

HONG KONG EXAMINATIONS AUTHORITY
HONG KONG ADVANCED LEVEL EXAMINATION 1994

LIBERAL STUDIES (THE MODERN WORLD) 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 this quotation from Dr Boutros-Ghali, the Secretary-General of the United Nations (UN), which was part of a 100-page report he made to the General Assembly in September 1993:

The world has recognised that the UN can play a central role in establishing world order, rescuing countries in crises and serving as a voice for the poorest countries.

The media deserve to be criticised for concentrating on peace-keeping to the near exclusion of everything else that the UN does.

Though activities for development may not be as glamorous as peace-keeping operations, they are just as important, and indeed, provide the foundations for world security and stability.

Explain how you would rate the importance of the peace-keeping activities of the UN in relation to all the other activities it has carried out since the end of the Cold War. (12%)

2. Consider the following information about the rising tide of racism in Europe:

- Some 14 million immigrants (about 4% of Europe's total population) live and work in European countries which give them few rights and treat them as second-class citizens.
- There have been numerous examples in recent years of politicians who have been successful in elections because of their opposition to immigration and the hard line they have taken against refugees.
- In many European countries such as Germany, France and Italy, political parties on the far right (neo-fascists) are gaining increasing support among ordinary people. These groups often make no secret of their admiration for the policies of Nazi Germany under Hitler. They have been violent in their opposition even to the extent of killing immigrant workers and burning down their homes.
- The collapse of the Soviet Union has led to many bitter campaigns among racial groups, including civil wars.
- In spite of the lessons of the Second World War with regard to the oppression of the Jewish people, anti-semitism is again on the rise in Europe, where extremists blame the Jews for the high rates of unemployment and the economic hardship that Europe is now experiencing.

Explain why racism is on the rise in Europe. By looking at the underlying nature of racism, discuss whether this problem is special to Europe. (13%)

SECTION 2 (Data Response Questions)*(50% of the module marks)*Answer *all* the questions in this section.

3. In the following tables, the United States of America (U.S.A.) and Japan are used to represent the most developed countries/areas, Hungary and Brazil represent the middle-income developing countries/areas, and China and India represent the low-income developing countries/areas.

Table 1: Economic Indicators

Countries/ areas	GDP ^a per head in US\$ 1991	GDP growth annual average % 1983-92	Unemployment % of labour force 1992	Telephone lines per 100 people 1990	Cars per 1,000 people 1990
U.S.A.	22,130	2.7	7.4	45	589
Japan	19,390	4.1	2.2	44	285
Hungary	6,080	-0.6	12.2	10	169
Brazil	5,240	1.9	5.9	6	104
China	1,680	9.4	2.3	1	2
India	1,150	5.2	11.7	1	2
Hong Kong	18,520	6.3	2.0	42	29

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Table 2: Cultural Indicators

Countries/ areas	TVs per 1000 people 1990	Newspapers sold per 1000 people 1988-90	Tourists as % of population 1991	McDonald's restaurants per million people 1993
U.S.A.	815	250	16	36
Japan	620	587	3	8.1
Hungary	410	261	323	1.3
Brazil	213	54	1	0.8
China	31	30	2	0.01
India	32	28	0.2	0
Hong Kong	274	632	107	11.6

Table 3: Social Indicators

Countries/ areas	Secondary school enrolment rate ² % 1990	Life expectancy at birth in years 1991	Population density (people per 1,000 hectares) 1991	Murders per 100,000 men 1990	Divorce as % of marriages 1990
U.S.A.	92	76	275	13.3	48
Japan	96	79	3,294	0.7	22
Hungary	79	70	1,141	3.7	31
Brazil	39	66	93	29.4	3
China	48	69	1,255	1.0	1
India	44	60	2,902	5.0	1
Hong Kong	90	78	58,121	1.7	12

(Source: South China Morning Post)

¹ GDP (Gross Domestic Product) is an index used to show the total value of goods produced and services provided in a country in one year.

² The enrolment rate is a percentage of all 12 to 17-year-olds attending secondary schools.

- (a) With reference to the data in the three tables, decide which of the following descriptions best fits Hong Kong:

- a developed area
- a middle-income developing area
- a low-income developing area

Justify your answer.

(16%)

- (b) Looking at figures for the GDP per head (column 2 of Table 1) is one of the most common ways of judging a country's success and status in the modern world. With reference to the data in the three tables, explain whether this indicator alone is sufficient to make such a judgement. (16%)

- (c) What conclusions can you draw from the data in Table 2 on *McDonald's restaurants*? (6%)

- (d) If you wanted to stress the differences between developed and developing countries, what additional information would you include apart from that contained in the three tables? Explain your answer. (12%)

SECTION 3 (Conventional Essay Questions)

(25% of the module marks)

Answer one question from this section.

4. Consider this newspaper extract:

US vows to stay a world leader

Secretary of State, Warren Christopher, has pledged that the United States (U.S.) will remain a leader in world affairs to benefit its own economy and security.

'The United States must maintain its military strength and revitalise its economy so we can retain the option to act alone when that is best for us.

'Why, may you ask, should we continue to play a leading role in the world? First, because it's strongly in our economic interests to do so,' he said.

'No other nation possesses our military might, economic strength or moral authority. These assets give us the ability to act alone when necessary, although when appropriate we can share the burden with other nations,' he concluded.

'International markets must be opened and expanded to allow for a free flow of trade and information which would create new jobs for Americans,' he went on.

'The central purpose of our foreign policy is to ensure the security of our nation and its economic prosperity, and to promote democratic values.

In this newspaper extract, Warren Christopher is describing how he sees the United States' role as the world's only remaining superpower. How has the U.S. definition of its role changed since the height of the Cold War? Do you consider recent U.S. actions on the world stage match Mr Christopher's description? (25%)

5. Consider this quotation:

As never before in its history, the human world is becoming an urban world. In the next few years, the world will pass an important milestone when there will be more people living in and around cities than in rural areas.

Is this trend good or bad? Should governments encourage or discourage it? What government policies would you support? Explain your answer. (25%)

6. In December 1993, the Uruguay round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) came to a successful conclusion after seven long years of difficult negotiations. Explain why it was so difficult to reach agreement. Discuss whether members will benefit equally from this agreement with reference to the following:

- the United States
- Hong Kong
- Africa

(25%)

7. Consider the following extract from a report about a speech made by Lewis Preston, the President of the World Bank, in December 1993:

Billion hungry could be halved

There are a billion people suffering from hunger in the developing world, but that number could be halved if the right policies were applied, Lewis Preston, the World Bank president, said before a conference on hunger in Washington.

'Developing countries could reduce the number of people suffering from hunger from 30 per cent of their population to 15 per cent if they undertook fundamental economic reforms with the help of international institutions and improved health and education,' Mr Preston said.

'The 250 million people suffering from hunger in sub-Saharan Africa and the 600 million in South Asia, the areas worst hit by famine, are not simply the victims of war and drought.

'The reasons why the great majority of the poor go hungry are not connected with war, drought and civil unrest.

'Rather, global hunger is associated with bad policies: political, social and economic. These policies, in various countries, have meant that large sections of their populations have been unable to participate in markets and benefit from economic growth.

'The Earth produces more than enough food to feed its 5.6 billion people, but it is not getting to those who need it,' he concluded.

- (a) Mr Preston accuses some countries in Africa and South Asia of adopting policies that are harmful to their peoples. If you were the political leaders of those countries, how would you respond to his accusations? Explain your answer. (15%)
- (b) What is your own view of the World Bank's role in developing countries/areas? (10%)

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