

## 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. Consider the following table, which describes the situation in some less developed countries:

Africa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● In Ethiopia, only 27% of the population have access to drinkable water.</li><li>● In Sierra Leone, the average life expectancy is 37.4 years.</li><li>● In Zimbabwe, 60% of the potential work force is unemployed.</li><li>● In Mali, 72.8% of its people live on less than 1 US dollar a day.</li><li>● In Niger, 85% of its citizens are illiterate.</li></ul>
Asia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● In North Korea, about 2 million people have died from famine since 1995.</li><li>● In Indonesia, 140 of the 436 identified mammal species are endangered.</li></ul>
South America	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● In Brazil, 244.7 billion US dollars are owed by the Brazilian government to foreign creditors.</li></ul>

Source: *Newsweek*, 9 July 2001.

- (a) Identify and discuss some of the major problems faced by less developed countries as suggested by the table above. (10 marks)
- (b) Choose *two* of the problems that you identified in (a) and suggest ways that **can reduce** the scale of the problems. Explain your answer. (8 marks)

2. Consider the following table, which suggests the likelihood of military and economic rivalries between the USA and other countries in the 21<sup>st</sup> century:

Country	Likelihood of Military Rivalry with the USA	Likelihood of Economic Rivalry with the USA
China	High	High
Germany	Medium	High
Japan	Low	High
Russia	Medium	Low

Source: C. Kegley, Jr. & E. Wittkopf, *World Politics*, Boston: Bedford Publishing Ltd., 2001.

- (a) With reference to the above table, anticipate the role of the USA in the global balance of power in the coming ten years. Explain your answer. (9 marks)
- (b) In your opinion, how effective will such a role of the USA be in maintaining peace in the modern world? (9 marks)

3. Consider the following table, which lists arguments for and against the presence of multinational corporations (MNCs) in less developed countries:

For	Against
<p><i>MNCs:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Introduce and provide advanced technology.</li> <li>2. Generate employment.</li> <li>3. Encourage the training of workers.</li> <li>4. Increase national revenue and economic growth.</li> <li>5. Facilitate modernisation.</li> </ol>	<p><i>MNCs:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Lead to the dependence on technology of developed countries and inhibit the growth of local industries.</li> <li>2. Limit workers' wages.</li> <li>3. Create monopolies that contribute to inflation.</li> <li>4. Raise capital in less developed countries but export profits to developed countries.</li> <li>5. Erode traditional cultures and national differences.</li> </ol>

Source: C. Kegley, Jr. & E. Wittkopf, *World Politics: Trend and Transformation*, N.Y.: St Martin's, 1999.

Supposing you were the leader of a less developed country, would you encourage MNCs to invest in your country? Explain your answer with reference to the arguments presented above. (18 marks)

## SECTION 2

Answer *one* question from this section.

4. Consider the following two extracts:

### Extract A

In the months since the World Cup in 2002, the number of Japanese booking holidays to Britain has tripled. Recognising the England captain's hysteria-inducing appeal in Japan, the Japan Travel Bureau is now offering special 'Beckham Tours'. The travel bureau's target of 1,500 bookings to Britain in the 12 months to March 2003 has already been exceeded.

Source: *The Economist*, 31 August 2002.

### Extract B

Sports create a sense of participation in a supranational community. This is especially true of world-level sports events in which a multinational athletic community participates. ... Some people see sports as a force for peace. Sports events bring people from different countries together in shared activities. Citizens of different states share their admiration of sports stars who become international celebrities.

International competition can also stir up strong dislike between peoples, as when angry soccer fans vandalised some European cities after their national team lost their games as guest team in those cities.

Source: J. Goldstein, *International Relations*, N.Y.: Longman, 1999.

To what extent can world-level sports events such as the World Cup overshadow nationalism and promote international understanding and peace? Explain. (18 marks)

5. Consider the following table, which shows issues related to wars and armed interventions in the period 1945-98:

Issue	Number of Wars (out of a total of 62 wars)	Percentage
creation of new states	29	47
political ideology	26	42
territorial disputes	20	32
survival of existing nationalities	15	24
economic interests	14	23
moral/ethical reasons	12	19

Source: B. Russett, H. Starr & D. Kinsella, *World Politics: The Menu for Choice*, N.Y.: St Martin's, 2000.

- (a) Select any **three** issues listed in the table and, with reference to wars that have occurred in the past ten years, explain how each of the selected issues led to the wars. (9 marks)
- (b) With reference to the issues you selected in (a), suggest how the chances of war within or between political entities can be reduced. (9 marks)

6. Consider the following extract:

There are two simultaneous trends in the modern world: globalisation and fragmentation. Globalisation involves the declining significance of national borders for the flow of goods, capital, people, and ideas. Globalisation seems to be dominated by the flow of Western goods, capital, people, and ideas. At the same time, there is a counter-tendency. This involves fragmentation or tribalisation of nation-states, with new divisions emerging between peoples. These divisions are often defined by cultural, racial and religious differences. The future of the world will be characterised by the clash of these two trends.

Source: B. Russett, H. Starr & D. Kinsella, *World Politics: The Menu for Choice*, N.Y.: St. Martin's, 2000.

Discuss which of the trends, globalisation or fragmentation, will dominate the development of the modern world in the coming ten years. (18 marks)

7. Consider the following extract:

One of the principal functions of the United Nations is peacekeeping, which seeks to place neutral United Nations forces between two warring enemies. The peacekeeping missions include:

- policing cease-fires,
- enforcing border agreements,
- serving as a buffer between hostile forces,
- supervising military withdrawals, and
- maintaining social order during times of political transition.

There are three preconditions that must be met for peacekeeping to succeed:

- First, successful peacekeeping requires the agreement of all conflicting parties. This agreement comes from their perceptions of the impartiality and moral authority of the United Nations;
- Second, the great powers, especially the United States, must support the peacekeeping effort; and
- Third, peacekeeping requires warring parties to change their standpoints, from winning everything to getting something only.

Source: D. Minix & S. Hawley, *Global Politics*, Belmont: Wadsworth Publishing, 1998.

- (a) With reference to the peacekeeping missions listed above, discuss whether the above-mentioned preconditions can be easily realised. (12 marks)
- (b) Suggest additional conditions that will enhance the chances of success of the peacekeeping missions of the United Nations. (6 marks)

**END OF PAPER**