Instruction:

Read the situation below and complete the task given using the primary and secondary sources provided.

Situation

There has been a rising trend of plagiarism among students in institutions of higher learning in Malaysia. Plagiarism is defined as the use of another person's words and ideas without acknowledging that they belong to someone else. With the rapid progress of Information, Communication and Technology (ICT), students can access online resources within split seconds. This has resulted in rapid spread of "copy-and-paste" culture among students. In view of this, the Teaching and Learning Unit of Universiti Perkasa has conducted a study on plagiarism. A total of 500 students were surveyed and the results from the study are presented in the following pages.

Task

You are the head of the research team. Write a report of five to seven pages using information from **all** the primary data given and your background knowledge, and use the **two (2)** excerpts from the secondary data provided. Your report should include the following headings:

INTRODUCTION (background, objectives, scope and significance of study)

METHODOLOGY (respondents, instruments and research procedures)

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

CONCLUSIONS

RECOMMENDATIONS

Note: Marks will be deducted for direct lifting of sentences from the excerpts.

PRIMARY DATA

Table 1: Common Reasons for Rampant Plagiarism

Reasons	%
Very little understanding of in-text citation	91
Completing assignment at the very last minute	76
Easy access to online resources	80
No firm action taken	40
Too many assignments to complete	45
Wanting to get a better grade	85

Cutting and pasting from online sources, 50%

Copying directly from printed sources, 15%

Copying from previous students' assignments, 28%

Paraphrasing or summarising without citing the source, 7%
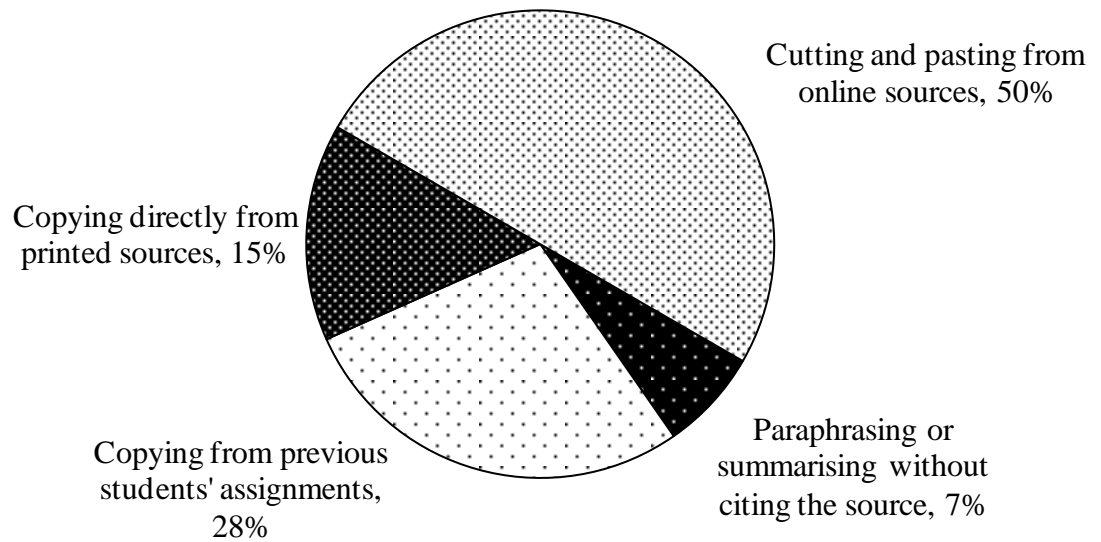
Figure 1: Ways Students Plagiarise

Table 2: Students' Opinion on Ways to Curb Plagiarism
(1 – most effective to 5 – least effective)

Ways to Curb Plagiarism	Rank
Explain the techniques of in-text citation	1
Remind them the consequences of plagiarising	4
Explain the differences between paraphrasing and plagiarising	3
Discuss what is meant by plagiarism and provide examples	2
Penalise students for plagiarising	5

SECONDARY DATA

Excerpt 1

Nathesan, S. (2009, March 27). *Plagiarism among Students Worrying*. Retrieved on August 9, 2010 from http://thestar.com.my/news/story.asp?file=/2009/3/27/focus/3557708 &sec=focus

With the extensive use of Internet among students of higher learning institutions, the trend of copying, or rather plagiarising information found in the Internet is becoming very rampant among undergraduates in the country. My students have even been caught plagiarising despite warnings and reminders.

Besides excessive copying from the Internet, students also tend to plagiarise from printed materials. They might have resorted to these unethical practices due to time constraint.

Students should be sternly warned of such unhealthy practices so that the quality of their written assignments is not at stake. If these practices go on, the quality of our graduates will decline.

Excerpt 2

Clark, Laura. (2006, August 23). *Study Reveals 90% of University Students Cheat on Essays.* Retrieved on August 11, 2010 from http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-391516/Study-reveals-90-university-students-cheat-essays.html

The true scale of cheating at university was laid bare yesterday as it was revealed that as many as nine in 10 students copy chunks of work from friends or the Internet. The vast amount of copying from classmates and the web has been exposed by new plagiarism detection technology. But thousands of serious plagiarism cases are going unpunished as lecturers ignore the results of electronic scanning for fear of drawing attention to poor teaching, according to experts.

The figures came as a senior academic declared that a "Google generation" of students see nothing wrong with copying other people's work. Many develop poor habits at secondary school where copying and pasting directly from the Internet is tolerated.

The warning came yesterday at a conference in Gateshead where university Vice-Chancellors are meeting to discuss the latest techniques for cracking down on the growing problem of campus plagiarism. The increasing publication of written work on the Internet including ready-made essays has led to fears that copying, either deliberate or inadvertent, is now common.

The trend has prompted universities and colleges across the country to introduce the use of electronic scanning softwares in order to trap determined plagiarists and act as a deterrent. Most use "Turnitin" software, which checks work against more than 4.5 billion web pages before producing an "originality report" revealing what percentage of a paper matches Internet material. Results of checks using the software and similar programmes show that almost all students' assignments contain some matching text. However, it will not be considered cheating if phrases are properly referenced.

One study of 650 first-year students at South Bank University revealed how more than 90 percent registered on the "non-originality" scale after essays were scanned against a checking system. Twenty percent had submitted work which was more than 50 percent the same as other material. Meanwhile 13 percent of 30 000 papers checked using "Turnitin" over three months last year were found to be 75 percent the same as archive material.