

**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 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. A young woman was charged by the police with illegally using another person's identity.

### Identity theft?

Wong Siu Mei used her elder brother's identity card a number of times without his knowing. The first time she used it was to get a part-time job at a department store in June 2005, when she was still aged under 18. In December 2006 she was arrested by the police and charged with the theft of nine department store vouchers when she tried to use them to purchase a designer bag in the store. She pleaded guilty in her brother's name. Wong's brother only found out about the charge and the theft of his ID card later.

In a letter she wrote to the court to apologise for her mistakes, she stated that she had started to dress as a boy when she was quite young because her parents seemed to allow her brother more freedom.

Wong was diagnosed as suffering from a gender-identity disorder in 2002. It is known that a person suffering from gender identity disorder is convinced that he or she is of the opposite gender. The person is also significantly distressed by having been born with his or her own gender. Also, because the person would be judged negatively, the victim is under a lot of internal and external pressure, and thus can become easily depressed and may have suicidal thoughts.

- (a) What do you think were the causes of Wong Siu Mei's 'identity theft'? (10 marks)
- (b) If you had been Siu Mei's good friend, what advice would you have given her to help her deal with this situation? (10 marks)

2. The following is a dialogue between two teenagers.

John:	Oh good news, Ah Chung, I found a perfect essay for my assignment! Last week I went to visit my cousin, and I found an essay that he had written which was on exactly the same topic! He got an A for it. I am going to type it up again and submit it to Miss Wong.
Ah Chung:	What? But that is lying – you cannot submit someone else’s work and pretend that it is yours!
John:	If you don’t say anything, no one will know. Besides, there is so much information on the internet. I could have written all of that if I had spent more time on it!
Ah Chung:	It is not a matter of whether people know or not. You are not honest. Don’t you feel bad?

