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LABORATORY MEASURE OF CHEATING PREDICTS SCHOOL MISCONDUCT*

Alain Cohn and Michel André Maréchal

Laboratory experiments provide insights into the drivers of cheating behaviour, but it is unclear to what extent cheating in the lab generalizes to the field. We conducted an experiment with middle and high school students to test whether a common laboratory measure of cheating predicts three types of school misconduct: (i) disruptiveness in class, (ii) homework non-completion, and (iii) absenteeism. We find that students who cheat in the experimental task are more likely to misbehave at school, suggesting that experimental measures of cheating generalize to rule violating behaviour in naturally occurring environments.

Cheating, misconduct and other forms of rule violating behaviour are pervasive problems in many important areas of social and economic life. Examples range from scandals in the business world (e.g., Volkswagen's recent emission fraud or interest and exchange rate manipulations in the financial industry) to rigged sport competitions (Duggan et al. 2002), rampant corruption in developing countries (Pande and Olken 2012; Banerjee et al. 2013), and student and teacher cheating (Jacob and Levitt 2003; Levitt and Lin 2015).

Given the prevalence and cost of dishonesty to society, a rapidly growing literature has emerged with the aim to provide a better understanding of the determinants of lying, cheating, and stealing (see Ariely 2012; Irlenbusch and Villeval 2015, and Shalvi et al. 2015 for recent reviews). Due to its clandestine nature, dishonest behaviour is

^{*} Corresponding authors: Alain Cohn, University of Michigan, School of Information, 105 South State Street, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48109, United States. Email: adcohn(at)umich.edu. Michel André Maréchal, University of Zurich, Department of Economics, Bluemlisalpstrasse 10, 8006 Zurich, Switzerland. Email: michel.marechal(at)econ.uzh.ch.

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typically difficult to measure reliably using observational field data (Zitzewitz 2012). As a consequence, the majority of empirical findings originates from controlled laboratory environments.¹

A widely used experimental paradigm to measure cheating is to instruct subjects to perform a simple task of chance (e.g., flipping coins or rolling dice) and asking them to report their outcomes. Because the actual outcomes are not observed by the experimenter and only certain outcomes are rewarded, subjects face the temptation to increase their earnings by misreporting their outcomes without any risk of getting caught (e.g., Bucciol and Piovesan 2011; Shalvi et al. 2011; Fischbacher and Föllmi-Heusi 2013; Cohn et al. 2014; Abeler et al. 2016). Although cheating cannot be detected at the individual level, researchers can measure cheating at the group level as the true distribution of the underlying random process is known. Moreover, because higher earnings are less likely to be the result of chance, earnings claimed by individual subjects can serve as a proxy for their cheating behaviour. While this paradigm has been used extensively to study the determinants of dishonesty and rule violating behaviour, the extent to which the insights gained from the lab can be extrapolated to naturally occurring environments remains unclear. Common objections to the generalizability of lab experiments are that subjects make low-stakes decisions in artificial environments and that they know their behaviour is being recorded and analysed (Levitt and List 2007; Falk and Heckman 2009).

In this paper we investigate whether cheating in the lab predicts rule violating behaviour in the field. To this end, we matched a common laboratory measure of cheating with teacher evaluations of students' misbehaviour in school. We experimentally measured cheating by asking the students to toss ten coins in private and report their outcomes. Students only received financial rewards when reporting "heads," and thus had a financial incentive to misreport their outcomes for unsuccessful coin flips. Our

¹See Pierce and Balasubramanian (2015) for a survey of the literature on dishonest behaviour that uses observational data and field experiments.

²Another common approach are interactive sender-receiver games where senders can increase their earnings by sending deceptive messages to the receiver (e.g., Gneezy 2005; Sutter 2009).

measures of school misbehaviour are based on the US National Education Longitudinal Survey. Specifically, we asked teachers to assess their students along three dimensions: disruptiveness in class, non-completion of homework, and absenteeism. These measures of school misconduct are important as they have been shown to reliably predict future educational achievement and labour market outcomes (Segal 2013; Autor *et al.* 2015).³ We expect the laboratory measure of cheating to be predictive of school misconduct because both cheating and school misconduct require people to break rules.

We found a positive and significant correlation between the laboratory measure of cheating and students' misbehaviour in school. This relationship remains strong after adding controls for age, gender, nationality, school level, parental education and cognitive ability. Our estimates indicate that the difference in school misbehaviour between students who claimed ten coins (presumably cheaters) and those who claimed five coins (presumably honest individuals) is, on average, 0.53 standard deviations. For comparison, we observe the same gap in school misbehaviour between students whose cognitive abilities (i.e., crystallized intelligence) differ by 2.7 standard deviations. Together, these results suggest that the cheating paradigm from the lab provides an externally valid measure of rule violating behaviour in the field.

Our paper contributes to several strands of the literature. First, a growing number of studies combines lab and field data from the *same* subjects to examine the external validity of laboratory measures of behaviour.⁴ For example, Karlan (2005) found that second-mover behaviour in a trust game correlates with the likelihood of loan repayment among participants of a microcredit program in Peru.⁵ Using experimental measures of present bias, Sutter *et al.* (2013) show that more impatient children and adolescents are

³Disruptive and noncompliant behaviour in school also seem to matter for students' current academic performance as we found negative and significant correlations between students' self-reported grade point average (GPA) and the three measures of school misbehaviour (disruptiveness: p = 0.001, homework: p < 0.001, absenteeism: p = 0.002, Spearman tests).

⁴See Camerer (2015) for an overview of experimental studies linking behaviour in the lab and field.
⁵Benz and Meier (2008), Carpenter and Myers (2010), Fehr and Leibbrandt (2011), Burks *et al.* (2015), and Cohn *et al.* (2015a) provide further evidence for positive associations between lab and field measures of prosociality.

more likely to buy alcohol and cigarettes, are more likely to be obese, and are less likely to save money.⁶ Our findings suggest that cheating in the lab provides a reliable indicator of rule violating behaviour in the field. Only a few studies analysed the relationship between rule violation in the lab and the field. Hanna and Wang (forthcoming) examined cheating in a sample of government nurses in India. They found that nurses who cheated more in a dice task also tended to show up at work less often. Cohn et al. (2015b) conducted a coin tossing experiment with inmates from a maximum-security prison. They found a positive correlation between claimed earnings from the coin tosses and misconduct in prison (e.g., illegal drug possession or aggression against guards and other inmates). However, the latter studies used rather unusual participants drawn from the extreme ends of the honesty distribution. Recently, Dai et al. (forthcoming) reported a dierolling experiment with public transport passengers showing that the proportion of fully dishonest participants is higher among those who did not hold a valid ticket. It is reassuring that these papers provide evidence that is consistent with our study despite using different methods and subject pools.⁷

Second, our paper also speaks to a growing literature on school misconduct as manifestations of non-cognitive skills.⁸ For example, Segal (2013) shows that students misbehaving in eighth grade are almost three times less likely to finish high school and have almost 10% lower earnings as adults relative to non-disruptive students. Bertrand and Pan (2013) found that behavioural problems in school are more prevalent among boys, especially if they grow up in single-mother households. This finding may explain the widening gender gap in academic achievement in the United States and other developed

⁶Meier and Sprenger (2010) show that experimentally elicited present bias is a reliable predictor of credit card borrowing.

