

HONG KONG EXAMINATIONS AUTHORITY
HONG KONG ADVANCED LEVEL EXAMINATION 1994

LIBERAL STUDIES (CHINA TODAY) AS-LEVEL

9.00 am-11.30 am (2½ hours)
This paper must be answered in English

1. This paper consists of Sections 1, 2 and 3. Sections 1 and 3 both carry 25% of the module marks, and Section 2 carries 50%.
2. Candidates are required to answer ALL questions from Sections 1 and 2, and ONE question from Section 3. They are advised to spend 40 minutes on each of Sections 1 and 3, and 70 minutes on Section 2.
3. The weighting of each question is indicated in brackets. It is a guide to the length of answer required, which may vary from one to several paragraphs.
4. A SEPARATE ANSWER BOOK SHOULD BE USED FOR EACH SECTION. On the front cover of each answer book, the Section and Question Nos. MUST be inserted in the boxes provided. It is NOT necessary to start each sub-question on a new page.
5. Candidates are reminded that this subject emphasises the ability to present and support points of view in a clear, concise and logical manner, rather than the ability to recite facts.

SECTION 1 (Short Questions)

(25% of the module marks)

Answer all the questions in this section.

1. The following is an extract from a Hong Kong newspaper dated 1.10.1993:

Farmers report profits growing

The small village of Luxin, about 240 kilometres southwest of Beijing, has had a bumper harvest. Life is good. Families have ample stocks of flour and money in their pockets.

But it was not always so. Twenty years ago, according to a 74-year-old villager, there was the spectre of hunger and cold, and sandstorms often buried crops and wells.

The transformation of Luxin, with a population of 1800, is typical of changes in rural China since the late 1970s, when family-based farming replaced the people's commune production system in a rural reform initiated by Chinese paramount leader Deng Xiaoping.

The villagers have worked with others in Xinle county to shift huge sandhills that used to cover a third of their land. Those who developed the new land were given financial help through tax relief and reduced prices for fertilizer, seed and diesel oil. They have dug 72 motor-powered wells to irrigate their land and receive a 'how-to-do-it newsletter' twice a year to help them improve their farming methods.

The per capita annual income of Luxin village is 1,500 yuan. This is slightly more than the national average in rural areas.

One in three Luxin households owns either a tractor or a truck. About two thirds have a colour television, 95% have a washing machine and one third own a refrigerator.

Last year the villagers reaped 1.2 million kilograms of wheat and corn - double the yield in 1982.

Mechanisation of farm work has created a surplus of manpower in rural China. More and more people are engaged in other trades. Luxin has ten enterprises employing 200 people and their earnings account for one third of the village's total income.

- (a) Explain why the villagers of Luxin have been able to accomplish so much in the last 15 years. (7%)
 - (b) Why is the development of rural enterprises so important to China? (7%)
2. Consider the following statement:

Hong Kong-based companies and capital now employ more than three million people in China, which is a figure greater than the whole of the Hong Kong workforce. At the same time, China's investment in Hong Kong listed companies and property holdings is known to exceed HK\$70 billion, making it one of the major investors in Hong Kong.

In the light of the above situation, discuss Hong Kong's relationship with mainland China after 1997.

(11%)

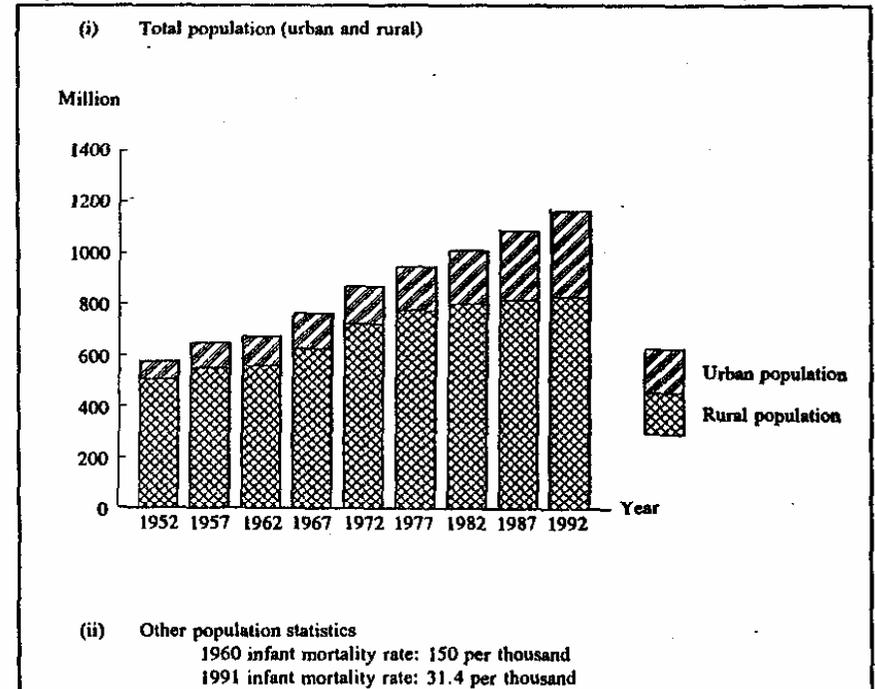
SECTION 2 (Data Response Questions)

