Using LockDown browser

Lecture courses in psychology, with enrollment of around 50 and 100. Examinations taken on Canvas (makes grading easy and fast)

1. Brief in-class quizzes on assigned readings
   • to motivate students to do the readings and come prepared to class

2. Short essay questions for midterm and final exams
   • to assess students’ deep understanding of material by reasoning over it;
   • questions selected from a longer list that students have access to a week before exam.
LockDown Browser: An effective tool to prevent students from using computer-based resources during examination

The Respondus LockDown Browser is a special web browser that lets students take tests on Canvas using their own computers but restricts access to other programs or websites while the test is in progress.
Pros

✓ Limits students’ ability to interact with each other or check resources on the web during quizzes and exams.
✓ Mitigates concerns related to giving students exam questions ahead of time because they cannot copy and paste their answers but need to compose them at the time of the exam.

Cons

○ LockDown browser doesn’t work on Linux OS.
○ Students must install and test it ahead of time.
○ Swapping computers (in case of failure) problematic.
○ Probability that technology fails increases, needs backup solutions (paper version).