

LIBERAL STUDIES (THE MODERN WORLD) AS-LEVEL

1.30 pm – 4.00 pm (2½ hours)

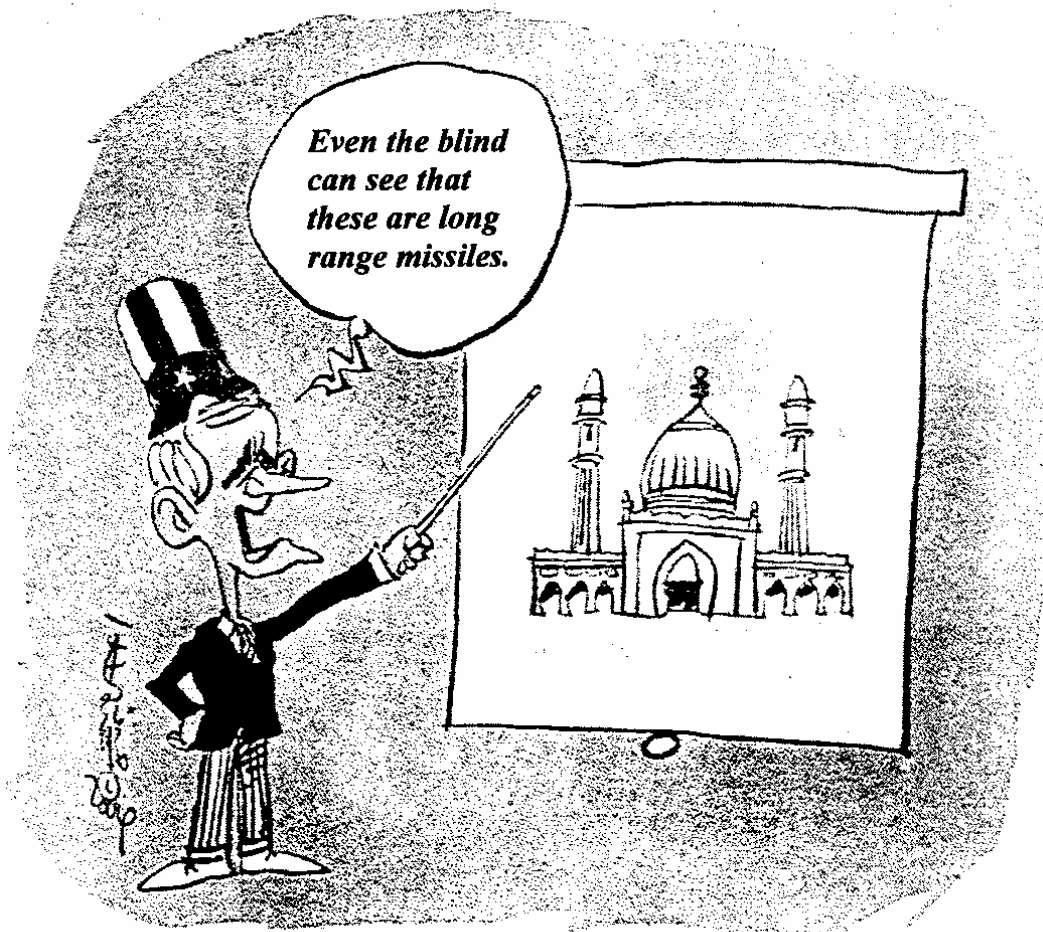
This paper must be answered in English

1. This paper consists of **Section A** and **Section B**. Section A carries 75% of the module marks, and Section B carries 25%.
2. **Section A** consists of three questions, *all* of which are to be answered. **Section B** 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 A

Answer *all* the questions in this section.

1.



Source: Apple Daily News, 22 April 2004.

- (a) In the light of the above cartoon, discuss with example(s) how misunderstandings among nations can lead to international conflicts. (12 marks)
- (b) Discuss ways to resolve the international conflicts caused by misunderstandings among nations. (8 marks)

2. Consider the following extracts:

Extract A

America's recognition of the People's Republic of China (PRC) is based on the premise that Taiwan's future will be determined peacefully and by mutual agreement of the people on both sides of the Taiwan Strait. The U.S. supports "One China" in the context of an international convention and a piece of U.S. legislation. The U.S. does not support Taiwan's independence, but does oppose moves by one side or the other to change the *status quo*. The U.S. will do "whatever it takes" to defend Taiwan in the face of a Chinese military attack, as promised by President Bush in April 2001. This attitude has not changed.

Source: *Far Eastern Economic Review*, 25 Dec. 2003 – 1 Jan. 2004.

Extract B

In his visit to the U.S. in December 2003, the Chinese Premier said he had reached three conclusions which he believed would guide future US-China relations.

