**Mayda Manan 5A(19)**

**Cheating Temptations and Their Side Effects**

It is no mystery that students tend to cheat in examinations or copy homework on a regular basis. Every person has once in their school life had the temptation to cheat or ask a friend to show them their work, but why is that the case?

There are plenty of psychological reasons as to why one cheats in tests or copies homework from someone else, such as insecurity. Although some students are smart, they still tend to cheat. This can be because they are insecure about their answer and that they themselves don’t believe that their answer could be right too. My suggestion for insecure students would be that before copying from someone else, they should ask their teacher. This way, they will understand their mistake and the question better. If it is the exam time where you tend to cheat then I would advise you to trust your instincts and go with the answer you wrote because by cheating, it will only make you more insecure about yourself and not believe in yourself.

The next common reason why students cheat is that they do not have enough time left to complete the task. Thus, in order not to get low grades, students tend to cheat. For those students who tend to cheat for this reason, I would suggest that they train themselves beforehand by doing exercises while having a timer on. This way, they can learn how to manage their time more wisely. They can also prioritize the questions by the number of marks during the exam.

Another reason why students tend to cheat is pressure. Not only is the pressure of time ticking by tempting for students to cheat, but the pressure from family as well. When students can’t fulfill the expectations their parents have of them, they try to find an easy way out such as cheating. For the students who cheat due to this reason, I would suggest that they talk to their parents and make them understand. If you think your parents won’t understand, talk to teachers or social workers at school who are always willing to help. The student suicide rate has been rapidly increasing in Hong Kong. With that said, students under pressure should never take steps like suicide or cheating since it is not temporary; it can affect your and your parents’ whole life. How? I will talk more about it.

Being honest is far more important than students think when they are about to cheat as they seldom think of the consequences that are going to come along with their action. When a student cheats, it changes the impression their teachers had of them. They might start to behave differently since they feel like all the effort they put on the cheating student got wasted. Not only that, but it also reflects on the character of the students and their upbringing. Thus, it affects your parents’ life too.

Also, honesty is important since it affects your life a lot as well as your relationship with others. Being dishonest even in just a test makes you a dishonest person, it changes the impression that people had of you, and it can hurt the feelings of people very close to you. Therefore, there is no point in cheating because nothing good comes out of it. Yes, your grades might go up, but are they really your grades?

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