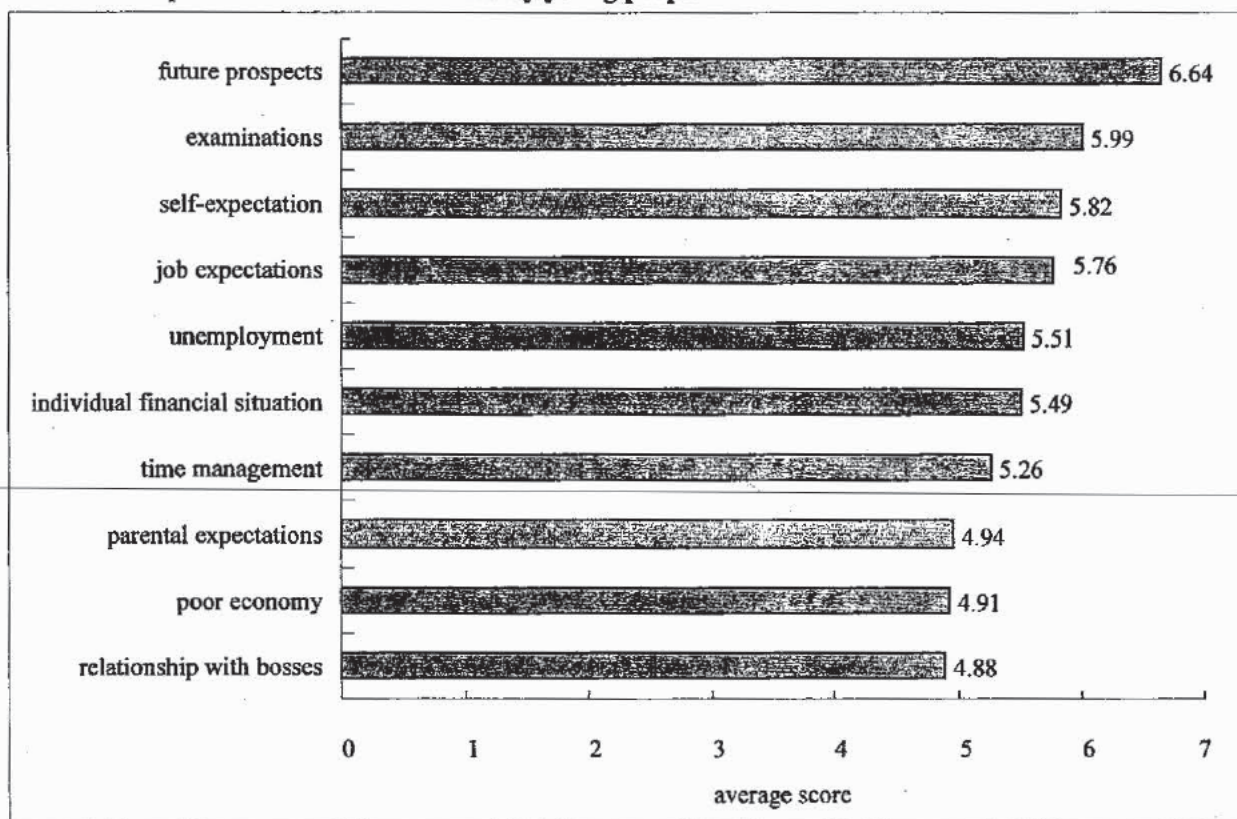
  

John:	I would not do it if I had a choice. Good grades will get me respect from people! Look at Tony. Everyone is so friendly with him because of his good grades. Even the teachers favour him! My parents ask me to regard him as a role model! In this society everyone admires high-achievers!
Ah Chung:	You’ve got it all wrong! I am not a high-achiever but I have a lot of friends. I am perfectly happy with my life! Don’t you understand what the really important things in life are? Besides integrity and friendship, self-awareness and contentment are things that I value!

- (a) Analyse John’s perceptions of himself and the people around him. (12 marks)
- (b) Do you agree with Ah Chung’s opinion? Explain your answer. (8 marks)

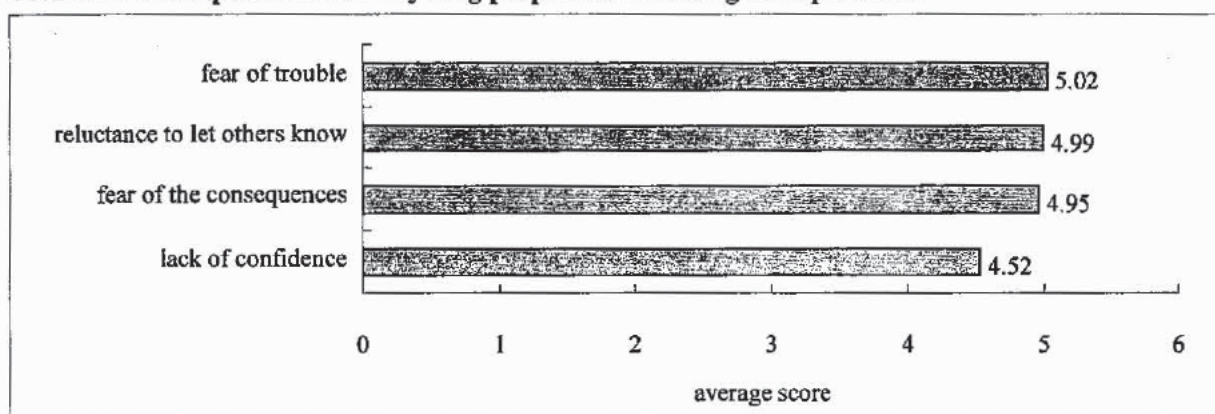
3. The Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups conducted a survey a few years ago to study how Hong Kong's young people cope with stress. More than 1000 people aged between 15 and 29 were invited to respond. The following are some of the findings.

**Source A: Top ten sources of stress faced by young people**



Note: The average score is on a scale of 0-10: 0 represents 'stress-free' while 10 is the maximum stress level.

**Source B: The top four obstacles young people have in facing their problems**



Note: The average score is on a scale of 0-10: 0 represents 'obstacle-free' while 10 means complete obstruction.

- (a) 'Young people's sources of stress primarily arise from themselves.' How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer with reference to Source A. (12 marks)
- (b) With reference to Source B and from your own knowledge, suggest methods that schools may use to help young people overcome the major obstacles they have, when facing their problems. (8 marks)



## SECTION 2

Answer *one* question from this section.

