

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 carries 25 marks: 20 marks for content and 5 marks for effective communication.
4. 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

SECTION 1

Answer *all* the questions in this section.

1. Study the following results of a June 2007 survey on citizens' views towards the development of democracy in Hong Kong:

Figure 1

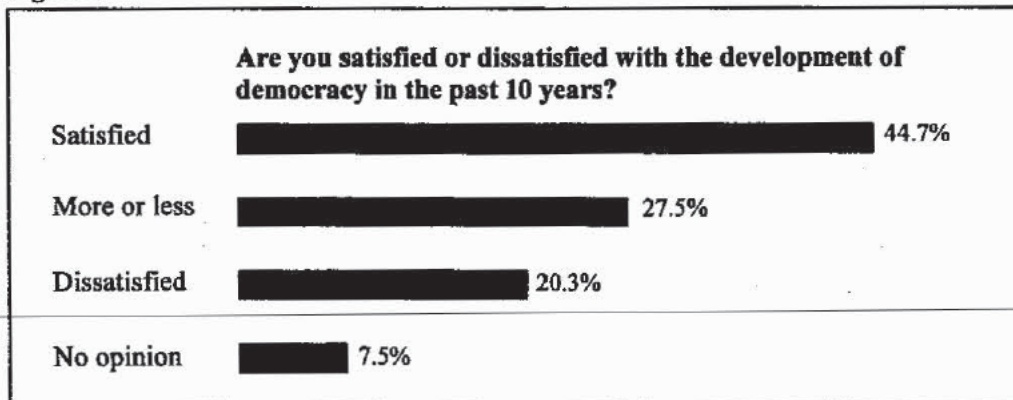
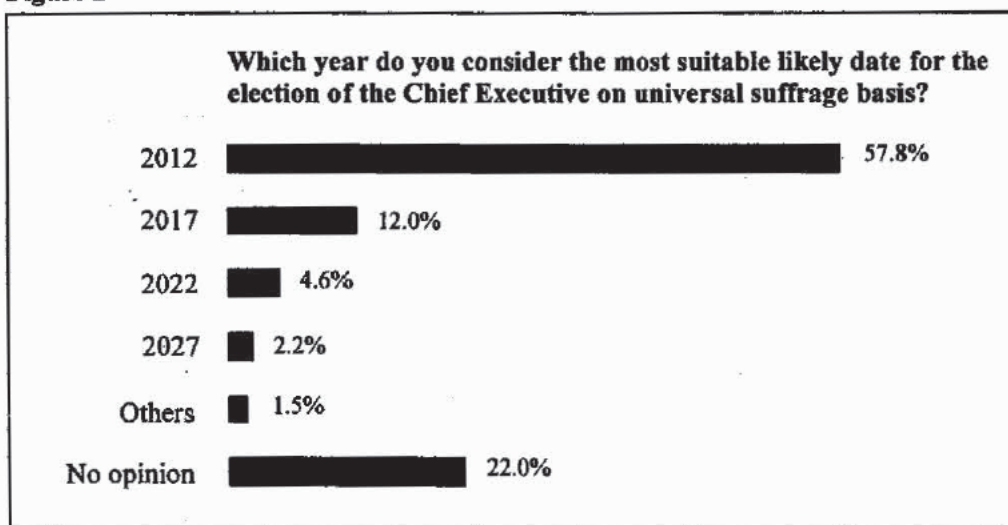


Figure 2



- (a) According to the above information, interpret the views of the citizens towards democratic development in Hong Kong. (10 marks)
- (b) The Standing Committee of the National People's Congress decided in December 2007 that the fifth Chief Executive in 2017 may be elected by universal suffrage. In the light of above information, to what extent does this decision satisfy people's desire for the development of democracy in Hong Kong? Explain your answer. (10 marks)

2. Study the following information on the high degree of autonomy in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR):

Source A: The following is adapted from a report from a local newspaper dated 7th June 2007

Wu Bangguo, Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of China, said, 'The high degree of autonomy of the HKSAR is granted by the Central Authorities instead of being something inherent to Hong Kong However much power the Central Authorities decide to assign to the HKSAR, this is what the HKSAR gets. For powers unspecified in the Basic Law, Article 20 allows the Central Authorities to grant such powers to'

Source B: The following is extracted from the Basic Law of the HKSAR

Article 2 The National People's Congress authorizes the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region to exercise a high degree of autonomy and enjoy executive, legislative and independent judicial power, including that of final adjudication, in accordance with the provisions of this Law.

