

LIBERAL STUDIES (THE MODERN WORLD) AS-LEVEL

1.30 pm – 4.00 pm (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. Study Sources A and B:

Source A

Yugoslavia was fashioned out of a religiously and racially diverse set of peoples. It was never truly a nation-state, its people were mainly Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes. The central government in Belgrade faced enormous difficulty in building a national identity among different races. When Yugoslavia began to disintegrate in 1991, horror stories of various incidents of 'ethnic cleansing' appeared in the world press - members of one ethnic group reportedly murdered or evicted masses of people of other ethnic groups.

Source B: Examples of action taken in ethnic civil wars

Action Taken	Conflicting Parties	Country/ Region	Year	Deaths (thousand)	Outcome
(I) Military Suppression	◆ Blacks vs Whites	Zimbabwe	1965-80	50	Blacks' victory
	◆ Ibos vs Hausas	Nigeria	1967-70	2000	Ibos suppressed
	◆ Tutsis vs Hutus	Rwanda	1990-94	750	Tutsis' victory
	◆ East Timorese vs Javanese	Indonesia	1998-00	200	UN administration in East Timor
(II) Partition/ Independence	◆ Jews vs Arabs	Palestine	1947-49	20	an independent Israel
	◆ Slovenes vs Serbs	Yugoslavia	1991	1	an independent Slovenia
	◆ Chechnyans vs Russians	Russia	1994-97	0.2	partition
(III) Power-sharing Agreement	◆ Blacks vs Whites	South Africa	1960-93	20	majority rule
	◆ Turks vs Greeks	Cyprus	1963-74	0.1	power-sharing

- (a) In the light of Sources A and B, suggest factors causing racism which could inhibit the development of the global village. Explain your answer. (8 marks)
- (b) Which of the various methods do you think would be the best in resolving ethnic conflicts? Justify your answer. (10 marks)

2. Study Sources A, B and C:

Source A: Domestic Conditions of Country A

1. high unemployment rate
2. high inflation
3. lack of capital for industrial and social development
4. poor living conditions
5. authoritarian government

Source B: Conditions Attached to the IMF (International Monetary Fund) Aid

Countries which receive IMF aid should carry out policies to:

1. curb inflation
2. limit imports
3. increase exports
4. restrict public spending
5. allow foreign investment in various industries
6. develop democratic institutions such as free elections

Source C: Benefits and Costs of Receiving IMF (International Monetary Fund) Aid

Benefits

1. Financial resources are provided for industrial development and economic and social infrastructures.
2. Technical training and assistance are offered.
3. Advice on economic policies is given.

Costs

1. Curbing inflation will lead to increasing interest rates, hence increasing production costs.
2. Limiting imports will lead to a shortage of imported goods, hence increasing prices.
3. Restricting public spending will lead to a shortage of social services and reduction in civil servants' pay, hence social instability.
4. Allowing foreign investment in industry may bring it under foreign control.
5. Developing democracy may lead to competition for political power, hence political instability.

Suppose you were an independent economic consultant for Country A. With reference to Sources A, B and C, would you recommend the government of Country A to accept aid from the International Monetary Fund (IMF)? Explain your answer. (18 marks)

3. Study the following extract:

According to a security strategy agreed between the US and Japan in the mid-1990s, Japan has to bear the financial burden of having to compensate for not participating militarily in regional security affairs, as its constitution does not allow it to do so. Japan's sluggish economy in recent years has had a serious impact on the implementation of this strategy.

After Japan's economic bubble burst in the mid-1990s, Japan experienced great difficulty in devising economic and foreign policies capable of reviving the economy. The Japanese economy is experiencing minimal growth and seriously mounting debts, undercutting its ability to provide leadership to other Asian countries. Instead of being a source of regional security, Japan's persistent economic problems could worsen Asia's problems, and perhaps contribute to an economic disaster in Asia in the future.

- (a) In the light of the above extract, identify and explain the changing role of Japan in Asia in the 1990s. (6 marks)
- (b) Discuss whether you think Japan can be described as a major power. (12 marks)

SECTION 2

Answer *one* question from this section.

4. Study the following data:

Debt Data of All Developing Countries

(US\$ million)

	1980	1990	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Use of IMF* credit	12,200	34,700	39,900	44,100	61,100	60,100	70,800	93,800	81,000
Short-term debt	145,600	244,600	326,500	360,500	424,400	460,800	469,300	411,900	402,300
Long-term debt	451,500	1,181,100	1,411,200	1,564,400	1,654,000	1,708,500	1,786,400	2,030,300	2,070,800
TOTAL DEBT	609,300	1,460,400	1,777,600	1,969,000	2,139,500	2,229,400	2,326,500	2,536,000	2,554,100

(The debt data shown in the table do not take the inflation rate into account.)

*IMF: International Monetary Fund

- (a) As reflected in the above data, what are the trends regarding the debts of developing countries?
(6 marks)
- (b) Discuss whether or not you think the debt problem of developing countries can be solved by 2010.
(12 marks)

5. Study the following extract:

Former American Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, commenting on how the United States had progressed over two hundred years from isolationism to superpower global engagement, stated that “the challenge for American foreign policy today is to define a role for the United States in a world where, for the first time in our history, we can neither withdraw nor dominate.”

Forecast the world roles of the United States in the next decade. Explain your answer. (18 marks)

6. Study the following extract:

Despite three decades of remarkable progress, ASEAN* today is in disorder. While it has arguably been the key mechanism for fostering regional cooperation, peace and security, the association now looks sadly dated and out of touch with the times. ASEAN solidarity is little more than skin deep. Members' stubborn adherence to non-interference into other countries' domestic affairs and decision-by-consensus has meant inaction in tackling pressing problems. The group has focused much energy on a grand tariff-reduction plan, but it has been notably slow on other fronts such as human resources and technological development. Now that the group is a diverse mix of ten countries - from opaque to democratic; from the poor to among the world's richest - it cannot hope to move together.

*ASEAN: Association of Southeast Asian Nations. Its members include Brunei, Myanmar, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam.

- (a) Why do we need international governmental organizations in the modern world? Explain your answer with examples. (6 marks)
- (b) In the light of the experiences of ASEAN, discuss the factors that affect the effectiveness of international governmental organizations in achieving their goals. (12 marks)

7. The following extract is adapted from an editorial published in a magazine in October 2000.

It is easy to be cynical about the Olympic Games these days. Why applaud an enterprise that seems hopelessly contaminated by drug use and corrupt officials?

The answer is simple. The Sydney Olympic Games brought together more than 10,000 of the world's best athletes. An American gold medallist in Tae Kwon Do said, "there is a feeling of unity, of the whole world coming together." The bonding began in the Olympic Village where athletes shared videogames, computer terminals and Big Macs. In line outside a computer room, a Thai judo athlete waited to check her e-mail along with a Cuban competitor. At the opening ceremony, South Korea's cheering brigades sang the reunification hymn and embraced delegates from North Korea. As more events were concluded near the end of the Olympic Games, the Village became as noisy as a university campus at the end of final exams.

In the light of the above extract, assess the effectiveness of sport in dissolving national boundaries. (18 marks)

END OF PAPER