

**LIBERAL STUDIES (CHINA TODAY) AS-LEVEL**

1.30 pm – 4.00 pm (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 carries 25 marks: 20 marks for content and 5 marks for effective communication.
4. 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 recall facts.

Not to be taken away before the end of the examination session
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## SECTION 1

Answer *all* the questions in this section.

1. Consider the following information:

### Source A

The National Bureau of Statistics of China has released a list of the top 100 county-level cities in 2003 in terms of their standard, vitality and potential for development. Although Guangdong's Shunde topped the list and Nanhai came the sixth, six of the top 10 county-level cities were from Jiangsu, a province in the Yangtze River Delta Region:

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Top 10 County-level cities in China</u>	<u>Characteristics</u>
1	Guangdong Shunde	home appliance manufacturing industries
2	Jiangsu Kunshan	manufacturing industries hot spot invested in by Taiwanese businessmen
3	Jiangsu Jiangyin	high-technology electronics industries
4	Jiangsu Zhangjiagang	important port in Yangtze River Delta Region
5	Jiangsu Changshu	paper making, steel and chemical industries
6	Guangdong Nanhai	aluminium manufacturing industries
7	Zhejiang Xiaoshan	engineering and textile industries
8	Jiangsu Wujin	medium and small enterprises
9	Jiangsu Wujiang	silk and optical cable industries
10	Zhejiang Shaoxing	computer equipment manufacturing industries

### Source B

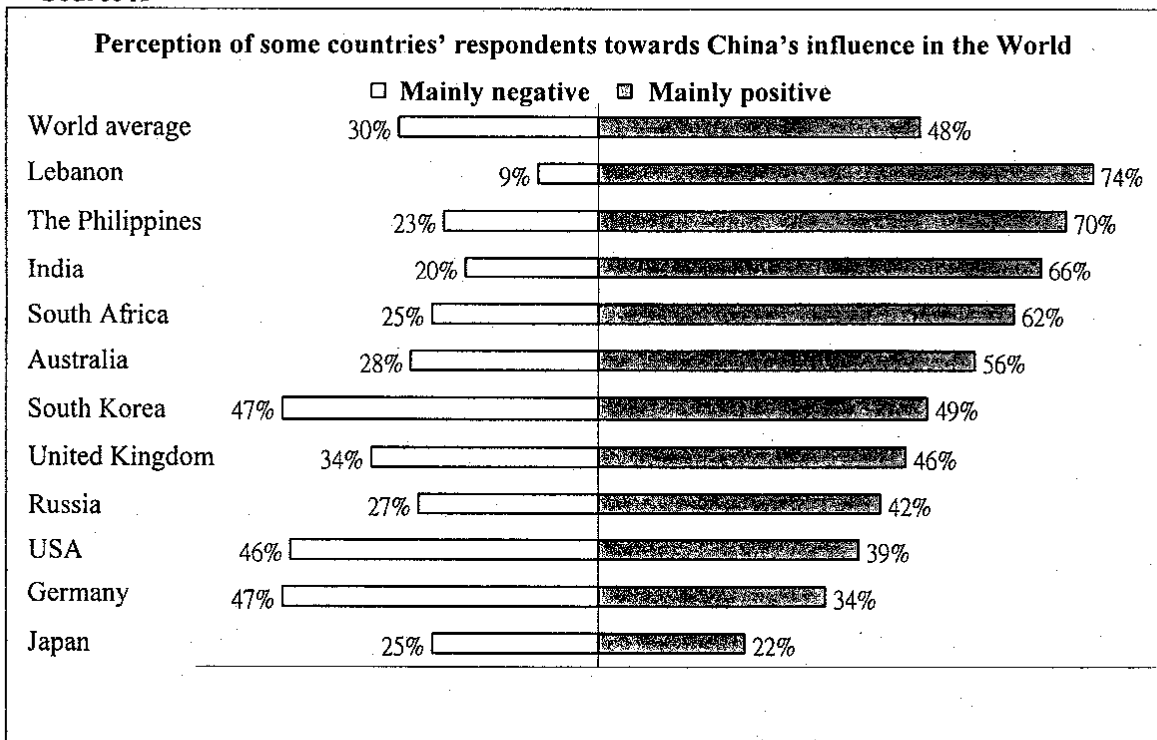
The assessment results in the past four years reveal that developed county-level cities have been increasingly spreading along the eastern coastal areas. Among the top 100 county-level cities in 2003, 47 were in the Yangtze River Delta Region and 15 in the Pearl River Delta Region. Others were mostly in the neighbourhood of big cities, on traffic highways and ports of entry and departure.

