

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* the questions in this section.

1. A youth association has interviewed 658 students who are Internet users on their behaviour on the Internet. The following are some of the results:

Questions	Response (%)		
	Yes	No	Don't know / Hard to tell
Have you chatted with other people via the Internet about thoughts and feeling you normally would not be willing to express?	55.4	44.6	---
Have you used false personal information to make friends via the Internet?	51.0	48.6	0.4
Have you used false personal information while sending messages via the Internet?	48.3	50.7	1.0
Have you done something on the Internet that you would normally dare not do?	25.0	74.8	0.2
Have you been invited to meet other ICQ* users personally?	24.7	74.7	0.6
Have you taken the initiative to meet other ICQ users personally?	14.4	85.2	0.4

* ICQ ("I Seek You") is an Internet program that informs you who is on-line at any time and enables you to contact them at will.

- (a) Do you think the Internet is a desirable means of making new friends? Explain. (9 marks)
- (b) How do you think the Internet would affect young people's attitudes towards honesty? (9 marks)

2. Study the case below:

Recently, Chi Keung, a Secondary Four pupil, was put on probation with a special condition of receiving psychological treatment, after pleading guilty to wounding a schoolmate in the chest with a 30cm cleaver.

As revealed in the court, Chi Keung was always bullied by schoolmates because he was short and fat. They laughed at him and called him 'fat pig' and 'penguin'. They hit him and kicked him. They hid his books and played jokes on him. He had complained to teachers and parents, but they did not take the matter seriously. The more he was picked on, the more he tried to escape. He was always the last one to arrive at school, and the first one to leave. In order to protect himself from being bullied, he took a cleaver with him to school. One day, he was hit on the back by a plastic bottle thrown by a Secondary Three schoolmate while he was riding home on a bicycle. Out of anger, he grabbed the cleaver from his school bag and stuck it into the schoolmate's chest. The victim spent six days in hospital.

The judge said he understood that Chi Keung had a miserable life, but stressed that the ruling did not mean that courts tolerated violence because the case was 'truly exceptional'.

- (a) Who do you think should be held most responsible for causing the assault, Chi Keung himself, his schoolmates, teachers or parents? Explain your choice. (9 marks)
- (b) Suppose that you were a friend of Chi Keung. What could you have done to prevent the assault from happening? (9 marks)

3. The following are some findings of a survey on secondary school pupils concerning the influence of schoolmates having attempted or committed suicide. 1920 pupils responded to the survey.

	Pupils whose schoolmates attempted suicide	Pupils whose schoolmates committed suicide	Other pupils with no schoolmates having attempted or committed suicide
Number of respondents	574	329	1017
Number of respondents having the intention of attempting suicide	226 (39.4%)	96 (29.2%)	143 (14.1%)
Number of respondents having mentioned to others the intention of attempting suicide	99 (17.2%)	45 (13.7%)	44 (4.3%)
Number of respondents having planned to attempt suicide	79 (13.8%)	35 (10.6%)	35 (3.4%)
Number of respondents having attempted suicide	118 (20.6%)	49 (14.9%)	48 (4.7%)

(Inside each pair of parentheses is the percentage of pupils in the relevant group.)

- (a) What are the differences among the three groups of pupils in their attitudes towards suicide? How would you explain such differences? (3+6 marks)
- (b) Suppose you were the principal of a secondary school with pupils who have attempted suicide, what would you do to prevent other pupils from having the intention of attempting suicide? (9 marks)

SECTION 2

Answer *one* question from this section.

4. A survey on pupils' attitudes towards money was conducted and data were obtained from a sample of 1,296 pupils in Primary Four to Secondary Four.

The following table shows the findings regarding the respondents' attitudes towards money.