Conclusion 1: China and the U.S. both gain from peaceful co-existence and suffer as a result of conflicts.

Conclusion 2: Mutual interest serves as the bedrock for US-China relations.

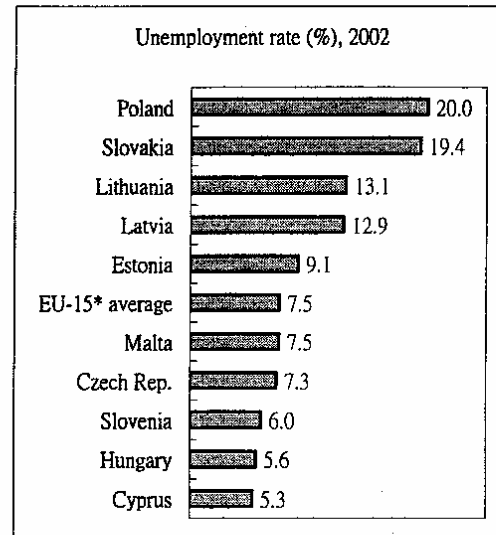
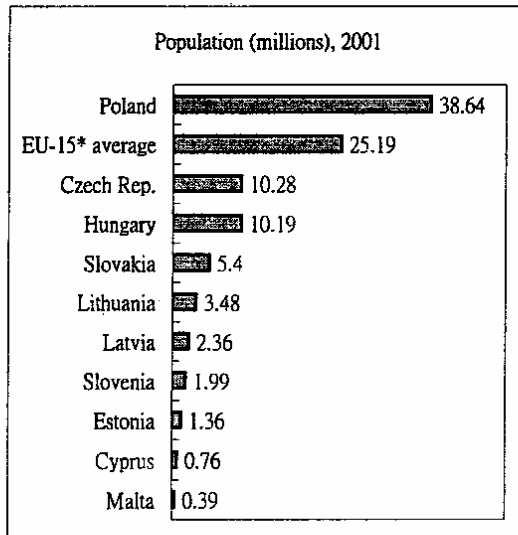
Conclusion 3: US-China co-operation promotes stability in the Asia-Pacific region as well as peace and development in the world.

Source: *South China Morning Post*, 11 December 2003.

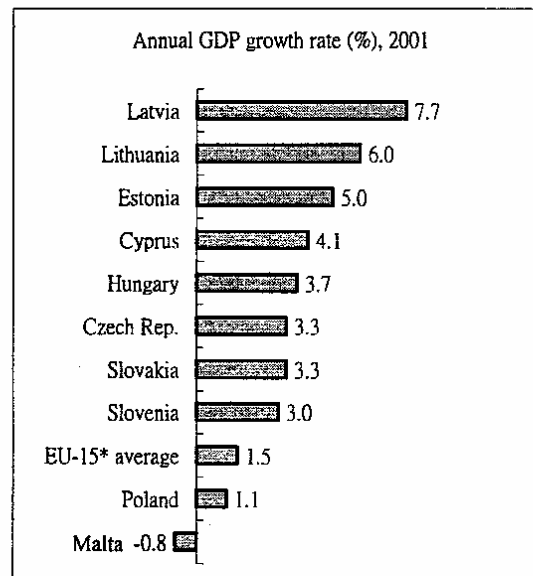
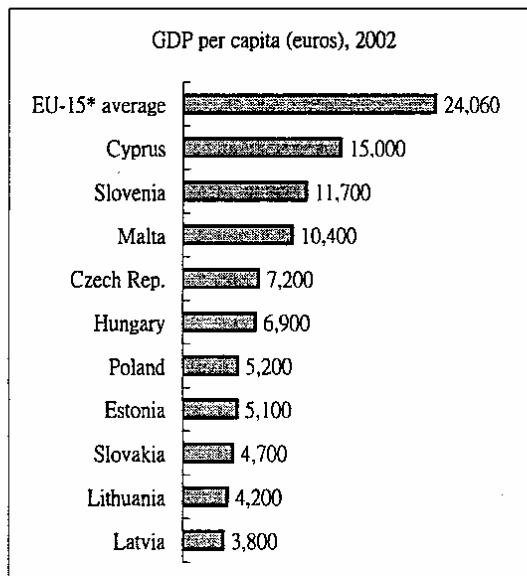
- (a) How does the issue of Taiwan independence affect US-China relationships? Explain your answer based on the information given in Extracts A and B. (10 marks)
- (b) With reference to the conclusions reached by the Chinese Premier, discuss issues, other than Taiwan, that may change the US-China relationships and outcomes anticipated by him. (10 marks)

3. The European Union (EU) made history last year when 10 former, mostly communist countries, from eastern and central Europe joined the European Union. This was a symbolic end to the continent's division, born in the horrors of the Second World War.