⁷List (2009) analysed a subsample of 17 sellers from open air markets for which he observed lab and field behaviour. He found that sellers who breached collusive agreements in contextualized lab experiments were also more likely to do so in the field. More recently, Potters and Stoop (2016) and Kröll and Rustagi (2017) find that subjects who cheat in the lab are also less likely to report "accidental" overpayments and are more likely to adulterate milk with water, respectively.

⁸Externalizing behaviour and misconduct in school are typically seen as expressions of non-cognitive skills and relate to personality traits such as agreeableness and conscientiousness (see Ehrler *et al.* 1999; Almlund *et al.* 2011).

countries (Goldin et al. 2006; Becker et al. 2010; Fortin et al. 2015). We find that male students cheat significantly more and that this gender difference in the coin tossing task explains about one-fifth of the gender gap in school misbehaviour. Our paper also links to an emerging literature on the relationship between economic preferences and non-cognitive skills (Becker et al. 2012; Almlund et al. 2011). The identified relationship between cheating behaviour and school misconduct raises the possibility that intrinsic honesty and expressions of non-cognitive skills at school share a common underlying mechanism.

1. Design

We conducted a paper-and-pencil experiment with 162 students from eight classes in two Swiss public schools—one middle and one high school. Students were between 12 and 20 years old, and 43% of them were female. They were informed that their data will be treated confidentially and that we will not reveal their data to others, including their teachers and school authorities. The experiment took place in the classrooms in absence of the teachers. We set up a mobile laboratory and installed partition walls to shield subjects from sight and therefore ensure privacy (see Figure A.1 in the online appendix). Although participation was voluntary, all students gave their consent to participate in the study. We ran the experiment simultaneously in all four classes at each school to avoid cross-talk between subjects.

In the first part of the experiment, we asked subjects some basic socio-demographic questions such as age, gender, nationality, and parental education (see Table 1 for descriptive statistics). In part two, we measured their cognitive ability using two short tests from Dohmen *et al.* (2010): the word fluency test and the symbol-digit correspon-

⁹We took these measures to mitigate potential confidentiality concerns. Such concerns could, in principle, lead to an overestimation of the relationship between our laboratory measure of cheating and misbehavior at school if the most well-behaved students in the class were more worried about data privacy. We thank an anonymous referee for pointing this out.

dence test.¹⁰ Both tests are related to working memory and processing speed, which is often part of the reason children thrive or struggle in school, but they measure distinct concepts of reasoning capability (Carroll 1993).¹¹ The word fluency test measures "crystallized intelligence" (ability to solve problems using knowledge and experience) by asking subjects to list as many different animals as possible within 90 seconds. Subjects received one point for each correct and unique animal named. The symbol-digit correspondence test measures "fluid intelligence" (innate ability to solve problems) and consists of decoding sets of unfamiliar symbols into single digits as fast as possible within 90 seconds. For each set, subjects had to write down the correct numbers under a grid of nine symbols using a predefined mapping between symbols and digits. Subjects scored one point for each correct symbol-digit pair.

The last part of the experiment comprised the coin tossing task—our laboratory measure of cheating. Subjects first opened an envelope containing ten coins, each worth 0.5 Swiss francs (about US \$0.55). Then, they were instructed to toss each coin in private and report their outcomes on paper. For every coin toss for which subjects reported the outcome "heads" they were allowed to keep the coin; they had to put the coin back into the envelope otherwise. Participants thus faced a financial incentive to cheat by misreporting the outcomes of their coin flips without any risk of getting caught. The stakes were considerable as the maximum possible payoff in this task corresponds roughly to half the amount students of similar age receive in pocket money every week (e.g., see www.budgetberatung.ch). After completing the coin tossing task, subjects were asked to put their envelope with the remaining coins into a container.

Teachers were asked to assess their students along three dimensions: disruptiveness in class, non-completion of homework, and absenteeism. For each item the teachers eval-

¹⁰The two cognitive ability tests are based on submodules of the Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale (WAIS)—one of the most frequently used intelligence tests.

¹¹Test scores are positively correlated in our sample (Spearman's rho = 0.423, p < 0.001).

¹²Nine subjects reported a lower number of heads than the number of coins they actually took out of the envelope. For our analysis, we use the number of coins taken as the outcome variable. Our results remain the same if we use the reported number of heads instead (see Table B.1 in the online appendix).

Table 1: Descriptive Statistics

Variable	Mean	SD
Age	14.938	2.015
Female	0.432	0.497
Swiss nationality	0.673	0.471
High school	0.488	0.501
Parental education	0.364	0.483
Crystallized intelligence	20.401	7.471
Fluid intelligence	43.370	10.331
Grade point average (self-reported)	4.632	0.535
Absenteeism	0.981	1.522
Disruptiveness	0.981	1.530
Homework non-completion	1.815	1.991
School misbehavior index	1.259	1.355

This table reports descriptive statistics. Age is measured in years. Female, Swiss nationality, High school, and Parental education are dummy variables. Parental education equals to one if at least one parent has a university degree. Crystallized and Fluid intelligence are based on the scores from the word fluency test and the symbol-digit correspondence test, respectively. Grade point average is the self-reported grade point average on a scale from 1 (worst) to 6 (best). Disruptiveness, Homework non-completion and Absenteeism are three measures of school misconduct, based on the teachers' assessments on a scale from "never misbehaves" (= 0) to "always misbehaves" (= 6). School misbehaviour index is the average of the three items of school misconduct. The number of observations is 162, except for age (N=161) because one subject did not state his age.

uated the students on a scale from "never misbehaves" (= 0) to "always misbehaves" (= 6). These measures of school misbehaviour were inspired by the US National Educational Longitudinal Survey—a study that followed a nationally representative sample of more than 20,000 students over several years. We chose these measures of school misbehaviour as they have been shown to reliably predict future educational achievement and labour market outcomes (Segal 2013; Autor et al. 2015). Because the three items are strongly correlated (Cronbach's $\alpha = 0.718$) we created an index of school misbehaviour using the unweighted average of all three items. Our regression analysis uses the school misbehaviour index to reduce the influence of measurement error, but we also report the results using the three measures of misbehaviour separately (see Table B.2 in the online appendix). We matched teachers' evaluations with the experimental data using identification codes to preserve subjects' anonymity.

