



- 1 Teachers and parents have welcomed the Tunisian education ministry's decision to install cameras at baccaalaureate exam sites. But there are still questions about whether this can ensure transparency and prevent cheating. According to the ministry, as many as 143,000 students are expected to sit this year's exam. Last year saw 530 reported cases of cheating in the bac exam, said Abdelhafidh Abidi, the ministry's director general of examinations.
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- 2 On April 12<sup>th</sup>, the ministry took the decision to install surveillance cameras at examination centres in regional educational districts, as well as task regional representatives whose job is to oversee the distribution of the Tunisian bac exams at those testing sites, Abidi said. "Coordination will continue with the Ministry of Interior and Ministry of National Defence throughout the different stages of transporting exam papers," he said.
- 3 Mahmoud Jdidi, a secondary school teacher, reacted to the news by saying he would wait until after the cameras were installed to see if the new surveillance produced results. "Theoretically speaking, the installation of surveillance cameras on the days of exams will be a positive thing, especially as it will be a way to prevent violations that may take place and to ensure that students across the country have equal opportunities," he said. "In addition, cameras will be an important factor preventing teachers from being lax in monitoring, and intentionally or unintentionally misapplying the law."
- 4 Another teacher, Zeineb Dakhlaoui, welcomed the move. "I wouldn't consider it to be some sort of espionage in anyway because it's the time of work whether for students or teachers," she noted. "The measure will help us as monitors because students will realise they are monitored by all and in this way won't pay much attention to teachers and will only focus on their work." However, teacher Chafika Noura had mixed feelings about the measure. While she had no problem with cameras being installed to deter students from cheating, she said their presence cast doubt on the integrity of teachers who monitor exams, and was a professional interference.
- 5 "In principle, I'm against this measure because it can turn into a tool for dictatorship and enable the authority to monitor citizens and in this way the camera turns into a policeman," said Chiheb ben Chaouacha, who teaches psychology. "However, taking into consideration the state we are in after cheating has become so common in schools, it has become somewhat acceptable." According to laws now implemented in Tunisia, students caught cheating are sent before disciplinary boards and are denied the opportunity to take the bac for five consecutive years.
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- 6 Makrem Hawat, a student preparing for the baccaalaureate exams in the coming weeks, was among those who are in favour of having cameras survey students during tests and function as an extra pair of eyes in the room. "It will make all students equal and will limit cheating that now has several methods and types," she said. However, Makrem's friend Lamia Bennour mocked the measure, saying, "I know a number of friends who can escape from monitors' eyes even if they use satellites."

**I COMPREHENSION (15 POINTS) {BASE ALL YOUR ANSWERS ON THE TEXT}**

**A Tick (✓) the most appropriate title for the text. (2 pts)**

- 1 Cameras To Control Teachers In Baccalaureate Exams
- 2 Cameras To Entertain Students In Baccalaureate Exams
- 3 Cameras To Monitor Baccalaureate Exams

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**B What is the writer's attitude towards the installation of cameras? (1 pts)**

- 1 For
- 2 Against
- 3 Neutral

**C Answer these questions. (3 pts)**

1 Who is not sure what to think of the installation of cameras? .....

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2 According to some interviewees, why should cameras be installed? (Give 2 reasons) (2 pts)

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**D Say if the following sentences are TRUE or FALSE. JUSTIFY your answer. (2 pts)**

- 1 Only the Ministry of Education is responsible for the bac exam. ....
- .....
- .....
- 2 Some interviewees believe that not all examinees can be controlled using cameras.
- .....
- .....

**E Find in the text words or expressions which mean the same as the following. (3 pts)**

- 1 happen (p. 3) : .....
- 2 to prevent (p. 4) : .....
- 3 various (p. 6) : .....

**F What do the underlined words in the text refer to? (2 pts)**

- 1 their (para 4): .....
- 2 they (para 6): .....

**G Complete the following sentences with information from the text. (2 pts)**

- 1 But questions linger about whether this can ensure transparency and prevent cheating although .....
- .....
- .....
- 2 Students caught cheating are sent before disciplinary boards along with .....
- .....
- .....