

The Ripple Effect of One Choice

An activity of "Exam result: Education minister fails".

Read "Exam result: Education minister fails" (page 7, *What's Up* August 2026). This article describes how the leak of an examination paper affected millions of students in India. While only a few people were responsible, many innocent people experienced the consequences.

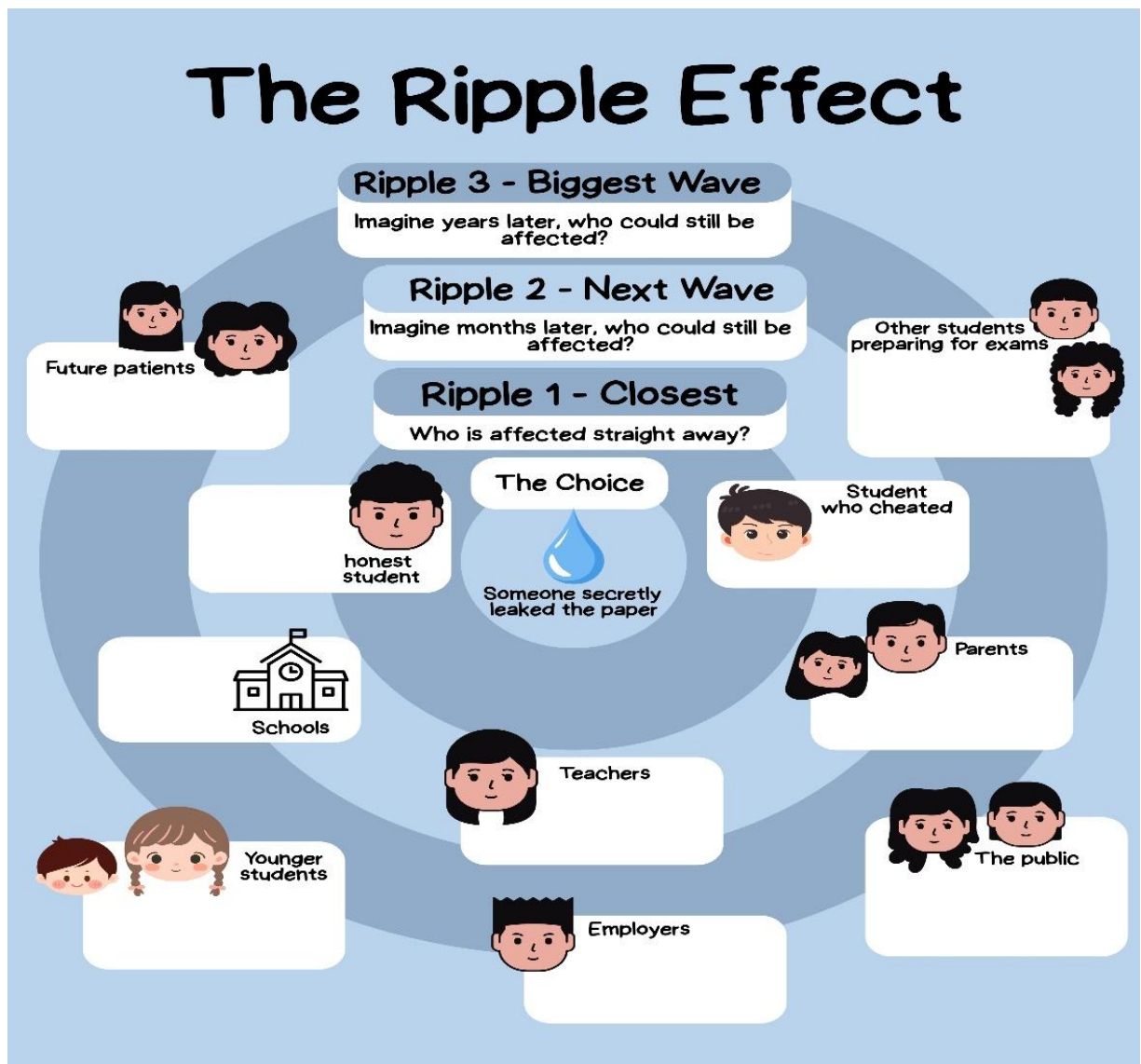
1. Look at the diagram below. With a partner, complete the three ripples:

Ripple 1: people who are directly involved e.g. students who cheated.

Ripple 2: people who are not directly involved in cheating but may still be affected.

Ripple 3: people who might experience the effects of the cheating later.

In the white boxes, write down what may happen to each person because some students cheated. How might these people feel?



2a) Choose ONE person from anywhere on your Ripple Effect diagram.

The person is: _____

Imagine you are this person at the moment you learnt about what happened. Create a frozen pose showing:

- The expression on your face.
- The emotion you would feel.

2b) When your teacher taps you on the shoulder, come alive and speak as your character. Say three short lines. But, don't say which character you are pretending to be. Here are some examples:

Honest student	Parent	Teacher
I studied for... Now I have to... I wish...	I spent... I feel... I hope...	I tried my best to... Now... I want...

2c) As the audience, listen to what your classmate says. Then, guess what role this person is playing and which ripple they belong to.

3. The examination leak happened in another country. But, ripple effects like this can begin with small everyday choices closer to home. The good news is that a ripple effect can be positive too!

Think about one choice you can make at school that could create positive ripples.

