

LIBERAL STUDIES (HONG KONG STUDIES) AS-LEVEL

8.30 am – 11.00 am (2½ hours)

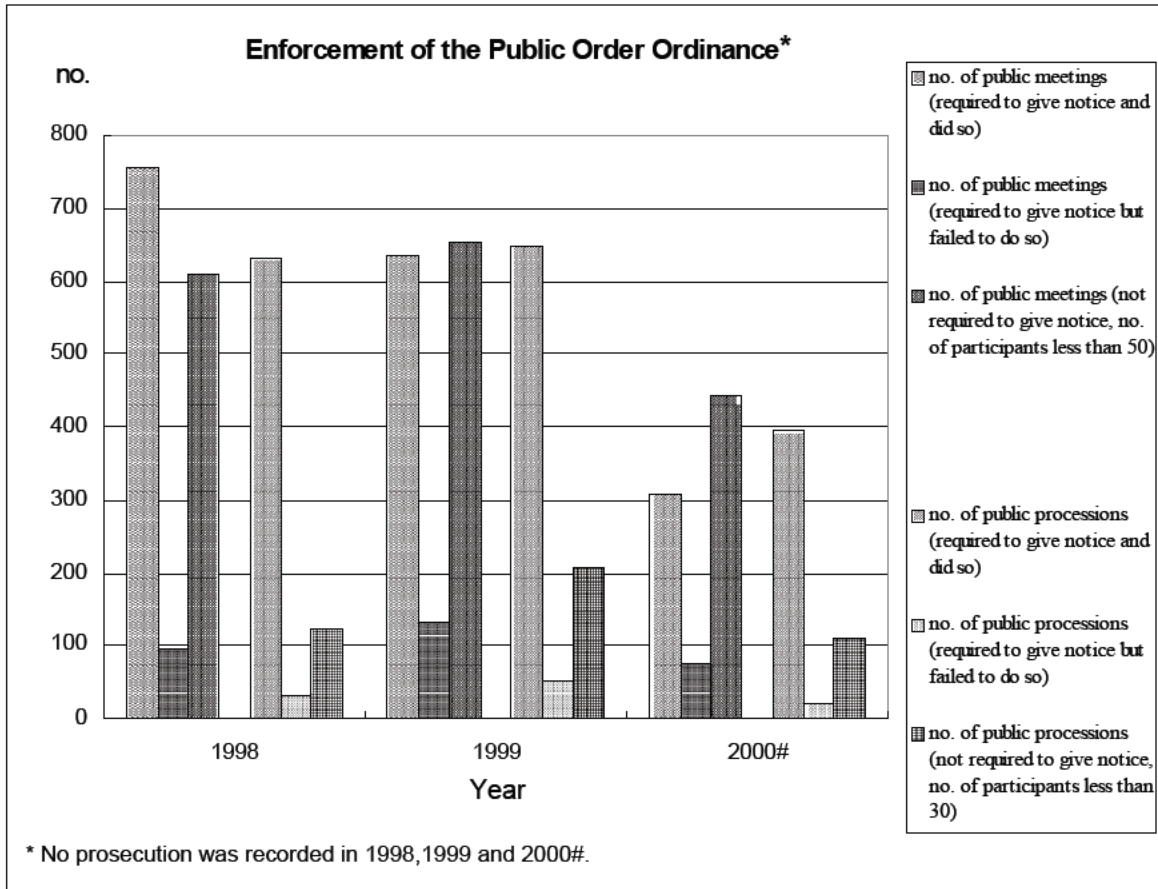
This paper must be answered in English

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 is worth 25 marks : 18 marks are allocated for content and 7 marks for effective communication.
4. The maximum content marks are indicated in brackets at the end of each question and sub-question. They are 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

Answer *all* questions in this section.

