

LIBERAL STUDIES (HONG KONG STUDIES) AS-LEVEL

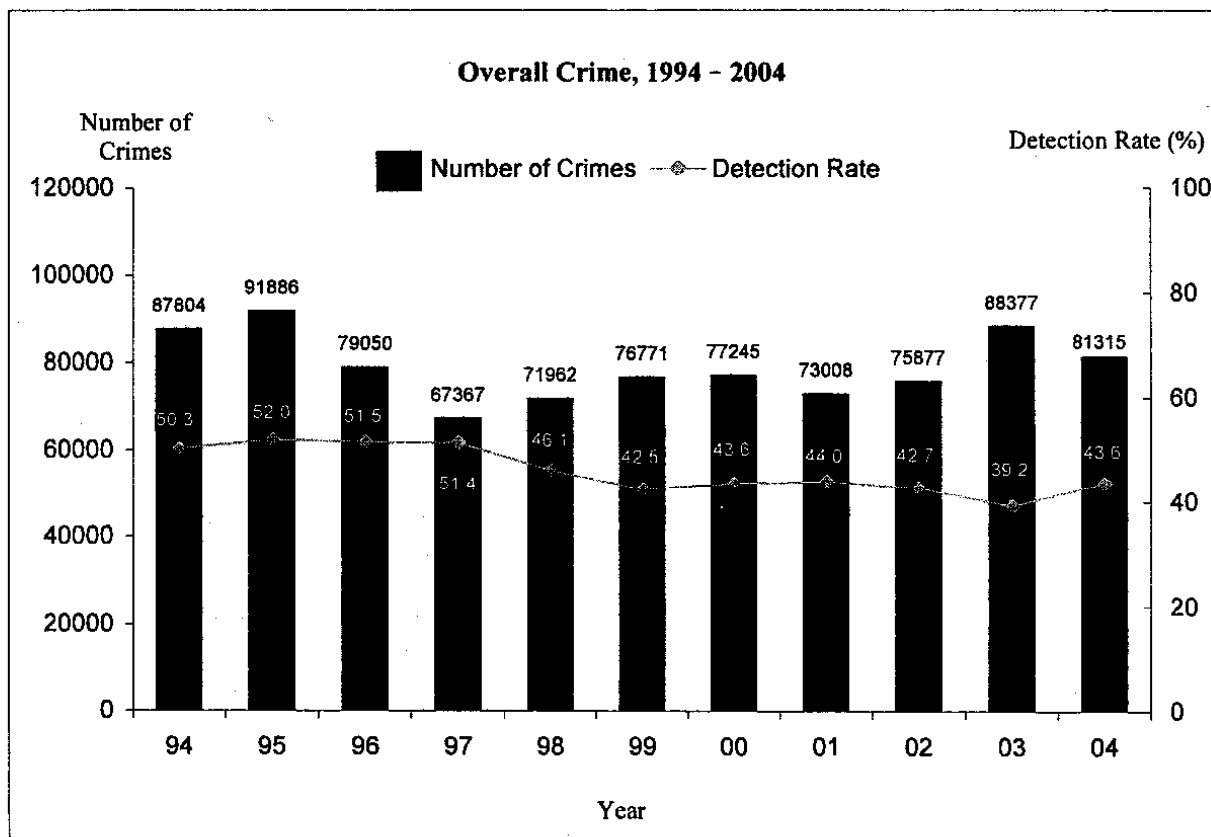
8.30 am – 11.00 am (2½ hours)
This paper must be answered in English

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: 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 information:



Source: Hong Kong Police Force, 2005.

- (a) According to the above information, describe and explain the trend of the number of crimes from 1994 to 2004. (8 marks)
- (b) Comment on the detection rate in the given period of time and suggest ways for the police to enhance the detection rate. (12 marks)

2. Consider the following information:

Source A

Li Gang, Deputy Director of the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, commented on the Legislative Council election outcome by pointing out that loving both the motherland and Hong Kong was the most basic principle of being a Legislative Councillor. People are not qualified to be lawmakers if they advocate 'ending one-party dictatorship'. 'Our country is implementing the "one country, two systems" policy, meaning that the Mainland maintains the socialist system, while Hong Kong and Macau maintain a capitalist system. Thus everybody, including Legislative Councillors, should love both the motherland and Hong Kong. This is the most basic principle. If Legislative Councillors fail to do so, they are not qualified to serve as Councillors,' Li said.