Article 13 The Central People's Government shall be responsible for the foreign affairs relating to the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.

....

Article 14 The Central People's Government shall be responsible for the defence of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.

....

Article 158 The power of interpretation of this Law shall be vested in the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress.

....

- (a) According to Source A, how do you interpret Wu's speech with regard to the high degree of autonomy exercised by the HKSAR? (8 marks)
- (b) In the light of the above sources, to what extent do you think that the HKSAR has exercised a high degree of autonomy? Illustrate your answer with examples. (12 marks)

3. Study the following two opinions on admitting non-local students to Hong Kong:

Opinion A

I think the primary concern for education policy making in Hong Kong should be the cultivation of local people. Admitting non-local students and exchange students is not only for the purpose of letting them study in Hong Kong, but more importantly, it enables local students to learn from them. When Hong Kong students communicate with schoolmates from different countries and cultural backgrounds, their interest in and understanding of international affairs can be fostered and deepened. Local students should develop a greater sensitivity towards cultural diversity and learn to accept and appreciate other cultures.

Opinion B

The Hong Kong government may encourage and support local tertiary institutions in attracting more non-local students, especially those from the Mainland, to take master or doctoral programmes in Hong Kong. Most of the students will pay full tuition fees, with only some being given scholarships. Although this market has existed for a long time, Hong Kong has not utilised it well.

All in all, we should alter the traditional view that 'universities in Hong Kong are primarily for cultivating talent for Hong Kong'. In fact, we should aim to cultivate talent for the world. After returning to their home countries, these talented people are still Hong Kong's 'products'. Only this will make Hong Kong become a regional or even an international education hub.

- (a) Suppose you are in favour of admitting more Mainland students to study in Hong Kong. Which of the above opinions is more persuasive? Explain your answer. (10 marks)
- (b) What kind of important information should you, as a Hong Kong citizen, consider before you decide whether to support the admission of more Mainland students? Explain your answer. (10 marks)

SECTION 2

Answer *one* question from this section.

4. Study the following information on the freedom of public procession and demonstration in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR):

