

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. In recent years, an activity called “cosplay” has become popular among Hong Kong teenagers. Cosplay combines “costume” and “play”, and refers to a Japanese subculture centred on dressing-up and acting as characters from cartoons or video games.

The following are statements made by four young cosplayers aged 16 to 20 in Hong Kong.

- A: Oh, I joined the cosplay club in my school two years ago. My best friend joined and so I did too. I think it’s wonderful to dress up as my heroes in the cartoons, and pretend that I’m one of them for a short time. They look really cool.
- B: For me, it’s more than just dressing up. I like dress-making and I’m quite good at it. Every time I see some new characters on TV or in video games, I imagine how to design and make their costumes. Lately I’ve begun making the costumes, and I love dressing up in the clothes I make. I’m so proud of my dress-making skills.
- C: These cartoon figures look cool. They are smart, handsome and always at their best. They can defeat ten enemies at once and their hair will still look perfect. I want to look as perfect as they do. To be more like them, I not only buy the costumes, but also go to the gym to work out so that I’ll have muscles to show off when I dress up.
- D: Yes, I try to make myself look as attractive as the character I cosplay. I skip meals to lose weight, so that I’ll look good in that skin-tight dress. However, to buy expensive costumes I have to work as a part-time salesgirl in a local shop.

- (a) With reference to the above statements, analyse the factors which attract young people in Hong Kong to cosplay. (10 marks)
- (b) A group of senior secondary students have requested their student union to start a cosplay club in the school. Discuss the major factors that the teacher advisors and executives of the student union will have to consider with regard to whether a cosplay club should be set up. (10 marks)

2. Below is an electronic conversation (e-conversation) between two senior secondary students which took place at 2 a.m. on a Wednesday morning.

Mango:
Where is Banana?

Juliet:
Don't know, he's not online 🙄, or he's pretending to be offline 🙄

Mango:
🙄 I had a fight with mom on Tuesday morning.

Juliet:
Why?

Mango:
She said I'm always in front of the computer!

Juliet:
Well, you are 🙄

Mango:
What else is there to do? I've nothing to say to her! She's always angry 🙄, and she doesn't understand me 🙄

Juliet:
Well, my mom doesn't either, but there're other things to talk about 🙄

Mango:
What? Fashion? Make-up? TV drama? ... Oh ... Banana's not online 🙄, and Rabbit's not online 🙄 ...

Juliet:
I'm tired. Need to sleep now 🙄, tomorrow I've an early test. And you?

Mango:
Oh, no! I want to talk 🙄. Ok, will go to the chat room to see who else is online 🙄

- (a) From the content of this e-conversation, suggest the problems Mango may be having in her life. If you were Mango's classmate, how could you help her to solve the problems? (10 marks)
- (b) With reference to the above source as well as your personal experience, discuss whether or not the development of information technology has affected the development of good human relationships among teenagers. Explain your answer. (10 marks)

3. Mary was unhappy when she discovered her boyfriend, John, had another girlfriend, Susan, at the same time. Mary decided to ask John's best friend, David, for help. Consider the following dialogues.

Dialogue One: Mary seeking help from David

Mary: Please help me. You're John's best friend.

David: How can I help you? It's something between you and him.

Mary: Just ask John not to see the girl anymore. She's bad.

David: It's John who asked her out. Why don't you talk to him directly?

Mary: Oh, I can't ... he may think that I'm annoying and then leave me! If so, how can I face my classmates? They all know John is my boyfriend!

David: Ay ... Is it just about losing face? Do you really understand why you're going out with him?

Dialogue Two: John talking to another friend, Peter

Peter: Good for you, John, you have two girlfriends now. What a wonderful life you must be having!

John: Oh, don't mock me. I'm confused, and I feel guilty. Mary is a happy girl and we have a lot of fun, but she doesn't always let me know what she's thinking. With Susan, I can share everything ... we can talk for hours and hours.

Peter: I bet Mary isn't happy now. Have you thought about her feelings? And what about Susan? It isn't fair to the two of them.

John: What can I do? I like Mary's cheerful personality. She can always make me laugh. But I feel that I can talk to Susan about serious stuff and she understands me more.

Peter: Don't ask me. I've never had two girlfriends at the same time! But I think you'd better ask yourself what you want, and be fair to the two girls.

- (a) With reference to the above two dialogues, discuss Mary's personality and her relationship with John. (10 marks)
- (b) Why did John feel confused and guilty about the relationships with his two girlfriends? What advice would you give him? Explain your answer. (10 marks)

SECTION 2

Answer *one* question from this section.

4. The world's fifth Disneyland opened in Hong Kong on 12 September 2005. The following statements made by the Chief Executive Officer, Michael D. Eisner, and the President, Robert A. Iger, of the Walt Disney Company, respectively, reflect the spirit of Disney.

Source A

"Hong Kong Disneyland stands before us as a living symbol of the creativity and imagination that are the heart and soul of Disney." Michael D. Eisner

"...we can show the world that imagination is alive, that fantasy can be reality and that magic happens." Robert A. Iger

Here is one of the issues raised by **Disney Hunter**, a concern group established by university students in Hong Kong to arouse public concern about the impact of Disneyland on the local community.