Source: Adapted from *Wenweipao*, 16 September 2004.

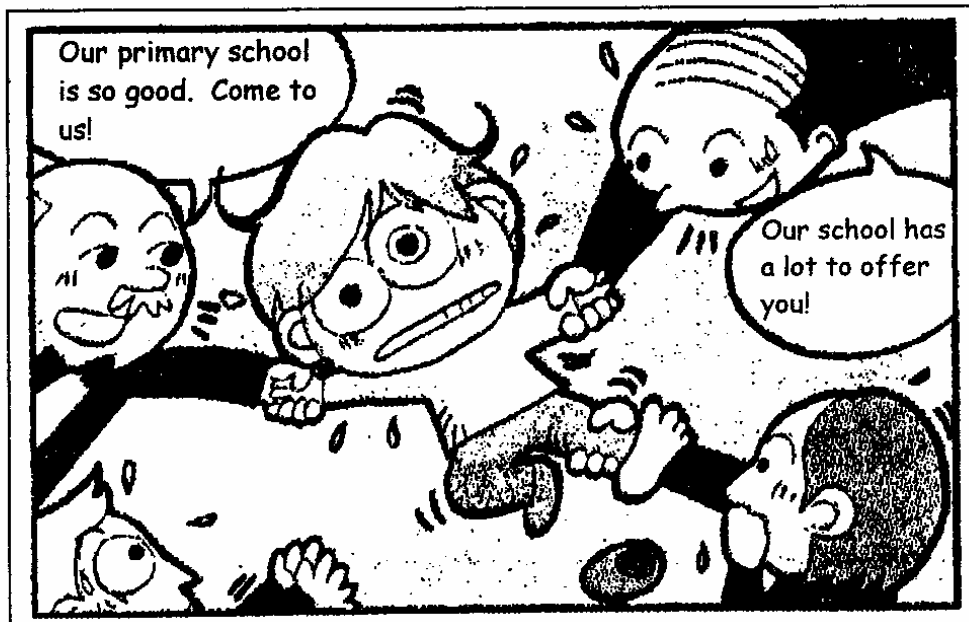
Source B

Some people suggest that the following activities in schools may strengthen patriotism among primary and secondary school students in Hong Kong:

- Holding a national flag raising ceremony and singing the national anthem at schools
- Launching patriotic education programmes
- Propagandising patriotism in the mass media
- Organising field study trips and exchange tours in the Mainland for students

- (a) To what extent do you agree with Li Gang's viewpoints? Explain your answer. (8 marks)
- (b) To what extent do you think that the suggested activities in Source B can strengthen patriotism among primary and secondary school students in Hong Kong? Explain your answer. (12 marks)

3. The following cartoon relates to the admission of students to some primary schools in Hong Kong:



Source: *Mingpao Daily*, 17 September 2004.

- (a) Identify the problems reflected in the above cartoon and discuss their causes. (8 marks)
- (b) If you were a principal of a primary school, how would you face the problems? Explain your answer. (12 marks)

SECTION 2

Answer *one* question from this section.

4. The following is an adapted extract of the press statement released by the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) on 11 October 2004:

Following an appeal by Sing Tao Limited and one of its reporters, Mr Justice Michael Hartmann of the Court of First Instance of the High Court had set aside the search warrants issued by the High Court. The Commission later lodged an appeal to the Court of Appeal of the High Court in regard to the decision of Mr Justice Michael Hartmann. This morning, the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeal, Mr Justice Geoffrey Ma, handed down a judgement.

The judgement considered that the ICAC had ‘acted entirely lawfully in seeking the search warrants’ and believed that the ICAC ‘did no more and no less than they were entitled by law to do.’ In addition, the issuing of the search warrants by the High Court was ‘entirely justified’.

While affirming the legality of the application for the warrants by the ICAC, the Court of Appeal also found that the case involved was ‘a serious one’.

The Court of Appeal pointed out that the case had revealed ‘an extremely troubling scenario whereby the well-being or life of the participant in a witness protection programme may have been put at risk and the integrity of the programme potentially undermined.’

