

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 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

SECTION 1

Answer *all* the questions in this section.

1. Consider the following information:

Source A: Recurrent Government Expenditure on Education, 2005-06#

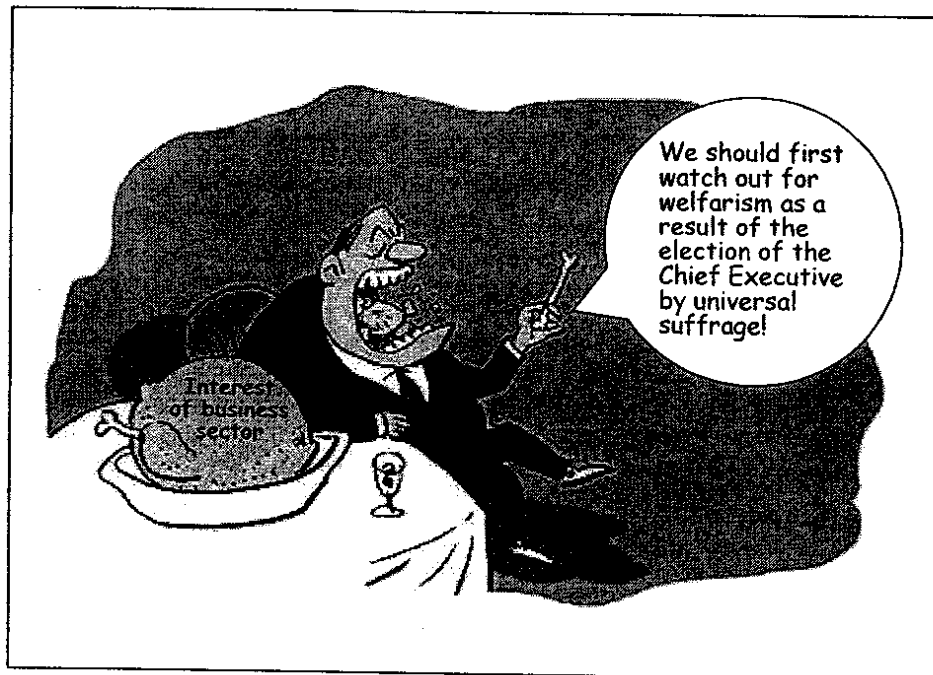
Item	Amount (\$ million)	Share (%)
Pre-primary education*	1,279	3
Primary education	10,455	26
Secondary education	16,129	40
Tertiary education	12,465	31
Total	40,328	100
Notes: # Revised estimates		
* Figures include expenditure on kindergarten education only.		

Source B: Part of the scheme of subsidising kindergarten education proposed in the 2006-07 Policy Address

... We will provide fee assistance to parents of children aged three to six in the form of an 'education voucher' ... Starting from the 2007-08 school year, we will provide, in the form of vouchers to parents, an annual subsidy of up to \$13,000 per student, of which at least \$10,000 must be used on fee subsidy, with the remaining money spent on teacher training ... To implement the scheme, we estimate that up to an additional \$2 billion will be required each year by 2011-12

- (a) Referring to Source A, identify and explain the pattern of the government expense on education in 2005-06. (10 marks)
- (b) 'In order to improve the quality of education, the money used to subsidise kindergarten education should be used for small class teaching in primary schools instead.' With reference to the above information, to what extent do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. (10 marks)

2. Consider the following cartoon adapted from a local newspaper dated 24 March 2006:



- (a) What is the message communicated in the above cartoon on the issue of electing the Chief Executive by universal suffrage? Explain. (8 marks)
- (b) 'The implementation of the election of the Chief Executive by universal suffrage will strengthen the national identity of the Hong Kong people.' To what extent do you agree with this statement? Explain. (12 marks)

3. Consider the following information:

Forum on mass media Topic: the importance of press freedom to Hong Kong society	
Speaker A:	Press freedom is very important to Hong Kong society. It ensures the free flow of information in society. On the one hand people can get a real picture of society and the performance of government; on the other hand the government can discern social sentiment and public opinion. If journalists enjoy press freedom, they can play a monitoring role, query government policies and decisions, and disclose unjust phenomena in society.
Speaker B:	The mass media in Hong Kong is highly commercial. There are so many cases which reveal that press freedom has been abused by the mass media. The situation is worrying!
Speaker C:	I agree. Hong Kong society should explore ways to prevent the abuse of press freedom as soon as possible. I have three recommendations: the first is legislation; the second is self-discipline exercised by the mass media themselves; and the third is media education for the public.
Moderator:	There are pros and cons for the three recommendations made by Speaker C. Now I would like to invite the floor to express views on the following: 'Which of the recommendations is most effective for protecting press freedom as well as preventing it from being abused? Why?'

