

LIBERAL STUDIES (HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS) AS-LEVEL

8.30 am – 11.00 am (2½ hours)

This paper must be answered in English

1. This paper consists of **Section 1** and **Section 2**. Section 1 carries 75% of the module marks, and Section 2 carries 25%.
2. **Section 1** consists of three questions, *all* of which are to be answered. **Section 2** consists of four questions, of which candidates may attempt any *one*.
3. Each question is worth 25 marks : 18 marks are allocated for content and 7 marks for effective communication.
4. The maximum content marks are indicated in brackets at the end of each question and sub-question. They are 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

Answer *all* questions in this section.

- In a recent survey on the issue of boredom, 1,200 questionnaires were distributed to students in Secondary 1 to Secondary 7. 850 valid questionnaires were then collected. It was found that 75% of the respondents had experienced boredom. The following tables show the causes of their boredom and the five most common ways of relieving boredom.

Table 1

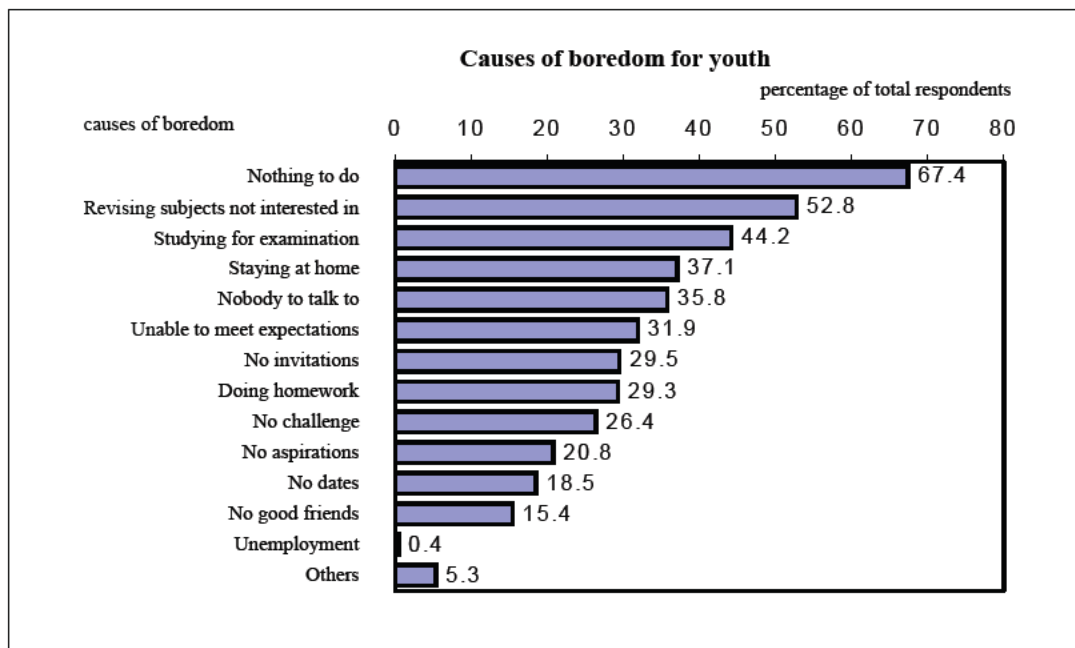
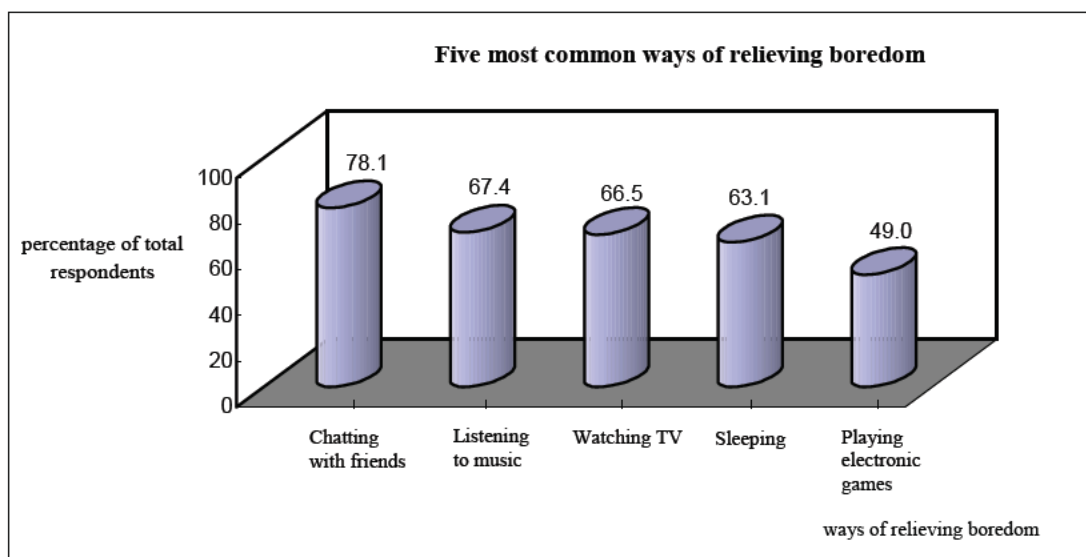


Table 2



- How would you explain the fact that three of the four items chosen by most respondents in Table 1 are related to family life and the school curriculum? (10 marks)
- Do you think the five ways listed in Table 2 are good and effective to relieve boredom caused by the school curriculum? Explain. (8 marks)

2. Consider the following extract from a local newspaper :

Pupil in stand-off

A Primary Six pupil locked herself in the kitchen and threatened to hurt herself in a four-hour stand-off with police at her Wong Tai Sin home yesterday.

