

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. Answers to all questions should be written in the same answer book.
4. 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.
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

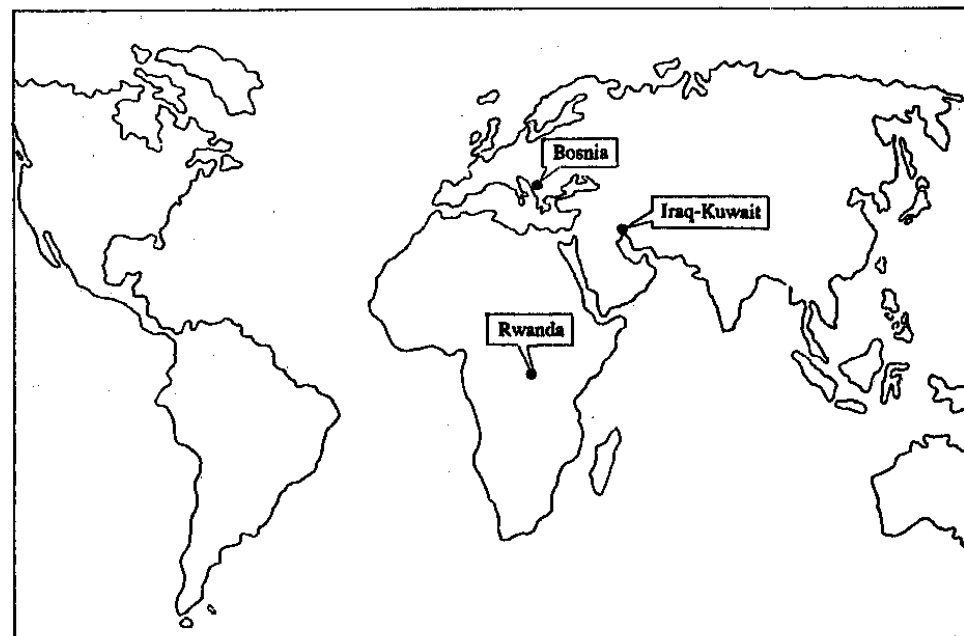
(25% of the module marks)

Answer all the questions in this section.

1. According to Article 1 of the United Nations Charter, one of the objectives of the United Nations is to 'maintain international peace and security, and to bring about by peaceful means, and in conformity with the principles of justice and international law, adjustment or settlement of international disputes or situations which might lead to a breach of the peace'.

With reference to one of the areas/countries marked in the following map where the United Nations has maintained a peace-keeping force, discuss how far the United Nations has achieved the above objective.

(15%)



2. The following is a newspaper extract related to the Asian Games held in October 1994:

China's State Councillor Li Tieying (李鐵映) cancelled his visit to Japan as a protest against the Japanese invitation of a Taiwan government official to attend the Asian Games held in Hiroshima in October 1994.

In the light of the above extract, discuss to what extent sport can promote international understanding.

(10%)

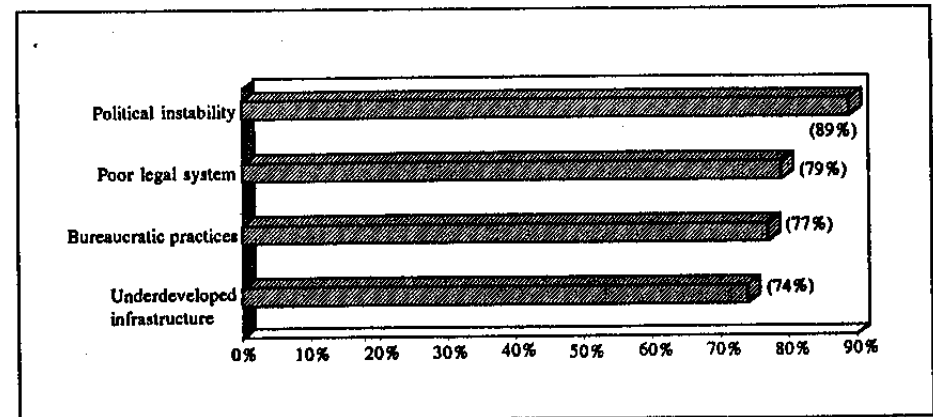
SECTION 2

[50% of the module marks]

Answer all the questions in this section.

3. (a) An economist has conducted a survey on some international investment firms to find out what problems they considered to be major factors which hindered the development of Third World countries. The following is a summary of the survey findings:

Chart 1: Major factors which hinder the development of Third World countries



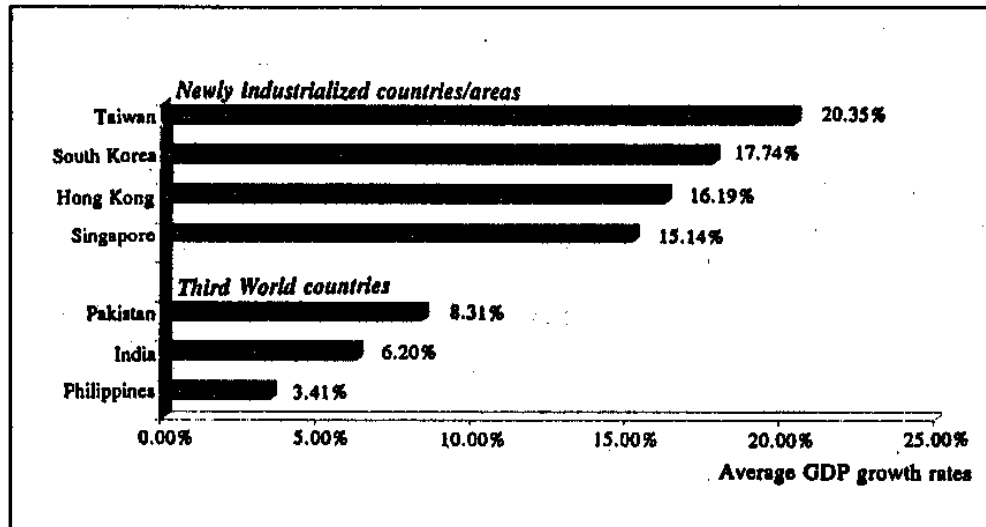
Note: Figures in brackets denote the percentage of respondents which regarded the problem concerned as a major factor hindering the development of Third World countries.