1. Consider the following information :



Note : # From January to August

- (a) Presently, the organizers of a public meeting (50 participants or more) or public procession (30 participants or more) are required to give notice to the Commissioner of Police seven days before the scheduled meeting day. With reference to the above data, what conclusion would you draw about the enforcement of this requirement? (9 marks)
- (b) How do you account for the fact that no people were prosecuted in the above stated period as a result of non-compliance with the requirement of notification of public meetings and processions? (9 marks)

2. Consider the following information :

Source A : an extract from a local newspaper

Concerning the decision to transfer the head of Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) to Tokyo, the first question people will ask is whether it has any bearing on Tung Chee-hwa's enigmatic 'slowly, slowly' remark about controlling the content of the government-sponsored broadcaster.

That reaction is inevitable after the controversy that has raged around the station since the handover. When Taiwan's *de facto* envoy Cheng An-kuo gave his government's view on the 'two states' statement in a 'Letter to Hong Kong', accusations of 'splittism' reached all the way up to Chinese Vice-Premier Qian Qichen.

More alarming for Hong Kong's reputation as a free society were the remarks of the Standing Committee member of the National People's Congress Tsang Hin-chi, who said that mass media should not advocate secession and suggested that if RTHK did not exercise self-control, the Government should start to legislate Article 23 of the Basic Law, covering sedition and subversion.

Executives at RTHK know that its balanced traditions will always come under attack from some pro-Beijing quarters whenever it broadcasts the views of critics of government policy. Unbiased reporting from a government-funded radio station is obviously confusing to anyone more accustomed to the media as a mouthpiece of official policy.

Source B : an extract from a local newspaper

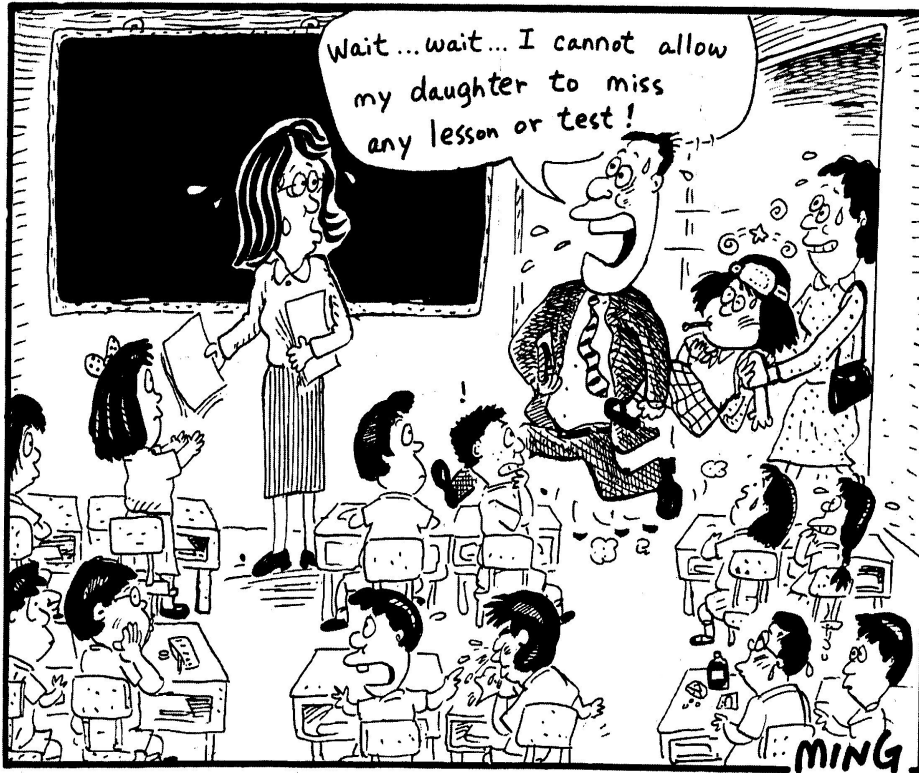
Chief Executive Tung Chee-hwa said yesterday he hoped Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) would help the Government by explaining its policies. The Chief Executive made the remarks after a legislator asked if he thought the broadcaster should be obliged to help explain Government decisions better.

