

HONG KONG EXAMINATIONS AUTHORITY
HONG KONG ADVANCED LEVEL EXAMINATION 1994

LIBERAL STUDIES (HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS) 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. Consider the following case:

Kevin is a student of average academic ability preparing for his Hong Kong Certificate of Education Examination (HKCEE). He finds his studies difficult and he annoys his teachers because he is an extrovert and likes to be the centre of attention in class. His best subject is English and he spends more time on it than all his other subjects put together. The things he enjoys most at school are extracurricular activities. He is the student leader in the school's Junior Red Cross unit and is a member of the school's swimming team.

All the members of the swimming team smoke cigarettes. At first, Kevin only smoked when he was with them, but now he does so whenever he feels under pressure and when he gets depressed about his chances of doing well in the HKCEE.

Kevin also belongs to an English Language club which has members of his age-group from many different schools. The members of this group take their studies very seriously and none of them smoke. They do not really approve of Kevin's attitudes and habits. Kevin values his membership of this group and it hurts him that they seem to reject him. Although he has quite a good understanding of his situation, he has so far had little success in modifying his behaviour.

- (a) How would you explain Kevin's enthusiasm for English, swimming and the Junior Red Cross? (5%)
 - (b) What factors influence his behaviour in each of the following groups: the school's swimming team, the Junior Red Cross, and the English Language club? (7%)
2. Study the following data on 'Help-seeking Tendencies' amongst students in the Primary 5 to Secondary 2 age group:

Question: To whom do you turn for help when you feel unhappy?

Students' responses:

Source of Help	1st Preference (%)	2nd Preference (%)
1. myself	41.8	12.4
2. parents	28.7	18.6
3. brothers/sisters	3.9	14.0
4. other relatives	0.6	5.2
5. friends/schoolmates	14.8	24.8
6. teachers	5.4	16.1
7. school social workers	2.4	4.4
8. student counsellors	2.0	3.9
9. child or youth centre staff/ other social workers	0.9	2.3
10. priests/ministers/etc.	1.0	1.5
11. others	0.8	0.3

(Extracted from a 1992 survey conducted by the Boys' and Girls' Clubs Association of Hong Kong)

SECTION 2 (Data Response Questions)

[50% of the module marks]

Answer *all* the questions in this section.

3. **EXTRACT A** (a news report from a local newspaper dated 15.8.1993):

- (a) According to the above data, only 3.9% of students in the Primary 5 to Secondary 2 age group would turn to their brothers/sisters for help or comfort when they feel unhappy, and only 2.4% of them would turn to school social workers. Do you consider these two figures surprising? Explain your view. (8%)
- (b) Briefly explain whether you consider the results of this survey would have been significantly different if it had been administered to sixth form students. (5%)

We'll kill say estate protesters

AN ATTACK by Tung Tau residents on the Down's Syndrome Association Centre was last night condemned by social workers as 'barbaric'.

The residents vandalised the Centre, smashing windows and covering a door with messages threatening to kill the Centre's head.

The vandalism was the latest in a series of demonstrations by residents in Tung Tau against facilities for mentally handicapped people being opened by the government on the Kowloon estate.

Posters were plastered over a nearby garden area threatening to 'eradicate the mentally handicapped'.

Social workers were last night appalled by the residents' 'barbaric behaviour'.

Raphael Li from the Health and Welfare Branch was last night shocked by the residents' threats. 'That's criminal,' he said.

'Placing rehabilitation services within residential areas

is one of the most effective ways to rehabilitate the handicapped and this policy has been publicly endorsed.

'We have been explaining to residents why the Centre is necessary, and most of them have changed their minds. The government regrets that a few remain so adamant, but public education takes time. We do not expect people to give up their prejudices overnight.'

Legislator Fred Li Wah-ming, a former social worker, said the authorities should pursue the culprits for this 'absolutely irresponsible' act.

'It seems absolutely useless to attempt to educate them to the fact that these children are not harmful to them. They are very friendly and innocent,' he said.

The chairman of the Hong Kong Down's Syndrome Association, Dr John Tse Wing-ling, said he was outraged. He was doubtful whether public education could solve the problem and called for new legislation to safeguard the welfare of the Down's syndrome population.

