

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 : 20 marks are allocated for content and 5 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 extract:

A secondary school suspended its classes in April 2003 due to the outbreak of SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome). When classes resumed, a teacher of Secondary Six Liberal Studies asked the students, "What important effects do you think have resulted from SARS for secondary students in Hong Kong?" Three effects were suggested by the students:

- A: SARS made them treasure their relationships with their families more, especially relationships with their parents.
- B: SARS enhanced their self-management ability.
- C: SARS introduced new idols to the secondary students and made them re-assess their goals in life.

The teacher demanded the students to find out which of the above effects was the most important to secondary students in Hong Kong. To do so, they devised two methods:

- 1: Get a group of students from various class levels to fill in questionnaires about which of the effects had the greatest impact on them, then count the answers. The effect that most students selected would be the most important.
- 2: Collect interviews with secondary students that were published in Hong Kong's newspapers after the outbreak. Then count the responses related to the effects of SARS. The effect that most students mentioned would be the most important.

- (a) With reference to Hong Kong people's experience in 2003, suggest reasons why SARS might have brought about the effects stated. (12 marks)
- (b) Which of the two methods suggested in the extract can better address the teacher's demand? Explain your answer. (8 marks)

2. Consider the following two cartoons related to marriage:

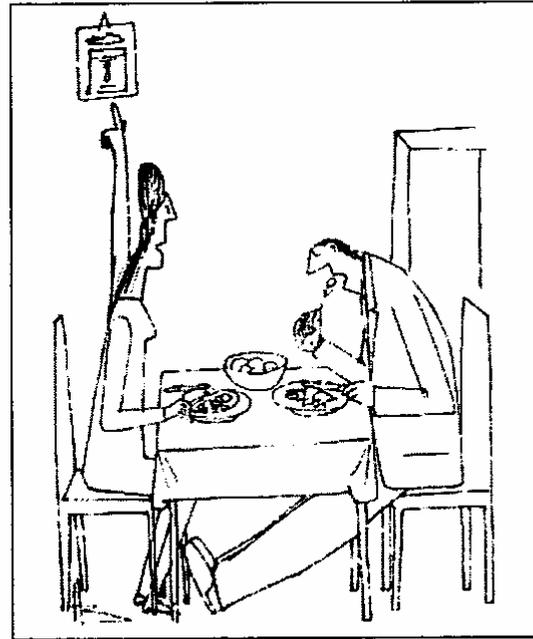
Cartoon A



Mr Ting: Look! With just one blow, I can hammer the nail into the wall to hang my favourite painting.

Mrs Ting: ...

Cartoon B



Mrs Wong: Hey! It's my turn to stretch out my legs today.

Source: <http://www.zbmhw.com/shangxi/shangxi.htm>.

- (a) What features of the personality traits of each member of the couples are reflected in Cartoons A and B. Explain your answer. (12 marks)
- (b) Discuss whether the features you identified in (a) are favourable to the success of marriages in general. (8 marks)

3. Consider the following extract:

Some experts suggest that when under stress a family falls into one of the four categories below, in terms of its adaptability:

Rigid (very low family adaptability)

Characterised by:

- leadership in the hands of one member
- very clear and rarely changed division of labour
- family rules rarely changed

Consolidated (low to medium adaptability)

Characterised by:

- leadership not solely in the hands of one member
- stable division of labour, adjustments made when necessary
- family rules changed on the basis of need

Flexible (medium to high adaptability)

Characterised by:

- leadership equally shared by both parents
- members play different roles; when a member cannot complete a task, another member steps in to help
- family rules highly flexible

Chaotic (very high adaptability)

Characterised by:

- absence of a regular leader, often resulting in a chaotic situation where nobody takes charge
- no clear division of labour
- family rules often changed

A Secondary Four student Tai-yuet and his family recently experienced the following:

Stage A: Tai-yuet is the only son in the family and is often in conflict with his father over his choice of friends. Tai-yuet's mother is a good housewife, and although she wishes Tai-yuet had greater freedom in making friends, she normally does not dare to challenge her husband's authority. Tai-yuet can only go out with his friends when his father leaves Hong Kong on business.

Stage B: A tumour is found in Tai-yuet's mother's brain. She needs to stay in hospital to find out whether the tumour is cancerous. Tai-yuet and his father are very worried. They are unfamiliar with many household chores. Consequently, their home becomes chaotic. They do not eat at regular times. However, they visit Tai-yuet's mother daily.

Stage C: Results show that the tumour is not cancerous but it needs to be removed. It is a great relief to Tai-yuet and his father. The operation goes smoothly. While his mother is in hospital, Tai-yuet and his father agree to take turns to visit his mother and to share the chores. Tai-yuet delivers broth to his mother, and his father organises chores for the new part-time domestic helper, as instructed by his wife.

- (a) What category of family adaptability does each of the stages experienced by Tai-yuet's family represent? Explain your answer. (9 marks)
- (b) When Tai-yuet's mother returns from hospital, how should the family members negotiate their roles and family rules so as to enable them to respond more effectively to future adversity? Explain your answer. (11 marks)

SECTION 2

Answer *one* question from this section.