- (a) To what extent do you agree with Speaker B's view? Explain with examples. (8 marks)
- (b) If you were one of the audience at the forum, how would you respond to the Moderator's question? (12 marks)

SECTION 2

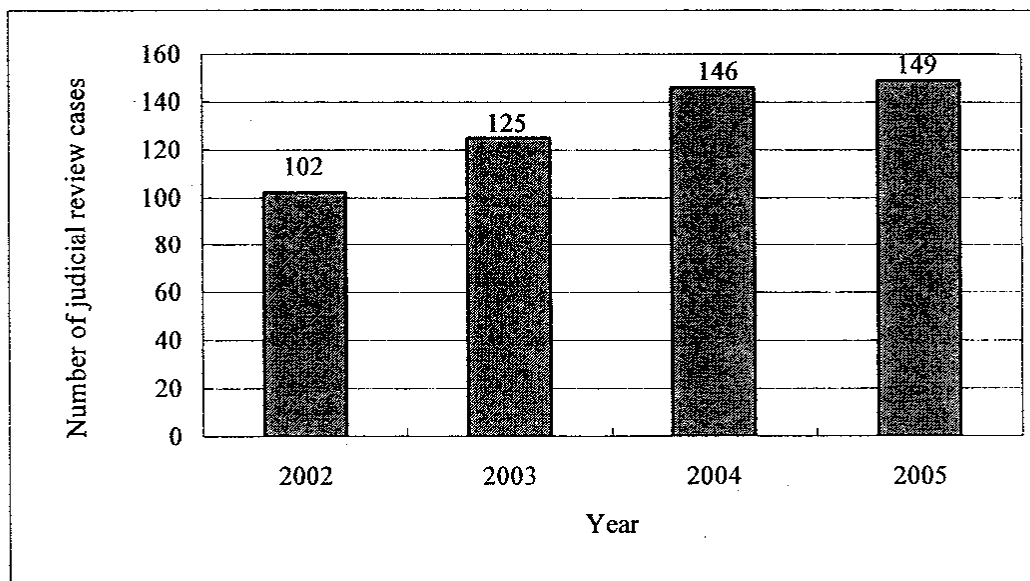
Answer *one* question from this section.

4. Consider the following information:

Source A: Part of the speech delivered by the Chief Justice Mr Andrew Kwok-nang Li at the Ceremonial Opening of the Legal Year 2006

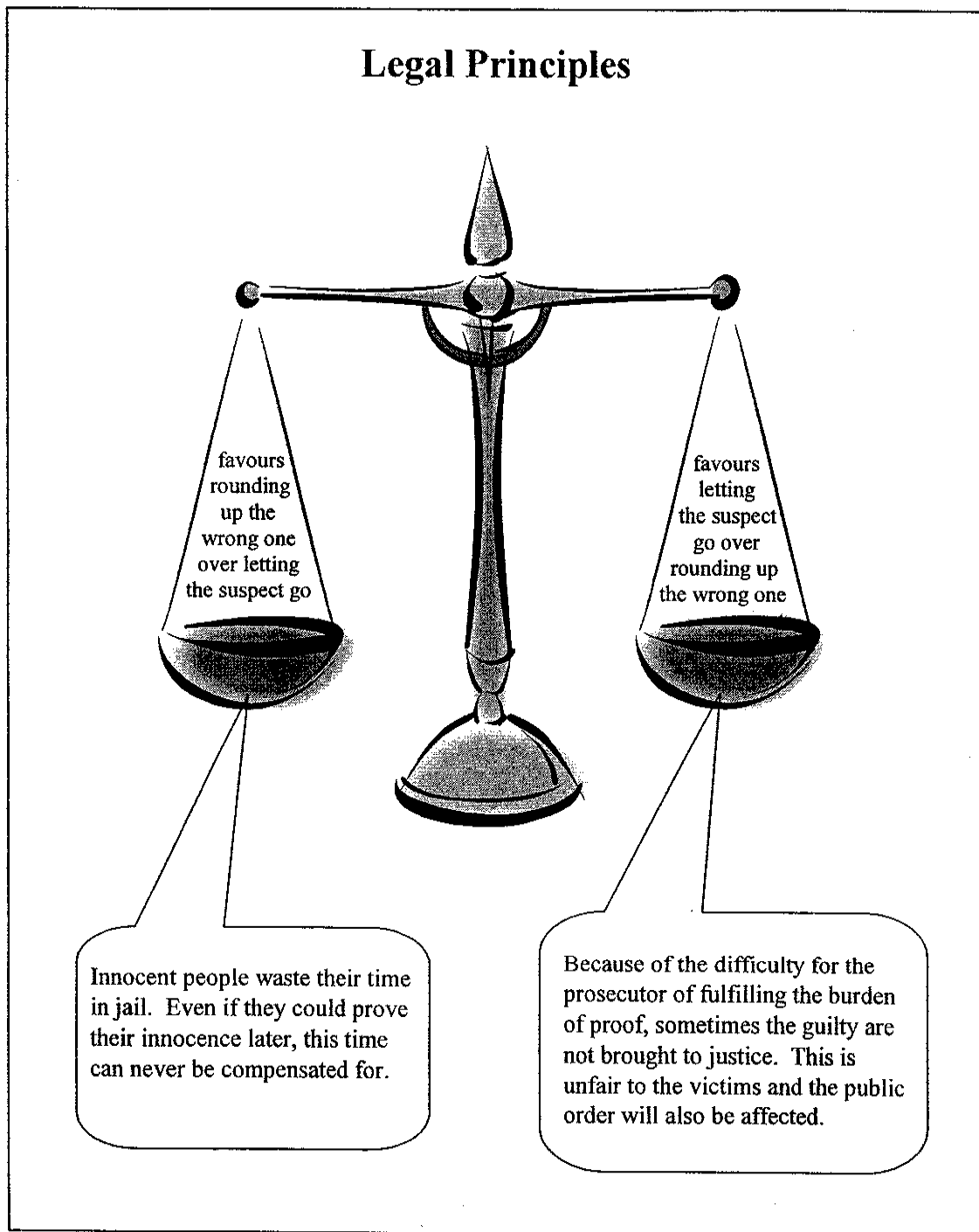
With judicial review passing into everyday parlance and with judicial review rolling readily off everyone's lips, it is important for the public to understand the courts' proper role. On judicial review, the courts do not assume the role of the maker of the challenged decision. The courts are concerned and only concerned with the legality of the decision in question, adjudged in accordance with common law principles and the relevant statutory and constitutional provisions. It follows that the courts' judgment can only establish the limits of legality. The courts could not possibly provide an answer to, let alone a panacea for, any of the various political, social and economic problems which confront society in modern times.

