

LIBERAL STUDIES (HONG KONG STUDIES) 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.

1. Study the following information extracted from the report of *Learning to Learn* by the Curriculum Development Council (CDC) in June 2001 :

Extract A

The school curriculum should help students learn how to learn through cultivating positive values, attitudes and a commitment to life-long learning, and through developing generic skills to acquire, construct and communicate knowledge. These qualities are essential for whole-person development to cope with the challenges of the 21st Century.

Extract B

The four key tasks listed below are proposed by the CDC as tools to promote effective learning and teaching :

- moral and civic education
- reading to learn
- project learning
- using information technology

To what extent can the four key tasks equip students to cope with the challenges of the 21st Century?
Explain. (18 marks)

2. The School of Journalism and Communication of the Chinese University of Hong Kong conducted a survey on the credibility of Hong Kong's newspapers between August and September of 2001. The survey had successfully interviewed 1,004 residents and 722 journalists respectively. The results are as follows :

Newspaper	Credibility		Circulation
	Average score given by the residents ⁽¹⁾	Average score given by the journalists ⁽¹⁾	
Ming Pao Daily News	7.54	7.27	95,074 ⁽²⁾
Hong Kong Economic Journal	7.34	7.63	–
South China Morning Post	7.24	7.47	104,588 ⁽²⁾
Sing Tao Daily	7.13	6.78	–
Hong Kong Economic Times	6.96	6.95	70,064 ⁽²⁾
Sing Pao Daily News	6.48	5.89	73,712 ⁽²⁾
Wen Wei Pao	5.93	5.52	–
Oriental Daily News	5.76	5.14	639,040 ⁽³⁾
Tai Kung Pao	5.64	5.44	–
Apple Daily	5.15	5.08	365,234 ⁽²⁾
The Sun	5.13	4.45	193,391 ⁽⁴⁾

(1) Interviewees were asked to give a score from 1 to 10, 1 being the lowest credibility and 10 the highest.

(2) Average net circulation per issue in Hong Kong from January to June in 2001. The information is from the Hong Kong Audit Bureau of Circulations.

(3) Average sale per issue in Hong Kong from 1 June to 15 June in 1999. The information is from the Oriental Press, Limited.

(4) Average sale per issue in Hong Kong in July 2001. The information is from the Oriental Press, Limited.

- (a) Study the two sets of score. Identify and explain the differences. (8 marks)
- (b) According to the above information, discuss the relationship between the credibility and circulation of the newspapers. (10 marks)

3. The Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, Mr Tung Chee Hwa, said in the *2001 Policy Address* :

The historic mission of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region is to successfully implement 'One Country, Two Systems' — a great challenge that has never before been encountered. Over the past four years, the Government and the community have worked together to effectively uphold the rule of law and maintain Hong Kong's liberal and open systems. In this, we have the full trust of the Central Government. The people of Hong Kong now have a better understanding of the Motherland and have affirmed their new identity with the reunification. We have successfully implemented 'One Country, Two Systems'.

- (a) To what extent do you agree with the Chief Executive's viewpoint that 'One Country, Two Systems' has been successfully implemented over the past four years? Illustrate your answer with examples. (9 marks)
- (b) The Chief Executive said, 'The people of Hong Kong now have a better understanding of the Motherland and have affirmed their new identity with the reunification.' Do you agree with this statement? Explain. (9 marks)

SECTION 2

Answer *one* question from this section.

4. Study the following extract from a local newspaper dated 11 June 2001 :

Effectiveness of Communicative Approach Called into Question

Which is the most effective way to enhance the English proficiency of students? Is the communicative approach now we are using, or the grammar-oriented approach that we adopted in the past? This issue has been debated repeatedly by educationalists in the past two decades.

The Secretary for Education and Manpower, Mrs Fanny Law, said that the current English teaching method, i.e. the communicative approach introduced into Hong Kong since the 80s, would be under review. A school principal even suggested that more grammar should be taught starting from the upper primary, so as to build up a sound foundation for pupils.