Statements	Percentage of pupils who agree with the statement
Money brings happiness.	35%
Anything is worth doing as long as it brings lots of money.	25%
A lack of money would lead to a lack of happiness and well-being.	16%
Money is more important than anything else.	16%
I would give any extra money I have to charity.	5.5% (primary school pupils) 2.2% (secondary school pupils)

The survey also found that pupils obsessed with money:

- were less eager to help others
- had poor relationships with their families
- received little or no guidance from their parents on how to spend money
- had a less enjoyable school life

- (a) Based on the findings of the survey, explain how young people's attitudes towards money affect their relationships with other people. (10 marks)
- (b) Give two factors and show that they are causes of the fact that a significantly small number of secondary school pupils would give extra money to charity. (8 marks)

5. Consider the following letter to the Editor:

Working long hours causing social problems

I refer to the report headlined “Families sacrificed for 10-hour days” (*South China Morning Post, May 12*), which suggested that family problems could be caused by workaholic parents, because such parents spend less time with their children and other family members.

I am sure many people do not want to work 10 hours or more a day. However, they give in to increasing pressure from employers to work late. Since the Asian financial crisis, the employment market has shrunk significantly. Employers have greater bargaining power and workers have no choice but to accept reduced wages and longer working hours. This new work culture not only creates family problems, but also social problems, such as low fertility rates, rising rates of juvenile delinquency and psychological problems. I urge the Government to undertake a comprehensive study of these social problems.

Hong Kong people should be able to enjoy a well-balanced working and social life.

Mr. Wong
Ma On Shan

Mr Wong claims that the culture of parents’ working long hours would cause three social problems. Explain whether you agree that the culture would cause these problems. (18 marks)

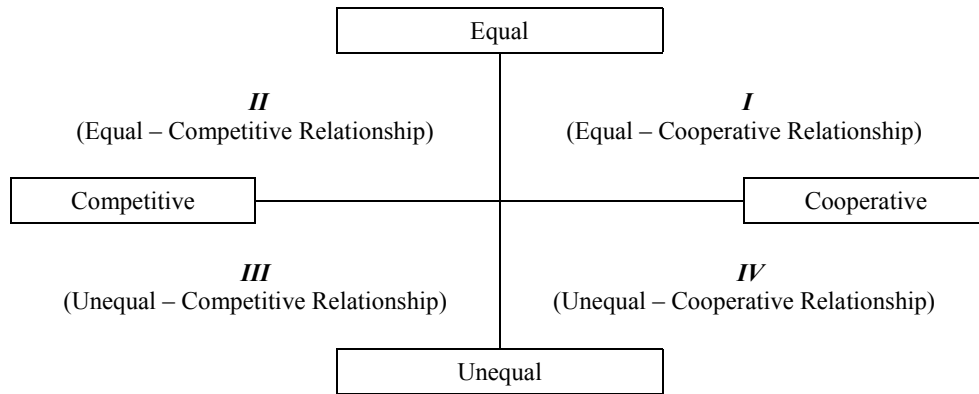
6. A recent survey polled 1089 Secondary Four to Seven pupils from six secondary schools. The following is a summary of the responses:

- 82% of young people had violated copyright regulations or performed acts of piracy on the Internet, including using pirated software and shareware, and recording songs in MP3* format for others to download. Those polled generally found the acts acceptable.
- 48% of the young people believed it was acceptable to record songs in MP3 for others to download.
- 86% of the young people believed that ethics should be promoted in school.
- 67% of the young people thought it was the Government's responsibility to promote ethics.

* MP3 is an advanced data compression technology which allows users to upload and download audio files on the Internet.

- (a) What conclusions can you draw from the fact that while believing that ethics should be promoted in school, the young people still do things which violate copyright regulations or perform acts of piracy on the Internet? (10 marks)
- (b) Do you agree with the opinion that it is the Government’s responsibility to promote ethics? Explain. (8 marks)

7. The diagram below shows four modes of work relationship:



Examples of the four modes of work relationship:

Modes of work relationship	Examples
I (Equal – Cooperative Relationship)	Business partners; team mates
II (Equal – Competitive Relationship)	Business rivals; team mates
III (Unequal – Competitive Relationship)	Supervisor and supervisee
IV (Unequal – Cooperative Relationship)	Salesman and regular customers

- (a) Which mode or modes of work relationship best reflects the teacher-pupil relationship in Hong Kong? Explain. (8 marks)
- (b) In the workplace, which mode of work relationship do you think is the easiest to manage? Explain. (10 marks)

END OF PAPER