Source B: Number of judicial review cases from 2002 to 2005



With reference to the above information, to what extent is judicial review a panacea for resolving controversial social issues? Explain your answer. (20 marks)

5. Consider the following information:



In the light of the above information and the situation in Hong Kong, which legal principle, 'favours rounding up the wrong one over letting the suspect go', or 'favours letting the suspect go over rounding up the wrong one', can better balance the protection of human rights and the maintenance of public order? Explain your answer. (20 marks)

6. Consider the following report adapted from a local newspaper dated 1 December 2006:

Key indicators of Hong Kong's economic freedom all falling

A leading free-market watchdog sounded a warning for Hong Kong's economic freedom yesterday, saying the city had bucked world trends and experienced a continuous decline in key indicators over the past 10 years.

Dr. Mark Mullins, executive director of the Canadian-based Fraser Institute, said while Hong Kong was still ranked the world's freest economy, it should not take its position for granted.

Hong Kong has topped the Economic Freedom Index of the World since the 1970s, although its overall score fell from 9.1 in 1995 to 8.7 in 2004.

Dr. Mullins said the declines in scores were worrying because they related to industrial subsidies, red tape and the integrity of the legal system.

'Government intervention in the market and the intention of future intervention are growing though its spending is down recently, the government is compelled to intervene more,' he said.

With reference to the above information, assess the role played by the Government as the basis on which Hong Kong's prosperity has been built. (20 marks)

7. Consider the following information:

Source A: Extract from an article by Mrs Fanny Law, the former Permanent Secretary for Education and Manpower, released on 8 October 2006

Public examinations have all along been seen as a screening tool for grading students' ability to decide whether a student will pursue further studies or seek employment. As a result, public examinations are still dominating teaching and learning in secondary schools despite the implementation of curriculum reform, which aims at developing students' multiple abilities to meet social demands. Besides, internal assessments by schools often resemble public examinations by taking the form of written assessment. Hence, students' abilities which cannot be assessed within the context of a written examination, such as application of knowledge, creativity and communication skills, have not been given the attention they deserve.

The experience of educational systems worldwide shows that the introduction of school-based assessment (SBA) into public examinations can address the above problems. As SBA employs diversified assessment tasks to evaluate students' performance in different aspects, it can bring about positive impacts on learning. Teachers can give timely feedback to their students so that they may understand their strengths and weaknesses and make continuous improvements to enhance their learning effectiveness. Moreover, continuous assessment will help to assess students' abilities in a more all-round manner and reduce the pressure of 'one-off' public examinations on students.

Source B: Adapted from a report on a local newspaper dated 20 November 2006

Education Convergence sent questionnaires to more than 100 schools in Hong Kong during the end of October this year to understand the frontline educationalists' views on school-based assessment (SBA). Among the returned 2,543 questionnaires, 48.2% were from subject teachers, 44.3% from panel heads, and the rest from principals or vice-principals.

The survey reveals that 54% of the respondents felt they would be unable or would have difficulty in implementing SBA and only a mere 1.5% thought that the SBA could be carried out smoothly. In addition, 40% of the respondents were confident in the fairness of SBA, while 60% lacked confidence, with among them 8% expressing 'zero confidence'.

'In Hong Kong, SBA should be counted as a part of the public examination results.' In the light of the above information, to what extent do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. (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.