

HONG KONG EXAMINATIONS AND ASSESSMENT AUTHORITY
HONG KONG DIPLOMA OF SECONDARY EDUCATION EXAMINATION 2016

LIBERAL STUDIES PAPER 2

11:15 am – 12:30 pm (1¼ hours)
This paper must be answered in English

- (1) This paper consists of three questions. Answer **ONE** question only.
- (2) Write your answers in the Answer Book provided.
- (3) 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

Extended response questions

Answer *one* question only.

1. Consider the following source:

Adapted from newspaper reports dated 11 April 2013 and 30 October 2015

In the Fifth Plenary Session of the 18th Communist Party of China Central Committee in 2015, the implementation of the universal two-child policy (allowing each couple to have two children) was proposed.

The one-child policy in China, introduced in 1978 to prevent population growth spiralling out of control, will be modified because it is regarded by many experts as outdated. Needless to say, value conflicts are involved in the family planning policy of China. Therefore, China faces a dilemma when modifying its policy.

- (a) Various stakeholders are involved in the one-child policy in China. What might be the value conflicts among these stakeholders? Explain your answer. (8 marks)
- (b) To what extent would the two-child policy facilitate the long-term development of China? Justify your view. (12 marks)

2. Consider the following source:

An extract from a newspaper report dated 20 June 2015

Traditional Hong Kong businesses at risk of dying out

Hong Kong is best known as a centre for big business, but scattered among its gleaming corporate towers it is possible to find small, independent companies that specialise in local traditional businesses, such as the production of bamboo steamers, paper lanterns and preserved fish.

These companies are closely linked to Hong Kong's history, and are woven into the city's cultural fabric. They are part of what gives Hong Kong its unique aesthetic and atmosphere.

Times are changing, though. Many of these companies have no succession plans and anticipate closure. Moreover, traditional items are becoming redundant. As these elements of its heritage are lost, Hong Kong edges ever closer to other global cities.

Last year, the government published a list classifying 480 items as Hong Kong's 'intangible cultural heritage'. Despite this support, some traditional businesses are disappearing.

- (a) Explain the factors that might be leading to the decline of local traditional businesses in Hong Kong. (8 marks)
- (b) Should the Hong Kong government implement measures to support the survival of local traditional businesses? Justify your view. (12 marks)

3. Consider the following sources:

Source A: Adapted from newspaper reports dated 22 August 2014 and 2 September 2014

The 'Ice Bucket Challenge', as a global activity, has raised both money and awareness for the disease amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS*). The stunt goes like this: People make a video of themselves dumping a bucket of ice and water on their heads, post it on Facebook, Instagram or other electronic social media sites, and then challenge friends to do the same within 24 hours, or donate US\$100 to the ALS Association.

There have been more than 2.4 million ice bucket-related videos posted on Facebook, and 28 million people around the world have uploaded, commented on or 'Liked' ice bucket-related posts. From 29 July to 28 August this year the ALS Association received US\$98.2 million – compared with US\$2.7 million donated during the same period last year.

*ALS is a rare disease affecting the nervous system of a patient.

Source B: An extract from a commentary dated 23 January 2015

Social movements around the world do not emerge merely due to communications technologies. However, in this era where electronic social media are integrated into our daily life, communications technologies have naturally become a component of social movements and collective actions. Research findings indicate that the socio-political participation of university students in Hong Kong is neither affected by how much time they spend on electronic social media nor whether they receive information on current affairs from electronic social media.

- (a) How might people's participation in global charitable activities be raised in a globalized world? Explain your answer. (8 marks)
- (b) Evaluate the effectiveness of electronic social media in enhancing the socio-political participation of Hong Kong young people. Justify 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.