2. Results

The results indicate that a significant proportion of the subjects cheated by inflating their number of successful coin tosses. Figure 1 shows that the empirical distribution of coins taken is shifted towards a higher number relative to the honest benchmark provided by the binomial distribution. The outcomes ten, nine, and eight coins are significantly overrepresented (p < 0.001 for all three outcomes, binomial tests), whereas two, three, four, and five coins are significantly underrepresented (p = 0.011, p < 0.001, p = 0.032, and p = 0.055, binomial tests). On average, the students took 62.8% of the coins in the envelopes (95% confidence interval: 60.0%, 65.7%). Assuming that none of the participants cheated to his or her disadvantage we estimate that 25.7% of the coins were misreported. If

We also analysed individual determinants of cheating using multivariate regression analysis. Higher earnings are less likely to be the result of chance. Thus, we use the number of coins each subject took as a proxy for cheating in the regression analysis. Column (1) of Table 2 indicates that female students behaved more honestly than male students as they took significantly less coins (p < 0.000, t-test). Moreover, we found that high school students took significantly less coins than those from middle school after controlling for age (p = 0.011, t-test), which could be explained by less deviant students selecting into higher education. Earnings in the coin tossing task and the two measures of cognitive ability are negatively correlated. However, the correlations do not reach statistical significance, neither for crystallized nor for fluid intelligence (p = 0.599) and

 $^{^{13}}$ If we use reported outcomes instead, the percentage of heads is 61.6% (95% confidence interval: 58.9%, 64.3%).

¹⁴The calculation of percentage of misreported coin tosses is straightforward if we assume that none of the participants cheated to his or her disadvantage (see Houser *et al.* 2012). Let h be the percentage of coins taken from the envelopes and m be the percentage of misreported coin tosses. For any given coin toss, a participant who cheats keeps it with a probability of 1. By contrast, a participant who is truthful keeps each coin with a probability of 0.5. Thus, the percentage of coins taken from the envelope is h = m * 1 + (1 - m) * 0.5 = 0.5 * (1 + m). Solving the equation yields the percentage of misreported coin tosses m = 2 * h - 1.

¹⁵Dreber and Johannesson (2008) document a similar gender difference in dishonest behaviour.

Binomial Empirical

Figure 1: Students' Behaviour in the Coin Tossing Task

The figure indicates that a significant proportion of students cheated in the coin tossing task. The empirical distribution of coins taken (green bars) is shifted towards higher earnings relative to the binomial distribution implied by fully honest behaviour (blue bars).

Number of coins taken

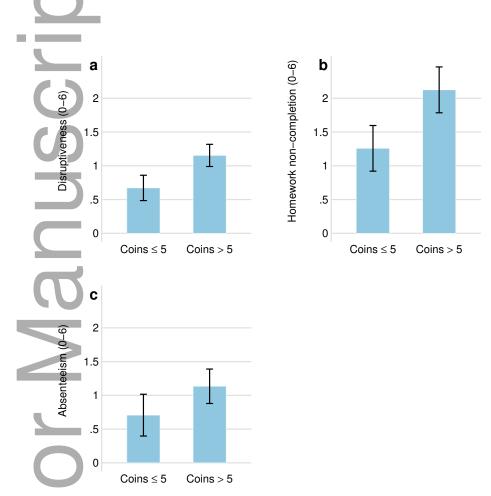
p = 0.744, t-tests).

We next examined whether our experimental measure of cheating is related to school misconduct. Panels (a) to (c) in Figure 2 illustrate the average scores for the three measures of school misconduct for subjects who took more than five coins (i.e., subjects who presumably cheated) and those who took five coins or less. Together, the three panels highlight that behaviour in the coin tossing task is positively associated with each measure of school misbehaviour. Subjects who took more than five coins score 0.5 points (or 72%) higher on disruptiveness in class, 0.9 points (or 69%) higher on non-completion of homework, and 0.4 points (or 61%) higher on absenteeism relative to the other subjects. Using the raw data, we find statistically significant correlations between

¹⁶Five coins corresponds to the median number of claims. Alternatively, Figure A.2 in the online appendix illustrates that there is a monotonic relationship for all three measures of school misbehaviour when the data is split by tertiles of coins taken.

the number of coins taken and disruptiveness and homework non-completion (p = 0.003 and p = 0.020), but the correlation with absenteeism fails to reach statistical significance (p = 0.136, Spearman tests).

Figure 2: Behaviour in the Coin Task and School Misconduct



The figure shows that, relative to those who took five coins or less (i.e. five coins corresponds to the median), students who took more than five coins (i.e., those who presumably cheated to a greater extend) disrupt the class to a larger degree (a), fail to do their homework more often (b), and are more frequently absent from school (c). Error bars indicate the standard error of the mean (adjusted for clustering at the class level).

We additionally estimated regression models to control for factors that might jointly influence cheating and school misbehaviour. In the regression analysis, we use the school misbehaviour index, which is the average score of all three individual measures of school

misbehaviour (see Figure A.3 in the online appendix for a graph depicting the distribution of the school misbehaviour index). Our main results are similar if we analyse each measure of school misbehaviour separately (see Table B.2 in the online appendix).

