

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. A survey was conducted by the Hong Kong Institute of Asia-Pacific Studies of the Chinese University of Hong Kong in March 2005 on people's understanding of the Basic Law. 1,004 citizens of Hong Kong were interviewed by phone. The following are some of the findings:

Table 1

'How much do you think you know about the Basic Law?'	Per cent
1. No knowledge at all	14.2
2. Little knowledge	37.3
3. Half and half	41.6
4. Know quite well	6.0
5. Know very well	0.7
6. Don't know/Hard to say	0.2

Table 2

'What do you think is the importance of having an understanding of the Basic Law?'	Per cent
1. Completely unimportant	0.9
2. Not so important	3.8
3. Average	28.2
4. Quite important	43.2
5. Very important	21.7
6. Don't know/Hard to say	2.2

Table 3

'How closely is the Basic Law related to your daily life?'	Per cent
1. Completely un-related	2.1
2. Not so related	14.0
3. Average	30.9
4. Quite related	36.2
5. Very related	13.3
6. Don't know/Hard to say	3.5

- (a) To what extent do you think the above findings reflect the views of Hong Kong citizens on the Basic Law? Explain your answer. (10 marks)
- (b) Table 1 shows that more than half of the respondents thought that they had 'no knowledge at all' and 'little knowledge' of the Basic Law; while Table 2 suggests that more than 60% considered the Basic Law as 'quite important' and 'very important'. Do you think these findings are contradictory? Explain your answer. (10 marks)

2. Consider the following information:

Source A



Note: 'RTHK' stands for the 'Radio Television Hong Kong'.
Source: *Mingpao Daily*, 14 September 2005.

Source B

A Hong Kong deputy to the National People's Congress:

RTHK, as a public broadcaster, should carry out four functions, namely acting as a government mouthpiece, producing educational programmes, reporting news and information, and providing an unprejudiced platform for public discussion on policies. Production of programmes with controversial or satirical contents against the government is not appropriate, since it is not logical to criticise the government using government funds.

A Legislative Councillor from the pan-democratic camp:

In other countries, public broadcasters are accountable to the legislatures instead of the executive branches. We can consider the option of changing RTHK into a statutory body, empowering it with editorial independence by legislation, so that it can be free from the interference of the executive.

Note: Adapted from *Oriental Daily*, 18 July 2005.

- (a) Identify and explain the message communicated by the author in the above cartoon. (8 marks)
- (b) With reference to the above information, what role(s) do you think should be played by RTHK? Explain your answer. (12 marks)

3. Consider the following information:

Source A

Facts of life in tutoring

In my view, tutorial classes are essential to students, especially to those who are sitting for public examinations.

Tutorial classes act as an aid to students. Firstly, they are examination oriented. Examination skills and strategies are taught to students to build their confidence. Also, extra information is provided which gives students a clearer understanding of the topic. Tutors teach in a livelier way and, unlike at schools, students can choose the teaching mode that suits them best.

In fact, taking tutorial classes is becoming a trend and it seems to us that if we do not take tutorial classes we feel less competitive than those who do.

Judy Cheung
Form Six student

Note: Adapted from a letter published in 'Mailbag' in *South China Morning Post* on 29 October 2005.

Source B

Mrs Fanny Law, Permanent Secretary for Education and Manpower, pointed out, 'Classes in many tutorial schools are very large; there are more students in a class than in an average secondary school class. We doubt that the students can learn effectively as the teaching methods practised are one-way.' Law said. 'Those students with good academic results, apparently wishing to outperform others, are more likely to take tutorial classes. Now it has become a trend and it seems to those students that if they don't attend tutorial classes, they are not fulfilling their responsibilities as students. It is a very unhealthy phenomenon.' She added.

Note: Adapted from *Mingpao Daily*, 17 November 2005.

- (a) According to the above information, comment on the viewpoints of Judy Cheung and Mrs Law with respect to the effectiveness of tutorial schools. (10 marks)
- (b) 'The popularity of taking tutorial classes is totally due to the shortcomings of the system of public examination.' To what extent do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. (10 marks)

SECTION 2

Answer *one* question from this section.

4. Consider the following information:

Students support cut in sizes of classes

Secondary school students overwhelmingly support reducing class sizes and nearly two-thirds believe the teacher-student ratio should be 1:20 or less, a survey has found.

According to the study, which was conducted by the Study Group of the Concern of Youth Development earlier this year, 72.9% of students said they were in favour of reducing class sizes. The survey polled 181 students at secondary schools in Tai Po.