[50% of the module marks]

Answer *all* the questions in this section.

3. (a) Consider the following information related to China's population statistics and government birth control policies:

(Population statistics)



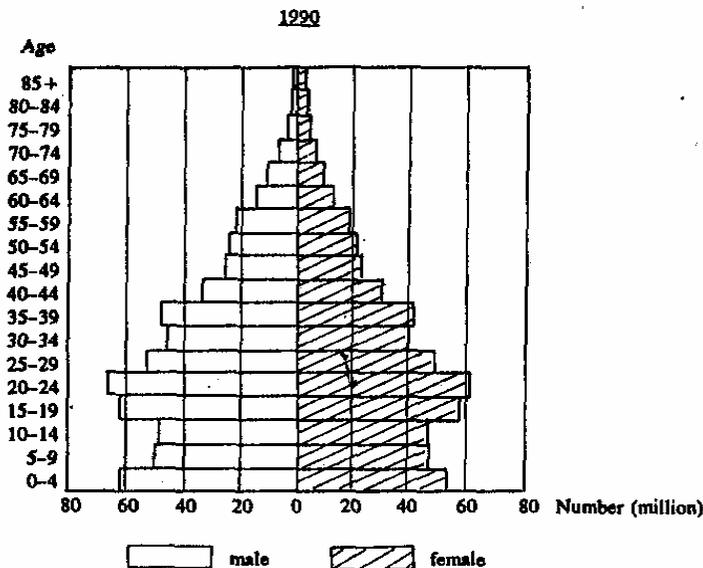
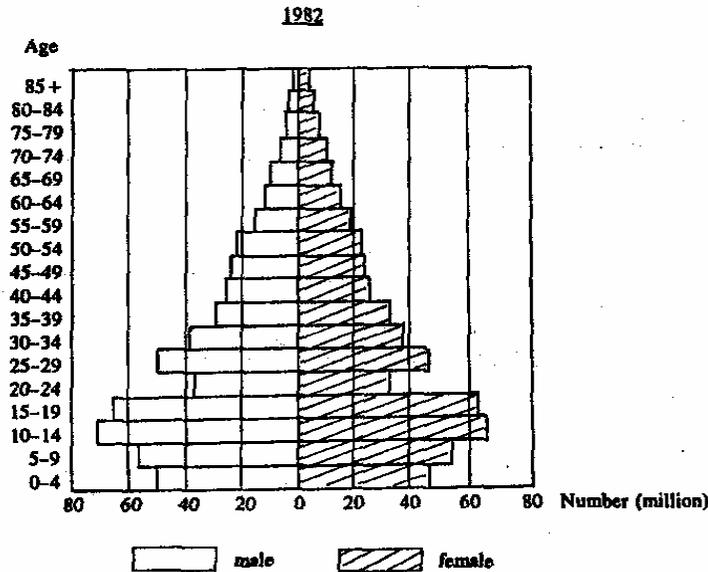
(Government birth control policies)

Basic aim:	to keep natural growth rate below 12.5 per thousand until the year 2000
Urban areas:	limited to one child per couple
Rural areas:	limited to two children per couple
Exceptions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ethnic minorities - couples whose first child is handicapped
Key control mechanism:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - birth control devices (150 billion condoms and 60 million intrauterine devices are either distributed free to married couples through their work places or are available through pharmacies) - abortions if the couple already have the prescribed number of children

Looking at the data given above, explain whether you think China is making sufficient progress in limiting its population growth to ensure its future stability and prosperity. (15%)

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(b) China's population by age and sex: 1982 and 1990:



Based on the phenomenon reflected in the two population pyramids above, discuss what implications this has for China's society in the future. (10%)

(c) Consider the following statement on China's 1993 'Draft Law on Eugenics and Health Protection' (中華人民共和國優生保健法草案) made by Chen Minzhang, Minister for Public Health of China, and the two comments on this draft law:

(Chen Minzhang's statement on the draft law)

The new law is needed to avoid new births of inferior-quality babies and heighten the standards of the whole population. China is in urgent need of this new law to put a stop to the occurrence of abnormal births. If better controls had been in place, the births of some 10 million of the disabled people in China could have been prevented.