Column (2) of Table 2 confirms that behaviour in the coin tossing task is significantly related to school misbehaviour when controlling for age, gender, nationality, education level, and parental education. A higher number of coins taken is associated with increased behavioural problems in school (p=0.015).¹⁷ Interestingly, in addition to pocketing a lower number of coins, female and high school students also misbehave less frequently (p = 0.015 and p < 0.008, respectively). The model reported in column (3) additionally controls for cognitive ability to address potential issues of third variables that correlate with both school misbehaviour and dishonesty. 18 We find that crystallized intelligence is negatively associated with school misbehaviour (p = 0.044), but fluid intelligence is not (p = 0.771). While differences in cognitive ability explain some variation in disruptive and noncompliant behaviour, the predictive power of the coin tossing task for school misbehaviour remains high after controlling for key background characteristics as well as cognitive ability (p = 0.015). The coefficient estimate implies that the difference in school misbehaviour between students who took ten coins (presumably cheaters) and those who took five coins (presumably honest individuals) is more than 0.7 points (or 0.53 standard deviations) on average. For comparison, it would require students to differ by 2.7 standard deviations in cognitive ability (i.e., crystallized intelligence) to produce the same difference in school misbehaviour. The difference in school misbehaviour between presumable cheaters and honest students is also larger than the widely discussed gender gap in misbehaviour (e.g., Bertrand and Pan 2013). In column (4) of Table 2 we removed our laboratory measure of cheating from the regression model and found

 $^{^{17}}$ We computed p-values that are robust to clustering at the class level. To account for the low number of clusters we applied the wild cluster bootstrap procedure (Cameron et~al.~2008) using Webb's (2013) 6-point distribution of weights (see online appendix for a description of the procedure).

¹⁸For example, Ruffle and Tobol (2017) and Deckers *et al.* (2016) found negative associations between cognitive ability and immoral behaviour.

that the gender coefficient increases from -0.663 to -0.817. This suggests that gender differences in experimentally elicited rule violating behaviour explain almost one-fifth of the gender gap in school misbehaviour.¹⁹

3. Conclusion

In this paper, we examined whether a common laboratory measure of cheating is a reliable predictor of rule violating behaviour in the field. We present evidence on the link between rule violating behaviour in the lab and field using middle and high school students. We combined experimental data from an incentivized coin tossing task with measures of disruptive and noncompliant behaviour at school. Our main result is that students who presumably cheated more in the coin tossing task also misbehave more often at school. The relationship holds when controlling for students' socioeconomic background and cognitive ability.

Our findings contribute to the active debate about the generalizability of laboratory experiments, i.e., whether data obtained in the lab can be extrapolated to naturally occurring environments (Levitt and List 2007; Falk and Heckman 2009). We find a significant relationship between lab and field measures of rule violating behaviour despite differences across the two settings, including the context of the choice situation and the degree of scrutiny—factors which have been argued to make inferences from lab to field environments difficult. Our findings concur with very recent results from studies that document positive correlations between lab and field measures of dishonesty (Potters and Stoop 2016, Dai et al. forthcoming, and Kröll and Rustagi 2017). The fact that these correlations emerge from independent studies that use different methods and subject pools is reassuring for the usefulness of laboratory measures of behaviour, especially cheating behaviour, as cheating has been conjectured to be more context-sensitive than

¹⁹We found very similar results using the pooled Blinder-Oaxaca decomposition method—a technique that was initially developed for studying gender gaps in labour market earnings (Blinder 1973; Oaxaca 1973).

other types of behaviour, such as cooperativeness and consumption choices (Abeler *et al.* 2014).

In a broader sense, our paper also adds to a nascent literature on the relationship between economic preferences and non-cognitive skills (Becker *et al.* 2012; Almlund *et al.* 2011). Our results raise the possibility that intrinsic honesty and expressions of non-cognitive skills at school share a common underlying mechanism.

University of Michigan

University of Zurich

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Data set (in Stata format), command file (do-file), and README file are available online.

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Table 2: Determinants of Behaviour in the Coin Task and School Misbehaviour

+	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Dependent variable	# of coins	School	Misbehaviour I	ndex
# of coins taken		$0.150^{**} \ (0.015)$	$0.145^{**} \ (0.015)$	
Age	-0.038 (0.731)	0.489*** (0.006)	0.472^{***} (0.007)	$0.467^{***} (0.008)$
Female CO	-1.061*** (0.000)	-0.621** (0.015)	-0.663** (0.010)	-0.817** (0.011)
Swiss nationality	-0.411 (0.140)	$0.143 \\ (0.226)$	$0.186 \\ (0.206)$	$0.127 \\ (0.440)$
High school	-1.018* (0.050)	-1.360*** (0.008)	-1.033^* (0.054)	-1.181** (0.030)
Parental education	-0.120 (0.657)	$0.462 \\ (0.190)$	$0.532 \\ (0.154)$	$0.514 \ (0.163)$
Crystallized intelligence	-0.080 (0.599)		-0.267** (0.044)	-0.279** (0.035)
Fluid intelligence	-0.041 (0.744)		$0.040 \\ (0.771)$	$0.034 \\ (0.808)$
Constant	8.145*** (0.000)	-6.321*** (0.004)	-6.239*** (0.005)	-5.056** (0.020)
Observations R^2	161 0.226	161 0.310	161 0.333	161 0.303

This table reports OLS coefficient estimates. p-values are reported in parenthesis. In column (1), we regress the number of coins taken in the coin tossing task on a set of individual characteristics and two measures of cognitive ability. Age is measured in years. Female, Swiss nationality, High school, and Parental education are dummy variables. Parental education equals to one if at least one parent has a university degree. Crystallized and Fluid intelligence are based on the scores from the word fluency test and the symbol-digit correspondence test, respectively. Both cognitive ability measures are normalized to have a mean of zero and a standard deviation of one. In columns 2 to 4, the dependent variable is the School misbehaviour index, which is constructed by averaging the three items of school misconduct, including disruptiveness in class, failure to complete homework, and absenteeism (all measured on a scale from "never misbehaves" (= 0) to "always misbehaves" (= 6)). Because the models in columns 2 to 4 use teacher evaluations, we computed p-values that are robust to clustering at the class level. To account for the low number of clusters we applied the wild cluster bootstrap procedure (Cameron $et\ al.\ 2008$) using Webb's (2013) 6-point distribution of weights (see online appendix for a description of the procedure). The number of observations is 161 instead of 162 because one subject did not state his age. Significance levels: $ext{ } p < 0.10, ext{ } p < 0.05, ext{ } p < 0.01$.

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Author Ma

Materials and Methods

We conducted a paper-and-pencil experiment with 162 students from eight classes in two Swiss public schools. All students from these eight classes participated in the study.

- In the first part of the experiment, subjects were asked basic socio-demographic questions, such as age, gender, nationality, and parental education.
- In the second part, subjects completed two cognitive ability tests: a word fluency test and the symbol-digit correspondence test.
- In the last part, we measured rule violating behavior using a simple coin tossing task. Specifically, subjects were asked to privately flip 10 coins and report the outcome of each toss. For each coin toss for which subjects reported the outcome "heads" they were allowed to keep the coin (worth 0.5 Swiss francs about US \$0.55); they had to put the coin back into the envelope otherwise.

