

A Question Worth 95 Points

Two college students learned a hard lesson about telling the truth while attending Duke University.

They were both A students, but got carried away at an out-of-town party the night before their final chemistry exam. They missed the exam and started scrambling for a “justifiable” excuse.

After collaborating on their story, they went in to see the professor. They explained how they were out of town and could not return in time because they had a flat tire. With this logic, they asked for a chance to take a makeup test.

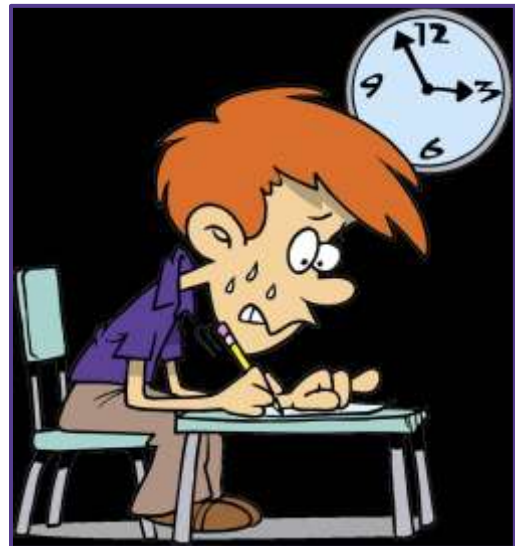
The professor agreed and prepared a special test. He assigned each to a different room and unveiled the students’ personalized final exams.

On the front page was a simple chemistry question worth 5 points.

On the back page was the second and final question. It was worth 95 points. The question briefly asked, “Which tire was flat?”

Those two students may not remember much about chemistry, but they certainly won’t forget their education in honesty.

Honesty is defined by *Wikipedia* as “a fact of moral character that connotes positive and virtuous attributes, such as integrity, truthfulness, straightforwardness, including straightforwardness of conduct, along with the absence of lying, cheating, theft, etc. Honesty also involves being trustworthy, loyal, fair, and sincere.”



Here is what some notable people have said about the value of honesty:

- Benjamin Franklin: “Honesty is the best policy.”
- Thomas Jefferson: “Honesty is the first chapter in the book of wisdom.”
- William Shakespeare famously describes honesty as an attribute people leave behind when he wrote in Act 3, Scene 5 of *All’s Well that Ends Well*: “No legacy is so rich as honesty.”

Without doubt, honesty is absolutely imperative in fulfilling the many requirements of service to our residents and patients, and just as surely in the communication between members of the team if we are to achieve the desired outcomes.

Righteous lips are the delight of a king, and he loves him who speaks what is right (Proverbs 16:13 ESV).

– Beecher Hunter