

Cheating

Listen!



Let's Think

1. Do you think that cheating is common among students?
2. If you know a classmate of yours cheated in a quiz, what will you do?

You are Leslie. You are reading a speech script about cheating.

Good morning Principal, teachers and fellow students,

I'm Wong Mei Ling from Class 5A, the chairperson of the Students' Union. It's my honour to give a speech to all of you here. Today, I'd like to talk about the problem of academic cheating.

5 Despite knowing it is dishonest and inappropriate behaviour, some students still keep on cheating in quizzes or exams. In fact, there are two key reasons why students dare risk being caught and punished for better grades. First, the most common one is that they believe that they must excel in exams if they want to succeed in life. Afraid of failure and unconfident in themselves, they resort to cheating.

10 Second, most students are easily influenced by their peers. They may be lured into either cheating for themselves, or helping others to cheat, such as by offering answers to other students. Having succeeded in doing so without being noticed for the first time, they would be driven to think that they could get away with it every time. From one conversation I had with a junior student, I know that some students, who are opposed to the idea of cheating,
15 find it hard to decline requests for help in cheating because of peer pressure.

In fact, cheating is not limited to only secondary education. At university, students may cheat by copying information directly from any source and claiming it is their original ideas. This practice is called plagiarism, which is treated seriously. To find out whether a student's work contains plagiarised information, professors would check it with software
20 that detects plagiarism. Students who are found to have copied others' work could possibly be expelled from university or even taken to court. Therefore, we can see that academic cheating is regarded as totally unacceptable.

That's all I wanted to share with you today. I hope that it has brought to you a new understanding of the act of cheating. Thank you!

(318 words)

Part A

Answer the following questions using the information from the speech script. Choose the **BEST** answer and blacken **ONE** circle only.

- The main purpose of the speech is _____.
 A. to inform
 B. to suggest
 C. to persuade
 D. to argue
- Read line 8. The word 'excel' means '_____'.
 A. to be well rested and prepared
 B. to perform impressively
 C. to have a natural ability to do well
 D. to be given praise
- Which of the following is **NOT TRUE**?
 A. In some cases, the lack of self-confidence leads to cheating.
 B. Wong Mei Ling had once talked to a junior about cheating.
 C. Some students think that they will not be caught cheating.
 D. If there were no peer pressure, students would not cheat at all.
- Which of the following is **NOT** seen as academic cheating?
 A. writing down the words of a writer in a personal notebook
 B. looking at a secret note for answers during a test
 C. asking a classmate for help in an exam
 D. writing someone else's exact ideas of a book in a book report and submitting it as a piece of original work
- Read line 19. What does 'it' refer to?
 A. information learnt from the Internet
 B. plagiarism
 C. the student's work
 D. the plagiarised information


Grammar Corner

Participle phrases are phrases that contain present or past participles. We can use **participle phrases** to give additional information about the subject of a sentence. Note that they are usually used at the beginning of a sentence and followed by a comma.

e.g. *Despite knowing it is dishonest and inappropriate behaviour, some students still keep on cheating in quizzes or exams.*
(Lines 5-6)

Part B

Answer the following questions using the information from the speech script. Write your answers in the spaces provided.

 1. According to the speech script, what are the two reasons for academic cheating in secondary education?

(a) _____


(b) _____

2. Find words in the speech script that mean the following. Fill in each blank with one word.

tricked somebody to do something	(a)	(v.)
not agreeing with something or somebody	(b)	(adj.)
stating	(c)	(v.)
officially forced to leave a school	(d)	(v.)

3. Find a phrase that means 'have legal action taken against'.

4. How do teaching staff at universities find out whether students have plagiarised in their assignments?

 5. Tom, a university student, used directly the information from a science magazine like it was his own ideas. How may he be punished when his professor finds out about it?

Vocabulary Bank

The following are some problems common among teenagers. Match them with the correct pictures. One of the words is not used.

truanting substance use family conflict alcohol use
 body image smoking social exclusion
 academic underperformance pimped skin



1.



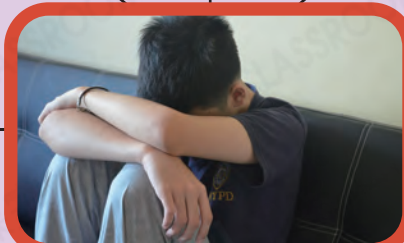
2.



3.



4.



5.



6.



7.



8.



Let's Discuss

1. Do you know how students can prevent themselves from plagiarising?
2. In your opinion, why is plagiarism treated particularly seriously in tertiary education?