

**LIBERAL STUDIES (THE MODERN WORLD) AS-LEVEL**

1.30 pm – 4.00 pm (2½ hours)

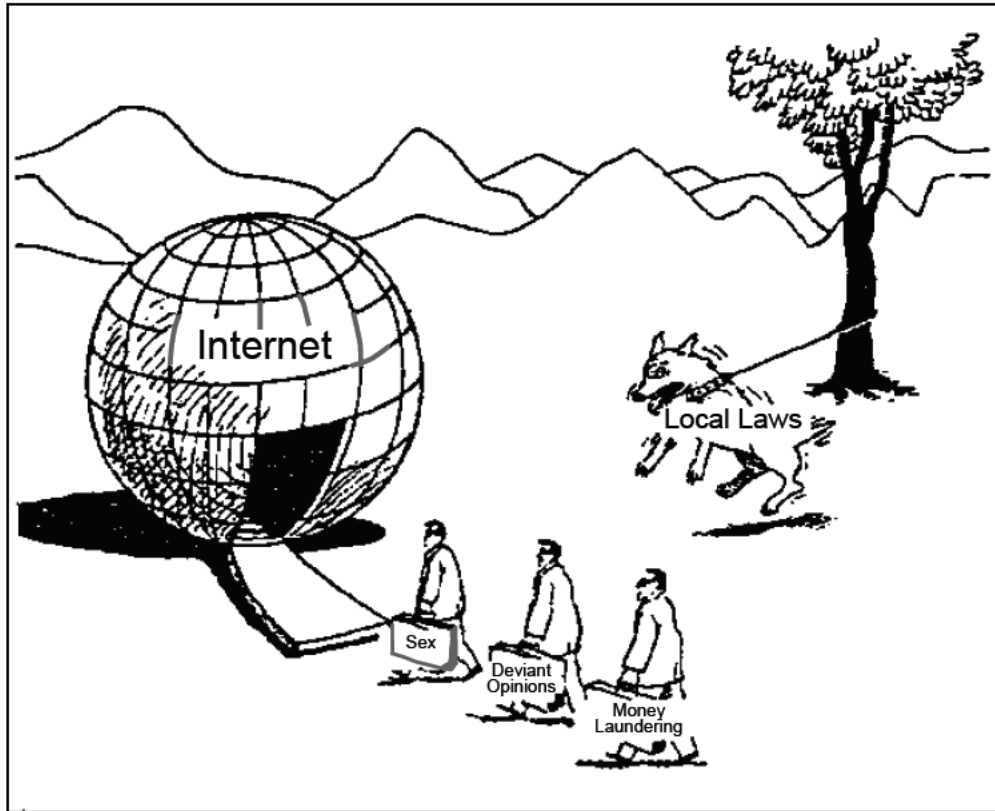
This paper must be answered in English

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* the questions in this section.

1. Study the following cartoon:



Source: *Apple Daily News*, 29 November 2000.

- (a) In the light of the cartoon above, discuss the impact of the Internet on the lifestyle and culture of people in a society. (9 marks)
- (b) Suppose you were the leader of a government, to what extent would you impose control or censorship on the flow of information on the Internet? Explain your answer. (9 marks)

2. Consider Tables A and B below:

**Population, Population Growth and Population Doubling Time, 2000**

**Table A:**

	<i>Population (millions)</i>	<i>Birth Rate (per 1,000)</i>	<i>Death Rate (per 1,000)</i>	<i>Growth Rate (percent)</i>	<i>Doubling Time (years)</i>
World	6,082	22	9	1.4	50
Industrialised countries	1,181	11	10	0.3	233
Less developed countries	4,901	25	9	1.7	41

**Table B:**

<i>Regions</i>	<i>Population (millions)</i>	<i>Birth Rate (per 1,000)</i>	<i>Death Rate (per 1,000)</i>	<i>Growth Rate (percent)</i>	<i>Doubling Time (years)</i>
Africa	798	38	14	2.5	28
Asia	3,451	22	8	1.4	50
Europe and former Soviet Union	799	11	11	0.1	700
Latin America and Caribbean	523	23	7	1.7	41
North America	306	14	7	1.0	70

Source: B. Russett, H. Starr and D. Kinsella, *World Politics*, N.Y.: St Martin's, 2000.