Many of the top ranking county-level cities among the 100 were industrial bases; most of them were also centres of foreign investment. For example, manufacturing industry in Jiangsu's Kunshan is very advanced and the county-level city accommodates the greatest number of Taiwanese businessmen; while Guangdong's Shunde, as the top county-level city on the list, is the largest centre for home appliance manufacturing and distribution.

- (a) According to Source A, identify and discuss the characteristics of the top 10 county-level cities in China. (6 marks)
- (b) In the light of the above sources, discuss the factors for the rise of these county-level cities to occupy the top 10 positions in China. (14 marks)

2. Consider the following information:

**Source A**



**Source B**

Through a polling organization, the BBC interviewed about 23,000 people in 22 countries. It discovered that neighboring Asian countries (except Japan) which showed suspicion of China in the past due to economic dependency on China, now take the view that the better the economy of China, the more positive is China's influence on the world.

However, the rising military influence of China as a result of its growing economic power was not so appreciated by the respondents. Only 24 percent of respondents regarded China's rising military strength as a positive development, and 59% gave a negative assessment. Australia, Japan, the US, and European nations expressed concern about China's military development.

While European respondents are concerned about the Chinese military threat, the European Union is currently considering lifting its embargo on arms sales to China.

In general, more respondents in 17 countries see China's growing influence as positive rather than the contrary. Meanwhile, respondents worried more about the US and Russia than China. An average 38 percent of all respondents across all countries viewed the US influence towards the world as positive; whereas for Russia, it was only 36 percent.

- (a) Choose *two* countries from Source A which have different views on China's influence. Explain the reasons why they hold such views respectively. (10 marks)
- (b) According to the above sources, what do you think about the impact of the growing influence of China on the balance of international power? (10 marks)

3. Consider the following information:

**Five-year plan** is a long term plan, which is part of our country's national economic planning. It mainly aims to plan key national construction projects, the distribution of productive forces and the proportion of various economic sectors' contributions to the national economy, for mapping the direction and setting targets for future development of the national economy.

★ **The 9th Five-Year Plan (1996-2000)**

Regarding national economic and social development, the primary tasks stipulated in the Plan were: to increase per capita Gross National Product (GNP) to several times more than that of 1980 while there would be a population growth of about 300 million by 2000; to basically eliminate poverty; to establish a better socialist market economy; and to raise suggestions of long-range objectives towards the year 2010. This was the first medium to long range plan.

★ **The 10th Five-Year Plan (2001-2005)**

The main objectives during the period of macro adjustment under the 10th Five-Year Plan were: to achieve an average annual economic growth rate of about 7 percent; and to achieve per capita Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of 9,400 yuans; to optimize and upgrade the production structure; to strengthen China's international competitiveness; to expand the 9-year free education to the general population; to control natural population growth rate to less than 9 percent; and to ensure a better provision of public services.

★ **The 11th Five-Year Plan (2006-2010)**

The 11th Five-Year Plan document requires the application of scientific development, stresses self-innovation, improves institutional mechanisms and enhances social harmony. It highlights six major areas of concern: fostering the transformation of the mode of economic growth, adjusting and optimizing the production structure, solving the "three rural issues" (*san nong*), reducing the problems brought about by urbanization, enhancing the coordination of regional development, and strengthening the building of a harmonious society.

- (a) Discuss how the three latest Five-Year Plans affect the lives of people in China. (12 marks)
- (b) What strategies do you think the Chinese Government should adopt to accomplish any *two* of the major areas of concern in the 11th Five-Year Plan? (8 marks)

## SECTION 2

Answer *one* question from this section.

4. Consider the following information:

### Seven Million Poor Peasants Relocating To Cities In 10 Years

The Chinese Government is planning to relocate, in phases, seven million poor peasants from barren land in remote mountainous areas to cities in the coming 10 years.

The spokesman of the State Council, Lu Fei-jie, pointed out that 28 million people in China do not have adequate food and clothing; many are living in very poor conditions, which fail to meet the subsistence level.

As the Government cannot build highways and lay electricity cables to improve the barren regions, it has to launch the relocation project to solve the poverty problem of the peasants.

Lu revealed that in the coming 10 years, the Chinese Government is going to relocate seven million peasants who are living in poverty-stricken areas in phases. The Government will use a certain amount of money for the relocation project. It is expected that the cost for each migrant will be about five to ten thousand yuans, while the annual grand total will be three to five billion yuans.

Lu emphasized that the project will be carried out on a voluntary basis. Its objective is to secure a stable income for poor peasants, "who will move out, settle down and get rich at last."