EXTRACT B (an editorial from the same newspaper dated 15.8.1993):

The ugly face of Hong Kong

The way society treats its poor, weak and sick is the real test of civilization. So when protesters smash the windows of a resource centre for Down's syndrome children and put up slogans threatening the lives of the organizers, they do not just shame themselves, they shame the whole of Hong Kong.

The residents of the Tung Tau housing estate have for months fought a bitter and angry battle against plans for the Centre and a hostel for the mentally handicapped, mounting demonstrations and making threats about a breakdown in law and order.

Yesterday, they showed they meant it.

Last night Dr John Tse, chairman of the Down's Syndrome Association and one of those threatened by posters on the Centre's doors, called for a concerted campaign to end discrimination.

He maintained every effort had been made to accommodate the interests of the residents.

'Despite the friendly gestures we made, we are not prepared to compromise the rights to community living and integration of children and adults with Down's syndrome,' he said.

Dr Tse is quite correct when he refers to the rights of these innocent people. They have the same rights as others to facilities anywhere in Hong Kong, and are just as entitled to the protection of the law.

The government should redouble its efforts to increase tolerance and understanding on the estate. However, the police and the courts should also ensure that those who threaten public order are punished severely.

- (a) Imagine that you are a resident of the Tung Tau Estate and that you have just read the news report (*Extract A*) and the editorial (*Extract B*). Write a letter to the editor of the newspaper to make a reasoned response to the various points of view held by the following people:

- the residents who are opposing the Down's Syndrome Association Centre
- Raphael Li from the Health and Welfare Branch of the government
- legislator, Fred Li Wah-ming
- the chairman of the Hong Kong Down's Syndrome Association, Dr John Tse (30%)

- (b) Mrs Chan has lived for the past eight years on the Tung Tau Estate with her family which includes her 10-year-old, Down's syndrome son. Until now her neighbours have not given her any trouble. She is frustrated and angry about the recent events and told one of the reporters:

'These people are barbaric and unreasonable. We are no different from others; there should be no discrimination at all.'

What contribution do you think Mrs Chan and the parents of other Down's syndrome children can make to improving the situation on the estate? (6%)

- (c) Identify and explain the underlying reasons for the extreme hostility of the minority of the estate residents towards the mentally handicapped. (14%)

SECTION 3 (Conventional Essay Questions)

(25% of the module marks)

Answer *one* question from this section.

4. Study this extract from an article published in a local newspaper dated 13.8.1993:

Mother sorry for suicide remark

A mother who told her daughter to kill herself if she did badly in the Hong Kong Certificate of Education Examination (HKCEE) yesterday made a moving apology.

Chu Wai-ha almost lost her 19-year-old daughter, Irene, after the student attempted suicide by taking an overdose of painkillers.

'I admit it's my fault. I scolded her often and I went as far as to tell her to jump from the top of the Bank of China Building if she got poor examination results,' confessed 60-year-old Mrs Chu.

'She is my only daughter and thus I put all my hopes and great pressure on her. But now I know it is wrong. I'll never do it again....'

- (a) Explain whether you consider this incident is a typical example of parent-teenager conflict in Hong Kong. (8%)
- (b) What difficulties are involved in resolving parent-teenager conflict? (7%)
- (c) Explain how you would advise a teenage friend to cope with pressure similar to Irene's and at the same time maintain a good relationship with his/her parents. (10%)

5. Study this case history:

Huen-wing is the youngest of four children. He is in Secondary 3. He has a brother in Secondary 5 who is expected to do very well in the Hong Kong Certificate of Education Examination (HKCEE). His sister is studying in Secondary 6, having scored six of her HKCEE subjects at grade C or better. His eldest brother has two degrees and is a secondary school teacher. He seldom sees his father who works overseas.

Huen-wing has never been able to match the academic performance of his siblings. He has several times narrowly avoided having to repeat a year. His mother, his brothers and sister all scold him for his laziness and constantly urge him to work harder.

Although Huen-wing has never admitted it openly, he lacks self-confidence and believes himself to be inferior to his sister and brothers. At home, he spends between 20 and 30 hours a week watching television. He comes home very late from school because he spends hours playing football with his friends. His mother cannot understand why things have turned out so differently from the experience she had with her other children, since from her point of view he has an identical environment and equal opportunities.

