

HONG KONG EXAMINATIONS AUTHORITY
HONG KONG ADVANCED LEVEL EXAMINATION 1995

LIBERAL STUDIES (HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS) AS-LEVEL

9.00 am–11.30 am (2½ hours)
This paper must be answered in English

1. This paper consists of Sections 1, 2 and 3. Sections 1 and 3 both carry 25% of the module marks, and Section 2 carries 50%.
2. Candidates are required to answer ALL questions from Sections 1 and 2, and ONE question from Section 3. They are advised to spend 40 minutes on each of Sections 1 and 3, and 70 minutes on Section 2.
3. Answers to all questions should be written in the same answer book.
4. The weighting of each question is indicated in brackets. It is a guide to the length of answer required, which may vary from one to several paragraphs.
5. 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 recite facts.

SECTION 1

[25% of the module marks]

Answer all the questions in this section.

1. Consider the following extract from a newspaper report:

- Hong Kong rates as the most stressful city in the world according to the results of an international survey released this week. Some 70% of Hong Kong men and 64% of women complained of stress at work compared with 54% of people worldwide.
- One in five people in Hong Kong (compared with less than one in 10 worldwide) said that not liking their boss was the main reason for stress at work.
- More than half of those interviewed said they had too much work and not enough staff to help them.
- Other complaints included feeling unappreciated; having little control over what they do; being treated like a cog in a wheel rather than a person.
- Some 41% of the Hong Kong interviewees said their jobs were boring, compared with 14% elsewhere.

Now consider these comments on the above findings:

- **Dr John Spinks** (Reader in psychology at The University of Hong Kong)
'Many surveys produce similar results, but often they look at Hong Kong through Western rather than local eyes.'
- **Kate Watkins** (Counsellor from the Marriage and Personal Counselling Service)
'Stress is a matter of perception. One person's stress is another's motivation. Look at the bosses: they enjoy what they do and they feel productive. They find Hong Kong is a very dynamic place to work. Lower down the organization, however, things may be very different for those who are being told what to do. When there are feelings of no control, there's stress. It's no accident that junior and middle managers, striving to reach the top, have more heart attacks than their bosses....'
'There is also an emphasis in Hong Kong on getting a good education and a good job – then you've arrived. If people think that is what life is about, then the majority will be disappointed.'
- **Andy Kwan** (industrial psychologist)
'I feel that the most important factor leading to poor relationships with bosses in Hong Kong is the Chinese culture.'

- (a) List the causes of stress mentioned in the two extracts. What other factors not mentioned above may also be important in contributing to stress in the Hong Kong workplace? Explain your answer. (7%)
- (b) Why do you think so many Hong Kong people find their jobs 'boring'? (5%)

SECTION 2

[50% of the module marks]

Answer *all* the questions in this section.

- (c) How do you think the Chinese culture affects the relationship between employees and their bosses? Discuss whether Andy Kwan's view is valid. (6%)
- (d) Should those people who feel under too much stress at work change their jobs or should they try to manage their stress? Explain your answer. (7%)

2. Consider the data in the following table:

Hong Kong Certificate of Education Examination (HKCEE) 1994
Analysis of Results of School Candidates (by sex)

Subject	Sex	No. Sat	Examination Grades					
			A		A-C		A-E	
			No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
English Language (Syllabus B)	Males	35,958	413	1.1	1,841	5.1	16,995	47.3
	Females	39,684	847	2.1	3,523	8.9	22,818	57.5
	Total	75,642	1,260	1.7	5,364	7.1	39,813	52.6
Mathematics	Males	37,858	1,482	3.9	10,755	28.4	26,489	70.0
	Females	40,593	855	2.1	8,596	21.2	26,146	64.4
	Total	78,451	2,337	3.0	19,351	24.7	52,635	67.1

Now consider this quotation:

Our self-image determines how we behave. Let's take an example. If you see yourself as being hopeless at mathematics, you will always have difficulty with maths exams, using scientific calculators or anything of that sort. Perhaps you experienced failure with maths when you were in primary school. So you developed an attitude which said, 'No matter what happens, I can't do maths.' Therefore you didn't try. As a result, you fell further and further behind. If you were ever successful with a maths problem, then you said, 'It was just a bit of good luck!' Every time you made a mess of your maths homework, you said, 'That proves I'm hopeless!' The more you told others how hopeless you were, the more you believed it and the more deeply embedded that self image became.

- (a) What phenomena do the HKCEE data illustrate? (6%)
- (b) How does the way of looking at self-image suggested in the quotation help to explain the HKCEE data? (12%)
- (c) Discuss any other factors that you think may help to explain the given data. (12%)

3. In a recent survey, a sample of Secondary 1–Secondary 5 students were asked to respond to the six statements listed in the following table. They were asked to state whether they would 'agree', 'totally agree', 'disagree', or 'totally disagree' with each statement. The results, recorded according to sex, were as follows:

(Note: The table below only includes the percentages of students who 'agreed' and 'totally agreed' with the listed statements.)

