

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. The following factors are often taken into consideration when a person chooses a spouse:

- ◆ Age
- ◆ Cultural background
- ◆ Educational level
- ◆ Health
- ◆ Personality
- ◆ Romantic feelings
- ◆ Socio-economic status of the family
- ◆ Values

- (a) In your opinion, which **two** factors from the table above are the most important and which **two** are the least important in choosing a spouse? Explain your answer. (10 marks)
- (b) With reference to the factors in the above table, explain the advantages and disadvantages of following parents' advice in choosing a spouse. (8 marks)

2. A researcher interviewed 429 adolescents in Hong Kong and their parents to study the relationship between parents and adolescent children. The following are findings on the instances of the most serious conflicts between parents and children:

| Matters of conflict rated by respondents as most serious | Percentage of respondents | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|
| | Adolescents | | Fathers mentioning conflicts with their children | Mothers mentioning conflicts with their children |
| | mentioning conflicts with their father | mentioning conflicts with their mother | | |
| School work | 24.6% | 28.0% | 26.0% | 18.5% |
| Children's going out | 13.5% | 11.8% | 9.1% | 13.9% |
| Misbehaviour | 6.3% | 2.4% | 11.7% | 13.2% |
| Sibling relationship | 9.2% | 13.3% | 11.7% | 15.2% |
| Housework and using household facilities | 13.5% | 11.4% | 11.7% | 6.0% |

Source: 石丹理 and 陳麗君, “父母與青少年子女衝突：香港研究的啓示”, *青年研究學報*, Volume 2, Issue 1, January 1999.

- (a) Identify and account for *two* phenomena that you consider most prominent in the relationship between parents and adolescent children as reflected in the above research findings. (8 marks)
- (b) With reference to the two phenomena you identified in (a), suggest how conflicts between parents and adolescent children can be effectively resolved. Explain your answer. (10 marks)

3. A student had to design two investigations in order to get a better understanding of the civic-mindedness of Hong Kong people. The following are the two investigations he proposed to his teacher:

Investigation A:

The behaviour of passengers inside a lift during rush hours will be video-recorded for a week. When the recording is viewed, passengers' behaviour will be noted with respect to the two questions below:

1. Were passengers able to enter and exit the lift without being obstructed by other passengers?
2. Did they smoke inside the lift?

Investigation B:

On a working day, 200 adults in the street will be asked the following questions:

1. If you see someone lying in a pool of blood after a car accident, will you call the police if you have a mobile phone?
2. Will you vote in the next Legislative Council direct elections?
3. If several Filipinos in Central ask you to take a photo for them with their camera, will you do so?

- (a) With reference to the behaviour of passengers inside a lift in Investigation A, suggest **two** more questions that you think could contribute towards meeting the objective of the investigation. Explain your answer. (6 marks)
- (b) To what extent would the findings of Investigations A and B be adequate in reflecting the civic-mindedness of Hong Kong people? Explain your answer. (12 marks)

SECTION 2

Answer *one* question from this section.

4. Ah Wai is a young clerk. The following table shows the behaviours and incidents contributing stress and frustration to Ah Wai in his daily life. The letters A to H are for your ease of reference when quoting a behaviour or an incident in your answer.

| Behaviours and Incidents | |
|--------------------------|--|
| A | Ah Wai gets up late frequently. Sometimes he misses the bus when he goes to work. This causes him a lot of anxiety. |
| B | Ah Wai's boss is very bad-tempered. Whenever Ah Wai makes a mistake in his work, he will surely be scolded harshly by his boss. Thus he feels very tense whenever he sees his boss. |
| C | Owing to financial cutbacks, Ah Wai's company fires staff once every few months. Ah Wai is worried that he will become a victim of the next lay-off, and he always feels anxious about this. |
| D | Whenever Ah Wai works for a long time at his computer, he suffers from shoulder pain and eye strain. |
| E | After Ah Wai drinks coffee, he often feels irritable. |
| F | Ah Wai forgets to turn off the air-conditioner after work, and has to go back to his office to turn it off. |
| G | Ah Wai has the habit of eating too much sweet food. This has led to the condition of hypoglycaemia*, and so he often gets headaches and easily becomes impatient. |
| H | On one occasion, Ah Wai saw his ex-girlfriend, who had left him two years ago, crossing the road hand in hand with a new boyfriend. Ah Wai got very depressed and felt very helpless. His self-esteem had been seriously hurt when his girlfriend proposed breaking up with him. |

Source: Kevin Kwan, *Goodbye Stress*, Hong Kong: Breakthrough Ltd., 1994.

