

Have American teenagers lost moral values such as truth, hard work and honesty? That's what statistics seem to indicate. According to a national poll of more than 20,000 middle school students, sponsored by the Josephson Institute of Ethics, nearly half of high schoolers are thieves. 47% of students admitted they stole something from a store in the past twelve months, and more than one in four said they have committed theft at least twice.

The same poll also revealed that almost all teens lie to their parents. 92% said they lied at least once in the past year. Furthermore, more than one in three students said they would lie to get a job. What's more, 80% of the top students in the country have cheated in school exams, according to the latest Who's Who Among American High School Students annual survey – the highest percentage in the survey's history.

Despite the high percentage of teenagers who admitted to lying, cheating and stealing, 91% of them reported they were "satisfied" with their characters and they had "a good behaviour"! Most of them said, "it's important to me that people trust me." Were they being ironic? Also confusing is the fact that 46% of students in the Who's Who survey warned that the biggest problem facing their generation was "declining social and moral values" in the USA. Yet, almost the same percentage did not admit that their own cheating in exams, stealing and lying were crimes, saying that cheating was "no big deal". "There is an incredible inconsistency in how teenagers think and how they behave," says Josephson. Ally Holloway, a 14-year old high schooler from New Jersey, claims she is against lying and cheating, yet when it comes to getting a good mark, her moral values are soon forgotten, and she just copies her partner's answers. "I try not to cheat and I try not to lie," she says, "but when you have to, you just do it."

According to the Who' Who survey, more than 50% of high school students have never heard their parents say that cheating in exams was wrong. Yet, parents are not the only ones behind declining teenagers' morality. Some young people say they are discouraged by the negative behaviour of sports stars and show-business stars. Students also complain that many high school "heroes" consider it stupid to follow the rules.

So why should a teenager be good? The best answer is because it just feels right to go to bed at night with a clear conscience. Another reason is that the teenager could get into trouble if he or she lies all the time. If you lie, sooner or later people will find out. "When your credibility is injured, people won't trust you anymore," warns Josephson.

I. COMPREHENSION (15pts)

A. Are these statements true or false? Justify your answers.(2pts)

- Many American teenagers are worried about the immorality of their society.
.....
- Most American teenagers do not care about what people might think of them.
.....

B. Answer the following questions: (5pts)

- According to this article, do American teenagers feel guilty about their cheating and lying? Explain.
.....
- As far as morality among American teenagers is concerned, what does the research conclude?
.....
- Who is to blame for the teenagers' misconduct?
.....
- What advice does the writer give to teenagers?
.....
- How do you explain Josephson's sentence "When your credibility is injured, people won't trust you anymore"?
.....

C. Complete these sentences with information from the text.(2pts)

- Most teenagers who were asked in the Who's Who survey admitted
- Many students claim they are against cheating in exams; yet,

D. What do the underlined words in the text refer to? (2pts)

- the country
- their

E. Find in the text words meaning the same as: (4pts)

- survey (paragraph1):
- showed (pragraph2):
- contradiction (paragraph3):
- reliability (paragraph 5):

II. LANGUAGE (15pts)

A- Rewrite the sentences as indicated. (4pts)

- They are taking the prisoner to a highly guarded prison.
The prisoner.....
- The UN is still sending food aid to the refugees' camp.
By the end of this week, the UN.....all the necessary food aid.
- He was a strong man. He couldn't beat me.
Despite.....
- He devoted all his time to the work of the association. He donated some of his money.
Not only....., **but**.....

B- Fill in the blanks with the appropriate phrasal verbs from the box. Make tense changes if necessary. (3pt)

take up – put up with – set up – bring up – come across – set for – pick up – cut down – turn down

- Obese people should.....on greasy food so as to lose weight.
- When I was walking the street the other day, I.....an old friend of mine.
- They complained to their neighbours they couldn't.....the noise from the motorway.
- The personnel manager.....the candidates' applications for the job as they didn't meet the requirements.
- The Moroccan football team.....Portugal tomorrow morning. They are playing a match there.
- My sister's never studied Italian, but hesome words when he was in Italy.

C- Fill in the blanks with the appropriate form of the words in the list. (3pts)

indigent govern power hate emancipate partner law feminine criticize

- All over the world, women have fought for theirand their equality to men.
- Many people in poor countries suffer from.....; they can't even afford their basic needs.
- They worked inwith a foreign company.
- It is notto use drugs. Drug users always end up in prison.
- NGOs aim at theof women in social and political fields.
- Nowadays, we are living in a world full of People can't stand each other due to prejudice and stereotypes. It's really a pity!

D- Complete the sentences with the appropriate linking word from the list below. (2pts)

owing to – in spite of – however – thus – as – even if - along with

-Kofi has a very good job in the USA, he wants to go back to his home country.
-complaining about their poor social conditions, the rebels denounced the government's misuse of public money.
- Some immigrants would like to return to their native countries., others find it difficult to give up a bright future in the USA.
- Schools are far from students in rural areas., Students drop out from school.

E- Use expressions similar to the ones underlined? (3pts)

- Because of illiteracy, you can't develop a strong personality.
.....
- Terrorism designates any violent act done against humans.
.....
- I don't understand what this word means.
.....

III. WRITING (10pts)

You have just immigrated to a European country, write a **letter** to a friend of yours to tell him that you find it difficult to adapt to the new environment and **the aspects of culture shock** you are undergoing.

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