

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

LIBERAL STUDIES PAPER 2

Question-Answer Book
(Practice Question)

One hour

1. Consider the following information:

After more than 10 years of discussion, the Central Government finally approved the establishment of the world's sixth Disneyland in Pudong Shanghai. It is expected to open in 2014 at the earliest. The Walt Disney Company will cater to the Shanghai market by introducing local elements.

Some mainland citizens hope the Shanghai Disneyland "would incorporate Chinese elements. However, the most important element should be the quality of tourists." Some mainland citizens who have visited the U.S. Disneyland thought that the atmosphere there was pleasant and "the polite and disciplined tourists" made the visit very enjoyable. They worried that mainland visitors might lack manners, which would have a negative impact on tourists' mood. These mainland citizens believe that the success of Disneyland will hinge on "cultural issues".

The establishment of Disneyland means that a symbol of capitalism will find a home in socialist Mainland China. However, some U.S. critics opined that this would be only a small step towards the opening up of the mainland, rather than a sign of a total acceptance of foreign culture.

Some mainland critics on the Internet believe that unrestricted introduction of foreign culture will threaten the status of China's local culture. Despite the on-going trend towards globalization, a world of Disneyland resorts and Hollywood movies did not sound good to them. They also pointed out that the foreign entertainment industry targeted the youngsters and the general public. If Chinese culture is superseded by U.S. culture, China will be much the poorer for it.

- (a) In the light of the above information, in your opinion, why is it important to incorporate Chinese elements and improve local visitors' quality for the development of a successful Disneyland on the Mainland? Explain. (10 marks)
- (b) 'The introduction of foreign culture will threaten the status of China's local culture.' To what extent do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer in the light of the above information and according to your knowledge. (10 marks)

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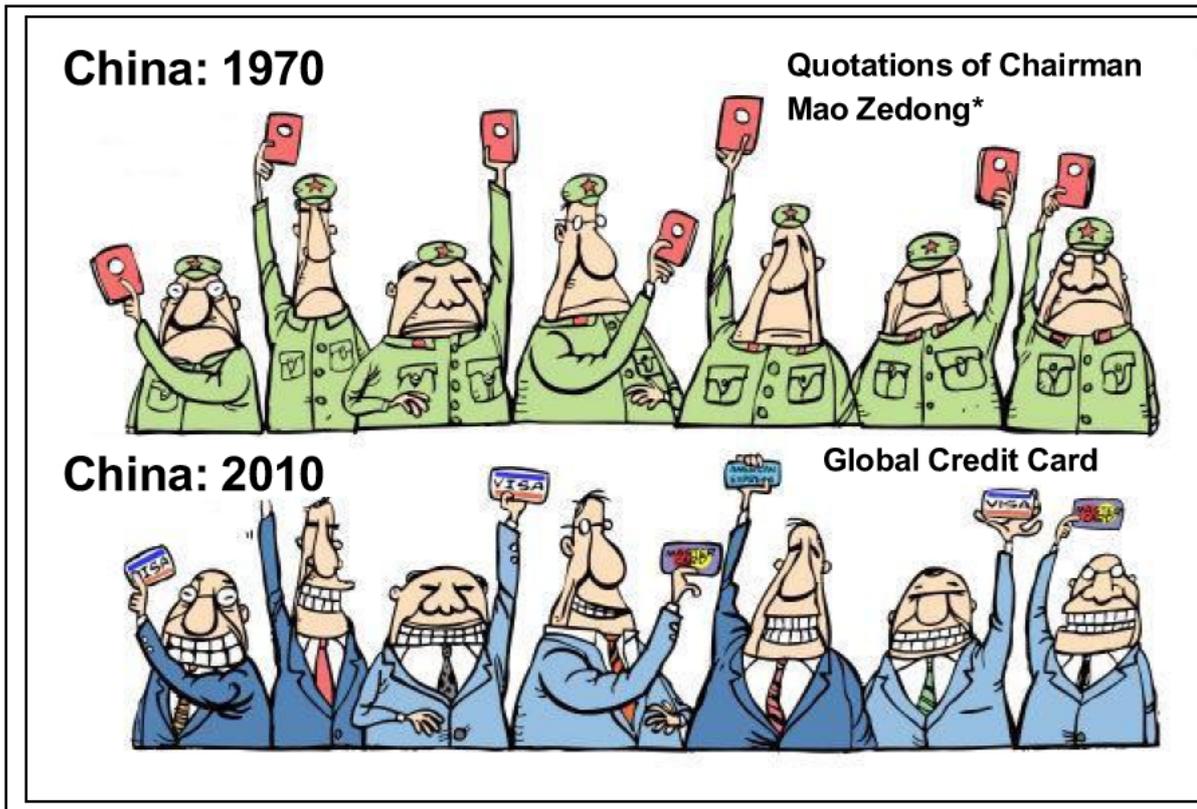
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2. Consider the following information:



