

## 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. At a school forum attended by Secondary 1 to 4 students and teachers, two speakers express their views on homosexuality among teenagers:

**Speaker A:**

A proportion of 13 to 14 year olds discover that they are physically or emotionally more attracted to teenagers of the same sex than the opposite sex. While it is important that they should carefully handle their relationship with those who they feel attracted to, such teenagers should not suppress their feelings. They should seek opportunities to discuss their sexual orientation with close friends of the same age, since adolescents trust each other more than they trust parents or teachers. Early identification of his or her sexual identity will help the homosexual adolescent to cope better with the pressures they will face in the adult world.

**Speaker B:**

Many adolescents who feel attracted to teenagers of the same sex are not true homosexuals. In most cases, such attraction is transitional and these adolescents eventually become heterosexual adults. Most Hong Kong teenagers do not welcome peers who are homosexual. Therefore, if teenagers do disclose their homosexual orientation to their peers, even when this orientation is a false one, it is developmentally suicidal. For these adolescents, acceptance by peers is more important than disclosing their supposed homosexual orientation in their development towards adulthood.

- (a) With reference to the above speeches, discuss the strengths and weaknesses of the opinions of each speaker and explain which speaker's opinions are more convincing. (10 marks)
- (b) If more students are convinced by Speaker A and more teachers accept Speaker B's opinions, what is the likely impact on the school's culture in relation to the students' developing sexuality? (8 marks)

2. The following research findings show the proportions of adolescent smoking tobacco and drinking alcohol, firstly when the adolescents in question were 14 years old and then three years later when they were 17 years old.

Factors Under Investigation	Group	Cigarette Smoking		Alcohol Use	
		Tried Smoking at Age 14 (% of group)	Daily Smoking at Age 17 (% of group)	Tried Alcohol at Age 14 (% of group)	Heavy Drinking at Age 17 (% of group)
Parents' attitude towards their child as perceived by the child	Neglectful (=Not accepting or involved, and weak in supervision)	59	35	68	55
	Indulgent (=Accepting and involved, but weak in supervision)	33	27	43	46
	Authoritarian (=Not accepting or involved, but strong in supervision)	40	33	68	31
	Authoritative (=Accepting and involved, and strong in supervision)	24	17	40	28
Peer smoking	Peers do not smoke	28	24	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
	Peers smoke	81	38	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
Peer drinking	Peers do not drink	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	23	25
	Peers drink	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	74	51

Source: Adalbjarnardottir, S. & Hafsteinsson, L.G., "Adolescents' Perceived Parenting Styles and Their Substance Use: Concurrent and Longitudinal Analyses", *Journal of Research on Adolescence*, vol. 11, no. 4, 2001.

- (a) What do the findings tell you about smoking and drinking among adolescents? Explain your answer. (14 marks)
- (b) Suggest *one* measurable factor not listed in the above table that may influence adolescent smoking and drinking. Explain your answer briefly. (4 marks)

3. Joseph, a Liberal Studies student, comes across the following texts in his research on how 'Net surfing' affects interpersonal relationships in the real world:

1.	Mr Lei poured out his grievances to the reporter. He said that because he loved chatting on the Internet, his wife, who had always been gentle and virtuous, was convinced that he went on the Internet in order to find another woman, leading to frequent arguments between them. Two days ago she left for her parents' home and he couldn't persuade her to return home.
2.	If a family member over-indulges on the Internet, then it may be a good idea to exercise a forced 'power-failure' and organise some activities for him/her, so that he/she can learn to re-discover family love, friendship, and the pleasure that cyberspace cannot offer.
3.	Before I went on to the Internet, I told myself that I could control myself. However, it wasn't until I got addicted to the Internet that I realised how weak I was. I sincerely hope that other people can be more strong-willed than me. The Internet is, after all, something illusive, while in real life there are many things more precious and more worth appreciating.
4.	Every day my wife and I spend most of our time at work on the Internet. Whenever we have a break or a rest of a few minutes, we always send an email to ask about each other, or, before we finish our work, to arrange a place for dinner. The Internet allows me to remember the sweetness of love when I'm tired from work, and makes me want to work harder.
5.	Although my daughter wants to get into university, she often stays up late at night to go on to the Internet. She doesn't go to bed until daybreak, and doesn't get up to eat until two to three o'clock in the afternoon. I once angrily disconnected her computer after I failed to tell her not to do that. In response, she glared at me furiously and shouted at me like a personal enemy. Now whether she can get into university or not is no longer the most important thing for me. What hurts me most is that my daughter has become a stranger, as if she only recognises the Internet now and not her mother.
6.	Traditional human relationships are all 'factual'. On the Internet, however, it is entirely possible for you to 'create' a new self for yourself, without any need to consider the consequences. No one will ever know that you may have difficulty in speaking, and therefore you never need to worry about being ridiculed, and if you are unhappy with that, you can unplug your computer anytime.