Statement	Boys	Girls	Whole Group
Men should do housework.	66.7	91.4	80.2
Men may shed tears before others.	60.0	65.2	62.9
Boys should receive more education.	17.5	6.5	11.4
Women must know how to cook.	79.1	58.6	68.0
Women may date men.	87.7	73.5	80.0
Wives may overtake husbands in career or educational achievement.	71.7	83.1	78.0

What do the data tell you, and how would you explain them?

(20%)

SECTION 3

[25% of the module marks]

Answer *one* question from this section.

4. Consider this extract from a speech by a well-known secondary school principal:

How do parents deal with the many problems encountered by their children? Sadly, we must admit, many parents do not deal with them at all – they ignore them or even refuse to admit they exist. A fundamental problem is a lack of communication. Have you ever been to a restaurant for yum cha on a Sunday? What do you see? Besides eating, what are they doing? Most often the parents are reading newspapers, and the children are reading comics or playing electronic games or listening to walkmans. How much communication is going on? I don't need to answer that, do I?...

Students who have to tackle problems by themselves don't usually succeed. So they resort to unusual behaviour and cause more problems, e.g. smoking, taking drugs, joining triad societies, suicide. And these problems are increasing.

- (a) To what extent do you agree with the principal's view? Explain your answer. (10%)
- (b) What other factors do you think may be important in causing teenage behaviour problems? Discuss whether these other factors are more important than a lack of communication. (15%)

5. Consider this quotation from a speech made by Mr Ian Strachan, the Director of Social Welfare:

I personally think it is too easy to get divorced in Hong Kong and the law should be tightened to encourage couples to save their marriages. By making divorce easier, we are encouraging people to opt out of the relationship.

I have seen a number of my friends divorce recently and what has been worst in all of that has been the effect on the teenage children. They seem to lose all sense of continuity in their lives.

Hong Kong's divorce laws are lax. Figures from the Census and Statistics Department show that in 1992 one couple was divorcing for every eight that married. I think we need to be more careful about getting the balance right between the parents who want to separate on the one hand, and the damage that the divorce causes to the children.

- (a) Apart from his recent experience with his own friends, what do you consider to be the most likely explanation for Mr Strachan's views about divorce? (5%)
- (b) If you disagreed with Mr Strachan, how would you argue against him? (20%)

6. Study the following extract:

Hong Kong has a number of laws which prohibit antisocial behaviour like littering, spitting and smoking in certain public places.

Legislative Councillor, Anna Wu, recently proposed a private member's bill with the aim of eliminating all forms of discrimination on the grounds of gender, race, age, as well as physical and mental conditions. The government has opposed her bill presumably because it believes that Hong Kong is not yet ready for such a sweeping, radical approach. Instead, the government has itself designed much more modest and limited legislation aimed at prohibiting discrimination against persons with disabilities.

- (a) Explain whether you support or oppose the government's position. (10%)
- (b) With reference to Anna Wu's bill, argue *for* and *against* the use of the law to attempt to control discrimination and the way people mistreat others. (15%)

7. Consider the following case:

Joey has had a hard struggle with his academic work right through his secondary school course. Last year he only just managed to get a sixth-form place. He is small in stature and not good-looking, so that girls pay little attention to him. He has always had a poor conduct record at school, and for several months during his Secondary 4 year, the police made him report weekly to his local police station because they suspected him of triad connections. There really isn't anything that he is good at. His parents are quite strict and his older brother and sister are average at school. The family are not well-off, and although they worry a lot about Joey and try to help him, he pays little heed to what they say or think.

Joey has a good friend from another school called Victor. He has always done well at school even though he doesn't work particularly hard. He is well built, quite good at sport and is particularly attractive to girls. Victor has not been in serious trouble at school, but he is disliked by his teachers and avoided by his classmates because he is quite arrogant about his own good looks and abilities and insensitive to the needs and feelings of others. His family are well-off and they give him a lot of personal freedom. He spends most of his money on clothing, restaurant meals, and entertainment.

Joey spends as much time as he possibly can with Victor. They go everywhere together. Victor is happy to have Joey's company and doesn't mind paying out most of the money needed for the things they do together. Joey readily agrees to anything that Victor suggests. They are becoming increasingly daring in what they do. They ogle any pretty girls they see on the street; they both smoke; they like to go to Karaoke bars; they have seen some back-street pornographic movies; and they place bets with the Jockey Club.

- (a) At first sight it seems that Joey and Victor are very different. How would you explain their relationship? (15%)
- (b) Is it likely that a school social worker could help them? Explain your view. (10%)

END OF PAPER