4. Consider the following sources.

### Source A: A survey about women's perceptions of beauty in Asian countries

#### Self-denial: Hong Kong's females are No.1 in the chart

In 2006, a survey was conducted about women's perceptions of beauty in nine Asian countries and regions, including Hong Kong, Taiwan, Japan, Korea, Thailand, Singapore, etc., in the form of telephone interview. 2800 Asian females aged between 15 and 64 were interviewed.

The results showed that 95% of the women interviewed in Hong Kong had difficulties in accepting their original appearance. Out of ten respondents, nine expressed the wish to change their appearance. The respondents aged between 15 and 17 were the most dissatisfied group. Nearly 50% of the respondents in this age group expressed a strong intention to change their weight and height. The proportion was the highest in Asia. Nine percent said that they would even consider cosmetic surgery to enhance their self-confidence.

### Source B: An advertisement for male skin care



**Malegance**  
**雅仕**

Men in Hong Kong care about their appearance. Facials and skin care are not only for the ladies.

Premium Facials For Men:

\$300

Choose One:

- ◆ Acne scar removal
- ◆ Anti-wrinkle
- ◆ Moisturizing

1028-1111

- (a) To what extent do you think the results of the survey in Source A reflect the real situation in Hong Kong? (10 marks)
- (b) Do you think Source B reflects Hong Kong society's perception of men? (10 marks)

5. This is an entry in Helen's weblog.

## Helen's blog

A fashion lover!

Helen – weblog – video – photos – subscribe

rating – sign in

Sunday, March 9, 2008

**Who cares what date it is today? I'm in a good mood!**

In a wonderful mood today – my new dress was admired by everyone I met. Susan liked it so much that she asked me for the name of the shop. Well, pointless telling her, as she does not have a credit card. Online shopping is definitely a blessing for me! All I need is mom's (or anyone's!) credit card number, and then I press 'confirm' ... and the stuff will be delivered within days. Cool!

Wonder when mom will come back tonight. Need to tell her about this ... though she did criticise me for 'throwing money away' (she obviously did not hear the praise I got), and she disapproves of the colours I wear (I can't survive in black alone, like she does). She must also be happy that I'm not staying out late! Yawn yawn ... I must get my beauty sleep, bet mom will be late again tonight. Will tell her later then.

01:05 AM – 2 comments – email

- (a) From the above information, what kinds of problems do you think Helen may have? (10 marks)
- (b) You are Helen's form-teacher. If you responded to her blog entry, what advice would you give to help her deal with the problems identified in (a)? (10 marks)

6. Imagine you have just read an article from a newspaper and now have a conversation with your mother.

**Source A: This is the article you read in the newspaper.**

An old woman was found guilty of continuing to claim Old Age Allowance after she had already moved to the mainland to live. At present, a person over 65 years old should not be away from Hong Kong continuously for more than 240 days, if they wish to qualify for this allowance.

Mrs. Lam said that the cost of living in China was much lower, and she could be with relatives who could take care of her. If she rented a flat and lived in Hong Kong, she said, there would not be enough money for her daily necessities.

Mrs. Lam received a suspended sentence of four months for her crime.

**Source B: After reading the newspaper, you have the following conversation with your mother.**

You:	Mom, is grandma still getting the Old Age Allowance?
Mom:	Yes, she is. I update her passbook for her every month.
You:	But she has moved back to China to live now. Is she still eligible for the Old Age Allowance?
Mom:	Well, officially, no, because she spends most of her time on the mainland. But it is much nicer and cheaper to live in China, don't you agree? With the allowance, we can buy her a nice present when she comes back, once every year.
You:	But it is against the law ...
Mom:	We are not stealing. Your grandma is over 65, and she is a Hong Kong citizen. She paid tax in the past and now it is her right to get something back.

How would you deal with the situation concerning your grandmother's Old Age Allowance? What factors should you consider before coming to a decision? Explain the answer based on the sources, and your attitudes to the two cases described. (20 marks)

7. 'Flash mobbing' is the organisation of playful acts in public places using electronic means of communication. People who sign up for a 'mob' via the internet / SMS (short message service) receive general instructions to assemble at a certain place at a certain time. They do silly and usually harmless things there and then disperse at a given time.