The judgement indicated that the ICAC was not empowered by any law to exercise any sort of arbitrary power to effect search and seizure of journalistic material. ‘A search warrant must first be obtained from a judge, who may only grant it upon certain identified, stringent requirements being fulfilled as well as it being in the public interest to issue one,’ the judgement related.

- (a) To what extent do you agree with the judgement of the Court of Appeal? Explain your answer from the perspectives of legality and freedom of the press. (12 marks)
- (b) Apart from the exercising of powers by the law enforcement bodies, identify and explain *two* factors which may have adverse effects on the freedom of the press in Hong Kong. (8 marks)

5. Consider the following information:

Source A

Some of the powers and functions of the Executive Authorities and the Legislature of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR)	
The Executive Authorities	The Legislature*
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To formulate and implement policies - To draw up budgets - To introduce bills to the Legislative Council - The Chief Executive appoints all the members of the Executive Council - The Chief Executive nominates the principal officials - The Chief Executive has the power to dissolve the Legislative Council - The Executive Council assists the Chief Executive in policy-making 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To enact, amend or repeal laws - To examine and approve budgets - To approve taxation and public expenditure - To receive and debate the policy addresses of the Chief Executive - To raise questions on the work of the government - To debate any issue concerning public interests - To appoint select committees to consider matters in depth

*The third Legislative Council consists of 60 members, half of which were returned by the geographical constituencies through direct elections, with the other half returned by functional constituencies.

Source B



Source: Adapted from *Apple Daily*, 20 September 2004.

- With reference to Source A and your understanding of the political development of the HKSAR, identify and explain the problems implied in the cartoon in Source B. (10 marks)
- If you were the Chief Executive, how would you tackle the problems you identified in (a)? Explain your answer. (10 marks)

6. Consider the following information:

Source A: Proposed New Senior Secondary Curriculum and Assessment Arrangement

Core Subjects	Chinese Language, English Language, Mathematics and Liberal Studies
Elective Subjects	Typically 2-3 other subjects
Examination and Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- One public examination- Introducing or broadening of school-based assessment

Source: *Reforming the Academic Structure for Senior Secondary Education and Higher Education—Actions for Investing in the Future*, October 2004.

Source B: Part of the Proposed Curriculum Aims of Liberal Studies in the New Senior Secondary School Curriculum

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To enhance students' understanding of themselves, their society, their nation and the world• To enable students to develop multi-perspectives on perennial and contemporary issues in different contexts (e.g. cultural, social, economic and political contexts)• To help students become independent thinkers so that they can construct knowledge appropriate to their own changing personal and social circumstances• To develop in students a range of skills for life-long learning, including critical-thinking skills, creativity, problem-solving skills, communication skills and information skills

Source: *Proposed Core Subject Framework for the New Senior Secondary Curriculum: Liberal Studies*, October 2004.

- (a) In the light of Source A, to what extent can the proposed new curriculum and assessment arrangement accommodate the aspirations of the general public on education? Explain your answer. (10 marks)
- (b) With reference to the above information and your learning experiences, to what extent do you agree that Liberal Studies is a core subject in the New Senior Secondary School Curriculum? Explain your answer. (10 marks)

7. Consider the following information:

Lee Kuan Yew, the Senior Minister of Singapore, last week pointed out that Singapore, a small country with a tiny population, is more competitive than Hong Kong, because Hong Kong's 'future is determined by China'. Lee pointed out that Singapore, unlike Hong Kong, could choose its own way, which benefits its people more. The Hong Kong government issued a rebuttal yesterday, claiming that Hong Kong benefits from 'one country, two systems', a unique advantage, which no other Asian economy could lay claim to.

The government pointed out in its statement that the free trade agreement and the 'Individual Visit Scheme' are making a significant contribution to Hong Kong's economic growth. Hong Kong people can take full advantage of the prosperity and vast market potential in Mainland China. These unique advantages are attributed to Hong Kong's position as a special administrative region of China.

The statement also pointed out that Hong Kong has always believed in the free economy and welcomed competition. In addition, Hong Kong people abound with creativity and entrepreneurship. As a leading financial and commercial centre, Hong Kong is well positioned to develop as Asia's world city.

Source: Adapted from *Mingpao Daily*, 23 August 2004.

With reference to the above information, to what extent can 'one country, two systems' benefit Hong Kong's economic development? Explain your answer. (20 marks)

END OF PAPER