms at any time of day or night. The University of Wales is already experimenting with this technology and dozens of others will be offered the service this summer. The system works through a unit that students plug into their computers and it incorporates software to prevent students from cheating. Once a student feels ready to take the written exam, the technology takes a fingerprint to check his/her identity and a 360-degree webcam and microphone check that the student is not trying to cheat by receiving help from others. The computer also locks network access so that the student cannot search the internet for answers. "The program acts in the same way as a normal invigilator. However, there are still some questions over whether a student would be able to cheat and how it would be possible, logistically, to use the system with thousands of students," said Mark Pelling, a senior administrator at the university. With record numbers of students at university, institutions have difficulty for finding an exam hall big enough to fit all the students. "This new technology would solve this problem and save on the cost of invigilators," Pelling said. Aaron Porter, president-elect of the National Union of Students, said the technology could be one solution to problems faced by those who might have difficulty reaching a university campus for their exams, such as disabled students or long-distance learners. But he warned against using it as an excuse to reduce the amount of contact time between students and their teachers.

I. READING COMPREHENSION. Add TRUE or FALSE and copy the evidence from the text to support your answer

- a) At present, only one university is trying out the new system.
- b) The system makes sure that the student is not being helped by someone in the same room.
- c) It is proved that the system can be used with many students at once.
- d) The system will contribute to improve the contact between students and teachers.

II. LEXICON. Find words or phrases in the text that mean the same as these given.

- a) permits
- b) connect
- c) look for
- d) person who supervises candidates during an examination

III. PHONETICS. Write words from the text that have the same sound as

- a) Write a word with the same sound as refugee /i:/
- b) Write a word which contains the sound /tj/
- c) How do you pronounce the present simple ending in 'feels'
- d) Find a word in the text which contains the sound /ʌ/ as in London

IV. USE OF ENGLISH. Rewrite the following sentences starting with the words given.

1.- They went to Madrid by bus.

(make a question)

2.-The director of the show didn't choose me at the casting.

I

3. - I bought it since it didn't cost much.

If ...

4.-Although he had enough money, he didn't buy the house.

In spite of

5.-Smoking at school isn't allowed.

You ...

6. - You have been talking to a girl. She didn't pass her driving test.

The girl

V. COMPOSITION. Write a composition about the following topic:

Would you prefer to learn at home instead of having to go to school? Why? Why not?