

HONG KONG EXAMINATIONS AUTHORITY
HONG KONG ADVANCED LEVEL EXAMINATION 2000

LIBERAL STUDIES (THE MODERN WORLD) 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 clear, concise and logical manner, rather than the ability to recite facts.

SECTION 1

Answer *all* the questions in this section.

1. Study Figures A, B and C, which represent three different world-order models in the modern world.

Figure A : Unipolar

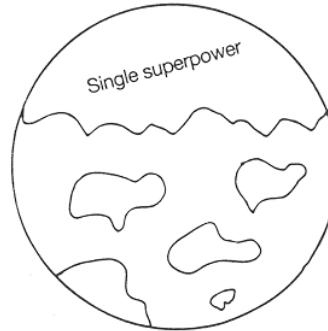


Figure B : Bipolar

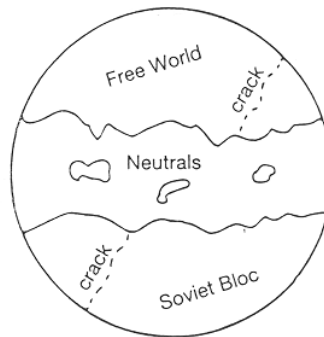
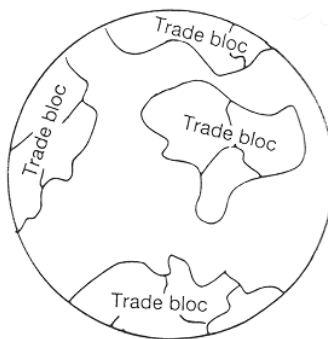


Figure C : Multipolar



- (a) Which one of the above world-order models do you think best reflects the current situation? Justify your answer. (9 marks)
- (b) What world-order model do you think will prevail in the coming decade? Explain your answer with the aid of a simple diagram. (9 marks)

2. Study Sources A and B.

Source A : United Nations peacekeeping information

	1988	1992	1994
Security Council resolutions	15	53	78
Disputes and conflicts engaging UN attention	11	13	28
Number of peacekeeping operations	5	11	17
Military personnel deployed	9,570	11,495	73,393
Civilian police deployed	35	115	2,130
Civilian personnel deployed	1,516	2,206	2,206
Number of countries contributing personnel	26	56	76
Annual peacekeeping budget (US \$m)	230	1,690	3,610

Source B : Mediators in international conflicts and their effectiveness (1945–95)

Category of mediators	Number	Percentage (with respect to total number of mediations)	Success rate
Individuals	55	4%	29%
Regional Organisations	174	11%	45%
United Nations	355	23%	36%
Non-government Organisations	97	6%	26%
State	722	47%	34%
Mixed	135	9%	40%
Total number of mediations	1,538	100%	35%

- (a) What can you conclude from Source A about the peacekeeping role of the United Nations?
(6 marks)
- (b) (i) Do Sources A and B adequately reflect the effectiveness of the United Nations in maintaining peace? Explain your answer.
(6 marks)
- (ii) What indicators other than those listed in Sources A and B would help to reflect the effectiveness of the United Nations in maintaining peace? Explain your answer.
(6 marks)

3. Study Extracts A and B, which show two different views on the sources of economic problems encountered by African states.

Extract A

The African states attributed their economic problems to the extreme dependence of their tiny economies on international economic conditions over which they had not the slightest control : the damaging effects of the oil price rises; the wildly fluctuating world market prices of their primary produce exports; the tendency of primary produce prices to decline relative to the cost of the industrial goods which they had to import; and the increase in global interest rates, and hence in the amount of interest that they had to pay on their debt. Even the level of debt, and the inappropriate development models which they had followed, were to some extent the result of policies advocated by the World Bank and other donors in the 1960s and 1970s.