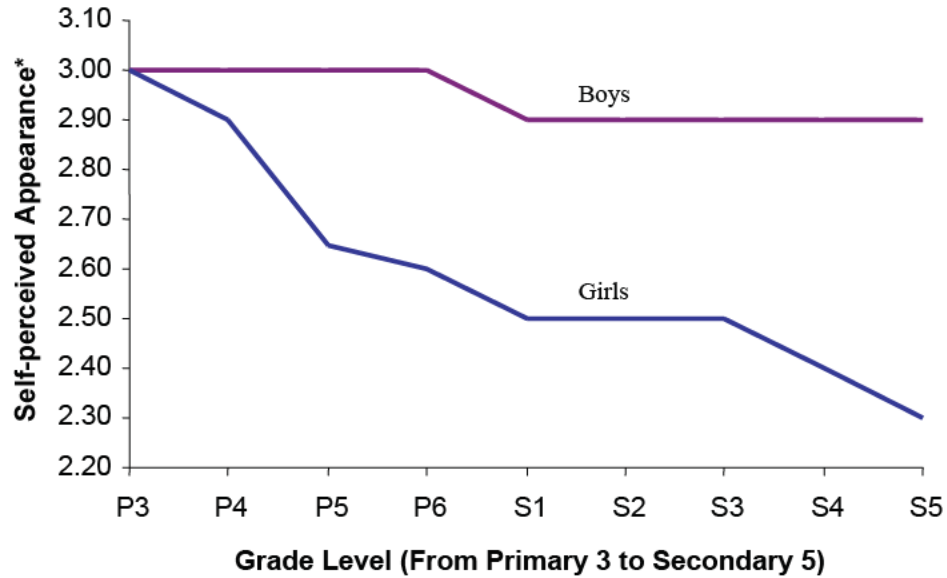
*hypoglycaemia: a medical condition resulting from dangerously low levels of sugar in the blood, with signs including sweating, anxiety and cramps

- (a) Categorise the above behaviours and incidents and explain your criteria for categorisation. (12 marks)
- (b) In school life, under what situation would a student encounter the kind of stress in example B? How would you handle this kind of stress? (6 marks)

5. Two students express their views on self-esteem and self-perceived appearance:

Student A: Your self-esteem determines whether you consider yourself good-looking. If you feel worthy as a person, you will evaluate your looks favourably.

Student B: I don't think so. I think it's the other way round. I think if you consider yourself good looking, then you'll have high self-esteem. Look at the graph below. It explains why girls' self-esteem declines so dramatically with age compared with boys' self-esteem.



* A lower score of self-perceived appearance indicates a poorer evaluation of one's appearance.

Source of chart: Susan Harter, "Children and Adolescents", in Roy F. Baumeister (ed.), *Self-esteem: the puzzle of low self-regard*, New York: Plenum Press, 1993.

- (a) To what extent is Student B's view supported by the graph above? Explain your answer. (5 marks)
- (b) What are some possible reasons for the difference in self-perceived appearance between boys and girls as shown in the graph above? (13 marks)

6. Consider the following case:

Ah Heng is a Secondary Five student. His father is unemployed and is unable to buy him a personal computer. Therefore Ah Heng plans to do summer work after sitting the HKCEE, aiming to earn \$8,000 to buy a computer for himself. He likes cars, and is dreaming to have a car of his own in future. To achieve this goal, he has been studying the stock market in the Mainland, and is prepared to make investments later with his savings. He also plans to do part-time jobs during his free time after he enters university, and to use the money he earns to make bigger investments. His goal is to buy a second-hand car worth about \$60,000 within four years after he finishes Secondary Five.

- (a) Present Ah Heng's plans in the form of a table. (6 marks)
- (b) Do you think Ah Heng's goals and his approach to achieving them are reasonable? Explain your answer with regard to his personal and family circumstances. (12 marks)
7. A social worker tells the following story of a young drug addict, Mary, and then gives a professional evaluation:

The story:

I knew that Mary was unhappy because her mother was very bad-tempered. ... I told her not to choose bad friends, but she thought they really cared about her. ... Later I knew that she started taking drugs. She said the drugs could make her feel happy and forget all her troubles. Also, since all her friends were taking drugs, not following their example would result in her being left out.

Professional evaluation:

First, Mary took drugs in order to cope with her unhappy feelings. Second, she wanted to be accepted by her 'good' friends, who had the habit of drug abuse. Third, it is true that some adolescents try drugs out of curiosity. They underestimate how addictive drugs can be. Adolescents want to experiment with drugs and think they are strong-willed enough, but only to find that they become controlled by drugs.

Source: *Mingpao*, 4 June 1998.

- (a) In the above case, how does peer group pressure influence Mary's behaviour? (5 marks)
- (b) If you were a friend of Mary, how would you help her to quit drugs? Explain your answer in the light of the social worker's evaluation. (13 marks)

END OF PAPER