Source A: The following is extracted from the Basic Law of the HKSAR

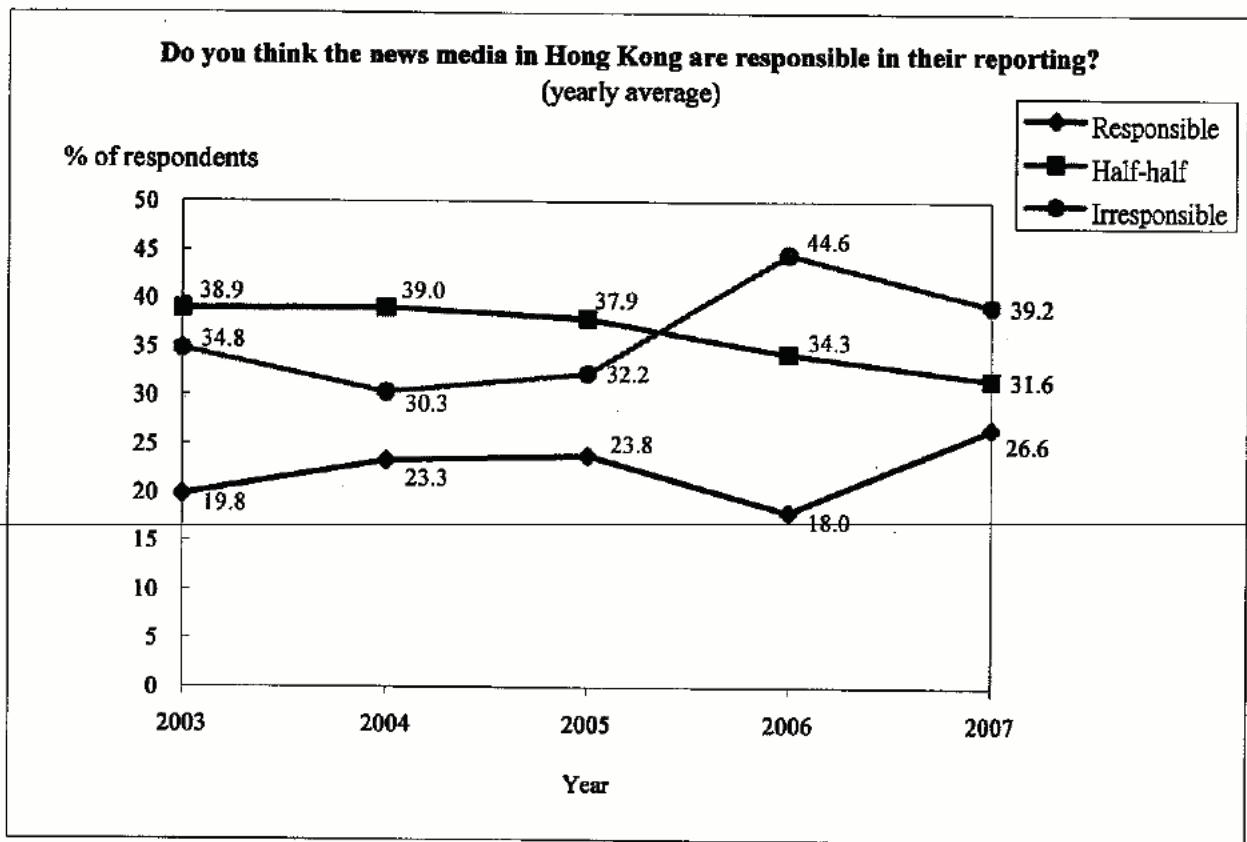
Article 27	Hong Kong residents shall have freedom ... of assembly, of procession and of demonstration
Article 42	Hong Kong residents and other persons in Hong Kong shall have the obligation to abide by the laws in force in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.

Source B: The following is extracted from the Public Order Ordinance

Section 13	(1) A public procession may take place ... if— (a) the Commissioner of Police is notified ... of the intention to hold the procession; (b) the Commissioner of Police ... has no objection to the procession taking place or is taken to have issued a notice of no objection
Section 14	(1) ... the Commissioner of Police may object to a public procession being held if he reasonably considers that the objection is necessary in the interests of national security or public safety, public order or the protection of the rights and the freedom of others.
Section 15	(1) At every public procession — (a) there shall be present throughout the procession either the person who organized the procession or, if he is not present, a person nominated by him to act in his place; (b) good order and public safety shall be maintained throughout the procession; (c) the control of any amplification device that is used in such a manner that it causes a noise that would not be tolerated by a reasonable person shall, if so required by a police officer, be surrendered to the police officer for the duration of the procession.

With reference to the above sources, to what extent does the Public Order Ordinance limit the freedom of public procession and demonstration in Hong Kong? Use examples to support your answer. (20 marks)

5. Study the following results of surveys on people's views towards the news media in Hong Kong:



- (a) According to the above information, describe the views of the people towards the degree of responsibility of the local news media in recent years. (6 marks)
- (b) Suggest some reasons, supplemented by examples, to explain the views of the people you described in (a). (14 marks)

6. Study the following information:

Source A: Online forum

Which institute offers the best associate degree programmes in Hong Kong?!

Alice: My friend is worried about her further studies. Don't know how to choose among programmes offered by different institutes?! It's better if your personal views are included!! 😊

Ming: The most important thing is to consider which subject is suitable for you, then consider which institute...

I think the programmes offered by universities are more guaranteed~

And there is a higher percentage of associate degree graduates at University A being admitted to its degree programmes 😊

Ding: I heard that the percentage of students being admitted to the degree programmes at University B is also high ...

