

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

LIBERAL STUDIES PAPER 2

Question-Answer Book
(Practice Question)

One hour

3. Consider the following newspaper extract:

There are many brightly-lit high-rise buildings in Hong Kong, and it is known as the “Pearl of the Orient” due to its sparkling night-lights. However, light pollution has already prevented one-fifth of the people in the world from seeing the Milky Way at night. Experts have warned that light pollution not only prevents people from seeing starry skies, but also affects people’s health, in ways which range from causing sleeplessness (due to disruption of one’s biological clock) to inducing cancer. Scientists have carried out research and found that women living in districts most seriously affected by light pollution have a greater chance of acquiring breast cancer. It is believed that the non-natural light at night affects women’s hormonal levels, for example greatly reducing the secretion of the cancer-inhibiting melatonin.

The Environmental Protection Department is studying the experience of other cities which are similar to Hong Kong, and assessing the feasibility of regulating external lighting by legislation.

- (a) Referring to the information above and based on your own knowledge, should the Hong Kong government regulate external lighting through legislation? Explain. (10 marks)
- (b) Apart from legislation by the government, suggest a few ways to alleviate the problem of light pollution that can be adopted in Hong Kong. Explain. (10 marks)

Source:

明報，「專家：全球五分一人看不見星空」，2009年6月12日。