- (a) Suggest and explain the reasons why the Chinese Government relocates peasants to the cities. (8 marks)
- (b) Discuss the influence of the population policy of relocating peasants to cities on the economy and society of China. (12 marks)

5. Consider the following information:

To move towards the goal of “establishing a government operating in accordance with the law”, the State Council, in March 2004, published a document under the title “Implementing Outlines for Promoting Law-Based Administration in an All Round Way” (the “Outline”). Promoting law-based administration in an all round way and establishing government operating in accordance with the law are both the core contents of the government's work on the legal system in the 11th Five-Year Plan.

#### **Problems Yet To Be Resolved In The Legal System**

Legislative aspects: some crucial laws and regulations on reform, development and stability are yet to be drafted. Some existing laws and regulations cannot reflect objective rules -- stressing management but overlooking the service provided; dwelling on vetting but neglecting monitoring. There are inconsistency and incongruity among different laws and regulations on certain issues.

Law administration and enforcement aspects: there is only a partial change of the role of government, and the roles of non-governmental organizations and industry associations are still ambiguous. For instance, in some local governments and departments, law enforcement is directed by vested interests. They only execute laws that favour themselves, and ignore those that do not. Laws are not observed, the enforcement of laws is not strict and violations of laws without punishment are prevailing problems.

Monitoring aspects: systems and mechanisms for monitoring and checking administrative power are not good enough. Some established monitoring and checking mechanisms have not worked properly. Ineffective monitoring, violations of laws or improper means of law enforcement cannot be rectified quickly.

Legal conception aspects: the atmosphere of respecting for the law, upholding the law, governing in accordance with the law, and safeguarding the authority of the law are yet to be created in society. Some civil servants, especially a number of leading cadres, do not have a strong awareness of the importance of the rule of law; neither do they have the competence and standards to govern in accordance with the law.

- (a) The above information identifies four areas of problems in the legal system of China. Select any *one* of them and explain the causes of the problem. (12 marks)
- (b) Based on the problem you selected in (a), suggest some methods to strengthen the work of legal system in the Chinese Government. (8 marks)

6. Consider the following information:

**Project to establishing National Citizenship for Ethnic Minorities**

From the perspective of the state, ethnic minorities can realize their Chinese citizenship only through the active mobilization of the state. The ideology of mobilization is to touch the hearts of the ethnics of minorities.

The first type of mobilization is revolutionary mobilization. It calls for defense against foreign invasion, or land reforms. Although its main point is to get the support of the ethnic minorities, the basic principles should be the consideration of the benefits and costs from the state or national perspective.

The second type of mobilization is mental mobilization, i.e. to conceptually place the nation at a high level, while at the same time to place the boundaries between Han and the ethnic minorities at a low level.

The third type of mobilization is basically economic; it aims to mobilize the production incentive of the ethnic minorities.

The last type of mobilization is political mobilization, i.e. reforming political organs at the basic level and promoting self-governance of rural people in the National Autonomous Areas.

- (a) Select any *two* ways of mobilizing national citizenship for the ethnic minorities and discuss to what extent they can foster the fusion of ethnic groups. (10 marks)
- (b) According to the ways you selected in (a), suggest and explain some concrete methods of fostering the fusion of different ethnic groups. (10 marks)

7. Consider the following information:

**Constitutional Amendments to Protect Legal Private Property**

The spokesman of the Second Session of the 10th National People's Congress, Jiang En-zhu, said that a salient feature of the constitutional amendment was to integrate an insistence on Party's leadership, a full promotion of democracy and the management of state affairs in accordance with the law. With the in-depth implementation of reform, the development of the situation and the deepening of our understanding, some parts of the Constitution are properly amended and supplemented, in accordance with the objective requirements of economic development. Those amendments and supplements are essential for adapting to the needs of building a fairly prosperous and secure society in a comprehensive way, and for speeding up of socialist modernization, and for strengthening the role of the Constitution as the fundamental law of the country. Neither the solidity nor the authority of the Constitution will be affected.

Jiang also said that with the economic progress and upgrading of living standards since the reform, people in general have come to own more private property, and an increasing number of people have private means of production, there is an urgent demand for the protection of private property by law. In this regard, the constitutional amendment bills about the protection of private property would be further clarified and perfected.

China put "private property rights" into the Constitution in 2004. Do you think that this implies China is on the way towards capitalism? Explain your answer according to the above information. (20 marks)

**END OF PAPER**

Sources of materials used in this paper will be acknowledged in the *Examination Report and Question Papers* published by the Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority at a later stage.