Source B

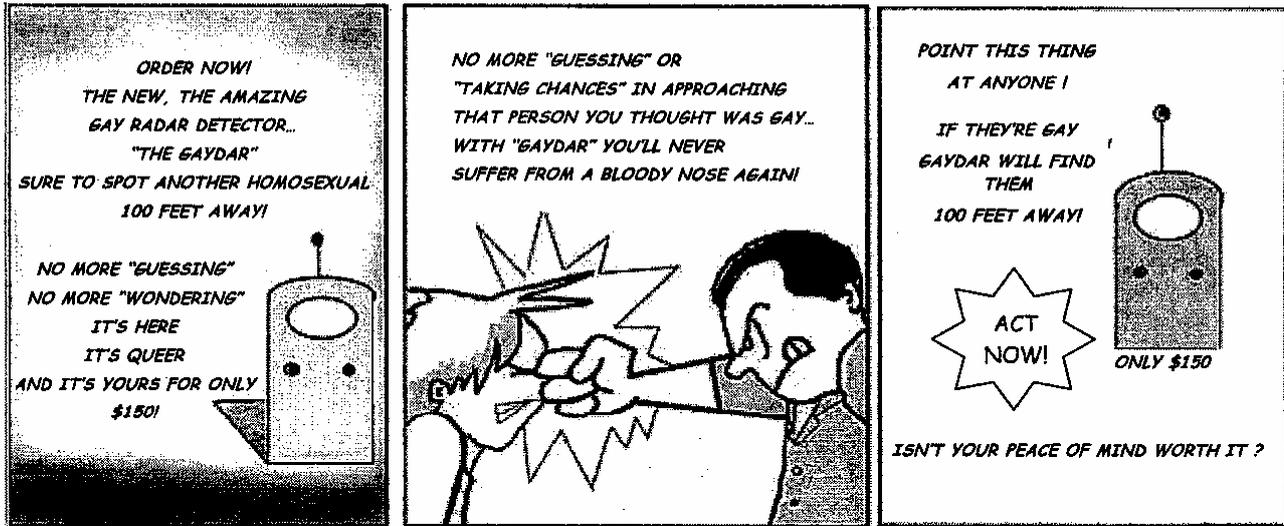
Gender Issue

Disney movies continuously consolidate gender stereotypes. There have been no great changes in the image of women in these movies for many years. They still stress women's sexual characteristics and traditional female traits, moulding children's impression of gender and creating role models for them.

Note: Adapted from <http://disneygp.no-ip.org>

- (a) How may the spirit of Disney impact on the personal growth of Hong Kong teenagers? Explain your answer with reference to Source A. (8 marks)
- (b) Referring to Source B, suggest an event that you could organize in your school in order to raise awareness of the gender issue among your schoolmates. Describe the event briefly and explain how it would achieve its aim. (12 marks)

5. Consider the following cartoon.



Note: Adapted from *Out There*, A Great GLBT Comic by Davis and Sanders, <http://www.amazingdreamspublishing.com/comicsdavissanders.html>

- (a) With reference to the above cartoon, discuss the pros and cons of finding a gay partner with "The Gaydar". (10 marks)
- (b) Some people find their partners, either homosexual or heterosexual, by using the services provided by some matchmaking websites. To what extent would using such services be favourable for developing a stable and harmonious relationship between them? Explain your answer. (10 marks)

6. A questionnaire has been distributed to parents in a secondary school. The following statements show the majority of the fathers' views.

- I. Praising children will make them conceited.
- II. The father is the head of a family, and should always maintain an image of authority.
- III. It is enough to love children with one's heart, and not necessary to express it in words.
- IV. Occasions such as parent-teacher association gatherings, sports days or speech days may be attended only by the mother. It is more important for the father to earn a living for the family.
- V. When children get upset after an unhappy experience, they will recover very soon, so when they feel unhappy, there is no need to pay too much attention to them.

- (a) With reference to the findings above, discuss the potential problems that may arise between fathers and teenage children in a family. (10 marks)
- (b) Suppose you were a teacher in the school guidance and counselling team. Suggest how your team might help bridge the communication gap between fathers and their children. Explain your answer. (10 marks)

7. Mary is your classmate and an only child. Her parents have been overprotective. She is rather shy, weak in time management, not good at interacting with people and lacking in self-understanding. She wants to find a part-time job to save up for her university tuition fees. With a Grade Eight piano qualification, she is considering becoming a private piano tutor for primary students.

At the same time, she is interested in working as a part-time executive assistant in a local group which offers HIV/AIDS prevention and support programmes to the local community. The duties of the executive assistant are to organize and conduct fundraising events and health promotion programmes, and to make visits to people infected with HIV.

- (a) Given Mary's personality and the nature of the two jobs, what advice would you give her on the choice between becoming a private piano tutor and working as a part-time executive assistant? Explain your answer. (10 marks)
- (b) If Mary finally chooses to work with the local HIV/AIDS concern group, how do you think her parents and classmates may react to her choice? Explain your answer. (10 marks)

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