- (a) What does Huen-wing's case have to teach us about sibling rivalry? (9%)
- (b) Should Huen-wing's mother attempt to force Huen-wing to spend time on his studies and control the time he spends watching television and playing football? Explain your view. (9%)
- (c) Explain what suggestions you would give to Huen-wing's brothers and sister about how they can best help him make a success of his life. (7%)

6. Consider the following case:

Ngan-ye is a young school leaver who has just completed a month's work in her first job as a salesperson in an insurance company. The following advice was given to her by a female colleague, Salina, who has worked for the company for many years and has a reputation for being the most aggressive person on the staff:

'You seem to me to be a very idealistic person who has been overprotected by your parents in a very middle-class family. You've studied for seven years at a girls' school and you don't seem to know much about life in the real world.'

'If you want to get on in this job, there are some things you need to remember. I've been watching you and you aren't nearly aggressive enough. To get on in this company, you've got to sell more insurance than any of the other new recruits. It's not a question of sharing things out fairly; you have to make sure you get the biggest share, and you'll have to learn a few tricks and take a few short cuts to make sure that happens.'

'Yesterday, I saw you talking to a possible new client. However, you were too gentle and too honest. If you are going to sell insurance you've got to learn to bend the truth a little – you know, exaggerate a bit, and overlook a few of the problems.'

'And with a long-established client like Old Fung, well he's a bit of an old devil really. He likes to deal with a pretty girl like you and you should take advantage of that. But when I saw you with him last week you were so very correct: sitting so straight and proper on the opposite side of that wide table. The way to get round a client like Old Fung is to sit really close and give him a sexy smile or two. It's the only way to do business with someone like him.'

(a) Imagine that Ngan-ye is a close friend and she has just told you about Salina's advice. Explain what you consider Ngan-ye should do. (15%)

(b) Salina was once a naive, innocent teenager like Ngan-ye. Explain the possible causes of Salina's personality change. (10%)

7. Study these views about Hong Kong student dating (extracted from an article in a local newspaper dated 22.9.1993):

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| - Judy (15): | <i>'Dating is a waste of time when you are still at school.'</i> |
| - Kitty (15): | <i>'I think that dating is okay, as long as it doesn't hamper your studies.'</i> |
| - Amy (14): | <i>'I'm all for it, as most of my friends have a boy to cling to. Even the not-so-pretty girls have some kind of boyfriend.'</i> |
| - Emily (19): | <i>'Age is my main concern. It's all right as long as you don't start too early.'</i> |
| - Wendy (16): | <i>'I feel happy to have a boyfriend with me – he can help me solve my problems. My family doesn't have much time for me, but a boyfriend always does.'</i> |
| - Eric (19): | <i>'Life is very dull and I need a girlfriend to brighten up my life. It's also good to relieve pressure from the outside world.'</i> |
| - Mr Low (headmaster): | <i>'I think today's youngsters are too young to know what life is and start dating blindly. We invite parents to talk about the matter if we see students dating in school uniform.'</i> |
| - Sister Flora (headmistress): | <i>'I think student dating is normal behaviour, as society is more open nowadays. With earlier generations, teenagers always had a brother or sister to talk to and play with. However, many students today happen to be the only child in the family, and they need someone to talk to. In this case a friend of the opposite sex could be a great consolation.'</i> |
| - Mr Cheung (social worker): | <i>'Dating is a natural development among youngsters as our society becomes more westernised, but the trend is getting a little bit unhealthy. Children as young as primary six have already started dating.'</i> |
| - Ms Tsang-Feign (psychotherapist): | <i>'For many teenagers, romantic love is the outlet for the pressure, fear and isolation they feel. They also turn to romantic love to get the attention and emotional attachment they crave but so often cannot find at home.'</i> |

(a) These ten comments reflect a number of basic attitudes towards student dating. Categorize these attitudes and explain the differences among them. (16%)

(b) The above extract illustrates rapidly changing attitudes in Hong Kong towards student dating. What has brought about this trend? What are the likely consequences for Hong Kong society? (9%)

END OF PAPER