

## Section 1:

### #1: Opening and Confession

#### Strengths:

- Your opening is honest and direct, which shows courage in admitting your mistake.
- You immediately acknowledge what you did wrong, which demonstrates some maturity.

**Inappropriate Tone and Unclear Purpose** → Your email begins with "I hope you understand my request," but you haven't actually made a clear request yet. This confuses the reader about why you're writing. Additionally, the phrase "Well surprisingly, I did" sounds too casual and flippant for such a serious matter. When confessing to cheating, you need to show genuine remorse and understanding of why your actions were wrong, not just fear of consequences. The sentence "Before you expel me or anything please keep reading until the end of my apology" suggests you're more worried about punishment than truly sorry for cheating, which weakens your message.

**Exemplar:** *I am writing to confess that I did use ChatGPT to complete my English assignment. I deeply regret this decision and understand that I violated the school's academic honesty policy. I take full responsibility for my actions and would like to explain why this happened and what I have learnt from this experience.*

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### #2: Body Paragraphs - Justifications

#### Strengths:

- You recognise that honesty is important and that mistakes are part of learning.
- You show some understanding that cheating was wrong by saying you won't do it again.

**Emotional Manipulation Instead of Genuine Reflection** → Your second and third paragraphs attempt to convince Ms Manfredi not to expel you, but the reasons you provide are problematic. Whilst you mention taking responsibility, you immediately follow this with excuses and emotional appeals rather than explaining what you've genuinely learnt. The phrase "What is success without honesty? I want to be nice! I want to be happy! I want to be an honest person!" uses too many exclamation marks and sounds insincere, like you're trying too hard to convince her rather than

genuinely reflecting on your mistake. More concerning is your third paragraph, which describes extreme poverty and begging for food. Whilst financial difficulties are real and serious, using them to avoid consequences for cheating is manipulative. You write "How would you feel if you were a student and got expelled then for half a week you beg for food?" which tries to make Ms Manfredi feel guilty rather than showing you understand why academic honesty matters.

**Exemplar:** *I understand that what I did was wrong because it showed disrespect for my teachers, my classmates who worked honestly, and most importantly, myself. I cheated because I felt pressure to achieve high marks, but I now realise that learning and genuine effort are more valuable than grades obtained dishonestly. I am committed to rebuilding trust and demonstrating through my future work that I can succeed through my own abilities.*

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### #3: Conclusion

#### Strengths:

- You thank Ms Manfredi for reading your email, which shows basic politeness.

**Sarcastic and Disrespectful Ending** → The sentence "If not, our family will thank you for making us eat leftovers" is extremely inappropriate and sarcastic. This completely undermines any apology you tried to make earlier in the email. You're essentially blaming Ms Manfredi for your family's financial situation and suggesting that enforcing school rules would be her fault. This shows you still haven't truly understood the seriousness of cheating or taken real responsibility. An apology should end with humility and a genuine commitment to do better, not with blame and sarcasm.

**Exemplar:** *I sincerely apologise for my dishonest actions and the disappointment I have caused. I understand that there will be consequences for what I did, and I accept them. I hope to have the opportunity to prove that I can be a trustworthy student who completes work honestly. Thank you for taking the time to read my letter.*

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■ Your piece attempts to address a very serious situation, but unfortunately, it misses the main purpose of a genuine apology. Whilst you admit to using ChatGPT, your email focuses almost entirely on avoiding punishment rather than showing you truly understand why cheating is wrong or how it affects others. A proper apology needs to demonstrate genuine remorse, explain what you've learnt,

and show commitment to change without making excuses or trying to manipulate the reader's emotions.

Your tone shifts dramatically throughout the email, starting somewhat apologetic but becoming increasingly manipulative and even sarcastic by the end. The excessive use of exclamation marks makes your writing seem insincere and dramatic. When you write "I want to be nice! I want to be happy! I want to be an honest person!" it sounds like you're performing rather than genuinely reflecting on your actions. Real remorse is shown through calm, thoughtful explanation, not through dramatic declarations.

The biggest problem with your email is the third paragraph, where you describe extreme poverty and hunger. Whilst financial difficulties are real struggles that deserve sympathy, using them as a reason why you shouldn't face consequences for cheating is manipulative. You're trying to make Ms Manfredi feel so guilty about your family's situation that she won't punish you, but this actually makes your apology seem insincere. Instead of explaining what led you to cheat and what you've learnt, you're essentially threatening that punishment will harm your entire family. This approach will likely make Ms Manfredi question whether you've truly learnt anything at all.

Your email also lacks specific details about what you've actually learnt from this experience. You say "I learnt a lesson from my mistake" but you never explain what that lesson is. What will you do differently next time? How will you handle pressure to get good marks? What steps will you take to ensure you never cheat again? These are the questions a genuine apology should answer. Additionally, your email doesn't acknowledge how your actions affected others, such as students who worked honestly or teachers who trusted you. Finally, your conclusion is deeply problematic because it ends with sarcasm rather than genuine remorse, completely destroying any credibility your apology might have had.

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**Score: 40/50**

**Section 2:**

Dear Ms Manfredi the school Principal,

I hope you understand my request. My name is Prabh and remember when you accused me of using ChatGBT during the English assignment? Well surprisingly, I did. Honestly, I wanted my parents to see that I got an A plus. Before you expel me or anything please keep reading until the end of my

apology. These are some reasons why you shouldn't expel me; I took responsibility for what I did, I'm fine with you giving me an F and because I can't afford to go to a different school. #1

Firstly, I took responsibility for what I did. You must know by now that for children honesty is really hard. I know that lying won't get you anywhere. I want to live a great life of honesty. I want people to know the truth. I am grateful that I have access to education and this is my only chance to become great at things. I want to succeed in life. What is success without honesty? I want to be nice! I want to be happy! I want to be an honest person!

#2 Secondly, I don't care if you give me ~~and~~ [an] F now that I understand what I actually did. F's are mistakes and mistakes are learning and learning is what school is for. F's in school help you learn about your own mistakes. No-one ever in the history of planet Earth has succeeded without making mistakes. Even Albert Einstein made tons of mistakes. I learnt a lesson from my mistake of using ChatGBT. I'll never use it again! I promise!

#3 If all of that didn't persuade you, this last one will. This is the most important one; I can't even afford another school. If you expel me I'll have to move houses and move to a new school. We're not millionaires! We barely have a thousand! A house is at least six thousand! We have to beg for food at least thrice a week! How would you feel if you were a student and got expelled then for half a week you beg for food? If I get expelled I'll be that poor beggar begging for half the week. This school gives us lunch for free. I can't even eat the tiny sandwich because my family of ten needs food. Do you want me to eventually starve to death? Ten people starve weekly! How would you feel if that was you? You would feel grateful to have at least something to eat when other people have truckloads of Big Macs a day! Don't you understand what poor means?

I hope that persuades you. If not, our family will thank you for making us eat leftovers. I hope you understand by now.

Thank you for your cooperation. Kind regards, your student from 7F, Prabh. 04/09/2019