4. A Secondary Five student Wong Yat-chung had the following feelings after participating in a training camp.

At first, I didn't expect much from this training camp, thinking that it would just be another occasion to eat, drink and have fun. When we arrived at the camp, our tutor stated firmly to us, "This training camp will change your future."

When the training began, we had to remove our watches, so that we did things without caring about time. After this experience, we realised that our potential can be better developed when we do not suffer time-stress.

There was an activity called 'the person in the mirror'. The activity showed us that the person who could exert the greatest influence on ourselves was neither our friends nor our parents, but we ourselves. Our tutor explained that the purpose of the activity was to give us self-understanding and help us see clearly our strengths and self-imposed constraints, so that we could identify our own goals.

In the camp there were many other activities which strengthened our spirit of co-operation and helped us accept each other.

I was like a new person after the training camp, my inner world had changed. It was exactly as the tutor had said, "If we want things to change, we ourselves need to change first." Before that I used to see the gloomy side of things, but now I've learnt to appreciate the bright side.

Another fruitful result of the training camp is that my relationships with my family, schoolmates and friends have improved.

Source: 何淑賢(編)《蛻變高飛 - 36個青少年成長的驚奇》，2002.

- (a) Wong Yat-chung's inter-personal relationships improved after the training camp. How is such a change related to what he experienced and the understanding he developed in the training camp? Explain your answer. (10 marks)
- (b) Wong Yat-chung says that the activities in the training camp could both strengthen the participants' spirit of co-operation and help them to accept each other. Suggest *one other* activity for a class of Secondary Seven students who are in conflict and explain how the activity can strengthen their spirit of co-operation and make them accept each other better. (10 marks)

5. Legislative Council (LegCo) elections were held in 1995, 1998 and 2000, all on Sundays. In 1998, a souvenir card was mailed to each registered voter and a second card could be collected only after voting. In 2000, both cards were mailed to all registered voters before the voting. The following shows the voting situation:

	Voting Rate		
	Age 18– 20	Age 21– 40	All Registered Voters
1995	31.9%	31.9%	35.8%
1998	63.5%	49.4%	53.3%
2000	45.0%	39.3%	43.6%

After studying the table, two scholars expressed the following opinions about the voting rates of young people aged 18-20 in the LegCo elections:

Scholar A:

The voting rates of young people aged 18-20 in the 1998 and 2000 LegCo direct elections reflect that, when faced with adverse situations related to the economic downturn and high unemployment rates, they are more ready than other adults below 40 to make an attempt to change their own future with their votes. Their strong sense of civic-mindedness has much to do with the civic education actively promoted by the government in schools in the 1990s.

Scholar B:

I think that the motives to vote among young people, aged 18-20, have never been at a high level. Civic education was not the main reason for the higher voting rates in the 1998 and 2000 LegCo direct elections. One reason, in 1998, was that the government gave out the second souvenir card only to people who had voted. This was very attractive to young people, who love to collect souvenir items. The second reason was that both election dates fell on a Sunday. Young people aged 18-20 do not have as many family responsibilities (such as earning money to support their family and looking after children) as older adults. They have more spare time and so it was easier for them to find time to vote.

With reference to the table above and using your own knowledge, comment on the opinions of the two scholars about the voting behaviour of young people and discuss whether the opinions of Scholar A or Scholar B are more acceptable to you. (20 marks)

6. Consider the following extract:

Below are a few 'tactics' for getting a promotion:

1. Make your superior feel that you are 'committed', that you are a 'worrier' who emphasises the company's interests above your own.
2. Bosses place most importance on a subordinate's potential. To get a promotion, you need to think carefully about how to demonstrate your potential in front of your boss.
3. When pointing out your strengths, avoid comparing yourself to others.
4. Most companies will choose capable employees who are very loyal, rather than those who are only capable, because employers often consider 'being loyal' as an indicator of one's character and are not willing to risk promoting an employee who has a dubious character.

With reference to a young person in Hong Kong who has finished Secondary Seven,

- (a) select *two* tactics from the above list and explain how they can help the young person to get a promotion and at the same time have the least harmful effect on the young person's relationships with colleagues. (10 marks)
- (b) explain whether the young person should refuse a promotion offered by a superior of the opposite gender who has expressed affection for the young person. (10 marks)

7. Every year, on the day after the Mid-Autumn Festival, an environmental protection organisation organises volunteers to clean up beaches, parks and country parks. The amount of rubbish collected by the organisation in recent years is as follows:

Year	2000	2001	2002	2003
Rubbish (kg)	14,655	14,460	12,210	2,162

- (a) In the light of social conditions in 2003 and government measures at the time, discuss the factors that might have brought about the significant decrease in the amount of rubbish collected in that year. (10 marks)
- (b) Discuss, with examples, to what extent group pressures can affect young people in keeping a park clean when they celebrate the Mid-Autumn Festival there. (10 marks)

END OF PAPER