**Source A: A message your friend Jim received via the SMS (short message service)**

You are invited to take part in HKMOB, a project that will create an inexplicable mob of people in Causeway Bay, one of the busiest places in HK, for five minutes or less. Please forward this to other people you know who might like to join in.

**INSTRUCTIONS - HKMOB #1**

Start time: Friday, 6.00 pm

Duration: 5 minutes or less

At 5.55 pm, gather outside SOGO, where the bus stops are.

At exactly 6 pm, use the pedestrian crossing to reach the middle of the road and then lie down on the crossing. Clap your hands for 3 minutes, and shout 'happy days' at the same time. After 3 minutes, get up and walk away as if nothing had happened.

**Source B: Extract from an article about 'flash mobbing'**

The text in this source is withheld due to difficulties in obtaining copyright permission from the publisher.

- (a) Your friend Jim forwarded to you the SMS message (Source A) he received and asked you to join him. How would you respond? Explain your reasons. (10 marks)
- (b) With reference to Sources A and B and your own observations, what does the phenomenon of 'flash mobbing' reflect about human relationships? (10 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.



## Marking Scheme

These documents were prepared for markers' reference. They should not be regarded as sets of model answers. Candidates and teachers who were not involved in the marking process are advised to interpret their contents with care.

### Content

*(Note: In the assessment process, markers should first determine an appropriate grade for an answer based on 3 factors, viz. understanding of the question, content and approach, and then convert that grade into a corresponding mark according to the following table.)*

Criteria	Grade
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Well-balanced answer which shows a full understanding of the demands of the question.</li> <li>Analytical in approach and critical in the use of supporting evidence.</li> <li>Arguments are cogent and effectively supported.</li> <li>Free from <b>major</b> inaccuracies/inconsistencies and important omissions.</li> </ul> <p><i>(Note: Answers in this category need <b>NOT</b> be 'perfect' – they may contain minor flaws in content or approach.)</i></p>	<b>A</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Acceptably balanced answer which shows a good understanding of the demands of the question.</li> <li>Predominantly analytical in approach.</li> <li>Arguments are mostly coherent and well substantiated.</li> <li>Contains occasional inaccuracies and minor omissions.</li> </ul>	<b>B</b>
	<b>C</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Shows a general understanding of the demands of the question and a conscious effort to address the question, but the answer lacks balance.</li> <li>Shows some attempt to analyse the relevant issues, but the scope and depth of analysis are rather limited.</li> <li>Arguments tend to be inadequately sustained and exemplified.</li> <li>Marred by inaccuracies, omissions and inconsistencies.</li> </ul>	<b>D</b>
	<b>E</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Shows inadequate understanding of the question and/or a weak knowledge of the subject matter.</li> <li>Unduly narrative and weak in analysis.</li> <li>Arguments tend to be assertive and not substantiated.</li> <li>Containing fundamental errors/major inconsistencies/gross irrelevancies.</li> </ul>	<b>E/F</b>
	<b>F</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Shows a total misunderstanding of the question and a failure to distinguish between relevant and irrelevant material.</li> <li>Narrative in approach and lacking in analysis.</li> <li>Overwhelmingly assertive and fragmentary.</li> <li>Totally inadequate, containing little that is accurate, relevant or worthwhile.</li> </ul>	<b>U</b>

### Effective Communication

— The criteria for awarding markings for effective communication are :

- whether the argument is logically and systematically set out;
- whether it is easy to understand the arguments relevant to the question; and
- whether the language is effectively deployed in the communication of relevant idea and viewpoints.

(Note : Grammar and spelling are only important insofar as they enhance or hinder communication.)