Source: *Shenzhen Evening News*, 27 August 2001.

- (a) Imagine you are Joseph, decide which text(s) is/are **irrelevant** to your research, and classify the remaining relevant texts into not more than **three** categories, giving each category a name. Explain both your choice and your classification. (12 marks)
- (b) Discuss **one** good aspect and **one** bad aspect related to the phenomenon mentioned in text no. 6. (6 marks)

## SECTION 2

Answer *one* question from this section.

4. Read the following comments on job-seeking by young people in Hong Kong:

### Comment A:

The situation of 'out of school and out of work' in the 1950s-60s was more severe than nowadays, and it was harder to make a living then. At that time many young people sacrificed their 'dignity' and competed with each other to open taxi doors for passengers, just to make a living by earning a tip of ten or twenty cents. Nowadays young people lack courage to 'abandon self-esteem in order to struggle for a living' when they encounter similar difficulties.

Source: *Hong Kong Daily News*, 31 July 2002.

### Comment B:

Nowadays, young job-seekers are not as fortunate as youngsters in the 1970s-80s, who could select their work in accordance with various ideals, such as their own interests. They have to deal with the situation where their starting salary will only be half of what they might have expected, or even less. If they hesitate, their place will be taken up at once. The new attitude for job-seeking has become 'Just take up the job and see how it goes', 'Take it as a learning experience' and 'It's better than nothing'.

Hong Kong's economy is in a poor condition and its job market is worsening quickly. Downsizing and closing down of local companies are often in the news. When companies in the mainland of China come to Hong Kong to recruit staff, job-seekers often readily accept wages lower than their previous job. They are no longer concerned about 'self-esteem' and 'face' and drift along provided that they can find a job to support their family.

Source: *Hong Kong Economic Times*, 7 August 2002.

### Comment C:

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With reference to the above comments, compare and discuss various factors influencing young people's job choice in Hong Kong during the 1950s-60s, the 1970s-80s and nowadays respectively. (18 marks)

5. The following are two hypotheses about the 'generation gap' phenomenon:

**Hypothesis A**

The number of children in a family tends to reduce the average 'generation gap' felt by the children against their parents. This is due to the fact that the elder children can serve as a bridge between their younger brothers and sisters and their parents, thus enhancing understanding and communication.

**Hypothesis B**

If the age difference between a daughter and her mother is smaller, when the daughter has her own children, the 'generation gap' between her and her children (as perceived by the children) tends to be smaller.

- (a) Sketch separate graphs with labeled axes to represent Hypotheses A and B. (6 marks)
- (b) If research is to be conducted to test one of the above hypotheses, how could the researcher observe and measure the 'generation gap'? Explain your answer. (12 marks)

6. The following newspaper extracts provide a glimpse of parental behaviour following the announcement of results of the Secondary School Places Allocation (SSPA) and Hong Kong Certificate of Education Examination (HKCEE):

**SSPA**

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**HKCEE**

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A student called Lam, one of the candidates who got ten Distinctions this year, said that on the morning that the results were released, he went to school alone to get the result slip. His parents stayed home quietly to wait for the good news. He said, "They didn't come because they didn't want to put pressure on everybody in the family".