Unlike the emphasis of the grammar-oriented approach used in the 60s and 70s, the communicative approach emphasises fostering communicative power through different situations, for example, teaching students what to say when meeting others in the morning, or how to greet others politely, etc. On the contrary, the grammar-oriented approach stresses the teaching of grammar, such as the definitions of 'noun' and 'verb', the analysis of sentence structure, etc.

In the 70s, the communicative approach was widely adopted in Europe. It was introduced into Hong Kong in the 80s.

A school principal said that systematic grammar teaching could hardly be found in the primary and secondary schools in Hong Kong. The teaching of grammar is fragmented across different topics; as a result, students only have a shaky foundation in grammar.

- (a) Which method do you think can more effectively enhance the English proficiency of students — the communicative approach or the grammar-oriented approach? Explain. (6 marks)
- (b) Use your own experience to examine the favourable and unfavourable factors in learning English in Hong Kong. (6 marks + 6 marks)

5. Study the following cartoon extracted from a local newspaper dated 10 October 2001 :



- (a) Does the cartoon depict correctly the present situation of the Hong Kong economy, especially in the secondary and tertiary production sectors? Explain. (9 marks)
- (b) Comment on the feasibility of further developing the fourth production sector (information technology) in Hong Kong, taking into account the present conditions of Hong Kong. (9 marks)
6. 'The economic achievement and the social stability of Hong Kong rely solely on the strong pillar of an independent judiciary which ensures that the rule of law is upheld.'
- (a) Do you agree with the above viewpoint? Explain. (9 marks)
- (b) Identify and discuss the factors which ensure the rule of law in Hong Kong. (9 marks)

7. Study the following extract from a comment made on 4 October 2001 :

Arrest Should Be Made According to Law But Not at Will

Three protestors arrested during the Global Fortune Forum this May were recently acquitted by the magistrate at Eastern Court. Magistrate Yuen Wai-ming said that the police lacked legal grounds in the incident for towing away the first defendant's vehicle by force as well as arresting the three protestors. Yuen also reprimanded the police for abusing their powers and acting illegally.

The magistrate believed that the real reason for the police towing away the vehicle was : 'the van was politically disruptive, and it appeared in a sensitive place and at a sensitive moment' (when President Jiang Zemin's cars were approaching). He also stressed that the police had the right to stop a suspicious or disruptive vehicle for investigation, but taking further action by towing it away or keeping it in custody was another matter.

The significance of this ruling was to reiterate that the police should have legal grounds in discharging their duties, especially when they are arresting people. The police should not arbitrarily find an excuse for arresting people.

Section 50 of the Police Force Ordinance clearly stipulates that the police must 'reasonably believe' somebody is breaking the law before making an arrest. Otherwise, the arrest is illegal. Furthermore, Section 5 of the Hong Kong Bill of Rights Ordinance stipulates that anybody who is arrested shall be informed, at the time of arrest, of the reasons for his arrest by law enforcement personnel. The police should not 'make an arrest at will'.

The police can certainly ask the people concerned to assist in an investigation. However, the police must have sufficient legal grounds in making an arrest. Anyone who is illegally arrested or detained has the right to seek compensation.

Learning from this lesson, the police should review the procedures of arresting suspects by frontline policemen. It is important that frontline policemen should be taught the importance of acting according to law. They should never make a fool of themselves again, as in the incident during the Global Fortune Forum by arbitrarily making an excuse to tow away the vehicle and arrest people, and eventually being reprimanded by the court for abusing powers.

Author : Audrey Eu, Legislative Councillor

- (a) Do you agree with Audrey Eu's viewpoints? Explain. (8 marks)
- (b) Is there any conflict between ensuring the smooth running of state leaders' official functions and protecting people's freedom of demonstration? Explain. (10 marks)

END OF PAPER