

Re: PROGRAMMING HOMEWORK HELP!

Source: <http://coding.derkeiler.com/Archive/General/comp.programming/2004-03/2203.html>

From: Nick Landsberg (*hukolau_at_NOSPAM.att.net*)

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Michael Mendelsohn wrote:

> *Darrell Grainger schrieb:*

>

>> *Homework is how a student proves to the school that they understand the*

>> *concepts they have been taught. If you do their homework for them, they*

>> *are proving that you understand the concepts that have been taught.*

>

>

> *This is true only if the homework is graded.*

> *Homework should be a set of exercises that teach the student how to*

> *apply the theoretical skills aquired through the lecture.*

>

> *Grading homework is a two-edged sword:*

> *While it increases student's motivation to do the practical work and*

> *makes his grade for the course easier to predict (and not depend so much*

> *on the performance in the few minutes of a single examination), it*

> *provides strong incentive for the student not completing his homework*

> *himself if he feels doing so would merit a weak grade.*

>

> *Thus the requirements of learning and examining are contradictory.*

>

> *It is especially hard to pace a programming course, as some students*

> *with previous programming background will find the exercises easy, while*

> *others find them hard. Cheating on the assignments can provide an*

> *opportunity to be ensured a passing grade (and thus avoid the necessity*

> *of halting one's other education for a year); a responsible student will*

> *then use this opportunity to learn programming at his/her own pace.*

>

> *Should one demand morality of students in the face of an unfair system?*

> *In earlier decades, one would have argued that this provided incentive*

> *to stand up and protest and change the system, but given today's*

> *climate, this idea seems impractical.*

>

> *Michael*

Just to add my 2 cents American into this ---

comp.programming: Re: PROGRAMMING HOMEWORK HELP!

As a student (way back when Noah was a puppy), I didn't like it when instructors would "grade" homework and make it a part of your final grade. Students who had an "answer" book for the given text would always get it right while not learning anything. (And there were always "answer books" around. If not officially, then in the archives of a particular fraternity or something.)

When I became an instructor, I would dilligently review the homework, make corrections, but never assign it a grade nor consider the homweork as part of the final grade. As was said above, the purpose of homework is to have the student *practice*, on his/her own, the principles discussed in class. Making a mistake on a homework assignment is no sin, unless the instructor does not point out the mistake (instructor to blame), or the student does not learn from the mistake (student to blame).

While there is some benefit in the lower grades to forcing the student to do homework in order to get them into the right habits, once you get into college/university level, I feel that including homework in the final grade is superfluous. They should have enough discipline by then to know that they have to do it in order to grasp the concepts. If they don't, they should not be enrolled in any courses.

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"It is impossible to make anything foolproof because fools are so ingenious"

- A. Bloch