

## AFTER EXAMS

*Two students who will soon be facing the world beyond secondary school reflect on what that would mean.*

### **Marvin Marshall, Trinity College**

“At las’!” No more exams!” This seems to be the universal response when a student has just completed his/her CXC or A level examinations. It is indeed a great sigh of relief. A feeling of ecstasy embraces one’s soul and electrical impulses are sent to the brain signalling “Freedom!”

However, these feelings are only temporary as the saga continues. Sooner or later we have to withdraw from our little world and plunge into reality, where we have to deal with the intricacies of life after exams.

“Where do we go from here?” This is a mandatory question that must be asked, in order to fulfil one’s dreams and aspirations. Some may have to re-take the exams others may go off to university, while some of our young courageous citizens may choose to seek employment. There may be multiple options but only a few are considered wise choices to pursue. The responsibility for these choices is yours.

Does it really matter whether you get eight CXC passes or three CXC passes? Perhaps what matters more, are the decisions that are taken afterwards to accomplish your goals. Though they may seem extremely difficult, as you are bombarded with obstacles, here are words of advice: Do not give up.

To the young courageous citizens eager to seek employment, there is an upward struggle that awaits you. One of the major challenges you will have to face is competition. Even though you may have all the qualifications in the world, remember there are hundreds of others just as qualified as you, all seeking employment at the same time.

Another challenge is experience. It seems that one of the pre-requisites that employers ask for is years of experience, but if you have just left school, where do you get this experience? My friends don’t despair, when one door closes, others will open for you.

Life after exams could be a time of true rejoicing and happiness, but it also is a time to make important decisions that will determine one’s future. More importantly, it is a matter of survival, especially when you leave school and enter the world of work.

It seems as though the outside world may not be particularly propitious towards us, but there is a place for each one of us in the world and we must continue to press on even

when our exams are over. I advise everyone to cherish your life before exams because life after exams is not easy.

### **Stephenson Thomas, Trinity College**

The three, two or no hours put aside everyday for studying, the time in school spent in either exciting or more likely boring classes, all come down to an exam - an exam that could be (or is) the determining factor of your life. But what do you really do when it is over?

For the people who were partying before exams should they continue partying after exams? Should students realise that school wasn't that place where our parents sent us just so that we could get out the house, but a place that prepares us for the life ahead. Whether or not we have chosen to be prepared would be the real difference after exams?

With completion of that final exam especially for CXC students you cannot help but feel a sense of liberation, accomplishment. You can finally say it is over, but after the first four weeks, you realize that school was more than that building you went to everyday. It was even more than just a learning facility. It was a home away from home. We wouldn't say it out loud but it is a fact in the minds of many students.

With no planning, you'll probably stay home, excitedly go out once in a while and come back home. This would be the cycle for most students who did not have a plan for what they would do after exams. Unfortunately, this sense of freedom soon goes away and a sense of confusion comes into play. Where do you go from here now?

For those who completed CXC exams, the next step would probably be to go on to Advanced level. For those who completed Advanced level exams the next step would be probably to go on to University. But still for these sequences of events to take place plans must have been made before and not after exams.

The sense of accomplishment and feeling that you did well all depends on the work you put in. The thought that you could have done better in the exam, the thought that you could have been putting in more work instead of liming. The regrets of the missed opportunities of the vital information you could have gotten from the class when the teacher said to do your homework.

They all occupy your mind. This could ruin the period after exams and until you get your results. The anxious wait could be even more excruciating than the exam itself. The result itself is only another doorway to move on or a locked door forcing you to can explore your current situation and find alternatives.

Probably our final exams teach us another lesson: They actually help us see what our teachers had been trying to tell us. To put in the work, don't waste your time because it'll never come back. Maybe we should give students time to see what life after exams really is. It is not freedom only a time to rest, a time to recuperate, but also a time to have you reflect on yourself.

The life after exams is a short one. But with planning you'll be able to obtain the optimum enjoyment of it. Planning before exams is the key to success, but planning after exams is the key to using this success. There'll always be that other exam you'll have to do. There'll be no full stop to where all exams would end. Since life itself could be considered an exam.