To measure school misconduct, we asked teachers to evaluate their students along 3 dimensions (disruptiveness in class, non-completion of homework, and absenteeism) using a scale from "never misbehaves" (=0) to "always misbehaves" (=6).

For Online Publication

LABORATORY MEASURE OF CHEATING PREDICTS SCHOOL MISCONDUCT*

Alain Cohn and Michel André Maréchal

Online Appendix

Contents:

Α.	Additional Figures	1
В.	Additional Tables	3
С.	Six point wild cluster bootstrap procedure	5
D.	Additional References	6
Ε.	Instructions of the experiment (French and English)	7
F.	Teacher evaluation (French and English)	19



^{*} Alain Cohn, University of Michigan, School of Information, 105 South State Street, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48109, United States. Email: adcohn(at)umich.edu. Michel André Maréchal, University of Zurich, Department of Economics, Bluemlisalpstrasse 10, 8006 Zurich, Switzerland. Email: michel.marechal(at)econ.uzh.ch.

Author

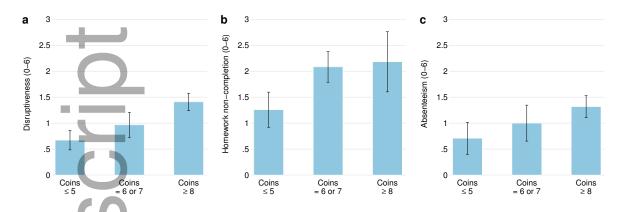
A. Additional Figures

Figure A.1: Mobile Laboratory



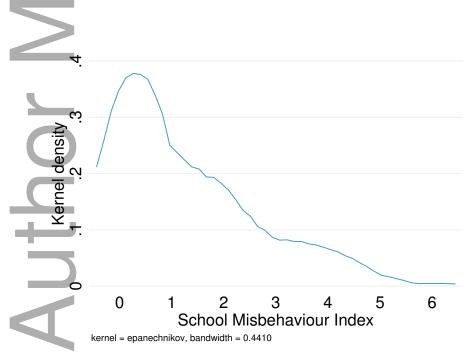
The figure shows how the mobile laboratory was set up in the classrooms. Cardboard walls were installed to shield the subjects from sight.

Figure A.2: Behaviour in the Coin Task by Tertiles and School Misconduct



The figure shows averages of individual measures of school misbehaviour by tertiles of coins taken in the coin task. Students who took a higher number of coins (a) disrupt the class to a larger degree, (b) fail to do their homework more often, and (c) are more frequently absent from school. Error bars indicate the standard error of the mean (adjusted for clustering at the class level).

Figure A.3: Distribution of the School Misbehaviour Index



The figure displays the kernel density estimate for the school misbehaviour index.

B. Additional Tables

Table B.1: Robustness: # Reported Heads

	(1)	(2)	(3)
Dependent variable	# of reported heads	School Misbehav	` '
# of reported heads		0.154** (0.041)	0.144** (0.049)
Age	-0.059 (0.575)	$0.492^{***} \\ (0.005)$	$0.475^{***} $ (0.006)
Female	-0.926*** (0.000)	-0.639** (0.015)	-0.684** (0.010)
Swiss nationality	-0.457^* (0.087)	$0.154 \\ (0.172)$	$0.193 \\ (0.163)$
High school	-0.786 (0.108)	-1.377*** (0.009)	-1.068** (0.045)
Parental education	-0.222 (0.377)	$0.481 \ (0.202)$	$0.546 \\ (0.171)$
Crystallized intelligence	-0.160 (0.269)		-0.256** (0.046)
Fluid intelligence	-0.015 (0.905)		$0.037 \\ (0.798)$
Constant	8.243*** (0.000)	-6.366*** (0.003)	-6.242*** (0.003)
Observations R^2	161 0.227	161 0.309	161 0.329

This table reports OLS coefficient estimates. p-values are reported in parenthesis. In column (1), we regress the number of reported heads on a set of individual characteristics and two measures of cognitive ability. Age is measured in years. Female, Swiss nationality, High school, and Parental education are dummy variables. Parental education equals to one if at least one parent has a university degree. Crystallized and Fluid intelligence are based on the scores from the word fluency test and the symbol-digit correspondence test, respectively. Both cognitive ability measures are normalized to have a mean of zero and a standard deviation of one. In columns 2 and 3, the dependent variable is the School misbehaviour index which is constructed by averaging the three items of school misconduct, including disruptiveness in class, failure to complete homework, and absenteeism (all measured on a scale from "never misbehaves" (= 0) to "always misbehaves" (= 6)). Because the models in columns 2 and 3 use teacher evaluations, we computed p-values that are robust to clustering at the class level. To account for the low number of clusters we applied the wild cluster bootstrap procedure (Cameron $et\ al.\ 2008$) using Webb's (2013) 6-point distribution of weights. The number of observations is 161 instead of 162 because one subject did not state his age. Significance levels: p < 0.10, p < 0.05, p < 0.05, p < 0.01.

Table B.2: Robustness: Individual Measures of School Misbehaviour

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Dependent variable	Disrupt	iveness	Home non-con		Absen	${ m teeism}$
# of coins taken	0.126** (0.031)	0.118** (0.026)	0.164 (0.126)	0.154 (0.148)	0.161** (0.013)	0.163** (0.012)
Age	0.439*** (0.003)	$0.415^{***} (0.005)$	0.598^{***} (0.005)	0.569** (0.010)	0.429** (0.035)	0.432** (0.040)
Female	-0.907*** (0.002)	-0.960*** (0.002)	-0.958** (0.027)	-1.025** (0.014)	0.004 (0.987)	-0.004 (0.987)
Swiss nationality	$0.207 \\ (0.307)$	$0.260 \\ (0.254)$	0.013 (0.945)	0.080 (0.746)	$0.208 \ (0.496)$	0.219 (0.490)
High school	-1.425*** (0.000)	-0.940 (0.193)	-1.765** (0.017)	-1.188* (0.054)	-0.889 (0.126)	-0.972* (0.081)
Parental education	0.475^* (0.050)	$0.583** \\ (0.017)$	$0.404 \\ (0.361)$	0.531 (0.248)	0.507 (0.233)	0.482 (0.246)
Crystallized intelligence		$-0.374** \\ (0.044)$		-0.452* (0.067)		$0.025 \\ (0.735)$
Fluid intelligence		$0.008 \ (0.952)$		0.028 (0.886)		0.085 (0.694)
Constant	-5.599*** (0.004)	-5.481*** (0.004)	-7.026*** (0.004)	-6.884*** (0.008)	-6.339** (0.023)	-6.351** (0.025)
Observations R^2	161 0.261	161 0.296	$161 \\ 0.232$	161 0.262	161 0.168	161 0.171