RTHK stressed yesterday it had always been editorially independent in programme production and it had a set of staff guidelines to ensure content was fair and just. An RTHK spokesman said, 'We are a public broadcasting body which aims at serving the public and operates in the interest of the public. When there are important government policies to be implemented, we will give sufficient air time for government officials to explain the policies and to exchange views with the public in our programmes.'

Identify the major arguments advanced in the above two newspaper extracts and discuss the conflicting roles of Radio Television Hong Kong in journalism and as a government department. (18 marks)

3. Consider the following information :

Source A



Source B

**Some Reform Proposals from
the Education Commission in September 2000**

- The Academic Aptitude Test should be abolished immediately to spare students from unnecessary drilling;
- In the long term, the banding system should be gradually phased out in order to minimize the labelling effect;
- Examination questions should be made relevant to the knowledge and skills needed by students;
- The mode and marking system of examinations should be refined to allow students more room for independent and creative thinking.

- (a) From source A, identify and discuss *two* problems in the Hong Kong education system. (8 marks)
- (b) Discuss to what extent the measures proposed by the Education Commission stated in source B help solve the problems identified in 3 (a). (10 marks)

SECTION 2

Answer *one* question from this section.

4. Consider the following information :

Hong Kong's Trade in Relation to Some Countries				
<i>HK\$ billion in the stated year</i>				
	YEAR			
	1993	1995	1997	1999
Total Imports	1073	1491	1615	1393
The mainland of China	402	540	608	607
Japan	178	221	222	163
United States of America	79	115	125	99
Total Domestic exports	223	232	211	171
United States of America	60	61	55	51
The mainland of China	63	64	64	50
United Kingdom	11	11	11	10
Japan	10	12	11	6
Total Re-exports	823	1112	1245	1178
The mainland of China	275	384	444	399
United States of America	180	231	261	269
Japan	44	70	78	68
United Kingdom	25	32	39	46

Source : Census and Statistics Department

- (a) According to the above information, describe the patterns of Hong Kong's trade. (6 marks)
- (b) Discuss the impact of the above trade patterns on the labour market and economic activities in Hong Kong. (6 marks + 6 marks)

5. Consider the following information :

Source A : an extract from a local newspaper

In an article, 'One City, Two Loyalties', businessman Peter Woo Kwong-ching laid down what he considered the criteria for deciding when to introduce universal suffrage. Mr Woo, who is a former head of The Wharf (Holdings) Limited and is currently chairman of the Trade Development Council, defended the role of functional constituency representatives as a bloc balancing various interests in the Legislative Council.

Mr Woo urged the functional constituencies to rally behind their representatives so as to consolidate their positions in the Legislative Council. 'Why should nurses, doctors, architects, accountants, and unionists surrender the constituencies that have served them well?' Mr Woo asked. He warned that having no functional constituency seat in the Legislative Council would mean having no representation.

Concerning the right time for universal suffrage, Mr Woo gave this answer, 'When there is normalisation between the Democratic Party and the Central Government; when the political spectrum mirrors that prevailing in the West; when the main issues are social and economic rather than "for" or "not for" China.'

Source B : an extract from an article by Anson Chan, the Chief Secretary for Administration, from *Hong Kong 1999*

I anticipate a lively public debate to take place on the crucial issue of democratic development. At the heart of this debate will be the pace at which indirect elections through functional constituencies are phased out to reach the Basic Law goal of universal suffrage. It will be important to balance the interests of every section of the community and to arrive at a consensus so that all of our citizens feel they have an equal voice in the way they are governed. It would be extremely divisive to split the community into first and second class citizens.