Under the draft law, methods such as deferral of marriage, abortion and sterilization would be used to control the problem. People with ailments like hepatitis, venereal diseases, hereditary diseases or mental illness would be banned from marrying until cured. Pregnant women found to have certain infectious diseases or foetus abnormalities would be advised to have an abortion. Couples in these categories should have themselves sterilized.

(Comments on the draft law)

Move to ban birth of 'inferior people'

According to a Beijing-based foreign correspondent, the new draft law can be compared to Nazism - with its search for a perfect race.

Rose Wu, general secretary of the Hong Kong Women's Christian Council, was also critical.

'In any society which respects human rights, the choice of marriage and pregnancy belongs to individuals, not the government,' Mrs Wu said.

'I think it would be more appropriate to tackle the problem through preventive measures such as education rather than through legislation,' she said.

China's birth control plan 'not like Hitler's'

China yesterday defended its new draft law as a 'natal and health care' law. 'The essence of the law is totally different from the racist policy of Adolf Hitler,' a public health spokesman said.

'The essential content is health care for mother and child and to ensure that China has healthy future generations.

'The law has provisions which respect the right of individuals to make their own judgements, and reflects the principle of combining government guidance with individual choice,' the spokesman said.

'China simply does not have the resources to provide adequate care for its more than 10 million disabled citizens,' the spokesman concluded.

In the light of the above data, explain whether you consider the Chinese government policy, as reflected in the new draft law, is reasonable and worthy of support. (25%)

SECTION 3 (Conventional Essay Questions)

(25% of the module marks)

Answer *one* question from this section.

4. The following extracts reflect China's attitudes to the media:

EXTRACT A - comments of the chief editor of a Chinese journal:

The chief editor pointed out that the role of the Chinese media was 'to channel public opinion and to serve the people and socialism'.

'Newspapers were not meant to create controversy but to help unite the masses,' he said.

He denied that Beijing had imposed strict political control on the mainland press, saying that the authorities would only ban a publication if it violated government regulations.

'Censorship on foreign broadcasts was necessary to screen out content such as violence and pornography,' he added.

EXTRACT B - Chinese response to the British Broadcasting Company's (BBC's) documentary on the life of Mao Zedong which in a segment of the programme portrayed him as a man with a sexual appetite for young women:

China's Foreign Ministry yesterday, in response to the BBC's documentary on the life of Mao, accused the BBC of low moral standards, and threatened retaliation.

'Mao Zedong is a great historic person who is loved by the Chinese people and respected by the people of the world. Any personal attacks launched against him with evil intention and for the purpose of humiliating him will not damage his historic position,' the Chinese spokesman said.

The deputy director of the New China News Agency (NCNA) in Hong Kong added, 'Of course as a great leader he made some mistakes, but nobody can wipe out his historic achievements. If anyone attempts to criticize or even undermine his image at the time when we celebrate the 100th anniversary of his birthday, all Chinese will not accept it.'

In the light of the above extracts, explain whether you consider the Chinese Government's criticism of the BBC was justified. Based on your knowledge of the situation in Hong Kong, compare the Chinese Government and the Hong Kong Government with respect to their attitudes to the media. (25%)

5.

In November 1993 the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) held its Third Plenum. The central issue concerned 'the establishment of a socialist market economic structure'. The Plenum's decision emphasized that 'the public ownership system should remain the backbone of the economy (i.e. the mainstay of the system)'. However, the decision also stated that the role of the public ownership system 'might vary in different places and trades'.

In the light of what is happening in China today, explain why the CCP made the above decision. (25%)

6. In recent years, the relations between China and Hong Kong have been getting closer each day. Discuss how China and Hong Kong influence each other in the areas of politics, culture and law. (25%)
7. During the last forty years, attitudes to work and working styles have been very different in Hong Kong and China. How and why have these attitudes changed recently in China? In what ways and why are there still differences in such attitudes between Hong Kong and China? (25%)

END OF PAPER