This table reports OLS coefficients estimates. p-values are reported in parenthesis. We regress each measure of school misconduct (i.e., disruptiveness in class, failure to complete homework, and absenteeism; all measured on a scale from "never misbehaves" (= 0) to "always misbehaves" (= 6)) on a set of individual characteristics and two measures of cognitive ability. Age is measured in years. Female, Swiss nationality, High school, and Parental education are dummy variables. Parental education equals to one if at least one parent has a university degree. Crystallized and Fluid intelligence are based on the scores from the word fluency test and the symbol-digit correspondence test, respectively. Both cognitive ability measures are normalized to have a mean of zero and a standard deviation of one. Because the models use teacher evaluations, we computed p-values that are robust to clustering at the class level. To account for the low number of clusters we applied the wild cluster bootstrap procedure (Cameron et al. 2008) using Webb's (2013) 6-point distribution of weights. The number of observations is 161 instead of 162 because one subject did not state his age. Significance levels: *p < 0.10, **p < 0.05, ***p < 0.05, ***p < 0.01.

C. Six point wild cluster bootstrap procedure

Because the regression models in column (2) to (4) in Table 1 use teacher evaluations as a dependent variable, we compute p-values that are robust to clustering at the class level. To account for the low number of clusters G we use the wild cluster bootstrap procedure (Cameron et al. 2008) using the six point distribution of weights proposed by Webb (2013). The procedure to compute the p-value for each coefficient separately works as follows:

From the original sample we compute the Wald statistic for the coefficient of interest β_1 : $w = (\hat{\beta}_1 - \beta_0)/s_{\hat{\beta}_1}$, where $s_{\hat{\beta}_1}$ is the cluster robust standard error of the estimated coefficient $\hat{\beta}_1$. In addition we compute $\hat{\beta}^{\mathbf{R}}$ and the residuals $\{\hat{u}_1^R, ..., \hat{u}_G^R\}$ using OLS and imposing the restriction $H_0: \beta_1 = \beta_1^0$ (i.e., we regress the measure of school misbehaviour y_{ig} on a constant and all regressors except for $x_{1,ig}$). We then iterate the following steps 1000 times:

- 1. We form a sample of G clusters $\{(\hat{y}_1^*, X_1), ..., (\hat{y}_G^*, X_G)\}$ as follows: For each cluster g=1,...,G we formed $\hat{u}_g^{R*}=d_g*\hat{u}_g^R$, where the weights d_g have a 1/6 chance to take each value in the six point distribution $\{-\sqrt{1.5}, -\sqrt{1}, -\sqrt{0.5}, \sqrt{0.5}, \sqrt{1}, \sqrt{1.5}\}$. Then, we form $\hat{y}_g^*=X_g'\hat{\beta}^R+\hat{u}_g^{R*}$ for g=1,...,G.
- 2. We calculate the Wald statistic $w_b^* = (\hat{\beta}_{1,b}^* \beta_0)/s_{\hat{\beta}_{1,b}^*}$ using $\hat{\beta}_{1,b}^*$ and its standard error $s_{\hat{\beta}_{1,b}^*}$ estimate from the *b*th pseudo sample.

Finally, we retrieve the p-value for $\hat{\beta}_1$ by computing the fraction of times $w_b^* > w$ for b = 1, ..., 1000.

D. Additional References

Cameron, A.C., Gelbach, J.B. and Miller, D.L. (2008). 'Bootstrap-based improvements for inference with clustered errors', *Review of Economics and Statistics*, vol. 90(3), pp. 414–427.

Webb, Matthew, D. (2013). 'Reworking wild bootstrap based inference for clustered errors', Working Paper No. 1315, Queen's Economics Department.

E. Instructions of the Experiment

<u>Instructions</u> (original in French)

- A partir de maintenant, nous vous prions de ne plus discuter avec vos collègues et de rester silencieux.
- Si vous avez une question, levez votre main et nous viendrons vers vous.
- Le questionnaire est anonyme. Il est identifié au travers d'un numéro unique. Il n'est à aucun moment possible de faire la relation entre la personne et les données s'y rapportant.
- Veuillez d'abord lire les instructions ci-dessous et répondre aux questions.
- Ne tournez les pages qu'à notre signal.

Ce questionnaire est composé de trois exercices différents. Pour les deux premiers exercices, le temps est limité. Nous vous indiquerons à chaque fois quand les débuter et quand tourner la page.

Numéro :				
Sexe : masculin			féminin	
Age:				
Moyenne générale du d	ernier semest	tre:		
Nationalité :				
Formation la plus élevée Scolarité obligatoire (prim Formation professionnelle Formation générale (écol Formation professionnelle Université, EPF, HES Je ne sais pas	naire, secondaire e (apprentissage e de maturité, de	e, inférieur) e, école profes e diplôme, éco	sionnelle) le normale)	père mère père mère père mère e) père mère père mère père mère père mère
Par rapport aux autres f	amilles suisse	es, commen	t vous situez	vous financièrement :
Très en-dessous de la moyenne -3 -2	-1 □	0	1	Très au-dessus de la moyenne 2 3 \(\text{\tint{\text{\tint{\text{\tinit}\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\tex{\tex

Avez-vous des questions avant de commencer le premier exercice ?

Author Manus

EXERCICE 1 – INSTRUCTIONS

Vous allez commencer le premier exercice de ce questionnaire.

Veuillez ne tourner la page qu'à notre signal.

Dès que vous aurez tourné la page, vous aurez **90 secondes** pour répondre au mieux à la question.

Au terme des 90 secondes nous vous avertirons et vous devrez alors à nouveau tourner la page.

EXERCICE 1

Citez le plus grand nombre d'animaux :

EXERCICE 2 – INSTRUCTIONS

Vous venez de finir le premier exercice. Sur la page suivante se trouve le deuxième exercice.

Veuillez ne tourner la page qu'à notre signal.

Dès que vous aurez tourné la page, vous aurez **90 secondes** pour remplir au mieux la question.

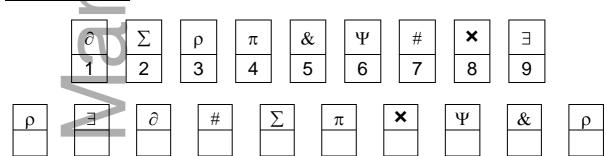
Au terme des 90 secondes nous vous avertirons et vous devrez alors à nouveau tourner la page.

