

LIBERAL STUDIES (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 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. Read the following information about the Human Development Index*:

	Life Expectancy (years)	GDP per Head of Population (US\$)	Combined Enrolment Ratio for Primary, Secondary & Tertiary Education (%)	Human Development Index (a higher index means a higher level of development, maximum = 1)
Developing Countries	64.6	4,054	60	0.663
Developed Countries	77.1	24,904	87	0.911
World	66.9	7,804	64	0.729

*Human Development Index (HDI) – a summary measure of human well-being. It is an index that measures the average achievements in a country in three basic dimensions of human development:

- (1) a long and healthy life, as measured by life expectancy at birth
 - (2) a reasonable standard of living, as measured by Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per head of population
 - (3) an adequate level of education, as measured by the combined enrolment ratio for primary, secondary and tertiary education
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- (a) With reference to the three dimensions of human development, compare the characteristics of the well-being of people in developing and developed countries. (12 marks)
 - (b) Suggest some methods to improve the well-being of people in developing countries. (8 marks)

2. Consider the following cartoons on the relationship between China and the United States in late 2005:

Cartoon A



Cartoon B



- (a) How do the above two cartoons represent different views of the Sino-American relationship in late 2005? (8 marks)
- (b) Which of the above cartoons better reflects the current Sino-American relationship? Explain your answer. (12 marks)

3. Read the following extract from a local newspaper on North Korea's nuclear weapons test in October 2006:

North Korea announced yesterday that it would carry out a nuclear weapons test in response to American sanctions and the 'threat of a nuclear war'. The North Korean Foreign Ministry said its nuclear programme was essential to provide a deterrent to the US Government. It said: 'The extreme threat of nuclear war and US sanctions and pressure compel North Korea to conduct the test, which is an essential process for developing nuclear weapons as a self-defence measure.' North Korea said that the Bush administration was intent on toppling its socialist system. It said the US imposition of sanctions and the Security Council of the United Nations' resolution imposing other sanctions meant North Korea's security was at risk.

The United States said that the nuclear weapons test by North Korea would pose an unacceptable threat to peace and stability in Asia and the world. Japan said it would be 'a threat to peace'. South Korea expressed 'deep regret and concern', and boosted the state of readiness of its armed forces. Russia urged restraint. Britain said any test would risk 'serious consequences'.

- (a) In the light of the above extract, what are the reasons for some anti-American countries to seek to develop nuclear weapons? (8 marks)
- (b) Explain whether or not the development of nuclear weapons is an effective way to reduce the risk of war. (12 marks)

SECTION 2

Answer *one* question from this section.

4. Read the following information about national goals:

National goals generally include the following:

- Preservation of national security
- Searching for new markets
- Expansion of territory
- Defence and spread of national ideology

- (a) Select any *two* of the above goals and discuss how they have caused international conflicts in the last decade. Illustrate your answer with examples. (8 marks)
- (b) Suggest ways to resolve international conflicts caused by the two goals you selected in (a). (12 marks)

5. Read the following information about globalisation of culture:

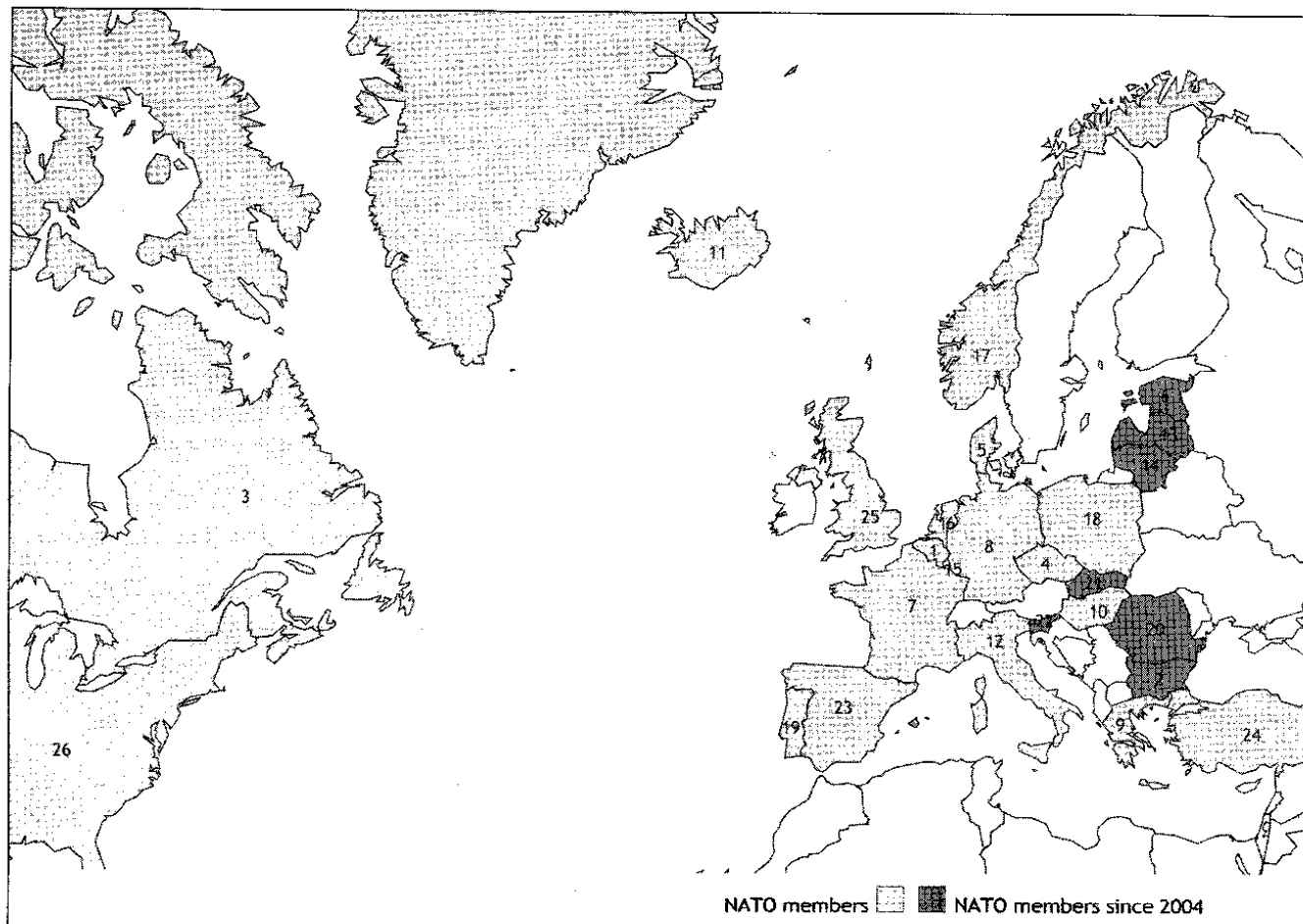
Cultural globalisation is the process whereby information, commodities and images that have been produced in one part of the world enter into a global flow that tends to 'reduce' cultural differences between nations, regions and individuals.