But good results are the most important ... Study hard!!

The overall quality of Universities C and A should be better ...

However, whether you are admitted to a degree programme depends on your efforts and whether you have good classmates ...

Man: University D is superb 😊

I recommend it because I will soon be a student there!

I will support it anyway =v=

Jane: The quality of the teachers at University E is good because many programmes are taught by university teachers ~~~

Fong: =.= Each year less than 10% of graduates from associate degree and vocational training courses are admitted to degree programmes~

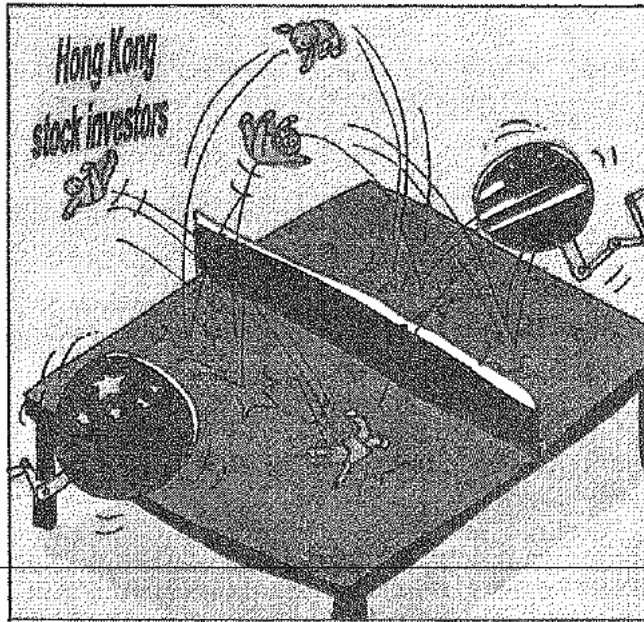
Better find other courses to study -.-

Source B: Common Descriptors on Associate Degrees (AD) from the Education Bureau

- For self-accrediting universities, AD programmes must undergo their own internal quality assurance mechanism as with their regular degree programmes.
- For non self-accrediting institutions, AD programmes should be validated by a recognised quality assurance agency such as the Hong Kong Council for Academic Accreditation.

Suppose you are considering which institute to choose in order to study an associate degree programme. Which of the above information has the most value as a reference? Explain your answer. (20 marks)

7. Study the following cartoon from a local newspaper dated 29th August 2007:



- (a) Hong Kong has a global stock market. What are the phenomena reflected in the above cartoon? (8 marks)
- (b) To what extent do you think the phenomena you mentioned in (a) are caused by Hong Kong's free and open financial system? Explain 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.

Marking Scheme

These documents were prepared for markers' reference. They should not be regarded as sets of model answers. Candidates and teachers who were not involved in the marking process are advised to interpret their contents with care.

Content

(Note: In the assessment process, markers should first determine an appropriate grade for an answer based on 3 factors, viz. understanding of the question, content and approach, and then convert that grade into a corresponding mark according to the following table.)

Criteria	Grade
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Well-balanced answer which shows a full understanding of the demands of the question. • Analytical in approach and critical in the use of supporting evidence. • Arguments are cogent and effectively supported. • Free from <i>major</i> inaccuracies/inconsistencies and important omissions. <p><i>(Note : Answers in this category need NOT be 'perfect' – they may contain minor flaws in content or approach.)</i></p>	A
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acceptably balanced answer which shows a good understanding of the demands of the question. • Predominantly analytical in approach. • Arguments are mostly coherent and well substantiated. • Contains occasional inaccuracies and minor omissions. 	B
	C
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shows a general understanding of the demands of the question and a conscious effort to address the question, but the answer lacks balance. • Shows some attempt to analyse the relevant issues, but the scope and depth of analysis are rather limited. • Arguments tend to be inadequately sustained and exemplified. • Marred by inaccuracies, omissions and inconsistencies. 	D
	E
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shows inadequate understanding of the question and/or a weak knowledge of the subject matter. • Unduly narrative and weak in analysis. • Arguments tend to be assertive and not substantiated. • Containing fundamental errors/major inconsistencies/gross irrelevancies. 	E/F
	F
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shows a total misunderstanding of the question and a failure to distinguish between relevant and irrelevant material. • Narrative in approach and lacking in analysis. • Overwhelmingly assertive and fragmentary. • Totally inadequate, containing little that is accurate, relevant or worthwhile. 	U

