

Text N°3: Algeria Turns off Internet to Stop Exam Cheats

Algeria has turned off its Internet all over the country to stop students cheating in high school exams. Algeria's government said it wanted to do something to stop students secretly going online during nationwide school tests. All Internet service was stopped for an hour after the
5 start of each of the exams. The government will shut the Internet down during the whole exam season, between June 20 and June 25. In addition, all electronic devices with Internet access have been banned from the country's 2,000 exam centers. Even teachers cannot take phones into the exam halls. There were many problems in 2016 when test questions were leaked online both before and during exams.

10 Algeria's Education Minister Nouria Benghabrit told the Algerian newspaper Annahar that Facebook would also be blocked across the country for the six days the exams were taking place. She said she did not like doing this but she could not give opportunities to students to cheat in tests. As an added security measure, metal detectors will be placed in all exam halls, and security cameras and mobile-phone blockers have been set up at the printing companies
15 where the exams are printed. Many students thought the government was doing the right thing. Rania Salim, 16, said it wasn't fair that students who didn't study could get help in exams by using their mobile phone to cheat.

Sean Banville, www.breakingnewsenglish.com, 23rd June, 2018.