The incident began soon after 1:00 a.m. while her 40-year-old mother was playing mahjong with neighbours in their 13th-floor flat in Yau Tung House, Tung Tau Estate.

A police officer said the girl complained she could not concentrate on her studies because of the noise from the mahjong game.

'During a heated argument, the girl ran into the kitchen and blocked the entrance with a table,' the officer said.

'She threatened to harm herself if we used force to break into the kitchen.'

The officer said the girl was unhurt but tired.

- (a) What are the main causes of the event? Explain. (9 marks)
- (b) Suppose the girl were your good friend. Suggest to her *one* better way to solve the problem. Explain. (9 marks)

3. Consider the following table :

Percentage Distribution of Drug Abusers by Reason for Current Drug Abuse and Age Group, 1998

Reason for current drug abuse	Age Group	
	Under 21 (%)	21 or over (%)
Avoid discomfort of its absence	30.8	55.4
Peer influence / To identify with peers	60.9	25.5
Curiosity	38.7	27.3
Relief of boredom / Depression / Anxiety	27.1	22.2
To seek euphoria or sensory satisfaction	25.6	19.2
For self-medication	1.1	3.6
Under influence of the partner	2.0	0.7
Other reasons	4.2	5.1

Source: *Hong Kong Monthly Digest of Statistics* October 1999

- (a) Based on the above information, explain the relationship between age and the reason for drug abuse. (8 marks)
- (b) Suggest **three** measures that the Government should adopt to prevent people under 21 from becoming drug abusers. Explain which measure is the most effective. (3 marks + 7 marks)

Section 2

Answer *one* question from this section.

4. Consider the following case :

On 14 May 1997, a fifteen-year-old teenager was murdered by a group of fourteen teenagers. The victim was tortured in various extremely violent and brutal ways for more than three hours. In one instance, while beating and kicking the victim, the assailants read a triad society poem, a practice illustrated in a popular comic book. Four of the assailants were later sentenced to life imprisonment.

To explain their brutal and inhumane acts, two lawyers blamed the influence of violent comic books and the mass media. But Mr. Justice Michael Wong Kin-chow suggested that the influence of comic books and the mass media was just a minor factor, while the lack of moral education in the assailants' families was the major one.

- (a) Comment on Mr. Justice Wong's view. (9 marks)
- (b) Besides the influence of comic books, the mass media and the lack of moral education in the family, discuss other factors which may have also contributed to the brutal and inhumane acts of the group. (9 marks)

5. Consider the following extract from a local newspaper :

Certain cinema-goers are totally discourteous in disregarding others' rights. I have seen people continue loud phone conversations during movies even after requests for silence from ushers.

I have the right to expect that everyone who has purchased a ticket to any cinema has respect for others to turn off their phones so everyone has the chance to watch the movie that they have paid for.

Management should instruct ushers to use their flashlights to point out those people whose phones ring and cause them embarrassment. Furthermore, people may be fined \$5,000 for smoking in the cinema, so how about imposing a fine for ringing phones?

- (a) Why do people still continue loud phone conversations in the cinema even after requests for silence? (9 marks)
- (b) Do you think the measures suggested by the writer can teach the people using mobile phones in the cinema to respect others? Explain. (9 marks)

6. Some social psychologists believe that the following are some important rules for developing friendship :

- Share news of success with a friend
- Volunteer help in time of need
- Stand up for a friend in his or her absence
- Repay debts and favours
- Be tolerant of other friends
- Don't nag* a friend

* to annoy or try to persuade someone by continuously finding fault and complaining

- (a) Suggest **two** important rules for developing friendship which have not been listed above. Explain why they are important. (8 marks)
- (b) Amongst the eight rules, including the two rules suggested in 6 (a), which one do you think is the most important rule for developing friendship? Why? (10 marks)

7. In a recent survey, 521 people aged between 18 and 34 were interviewed. The following are some of the findings :

- Almost 70% of the respondents who own credit cards spend more than they intend to
- More than 11% admitted paying for goods and services with credit cards even though they do not have enough money to cover the bill

- (a) In the light of the data provided, explore the effects, both good and bad, of the possession of credit cards on young people's management of their finances. (10 marks)
- (b) What factors do you think would contribute to young people's good management of their finances? Explain. (8 marks)

END OF PAPER