ENONCE DE L'EXERCICE:

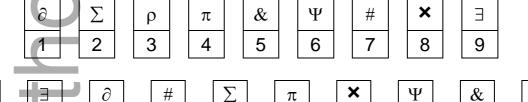
Dans chaque différente série, chaque numéro de 1 à 9 est représenté par un symbole dans une table.

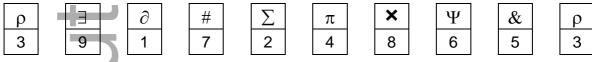
Vous devrez alors écrire pour chaque symbole le numéro correspondant. Voici un exemple :

Enoncé : Série 0



Réponses: Série 0





Vous avez 90 secondes pour remplir le plus possible les 8 différentes séries.



EXERCICE 3 – INSTRUCTIONS

Dans l'enveloppe blanche ci-jointe se trouvent **dix** pièces de 50 centimes. Avec un peu de chance, vous pouvez gagner jusqu'à 5 CHF. Nous vous prions d'ouvrir l'enveloppe blanche, d'en retirer les dix pièces et de les déposer devant vous. Prenez, s'il vous plaît, une des pièces de 50 centimes et lancez la. Notez le résultat du lancer de la pièce dans le tableau ci-dessous.

- Si vous obtenez **face (côté statue)**, vous avez **gagné** et vous pouvez garder la pièce de 50 centimes. Mettez s'il vous plaît la pièce de côté.
- Si vous obtenez **pile (côté chiffre)**, vous avez **perdu**. Remettez s'il vous plaît la pièce dans l'enveloppe blanche.

Veuillez procéder exactement de la même manière avec les neuf pièces restantes: lancez l'une après l'autre chacune des pièces restantes et notez après chaque lancer dans le tableau ci-dessous si vous avez obtenu pile ou face. Vous pouvez garder chaque pièce pour laquelle vous avez obtenu face. Vous rendez et remettez dans l'enveloppe blanche chaque pièce dont le lancer vous a donné pile.

Exemple: Si vous avez obtenu au total huit fois face et deux fois pile, vous gagnez 4 CHF. En obtenant au total deux fois face et huit fois pile, vous gagnez 1 CHF.

Veuillez inscrire ici le résultat de vos dix lancers de pièces:

		face (0.50CHF)	pile (0 CHF)
	1 ^{ère} pièce		
	2 ^e pièce		
	3 ^e pièce		
	4 ^e pièce		
	5 ^e pièce		
	6 ^e pièce		
	7 ^e pièce		
+	8 ^e pièce		
	9 ^e pièce		
	10 ^e pièce		
\triangleleft	ı		

Merci pour votre participation!

Instructions (English translation)

- From now on, we ask you not to talk with your colleagues and to remain silent.
- If you have any question, raise your hand and we will come to you.
- The questionnaire is anonymous. It is identified by a unique number. It is not possible at any time to make a connection between a participant and the data relating to him or her.
- Please read the instructions below and answer the questions.
- Turn the pages only when you are told to do so.

This questionnaire consists of three different tasks. Time is line tasks. We will tell you at the appropriate time when to start and v		
tasks. We winten you at the appropriate time when to start and v	viicii to taii	Tille page
Number:		
Gender: male		
Age:		
Grade point average in the previous semester:		
Nationality:		
Highest education completed by my parents: Compulsory education (primary, secondary, lower) Professional education (apprenticeship, professional school) General education (high school, diploma school, normal school) Higher professional education (certificate, diploma, federal certificate) University, Federal Institute for Technology, university of applied sciences I don't know	father father father father father father	mother mother mother mother mother mother mother mother mother
Compared to other Swiss families, how are you financially situat	ed:	
	luch above	average
$\begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	2 	3

Do you have any questions before starting with the first task?

TASK 1 - INSTRUCTIONS

You will begin with the first task of this questionnaire.

Please turn the page only when you are told to do so.

As soon as you turn the page, you will have **90 seconds** to complete the task.

At the end of the 90 seconds we will notify you and you will have to turn the page again.

Author Manus

Task 1

List the names of as many animals as you can:

Task 2 - Instructions

You have just finished the first task. On the next page is the second task.

Please turn the page only when you are told to do so.

As soon as you have turned the page, you will have 90 seconds to complete the task.

At the end of the 90 seconds we will notify you and you will have to turn the page again.

DESCRIPTION OF THE TASK:

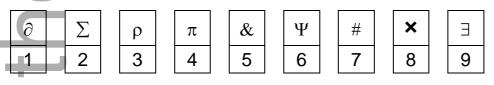
In each set, numbers from 1 to 9 are represented by symbols as indicated by a table.

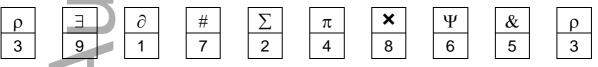
You will then have to write down the corresponding number for each symbol. Here is an example:

Example: Set 0

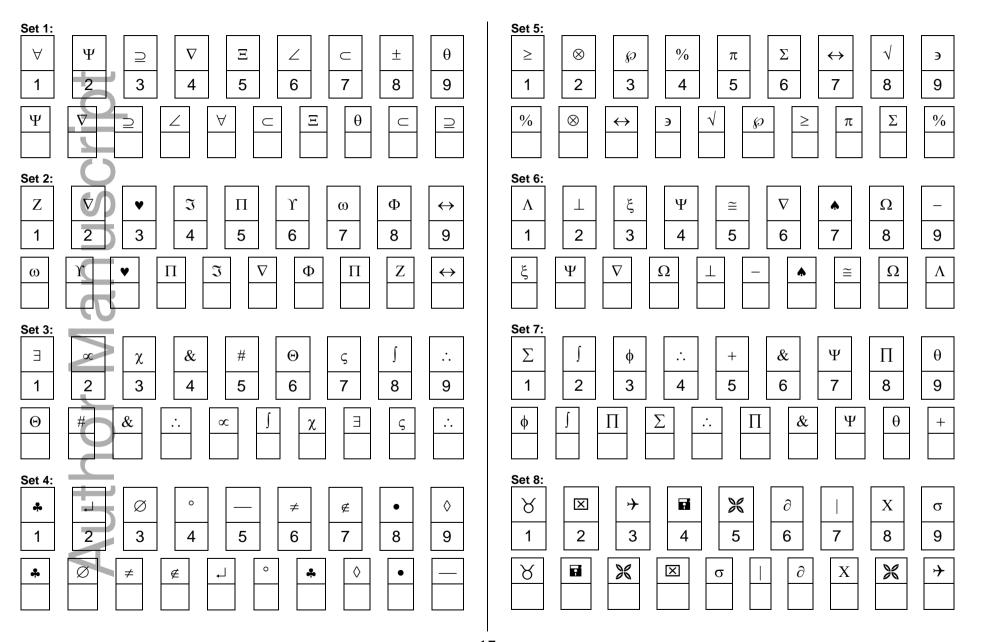


Solution: Set 0





You have 90 seconds to complete as many of the 8 sets as possible.