Edward Lee Chi-shing, chairman of the study group, said the survey's findings had confirmed their expectations. 'I believe there is a lot of support among students for small-class teaching,' Mr Lee said, adding it was important to introduce it quickly to meet the needs of educational reforms such as school-based assessment. 'These reforms simply won't work if there are 40 students in a class. Smaller classes are absolutely essential.'

In the study, students said they felt smaller classes would result in improved quality of teaching and better support for weaker students. At the same time, 82.9% of respondents also thought teaching methods needed to be changed.

65.8% and 54.1% of respondents said priority should be given to the subjects of English and Chinese respectively in introducing small classes.

Note: Adapted from *South China Morning Post*, 15 October 2005.

- (a) In the light of the above information, explain why the teaching methods should also be changed if small classes are introduced. (10 marks)
- (b) Do you agree that priority should be given to the subjects of English and Chinese in introducing small classes in secondary schools? Explain your answer. (10 marks)

5. Consider the following information:

Source A

Some proposals from The Fifth Report of the Constitutional Development Task Force

- The number of members of the Election Committee is to be increased from 800 to 1,600.
- Maintain the number of Election Committee members required for nominating Chief Executive candidates at the ratio of one-eighth of the total membership, i.e. 200 members.
- The number of seats in the Legislative Council is to be increased from 60 to 70.
- The number of seats to be returned by geographical constituencies through direct elections is to be increased from 30 to 35.
- The number of seats to be returned by functional constituencies is to be increased from 30 to 35, with the number of seats returned by the District Council Functional Constituency to be increased from 1 to 6.

Source: <http://www.info.gov.hk/cab/cab-review/eng/welcome/index.htm>

Source B

**An extract of a press statement issued by the Constitutional Affairs Bureau
on 13 November 2005**

The HKSAR Government recognises that we need to prepare a road map and timetable for universal suffrage. However, these issues would affect the future of the whole community. They should be dealt with seriously and methodically. We cannot fix a date for attaining universal suffrage in a vacuum.

Source: <http://www.info.gov.hk/cab/cab-review/eng/media/p111305.htm>

Source C



Note: Adapted from *The Standard*, 18 November 2005.

- (a) According to the above information, to what extent do you agree with the message communicated by the cartoonist in source C? Explain your answer. (10 marks)
- (b) To what extent do you agree that the conditions for implementing universal suffrage to elect the Chief Executive already exist in Hong Kong? Explain your answer. (10 marks)

6. Consider the following information:

The ruling by the High Court on certain provisions of the Crimes Ordinance regarding homosexual acts for men aged between 16 and 21 has sparked vigorous public discussion recently. In fact, points of law about sexual orientation are highly controversial at all times and in all places. However, the court is not the best place for resolving controversies that are part moral and part legal. The main reason is that judges, who are not elected, may not be capable of objectively keeping abreast of changing social values. Furthermore, it is not open to them to consult the public or let citizens take part in debates. However, their rulings may have profound influence.

If it is necessary to resolve such controversies, it seems more advisable to do so by means of a democratic mechanism. As fundamental human rights are constitutionally protected, it is, in the final analysis, up to the legislature rather than the judiciary to define the extent of a fundamental right. It is not desirable for the court to frequently legislate on its own behalf and make moral choices for the public and the legislature by exercising its power to interpret the constitution.

Note: Adapted from the Editorial of *Mingpao Daily* on 27 August 2005.

- (a) In the light of the above information, what problems do you think there will be if moral controversies are ruled upon in court? Explain your answer. (10 marks)
- (b) To what extent is the existing Legislative Council of Hong Kong able to solve the problems you mentioned in (a)? Explain your answer. (10 marks)

7. Consider the following data:

Persons Employed by Industry						
Industry	Thousands					
	1990	1993	1998	2000	2002	2004
Manufacturing	751	594	380	334	290	236
Construction	226	221	307	302	287	268
Wholesale, retail and import/export trades, restaurants and hotels	703	796	954	982	983	1074
Transport, storage and communications	268	315	349	357	346	360
Financing, insurance, real estate and business services	208	289	410	453	474	482
Community, social and personal services	512	548	696	755	825	865
Others	43	37	27	26	26	24
Total	2711	2800	3123	3209	3231	3309

Source: *Hong Kong Annual Digest of Statistics*, 2000 Edition, 2004 Edition and 2005 Edition.

- (a) Identify the trends in the above data. (8 marks)
- (b) Referring to the above information and considering the present situation, explain what direction Hong Kong's economy should be going in. (12 marks)

END OF PAPER