- (a) With reference to Table A, compare and contrast the population characteristics of industrialised countries and those of less developed countries. (4 marks)
- (b) (i) Select *three* regions from Table B and suggest what could account for the population characteristics of these three regions. (7 marks)
- (ii) In what ways would the population characteristics in the regions you selected in (i) affect the socio-economic development of these regions? (7 marks)

3. Consider the following extract, which identifies a number of issues dividing the United States and its European allies in 2001.

◆ Kyoto Protocol	– Europeans are very angry about the sudden retreat of the United States from the agreement to curb harmful greenhouse gases.
◆ Missile Defense	– The United States is determined to build a missile shield. Bush wants Russia and Europe to agree on getting rid of the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty. However, the Europeans ask: where is the threat?
◆ Troops in the Balkans	– The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) allies are complaining about the desire of the United States to bring its peacekeepers home. If that happens, European members will have to supply most of the troops.
◆ Korean Peninsula	– The Europeans were shocked when Bush suspended Clinton-initiated talks aimed at stopping the development of long-range missiles in North Korea.

Source: *Newsweek*, 18 June 2001.

- (a) In the light of the above extract, identify and discuss the sources of the various disagreements between the United States and its European allies. (9 marks)
- (b) How would disagreements between the United States and its European allies affect the balance of power and peace in the modern world in the coming decade? Explain your answer. (9 marks)

## SECTION 2

Answer *one* question from this section.

4. Consider the following extract:

To a certain extent, global free trade promotes economic growth by making companies more competitive, creating more jobs and infusing foreign capital and technology. But the disparity between the rich and the poor keeps growing. Indeed, the promises of economic growth and a narrower social gap work best in industrialised nations. In less developed countries, the experience is wholly different: the rich benefit, the poor get poorer. In its search for markets and profit, globalisation has been destroying national sovereignty, natural beauty and indigenous cultures.

Source: *Asiaweek*, 24 August 2001.

In the light of the above extract, discuss with examples whether global free trade helps or worsens the problems of less developed countries. (18 marks)

5. Consider the following two extracts which relate to how Americans reacted to the terrorist attacks in the United States on 11<sup>th</sup> September 2001:

### Extract A

According to a survey of opinion conducted in September 2001 on what actions against Afghanistan should be taken by the American government, 71% of respondents favour striking terrorist bases even if civilians are killed, but 59% say the US should take time to plan a response that will work. Despite support for a strike, 69% of respondents say intelligence and 64% say freezing assets are the best ways to prevent future attacks.

### Extract B

At the University of California, roughly 2,500 students and supporters rallied against war and racism. In Boston and Cambridge, students carried candles as they walked for peace. Peace activists in Boston protested a war against terrorism they fear could cause the loss of more innocent lives. These are the early scenes of an antiwar movement. Activists have quickly mobilised for several goals: averting war against the already afflicted people of Afghanistan, fighting the erosion of civil liberties and protecting US Arabs and Muslims against hate crimes.

Source: *Newsweek*, 1 October 2001.

- (a) To what extent were the terrorist attacks on 11<sup>th</sup> September 2001 a result of racial and religious conflicts in the modern world? (9 marks)
- (b) What do you think is the best method to resolve racial and religious conflicts between political entities? Explain your answer in the light of Extracts A and B and using your own knowledge. (9 marks)

6. Consider the following extract adapted from a Russian security policy document released in December 1997. The extract outlines the priorities for a new Russian security policy.