- (i) In what ways do the factors mentioned in Chart 1 hinder the development of Third World countries? Explain your answer. (15%)
- (ii) Apart from those mentioned in Chart 1, suggest other factors which might also hinder the development of Third World countries. Justify your answer. (15%)
- (iii) Explain why so many Third World countries experience political instability. (5%)

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- (b) The following chart shows the average Gross Domestic Product (GDP)* growth rates of some newly industrialized countries/areas and Third World countries in the period 1975-93:

Chart 2: Average GDP growth rates (1975-93)



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

As shown in Chart 2, the 'Four Little Dragons of Asia', i.e. Hong Kong, Taiwan, South Korea and Singapore, have achieved fast development in recent years. What lessons can Third World countries which experience slow development learn from these 'Four Little Dragons of Asia'? Give reasons to support your answer. (15%)

SECTION 3

[25% of the module marks]

Answer *one* question from this section.

4. The following table summarizes the findings of a research project carried out by a political scientist on the objectives of some countries in offering aid to other countries:

Primary objectives of giving donations	'Hidden' objectives	Types of donors
1. Promote the economic development of recipients	Maintain the political stability of recipients	Western
2. Foster the eventual self-sufficiency of recipients	Speed up the process of democratization	Western
3. Symbolize friendships and commitments to, and support for, recipients	(a) strengthen bilateral relations	(a) All donors
	(b) spread Communism	(b) China and the former Soviet Union
	(c) enhance Arab/Muslim solidarity	(c) Arab countries
4. Maintain influence over recipients' domestic and foreign policies		Great powers
5. Sustain a recipient's regime in power	Protect donor's political and diplomatic interests	Great powers
6. Humanitarian emergency relief	Improve relationships	All donors

In the light of the information given in the above table, examine the effects of foreign aid on the domestic and foreign policies of recipient countries. (25%)

5. In a Liberal Studies class, two students had the following contrasting views:

Student A: The emergence of the United Nations Organization and other regional organizations such as the European Union, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), and the Arab League has broken down national boundaries and increased the inter-dependence of nations.

Student B: That is an overstatement! The fact is religious and racial differences have led to increasing conflicts and mistrust among nations. The world is still a long way from becoming a 'global village'.

Which student's view is more convincing? Explain your answer.

(25%)

6. Study the following comment:

In the post-Cold War era, the economic weaknesses of the United States and the breakup of the former USSR, coupled with the rise of Japan and Europe, have transformed the international scene from a 'bipolar' world dominated by the United States and the former USSR into a 'multipolar' world with various centres of power.

How far is the above comment an appropriate description of the new balance of power in the post-Cold War era? Justify your view. (25%)

7. Given below are the statistics related to Hong Kong's external trade by major trading partners in 1983 and 1993:

1983			1993		
Imports			Imports		
<i>Supplier</i>	<i>\$ Million</i>	<i>Per cent</i>	<i>Supplier</i>	<i>\$ Million</i>	<i>Per cent</i>
1. China	42,821	24.4	1. China	402,161	37.5
2. Japan	40,333	23.0	2. Japan	178,034	16.6
3. United States	19,179	10.9	3. Taiwan	93,968	8.8
4. Taiwan	12,448	7.1	4. United States	79,419	7.4
5. Singapore	10,482	6.0	5. South Korea	48,220	4.5
6. United Kingdom	7,456	4.2	6. Singapore	47,835	4.4
7. South Korea	5,050	2.9	7. Germany	24,918	2.3
8. West Germany	4,556	2.6	8. Malaysia	15,855	1.5
Domestic Exports			Domestic Exports		
<i>Destination</i>	<i>\$ Million</i>	<i>Per cent</i>	<i>Destination</i>	<i>\$ Million</i>	<i>Per cent</i>
1. United States	43,802	42.0	1. China	63,467	28.4
2. United Kingdom	8,538	8.2	2. United States	60,292	27.0
3. West Germany	8,043	7.7	3. Germany	13,969	6.3
4. China	6,223	6.0	4. Singapore	11,344	5.1
5. Japan	3,910	3.7	5. United Kingdom	10,771	4.8
6. Canada	3,731	3.6	6. Japan	9,677	4.3
7. Australia	2,927	2.8	7. Taiwan	6,261	2.8
8. Singapore	2,228	2.1	8. Canada	4,734	2.1
Re-exports			Re-exports		
<i>Destination</i>	<i>\$ Million</i>	<i>Per cent</i>	<i>Destination</i>	<i>\$ Million</i>	<i>Per cent</i>
1. China	12,183	21.6	1. China	274,561	33.4
2. United States	8,028	14.3	2. United States	180,349	21.9
3. Singapore	4,523	8.0	3. Japan	44,156	5.4
4. Indonesia	3,884	6.9	4. Germany	40,798	5.0
5. Taiwan	3,454	6.1	5. United Kingdom	24,536	3.0
6. Japan	3,176	5.6	6. Taiwan	21,910	2.7
7. South Korea	2,440	4.3	7. Singapore	17,143	2.1
8. Philippines	1,632	2.9	8. South Korea	15,538	1.9

In the light of the data given above, analyse Hong Kong's relationship to the Third World with respect to trade. (25%)

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