

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 sources and then answer the questions:

Source A: A survey on self-image, with a sample of 200 students ranging from S3 to S7 in the same school, was conducted by a student of Liberal Studies. The following findings were how students having normal weight viewed themselves.

Items	Responses from girls	Responses from boys
Happy with the present weight	8	26
Upset with the present weight and starting weight loss program	103	40

Source B: A weight loss diet for a S7 student

Time to eat	Types of food and number of servings					
	Milk	Meat	Fruits	Vegetables	Cereals	Others
Breakfast (7:30)						
Morning Tea (10:00)	1		1			
Lunch (12:00)		3		2	2	
Afternoon Tea (15:00)			1		1	
Dinner (18:00)		3		2	1	

Types of Food	Suggested size of a single serving	Foods to be avoided
Milk	Skimmed milk/ Hi-calcium soy milk (225ml)	Chocolate milk/Puddings
Meat	Lean pork (30g)/An egg	Sausages/Chicken Wings
Fruits	Grapefruit (1/2)/6 cherries	Canned fruits/Sugared juice drinks
Vegetables	One large tomato/1/2 cup of fresh vegetable juice	—
Cereals	1/3 bowl of rice/Whole grain cereal (25g)	Fried rice/Fried potato chips

- (a) What attitudes are reflected in Source A, relating to the boys' and girls' weight? Discuss the reasons that may lie behind their attitudes. (10 marks)
- (b) How might the student's diet suggested in Source B affect his/her relationships with both family and peers? (10 marks)

2. An author shared his views on happiness.

1. Never criticize others.
2. Always think about your own good fortune.
3. Always offer praise to others and try to make them feel that they are important. However, you should not be insincere.
4. Admit your faults because those who apologize win respect.
5. Reserve some solitary time for yourself every day.
6. Accept changes willingly, but never forsake your own values.
7. Value your family life, since a warm family atmosphere is the foundation of life.
8. Silence sometimes is the best answer.

- (a) Which *two* suggestions from the list above can best help young people get along with others? Explain your reasoning. (10 marks)
- (b) How can a warm family atmosphere help young people to mature? Describe some personal experiences or those of friends or classmates in order to explain your ideas. (10 marks)

3. Consider the following extract and answer the questions.

A university survey has revealed that about 11% of university students said they had a credit card debt of \$3,600 on average. Among the interviewees, about 67% said they used a credit card for daily expenditure and shopping, while about 49% wanted to get the credit card gifts.

The associate professor at the Polytechnic University leading the survey said most university students believed that they could get high salaries after graduation, and were willing to spend with credit cards. Many banks and card issuing bodies, taking advantage of their attitude, promote credit cards keenly among them. University students can obtain credit cards without difficulty since no examination of their financial ability is required. The professor thought that under the recent economic depression in Hong Kong, it would take a longer time for graduates to find a job and they could earn less than expected. He was worried about the severe financial problems likely to be faced by them. He asked banks to be prudent, and avoid issuing credit cards indiscriminately to university students who are not financially independent. In addition, words of warning should be printed on credit cards, reminding cardholders of the interest rates and risks of debt.

Figures from the Student Financial Assistance Agency showed the number of bankrupt university students who could not repay loans was rising every year, quite an alarming fact. The Consumer Council calls for students to manage their budgets properly, as some bankruptcy cases had resulted from credit card debts. The revised Code of Banking Practice, which took effect in December 2001, stipulates that card issuers should act responsibly when issuing credit cards, in particular to persons who do not have independent financial means.

Adapted from *Ming Pao Daily*, 27 September 2004.

- (a) In the light of the above extract and your own knowledge, explain whether you think that adding words of warning to credit cards would help university students to use them wisely. (10 marks)
- (b) Could adolescents learn to manage their finances better if they do have a credit card? Explain your reasoning. (10 marks)

SECTION 2

Answer *one* question from this section.

4. Consider the following extract and answer the questions.

The term "kidult" has two meanings: a child who pretends to be mature, and an adult who is child-like.

Children love to pretend to be mature, probably as a result of their yearning for the adult world, since they think that they are not allowed to do many things adults can do. They imitate adults to smoke, to act as a "gang leader", and to mimic the way adults dress. They try their best to look mature. In popular culture, we find that girls like to play with Barbie dolls. Apart from dressing the doll with beautiful clothes, they appreciate her wonderful body. Boys admire the muscularity of hero types of toys.

Saying that an adult is child-like may have a positive as well as a negative meaning. In its positive sense, it refers to an adult who always retains the curiosity and the heart of a child. However, its negative sense is somehow a mockery, meaning that such adults are anti-intellectual, unable to assume responsibility, just wishing to prolong their adolescence and refusing to grow up. In popular culture we can see that products for children are now also entering the adult market. For instance, the thirty-year old cat "Hello Kitty" has made its way into the areas of home appliances (e.g., Hello Kitty recorders, coffee machines, vacuum cleaners, microwave ovens, etc.) and cosmetic products. In Hong Kong, there is an increasing number of shops selling "old toys" at high prices, for example, a "Mazinger Z" (literally the Metal Superman), made in the 1970s costs more than a thousand dollars. Most buyers are adults, who engage excitedly in such consumption.