Although cultural globalisation is a force helping to spread the values of consumer capitalism and to bring about liberal-democratic convergence, it can also provoke resistance in terms of renewed interest in native cultures and languages and so on. Ethnic, cultural or religious nationalism tends to emerge.

- (a) In the light of the above information, discuss the advantages and disadvantages of cultural globalisation. (10 marks)
- (b) Identify one foreign cultural practice and one Chinese cultural practice that you think should be promoted in Hong Kong. Explain your choice. (10 marks)

6. Read the following information about the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO):

Source A



NATO members:

- | | | | |
|-------------|------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Belgium | 3. Canada | 4. The Czech Republic | 5. Denmark |
| 7. France | 8. Germany | 9. Greece | 10. Hungary |
| 11. Iceland | 12. Italy | 15. Luxembourg | 16. The Netherlands |
| 17. Norway | 18. Poland | 19. Portugal | 23. Spain |
| 24. Turkey | 25. The United Kingdom | 26. The United States | |

NATO members since 2004:

- | | | | |
|-------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|
| 2. Bulgaria | 6. Estonia | 13. Latvia | 14. Lithuania |
| 20. Romania | 21. Slovakia | 22. Slovenia | |

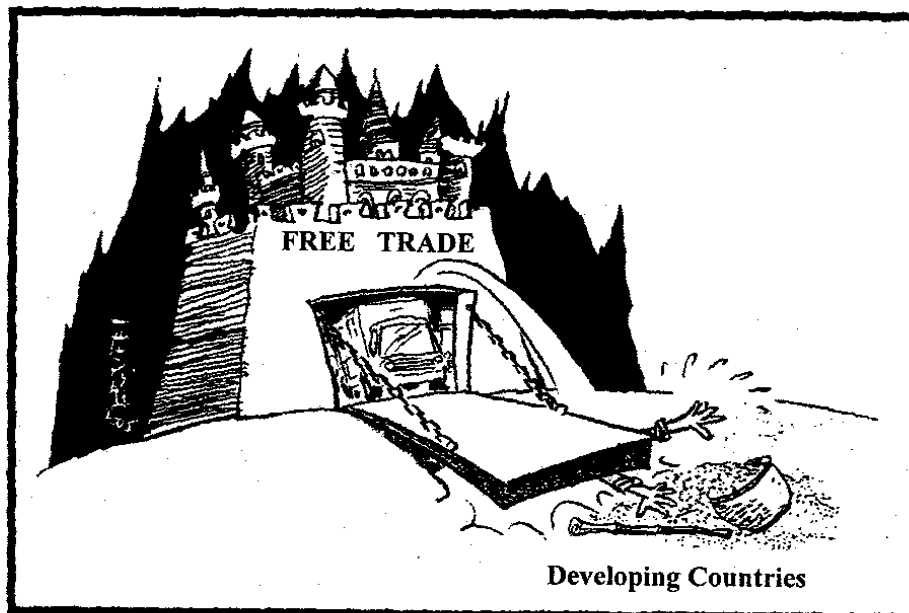
Source B

The purpose of NATO is first and foremost to form a defence alliance, in which all members promise to maintain the security of the North Atlantic area by coming to each other's aid.

Its members also promise to pursue the 'further development of peaceful and friendly international relations by strengthening their free institutions, by bringing about a better understanding of the principles upon which these institutions are founded, and by promoting conditions of stability and well-being'.

- (a) How does the increase of NATO member countries affect the balance of power in Europe? Explain your answer in the light of Sources A and B. (10 marks)
- (b) In the light of Sources A and B, discuss the role of NATO in international affairs after the collapse of the USSR. (10 marks)

7. Consider the following cartoon about free trade:



- (a) Discuss the advantages of free trade, as advocated by the World Trade Organisation (WTO), in the modern world. (8 marks)
- (b) If you were a farmer in a developing country, would you support free trade as advocated by WTO? Explain your answer. (12 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.