* A selection of the quotations from the works of Mao Zedong, the leader of the Communist Party of China

- (a) The cartoon above shows some changes in Mainland society. Do you agree with the viewpoint portrayed in the cartoon? Justify your argument. (8 marks)
- (b) “The rise of material living standards for the Chinese people has been due to economic globalization.” Referring to the cartoon above and based on your own knowledge, to what extent do you agree with this statement? Explain. (12 marks)

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Source:

Political Cartoons

<<<http://www.politicalcartoons.com/cartoon/ff0e3efa-1632-4ec8-b126-2ff5cc94b236.html>>>

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3. Consider the following newspaper extract:

There are many brightly-lit high-rise buildings in Hong Kong, and it is known as the “Pearl of the Orient” due to its sparkling night-lights. However, light pollution has already prevented one-fifth of the people in the world from seeing the Milky Way at night. Experts have warned that light pollution not only prevents people from seeing starry skies, but also affects people’s health, in ways which range from causing sleeplessness (due to disruption of one’s biological clock) to inducing cancer. Scientists have carried out research and found that women living in districts most seriously affected by light pollution have a greater chance of acquiring breast cancer. It is believed that the non-natural light at night affects women’s hormonal levels, for example greatly reducing the secretion of the cancer-inhibiting melatonin.

The Environmental Protection Department is studying the experience of other cities which are similar to Hong Kong, and assessing the feasibility of regulating external lighting by legislation.

- (a) Referring to the information above and based on your own knowledge, should the Hong Kong government regulate external lighting through legislation? Explain. (10 marks)
- (b) Apart from legislation by the government, suggest a few ways to alleviate the problem of light pollution that can be adopted in Hong Kong. Explain. (10 marks)

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Source:

明報，「專家：全球五分一人看不見星空」，2009年6月12日。

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4. Consider the following information adapted from news articles in a local newspaper published in October 2009:

Gini Index*	
Hong Kong	50
China	46
India	45
Singapore	43
Britain	34
Canada	32.1
United States	30.5
Australia	30.5

The Human Development Report, released by the United Nations Development Programme on 5 October 2009, shows Hong Kong had a relatively high Gini index of 50 in 2006.

Here are some people's viewpoints regarding the wealth gap in Hong Kong:

- The wealth gap is a result of the movement of the city towards a knowledge-based economy.
- It is wrong for the government's policy to emphasise economic growth by favouring certain businesses or industries over supporting the poor.
- As rental costs increase, companies have to cut staff wages to stay competitive.

*: The Gini Index is an indicator of the degree of inequality in the distribution of income in a society. A society that scores 0 has perfect equality in income distribution. The higher the number (over 0), the higher the inequality, and a score of 100 indicates total inequality. All data were taken from 2006, except those for India, Britain and Canada, which were taken from 2005.

- (a) 'The inadequate support of the Hong Kong government for the poor has led to a serious wealth gap in Hong Kong society.' Do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer in the light of the above information and according to your own knowledge. (10 marks)
- (b) To what extent has the serious wealth gap adversely affected the social harmony of Hong Kong? (10 marks)

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Source:

South China Morning Post, “HK income gap ‘widest among rich economies’”,
23 October, 2009.