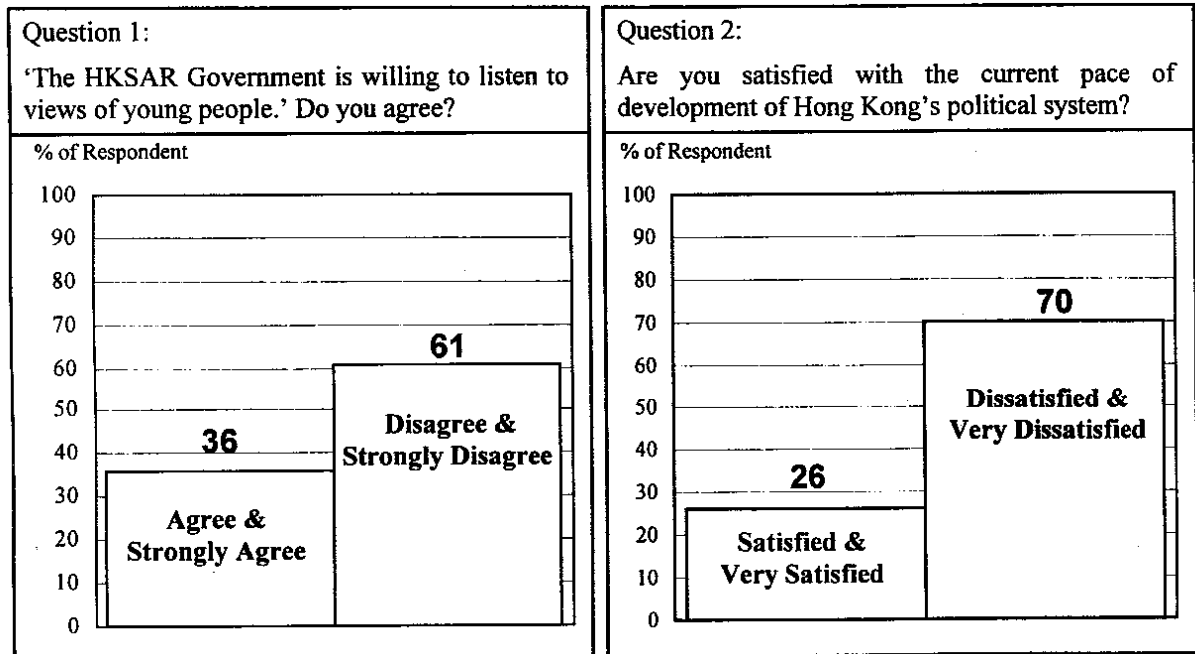
Source: *Hong Kong Economic Times*, 16 August 2001.

- (a) Do you think the actions and attitudes of the parents mentioned above may have helped their children to mature? Explain your answer. (8 marks)
- (b) Students experience great changes in the transitions from Primary 6 to Secondary 1 and from Secondary 5 to Secondary 6. Do you think that parents or people outside the family are more effective in helping students to cope with such changes? Explain your answer with examples. Your examples may be taken from your own personal experience. (10 marks)

7. Consider the following sources:

**Source A**

The following graphs show the responses of Hong Kong's young people to two questions, reflecting their views about the HKSAR Government and the current pace of development of Hong Kong's political system.



Source: The Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups, *A Study of the Participation of Hong Kong Youth in Legislative Council Elections*, 2000.

**Source B**

The following are comments made by a newspaper columnist:

Our young people, who will be leaders of our country in the future, have plenty of opportunities to take part in community affairs. The voting age has been lowered to eighteen. The Chief Executive and senior officials often attend forums and radio phone-in programmes to listen to our young people's aspirations. Abundant opportunities exist for them to engage in voluntary work in every district.

**Source C**

The following are comments made by a political commentator:

Hong Kong's young people should accept the fact that, as with many other things in life, they cannot change the HKSAR's political system and therefore cannot significantly influence major government policies most relevant to them or the policy-making officials. For their own benefit, our young people should focus on upgrading their knowledge, improving their life skills and interpersonal relationships, instead of fighting for greater political representation and power.

- (a) In the light of the above sources, discuss the factors that motivate young people to participate in Hong Kong affairs and factors that discourage them from doing so. (10 marks)
- (b) Do you agree with the commentator's views in Source C? Explain your answer. (8 marks)

**END OF PAPER**