— Markers are advised to use the following grade-mark equivalence scale when awarding marks for effective communication:

Grade	A	B	C	D	E	F	U
Mark	5	4	3	2	2	1	0

**Human Relationships**

Question Number	Popularity %	Performance in General
1	Compulsory	Good
2	Compulsory	Mediocre
3	Compulsory	Fair
4	44	Poor
5	35	Fair
6	6	Good
7	15	Mediocre

**Section 1**

- Q.1 (a) Most candidates were able to make reference to the source to analyze the causes of Wong Siu Mei's 'identity theft', with due explanation. Some weaker candidates wrongly focused their discussion on Siu Mei's family problems or the greediness which led to her stealing the vouchers of the department store.
- (b) In general, candidates were able to give advice to help Siu Mei deal with the situation as presented in the source. However, some failed to address the issue from the perspective of Siu Mei's friend, thus producing answers that were either too general or beyond the capabilities of a friend.
- Q.2 (a) On the whole, candidates were able to point out John's perceptions of himself and the people around him as reflected in the conversation. Some of the weaker candidates mistook John's 'character' for 'perceptions' and hence failed to grasp the gist of the question. Good candidates were able to examine John's perceptions of both himself and the people around him in a clear and balanced way.
- (b) The question required candidates to discuss whether they agreed with Ah Chung's opinion. Thus a pre-requisite of good answers rested on a proper understanding of his opinion. However, candidates tended to focus their discussion extensively on the last statement made by Ah Chung. Aside from examining Ah Chung's opinion on the things that he valued, candidates should extend their discussion to his opinion as reflected in the conversation.
- Q.3 (a) Most candidates were able to discuss with standpoints the extent to which young people's sources of stress primarily arose from themselves. To further improve on performance, candidates are advised to make good use of the survey data, rather than mentioning only a few items listed in the source, to present coherent and well-argued answers.
- (b) Quite a number of candidates misunderstood this question and suggested methods that schools might use to help young people 'face their problems', rather than 'overcome the major obstacles' they had when facing their problems. The suggested measures thus tended to be too general. Better candidates were able to correlate the methods with the obstacles and give appropriate explanations.

## Section 2

- Q.4 (a) Overall performance was not satisfactory. The question required candidates to discuss the extent to which the results of the survey in Source A reflected the real situation in Hong Kong. Most candidates simply reiterated what was given in the source and gave general accounts of women's perceptions of beauty, without making reference to the real situation in Hong Kong. Some candidates wrongly focused their discussion on the methodology of the survey, hence criticizing on areas like small sample size, interview questions not being clearly stated and so on, in order to prove the results of the survey did not reflect Hong Kong's situation.
- (b) The ablest candidates were able to discuss the issue from different perspectives. However, some candidates only commented on the advertisement and did not really analyze Hong Kong society's perception of men.
- Q.5 (a) On the whole, candidates were able to make reference to the source to discuss the problems Helen might have, as reflected from the blog entry. Some weaker candidates simply provided a general discussion on factors affecting parent-child relations, and thus scored low marks. Good candidates were able to examine the 'kinds' of problems comprehensively and systematically.
- (b) Candidates were asked to examine how they would help Helen in the role of her form teacher. In general, candidates were able to suggest some ways to help Helen deal with the problems identified in (a).
- Q.6 Only a few candidates answered this question, but most managed to interpret the question correctly, and explain how they would deal with the situation and describe the factors that they should consider before coming to a decision. The best candidates were able to discuss the issue from perspectives like respect for the law and human relationships, and presented coherent and thoughtful arguments.
- Q.7 (a) Candidates were able to make reference to the source and explain generally their response to the SMS message. However, some justifications tended to be a general criticism of flash mobbing, rather than a specific response to the case presented in the source.
- (b) The question required an examination of what the phenomenon of flash mobbing reflected about human relationships, with reference to both sources and candidates' own observations. Some weaker candidates merely copied information from the sources. When it came to quoting candidates' own observations, the discussion was rather vague and superficial.

### General comments

As in previous years, most answers displayed a proper understanding of the issues relating to human relationships. The weaker candidates did not fully address the focal issues of the questions. Some merely cited information from the sources, or gave some vague and superficial explanations. To gain better results, candidates should pay attention to the following approaches: grasping the gist of the questions, developing a logical and in-depth analysis, and presenting coherent and substantiated answers.

Candidates are reminded that this subject emphasizes the ability to present and support points of view in a clear, concise and logical manner, rather than the ability to recite information. Candidates should also be more careful in interpreting the questions. They should elaborate and justify their arguments more coherently and systematically.