

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

LIBERAL STUDIES PAPER 2

Question-Answer Book
(Practice Question)

One hour

4. Consider the following information adapted from news articles in a local newspaper published on 5 October 2009:

Gini Index*

Hong Kong	50
China	46
India	45
Singapore	43
Britain	34
Canada	32.1
United States	30.5
Australia	30.5

The Human Development Report, released by the United Nations Development Programme on 5 October 2009, shows Hong Kong had a relatively high Gini index of 50 in 2006.

Here are some people's viewpoints regarding the wealth gap in Hong Kong:

- The wealth gap is a result of the movement of the city towards a knowledge-based economy.
- It is wrong for the government's policy to emphasise economic growth by favouring certain businesses or industries over supporting the poor.
- As rental costs increase, companies have to cut staff wages to stay competitive.

*: The Gini Index is an indicator of the degree of inequality in the distribution of income in a society. A society that scores 0 has perfect equality in income distribution. The higher the number (over 0), the higher the inequality, and a score of 100 indicates total inequality. All data were taken from 2006, except those for India, Britain and Canada, which were taken from 2005.

- (a) 'The inadequate support of the Hong Kong government for the poor has led to a serious wealth gap in Hong Kong society.' Do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer in the light of the above information and according to your own knowledge. (10 marks)
- (b) To what extent has the serious wealth gap adversely affected the social harmony of Hong Kong? (10 marks)

Answers written in the margins will not be marked.

Lined writing area with 25 horizontal lines.

Answers written in the margins will not be marked.

Answers written in the margins will not be marked.

Answers written in the margins will not be marked.

Lined writing area for answers.

Answers written in the margins will not be marked.

END OF PAPER

Answers written in the margins will not be marked.

Source:

South China Morning Post, "HK income gap 'widest among rich economies"
23 October, 2009.