Extract B

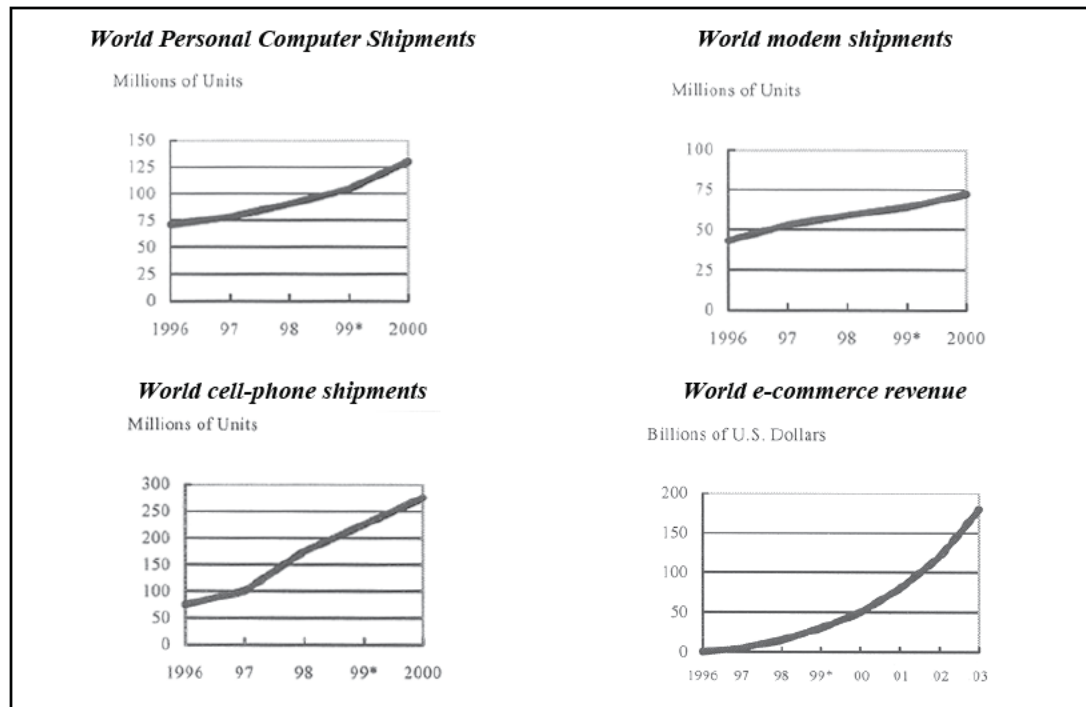
The major capitalist states and international financial institutions argued that the efficient operation of African economies was obstructed by the policies which African states pursued, and by the structure of the African states themselves : the maintenance of artificial exchange rates; state control of produce marketing, which was driving potential producers out of the market; the massive debts accumulated by badly-managed state corporations; the inflation of the government payroll, caused in part by militarisation, in part by the state's attempt to carry out functions for which it was unsuited; and, least excusably of all, the ample evidence of gross corruption and abuse of power.

Explain whether you think Extract A or Extract B provides a more appropriate explanation of the sources of economic problems encountered by African states. (18 marks)

SECTION 2

Answer *one* question from this section.

4. Study the following data.



Note : Figures for 1999 and after are estimated.

- (a) In the light of the above data, explain how electronic communications contribute towards the development of the 'global village'. (9 marks)
- (b) To what extent do electronic communications contribute towards the advancement and protection of human rights in the modern world? (9 marks)

5. Study the following views :

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| Student A : | <i>'The end of the Soviet threat has turned NATO [North Atlantic Treaty Organisation] into a paper alliance.'</i> |
| Student B : | <i>'The purpose of NATO is still to reduce Russia's influence in European affairs, to keep the United States in Europe, and to constrain Germany.'</i> |
| Student C : | <i>'NATO should absorb new members, including Russia, and change its role if it is to continue to exist.'</i> |

Comment on the validity of the views of Students A, B and C on the role of NATO in the world today.
(18 marks)

6. Study the following extract :

Most member states of the European Union (EU) have the following characteristics :

- High taxes to pay for the welfare state, about 40 percent of GDP* in contrast to 30 percent in the United States, Japan, and Australia.
- Big budget deficits to cover the shortfall between welfare expenditures and taxes. As a percent of GDP, most of West Europe runs bigger deficits than the United States and has accumulated bigger national debts.
- Slow economic growth, slower than the United States and much slower than East Asia.
- High unemployment, averaging at or over 10 percent.
- An aging population that requires greater and greater welfare benefits.
- Government protection of certain sectors of the economy has led some of those sectors to slide into inefficiency.

* GDP : Gross Domestic Product

- (a) Discuss how the above characteristics of EU member states would affect the role of the EU in international relationships. (9 marks)
- (b) What characteristics of EU member states other than those listed above would affect the role of the EU in international relationships? Explain your answer. (9 marks)

7. Study the following views related to the impact of foreign aid :

Student A : *'Aid has achieved neither economic growth in the recipient countries, nor close and enduring political relationships between donors and recipients. Basically, aid to the developing countries means that poor people in rich countries (taxpayers) help rich people in poor countries.'*

Student B : *'But I believe many aid donors truly are beneficent. In fact, aid has saved lives and improved living standards in many places. It is only relative to excessively high expectations that aid has frequently failed.'*

In the light of the above views, comment on the impact of foreign aid on the developing countries.

(18 marks)

END OF PAPER