TASK 3 - INSTRUCTIONS

In the enclosed white envelope, you find **ten** 50-centime coins. With a little luck, you can now win up to 5 Swiss Francs. Please open the white envelope, take out the ten coins and put them down in front of you. Take one of the coins and toss it. Write down the result in the table below.

- If the result is "Heads" (side with the statue), you won and, therefore, you can keep the 50-centime coin.
- If the result is "Tails" (side with the number), you lost. Please put the coin back in the white envelope.

Do the same with the other nine coins: toss each of the other nine coins and after each turn write down in the table below, whether the result has been heads or tails. You can keep each coin you tossed heads. Please put back each coin you tossed tails into the white envelope.

Example: If you flip Heads eight times and Tails two times, you win 4 Swiss Francs. If you flip Heads two times and Tails eight times, you win 1 Swiss Franc.

Please write down the results of your ten coin tosses.

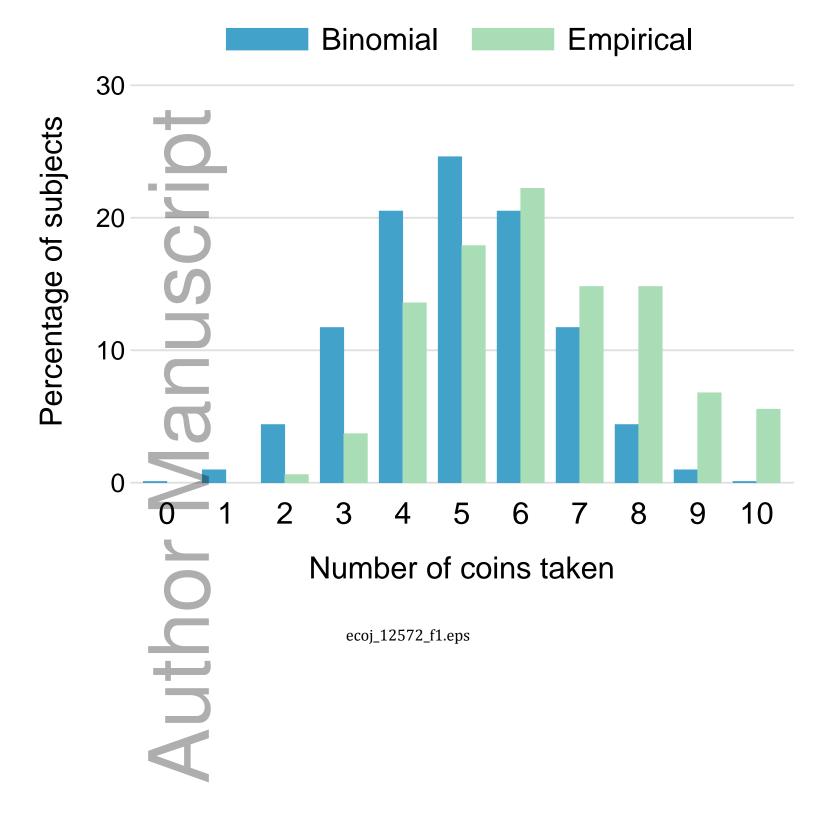
		Heads (0.50CHF)	Tails (0 CHF)
	1 st coin		
	2 nd coin		
	3 rd coin		
	4 th coin		
	5 th coin		
	6 th coin		
	7 th coin		
+-	8 th coin		
	9 th coin		
	10 th coin		

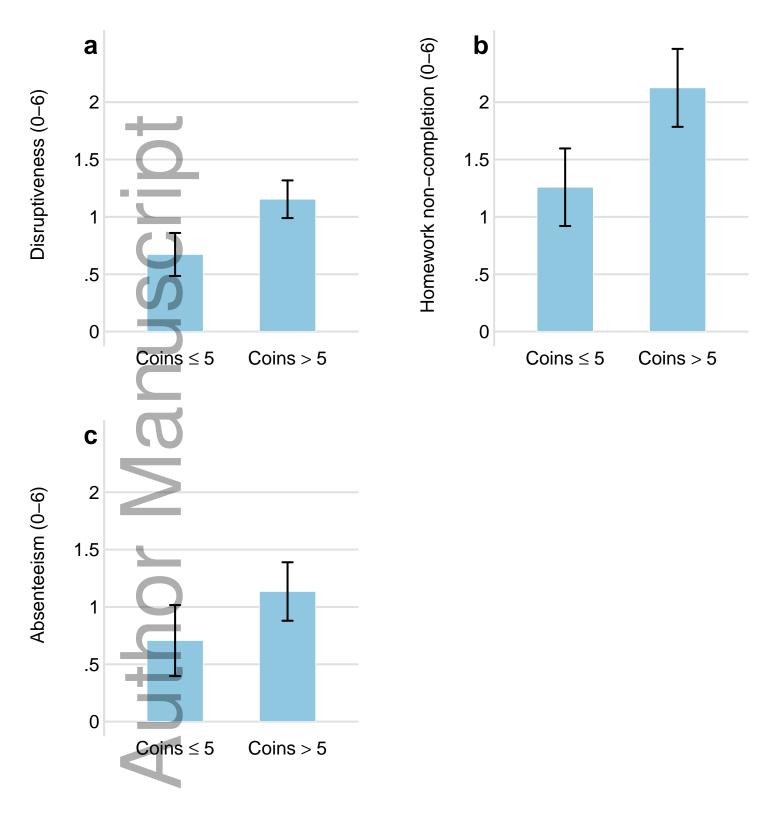
Thank you for your participation!

F. Teacher Evaluation

N°élève	L'élève est-il souvent absent?	L'élève est-il négligent dans ses devoirs? L'élève est-il perturbateur en classe?
	NON OL	NON OUI NON OUI
1		
2		
3		
4		
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12		
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26		
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28		
29		
30		

Student #	Is the student often absent?	Does the student rarely completes his/her homework	Is the student frequently disruptive in class?
	NO YES	NO YES	NO YES
1			
2			
3			
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11			
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13			
14			
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