- ◆ The most fundamental military reforms in Russia's modern history will be undertaken. ...The Russian defence budget will be drastically cut, with the savings put to defence conversion to stimulate domestic economic recovery.
- ◆ Smaller, more mobile and technologically adept fighting forces will be created to manage civil rebellions within Russia as well as along Russia's borders ... where armed conflicts that undermine Russian security threaten to erupt.
- ◆ Russia will continue to dismantle its nuclear arsenal in order to alleviate other powers' fears of resurgent Russian ambition. ...
- ◆ Russian doctrine rules out using nuclear weapons against non-nuclear states. ...But for the purposes of deterrence, Russia is prepared to use nuclear weapons in defence.
- ◆ Russia will seek to cement its relationships with its European neighbours by creating institutions for democracy and a free market economy, and will attempt to end its isolation from the Asia-Pacific because this is unacceptable for an influential European-Asian state.

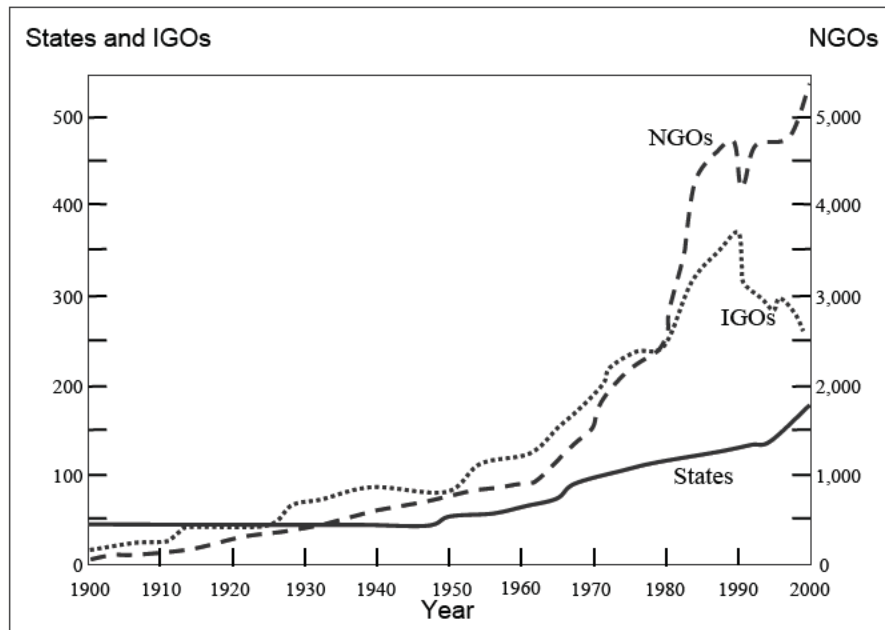
Source: C. Kegley, Jr. & E. Wittkopf, *World Politics*, N.Y.: St. Martin's, 1999.

In the light of the above extract, discuss and predict the role of Russia in global politics in the coming decade. (18 marks)

7. Study Sources A and B below:

Source A:

The Number of States, IGOs\* and NGOs<sup>#</sup>



Source: C. Kegley, Jr. & E. Wittkopf, *World Politics*, N.Y. : St. Martin's, 1999.

\*IGOs : Inter-Governmental Organisations

<sup>#</sup>NGOs : Non-Governmental Organisations

Source B:

The global institutions that we have so painstakingly built over the past half century – the United Nations, the International Monetary Fund and World Bank, the World Trade Organisation – are inadequate to deal with the many problems we face. This fact of ‘systemic failure’ threatens us all. Power has shifted to new actors ranging from multinational companies to Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and international activists. New challenges have also emerged. The US economic slowdown, the structural weakness in Japan, the struggle of the market economy in Russia, divergent views on Europe’s future, global climate change and the formidable task of bridging the social, economic and technological divides between rich and poor – such difficult issues demand dramatically different solutions.

Source: *Newsweek*, 30 July 2001.

- (a) With reference to Source A, describe the trends in the growth of Inter-Governmental Organisations (IGOs) and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs). (5 marks)
- (b) To what extent do you agree with the above extract that Inter-Governmental Organisations (IGOs) are ‘inadequate to deal with the many problems we face’? Explain your answer in the light of Sources A and B and using your own knowledge. (13 marks)

END OF PAPER