- (a) Explain whether or not you agree with Peter Woo's view on functional constituency representation. (9 marks)
- (b) Compare and contrast the views of Anson Chan and Peter Woo on electoral reform of the Legislative Council. (9 marks)

6. Consider the following information :

General Statistics on Tertiary Education in Hong Kong (UGC*-funded Institutions)					
	1991/92	1993/94	1995/96	1997/98	1999/2000
Full time equivalent (fte) student enrolment no.					
Sub-degree	14,001	10,214	9,436	14,890	14,376
Undergraduate	29,199	38,150	44,701	45,823	45,489
Taught Postgraduate	2,931	3,904	4,924	5,465	6,320
Research Postgraduate	1,348	2,306	2,953	3,545	3,763
Total student enrolment	47,480	54,574	62,014	69,723	69,948
% of female students	N.A.	43%	46%	51%	54%
First-year first-degree (FYFD) places (fte)	10,665	12,726	15,070	14,632	14,435
Percentage of relevant age group (age 17-20) provided with FYFD places	13.0%	15.7%	17.8%	18.4%	17.9%
Total amount of approved grants to UGC-funded institutions (HK\$ million)	6,464	8,708	10,692	13,043	13,457
Total public expenditure (HK\$ million)	108,012	155,207	191,338	234,780	278,415
Total amount of approved grants as a % of total public expenditure	6.0%	5.6%	5.6%	5.6%	4.8%
Total amount of approved grants as a % of total public expenditure on education	33.2%	34.2%	31.7%	27.8%	25.7%

Note : * UGC : University Grants Committee
N.A. indicates not available

- (a) According to the above information, describe the changes in tertiary education in Hong Kong in the last decade. (6 marks)
- (b) Discuss the importance of the above changes to Hong Kong society. (12 marks)

7. Consider the following extract from an editorial of a local newspaper :

We will ask those questions again

Yesterday in Beijing President Jiang Zemin got 'very angry'. Visibly irritated, he walked back and forth three times in front of the media's camcorders, stressing that his support for Chief Executive Tung Chee-hwa did not amount to an 'imperial decree'. The images of the President's raised temper (rarely seen) were sent over the air waves to many parts of the world. It does not become such a leader openly to scold the press. However, he gave vent to his 'real emotion' and made it clear that people ought not to equate Beijing's support for Tung's second term with an 'imperial decree'.

Nevertheless, we hope President Jiang and other central government leaders will clearly explain what 'supporting Tung's second term but not issuing any imperial decree' actually means. Does the phrase imply that 'supporting Tung's second term' only means 'supporting Tung's candidacy in the second chief executive (CE) election'? Does that mean that Beijing might support others standing for CE? Is it true that Beijing, though it has expressed its opinion on the selection of the CE of the Special Administrative Region (SAR), will adhere to the Basic Law? President Jiang said the central government's power to appoint the CE of the SAR is very important. What should Hong Kong people make of that statement?

The reason why Hong Kong reporters have kept asking whether Beijing has issued an 'imperial decree' that Tung should be re-elected is that Hong Kong people wish to know how strictly the central government (which resumed the exercise of sovereignty over the territory three years ago) will adhere to 'Hong Kong people running Hong Kong' and 'one country, two systems' in relation to the selection of the second CE of the SAR.

It takes much political wisdom and great patience to deal with the CE selection issue or implement the policy of 'Hong Kong people running Hong Kong' under 'one country, two systems'. In the final analysis, Hong Kong people only want to know how cautiously the central government will give expression to 'Hong Kong people running Hong Kong' under 'one country, two systems' and see that Hong Kong people will select their chief executive in accordance with the applicable Basic Law provisions.

- (a) According to your own interpretation, what messages have been sent to Hong Kong by President Jiang Zemin's remarks about his support for the Chief Executive Tung Chee-hwa's second term? (8 marks)
- (b) Do you agree with the author's view that 'it takes much political wisdom and great patience to deal with the CE selection issue or implement the policy of "Hong Kong people running Hong Kong" under "one country, two systems" '? Discuss. (10 marks)

END OF PAPER