- (a) Comment on the effects that adaptation of adult behaviors may have on young people's growth.
(10 marks)
- (b) Suppose parents behave in a child-like fashion. Describe ways in which this might affect their relationship with their own children.
(10 marks)

5. Consider the following extract and answer the questions.

Wang Ling, who knew nothing of English when she came to Hong Kong with her parents, from a Fujian village 9 years ago, told her mother cheerfully that she got 4 As in the A-level Examination. She and her family members experienced a lot of hardship when they first came to Hong Kong. They lived in a board-partitioned room and were rejected by others; her father was indifferent to their plight. But now she proudly said, "I think I have finally won honour for my mother."

Wang Ling said that when she first studied in a primary school in Hong Kong, she was ridiculed as the "mainlander" or the "unfashionable one" by her classmates. When her grades got better, her classmates changed their attitude. This confirmed her belief in the motto "diligence has its own reward". Now she got along very well with her classmates in secondary school.

Now 21, Wang Ling had been demoted two levels to Primary Five when she first came to Hong Kong. She worked very hard in her study and was later admitted to a famous secondary school. Her parents separated after only a few months in Hong Kong and she and her younger brother were brought up by their mother. Fighting against poverty in an unfamiliar environment, Wang Ling settled her tuition fees with scholarships and part-time earnings. She and her brother seldom ask their mother for money. She understands well the significance of her academic achievement: "I have learnt that qualifications bring about respect; people look at you differently if you have good academic results."

The separation of her parents in fact became her motivation to do better at school. "My mother suffered a lot and my father never provided her with a comfortable living. I, as her daughter, will provide her with a comfortable home and never let her suffer anymore."

- (a) With reference to the above extract, describe and explain the problems Wang Ling encountered when she came to Hong Kong. (10 marks)
- (b) If you had been a good friend of Wang Ling, what advice would you have given to her to help her deal with the problems you have mentioned in (a)? (10 marks)

6. Consider the following sources and answer the questions.

Source A: The views of a newspaper columnist on boys and girls in love

Girls' love, some people say, is like instant glue - you can never remove it when it sticks to you. Boys do not prefer this kind of closely bound relationship, and appreciate a more free association.

Girls who fall in love are often too eager to monitor their boyfriends closely. When evening comes, they call their boyfriends endlessly, keen to know where they are; this only annoys the boyfriends and makes them feel their girlfriends' lack of confidence. A boy would think that having a girl friend is like flying a kite; the string may break when you pull it too tight.

Girls who are in love often have fewer friends, because their focus is on their boyfriends; while boys in love still maintain good relationships with friends.

Source B: Some words of a student in a matriculation class

On the first day of school, after all the routines such as the principal's speech, singing the school song, etc., you will surely hear your form teacher say, no matter whether you are in junior secondary, senior secondary, or even a matriculation class, that "you are now big boys and big girls."

In the past summer vacation, more than half of my classmates have been in love, the rest are still waiting.

Today, the topic of the sex education talk was "How to say no to love traps".

The social worker suggested that when young people who are in love wish to enter into a more intimate relationship, besides mutual understanding, they should be psychologically mature enough to understand the responsibilities and consequences which future actions may bring about.

Yet, if love is a trap, will the talk give us some tips on how to fall in love happily and safely? All of us are waiting to know more.

- (a) Discuss whether or not you agree with the newspaper columnist of Source A. (8 marks)
- (b) What activities could the school in Source B organize to better help students to face the realities of romance? Explain your answer. (12 marks)

7. The following extract is a dialogue between a reporter and a homosexual.

Q:	Reporter	A:	Homosexual
Q:	Are you a homosexual at birth?		
A:	I was born a homosexual.		
Q:	Do you reject females naturally? Have you ever thought of changing back to a heterosexual?		
A:	I don't reject females. I know I am a man, and the ones I am attracted to are also men, but it doesn't mean that I wish to become a female or that I reject them. I am pretty satisfied with my present life.		
Q:	Generally people think that the final stage of love is marriage, then what will be your final stage?		
A:	My final stage will be to live with my love. It's a pity that we can't get married, as we can't hold a wedding, or be blessed by our families and friends. However, we have to consider the feelings of our family members, because it's really difficult for them to tell others that their children are gay.		
Q:	What would you do if your partner's family members disapproved of your relationship?		
A:	I would try to understand the reasons behind their disapproval. Their disapproval has probably arisen from anxiety, as they are anxious that we might suffer from AIDS, that we cannot have children. In fact their greatest concern is for our lives in old age, so I'll try to explain to them from this point of view first.		
Q:	Does age matter in a gay relationship?		
A:	I don't think so since it's only a personal choice. I would choose someone within 3 years of my age, so that our lives would have more in common. I don't see any problem even if a 30 something man comes along with one 20 something years old.		

- (a) Discuss to what extent the above dialogue reflects the present problems faced by homosexuals in Hong Kong. (10 marks)
- (b) Explain why in Hong Kong it may be difficult to conduct a survey by questionnaire about homosexuality. (10 marks)

END OF PAPER