BASIC ECONOMIC INDICATORS



BASIC ECONOMIC INDICATORS



Source: South China Morning Post, 30 April 2004.

* EU-15 — the 15 pre-2003 members of the EU (Denmark, Netherlands, Belgium, Ireland, Britain, Luxembourg, France, Portugal, Spain, Finland, Sweden, Germany, Austria, Italy, Greece)

“The actual gain for the European Union from 10 new members will be small.” How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer with reference to the information given above. (20 marks)

SECTION B

Answer *one* question from this section.

4. Consider the following extract:

Definition of Terrorism:

A definition of terrorism from the U.S. State Department is “the use or threatened use of violence for political purposes to create a state of fear that will aid in blackmailing, persuading, intimidating, or causing individuals and groups to alter their behaviour.”

Political Purposes of Terrorism are generally:

- Subversion — to produce a new, friendly regime that will serve the terrorists’ interests.
- Separation — to force the government in power to withdraw from a particular region.
- Reform — to have the government change certain policies according to the terrorists’ wishes.
- Repression of Opponents — to keep regimes in power by weakening the opposition through kidnapping, torture or murder.

Counter-terrorism Policies are generally to:

- ▲ avoid making deals with terrorists or submitting to blackmail.
- ▲ treat terrorists as criminals and to apply the rule of law.
- ▲ bring maximum pressure upon states that sponsor and support terrorists by imposing economic, diplomatic, and political penalties and encouraging other states to do the same.

Source: M. Roskin & N. Berry, *The New World of International Relations*, Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall, 1997.

- (a) Why do certain groups adopt the means of terrorism to achieve the political purposes suggested in the source? Choose **two** of the four political purposes given above to illustrate your answer. (10 marks)
- (b) From your two chosen political purposes, discuss the effectiveness of counter-terrorism policies. (10 marks)

5. Consider the following extract:

Globalization relates to two interdependent developments. The first development is the unification of the globe through communications technology. Owing to the technological revolution in communications and transportation, cultural and other barriers that divide countries are said to be falling; social, economic, and other activities are becoming worldwide in scope.

The second development is that trans-national economic and other forces are breaking down national boundaries and integrating countries. Trade, financial, and other flows are creating a highly interrelated global economy and an international society. This process of globalization requires increased co-operation between countries.

Source: R. Art & R. Jervis, *International Politics: Enduring Concepts and Contemporary Issues*, N.Y.: Longman, 2000.

- (a) In the light of the above information, what are the positive impacts of globalization on humans? (8 marks)
- (b) Identify **two** problems created by globalization in the modern world and discuss ways to solve the problems. Illustrate your answer with example(s). (12 marks)

6. Consider the following extracts:

Viewpoint A

In 2003, Cambodia became the first “heavily indebted poor country” to join the World Trade Organization (WTO). Admirers of the WTO point to Cambodia’s entry as proof that it can help poor countries as much as rich ones. Cambodian exports show a boom thanks to the new access to global markets. The government is hoping that WTO membership will allow Cambodia’s garment trade, which accounts for some 80% of its exports, to continue to grow.

Source: *The Economist*, 13-19 September, 2003.

Viewpoint B

The WTO’s critics, on the other hand, consider Cambodia’s entry to be evidence for how the rich manipulate global trading rules to exploit the poor. For instance, Cambodia can only charge a maximum tax of 60% on imports of agriculture products whereas other non-WTO countries can impose an import tax of 60% or higher. Cambodia also promised never to allow its government to subsidize Cambodian agriculture.

Source: *The Economist*, 13-19 September, 2003.

- (a) In the light of the Viewpoints A and B, discuss the pros and cons of joining the WTO. (9 marks)
- (b) If you were the leader of a developing country, would you let your country join the WTO? Explain your answer. (11 marks)

7. Consider the following extract:

The bipolar world, when most countries were associated with one or the other superpower, has given way to a genuinely multi-polar world in which five great powers — the United States, Japan, Russia, China, and the European Union — co-operate in addressing most important issues.

Source: W. Nester, *International Relations: Geopolitical and Geoeconomic Conflict and Cooperation*, N.Y.: Harper Collins College Publishers, 1995.

- (a) To what extent is the suggested distribution of power in global politics as observed in the above extract an accurate reflection of reality? Use example(s) to illustrate your answer. (8 marks)
- (b) Evaluate the effectiveness of a unipolar, bipolar and multipolar world in maintaining peace in the modern world. Explain which of these alternatives may be better to promote peace. (12 marks)

END OF PAPER