Effective Communication

— The criteria for awarding markings for effective communication are :

- > whether the argument is logically and systematically set out;
- > whether it is easy to understand the arguments relevant to the question; and
- > whether the language is effectively deployed in the communication of relevant idea and viewpoints.

(Note : Grammar and spelling are only important insofar as they enhance or hinder communication.)

— Markers are advised to use the following grade-mark equivalence scale when awarding marks for effective communication:

Grade	A	B	C	D	E	F	U
Mark	5	4	3	2	2	1	0

Candidates' Performance

Hong Kong Studies

Question Number	Popularity %	Performance in General
1	Compulsory	Mediocre
2	Compulsory	Weak
3	Compulsory	Satisfactory
4	10	Mediocre
5	53	Satisfactory
6	31	Good
7	6	Weak

Section 1

- Q.1 Most candidates could identify the general views of the citizens towards democratic development in Hong Kong as shown in Figures 1 and 2. Yet some candidates failed to give a more in-depth interpretation by explaining their observations from Figures 1 and 2. Furthermore, not all candidates could fully utilise their observations of the views of the citizens towards democratic development in Hong Kong to answer whether the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress decision could satisfy the democratic aspirations of the people.
- Q.2 Some candidates did not demonstrate a good understanding of the concept of autonomy. It would be helpful if candidates could try to define the meaning of 'high degree of autonomy' first when they answered the question. Some candidates' understanding of Wu's speech was superficial as they just copied the source to the answer books. They failed to grasp the main point and the intention of Wu's argument. In (b), although candidates in general could express their viewpoints clearly, they did not provide convincing examples to support their arguments.
- Q.3 Most candidates understood the question well and were able to explain their answers. Brighter candidates could illustrate their arguments by comparing opinions A and B. Most candidates were able to suggest valid and reasonable information to consider in deciding whether to support the admission of more Mainland students.

Section 2

- Q.4 Some candidates did not make full use of the information given in the sources to answer the question. The information given is indeed useful in discussing the maintenance of the balance between public order and freedom of public procession and demonstration and whether the Public Order Ordinance can be easily abused.
- Q.5 Most candidates were able to identify the trend of the views of the people towards the degree of responsibility of the local news media. The reasons suggested by candidates were logical and convincing. The examples given were also quite relevant in substantiating the reasons.
- Q.6 Most candidates were able to identify the types of information that they thought were useful when considering which institute to choose for studying an associated degree programme. Brighter candidates could also prioritise the type of information and identify less relevant information.
- Q.7 Some candidates did not grasp the essential messages as reflected in the cartoon: the Hong Kong stock market fluctuates with sharp rises and falls; and the Hong Kong stock market is subject to external (China and US) influences. In (b), candidates should have tried to argue whether these phenomena are caused by the free and open financial system of Hong Kong or other factors such as the speculative mentality of Hong Kong stock investors and the structural weaknesses of the stock market monitoring mechanism.

General comments

Candidates were in general aware of the current political, economic and social issues of Hong Kong. They demonstrated a reasonable understanding of the nature and causes of these controversial issues. Nevertheless, candidates should have shown a more critical analysis through reviewing the arguments and counter-arguments on the issue and approaching the issue from different perspectives. There is a tendency for candidates to only provide a one-sided viewpoint in their answers, without demonstrating that they also know what other people think.

Candidates also should have made better use of the information given in the source to answer the questions. It is disappointing that the information was not used to substantiate the answers well. The skills of interpreting the data could also have been better. Candidates need to think about the implications and the meanings of the data more deeply.