

HONG KONG EXAMINATIONS AND ASSESSMENT AUTHORITY
HONG KONG DIPLOMA OF SECONDARY EDUCATION EXAMINATION 2018

LIBERAL STUDIES PAPER 2

11:15 am – 12:30 pm (1¼ hours)
This paper must be answered in English

- (1) This paper consists of three questions. Answer **ONE** question only.
- (2) Write your answers in the Answer Book provided.
- (3) 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.

Extended response questions

Answer *one* question only.

1. Consider the following sources:

Source A: Adapted from a journal article published in summer 2013

Sixty-one million ‘left-behind children’ across China are growing up without one or both parents. Among them, nearly 33% are raised by their grandparents, another 10.7% by other villagers or relatives, and at least 2.06 million are forced to look after themselves.

Low-skill jobs in coastal provinces have attracted millions of labourers away from their poor hometowns. If these migrant workers bring their children into the cities, living costs could prove unaffordable. A range of social and institutional hurdles also prevent the children from becoming fully integrated urban citizens. But if parents leave their children in their rural hometowns, the family will undergo years of separation.

In fact, traditionally, it is not uncommon for grandparents to assist parents in childrearing, usually looking after their grandchildren with attentiveness and love.

Source B: Adapted from a newspaper article dated 6 February 2016

Premier Li Keqiang said that the ‘left-behind children’ phenomenon should not be allowed to remain a family and social pain. He added that strengthening programmes that provide care and protection to such children, in order to promote their healthy development, is the common responsibility of families, the government and society.

The State Council urged families to strengthen their custodial role and asked local governments, village committees and schools to fulfill their responsibilities of providing care and education for the children. It also called on social workers and charity organisations to help improve the care-providing system.

- (a) Explain the possible impact that the phenomenon of ‘left-behind children’ may have on China’s future development. (8 marks)
- (b) ‘In a modernised society, the community should have a greater role than the family in the upbringing of children.’ Do you agree with this view? Explain your answer. (12 marks)

2. Consider the following sources:

Source A: An extract from a newspaper article dated 1 June 2017

In 2016, almost 95 million autos were made and sold globally. Nearly all of them were powered by internal combustion engines, consuming petrol or diesel. However, many believe that the global auto industry is about to undergo a significant transformation as electric vehicles begin to replace internal combustion engine vehicles. A recent research report predicted that electric vehicles could represent 40% of auto sales in 20 years.

Source B: Adapted from a newspaper article dated 13 June 2017

Hong Kong's electric car market comes to a quick stop after tax exemption scrapped, but does that really mean air pollution will be worse?

Since the full tax exemption for new electric vehicles ended on 1 April 2017, vehicle prices have shot up by 50% to 80%, depending on the model. The impact of taking away the economic incentive* of tax exemption has been immediate, and appears to have killed off the future of electric vehicles in Hong Kong overnight.

A founder of an electric vehicle owner group said, 'People will just buy petrol vehicles instead.' He added that electric cars only constitute about 1.3% of all vehicles on the road in Hong Kong.

Some experts agree that electric vehicles are not a solution for all air pollution problems in Hong Kong. The spokesman of an environmental concern group said, 'More than half of electric vehicle owners have more than one vehicle, so taxpayers are often subsidising people's private car collection.'

*An economic incentive is a cost or benefit that motivates a decision or action by consumers or producers.

- (a) What factors might influence people's decisions whether to purchase electric vehicles in the future? Explain your answer. (8 marks)
- (b) 'The government should provide economic incentives for increasing the use of means of transport powered by energy sources other than petrol in Hong Kong society.' To what extent do you agree with this view? Explain your answer. (12 marks)

3. Consider the following source:

Adapted from a newspaper report dated 25 October 2016 and information provided by the World Health Organization

Antimicrobial-resistant superbugs are a fundamental threat to global health, the United Nations Secretary General recently told a General Assembly meeting.

Every time an antimicrobial medicine (such as an antibiotic and antiviral) is used, it diminishes its effectiveness for all users, because its usage increases the possibility for the bacteria or viruses to become resistant to the medicine. As a result, standard treatments become ineffective. The problem of antimicrobial resistance is not only evident in human medicine consumption. Antimicrobials are also used in veterinary medicine, for growth promotion in animals and disease prevention in agriculture. In the US, for example, more than 70% of antibiotics are used in agriculture.

In the case of antibiotic production in India and China, the poorly regulated discharge of untreated wastewater into soils and rivers is causing the spread of antibiotic ingredients which cause bacteria to develop immunity to antibiotics, creating superbugs. Superbugs are able to travel quickly through air and water, aboard airplanes and through global food supply chains. By 2050, the total death toll worldwide as the result of contracting an infection that proves resistant to treatment is expected to reach 10 million people.

In September 2016, the United Nations convened a meeting on antimicrobial resistance, with the participation of Member States, non-governmental organisations, civil society, the private sector and academic institutions. The primary objective of the meeting was to maintain strong national, regional and international commitment to address antimicrobial resistance comprehensively.

- (a) Explain the possible impact of the spread of antimicrobial resistance on quality of life. (8 marks)
- (b) 'Globalization hinders more than facilitates the control of epidemic diseases.' Do you agree with this view? Explain your answer. (12 marks)

END OF PAPER

Sources of materials used in this paper will be acknowledged in the booklet *HKDSE Question Papers* published by the Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority at a later stage.