

## HKDSE Liberal Studies Practice Papers Report of Student Performance

Paper 1			
Question Number	Popularity %	Paper Mean Mark (percentage mark)	S.D. of Paper Mark (percentage mark)
1	Compulsory	46.0	12.5
2	Compulsory		
3	Compulsory		
Paper 2			
Question Number	Popularity %	Paper Mean Mark (percentage mark)	S.D. of Paper Mark (percentage mark)
1	15	46.6	16.0
2	30		
3	55		

### Paper 1

- Q.1 (a) Most candidates had the ability to interpret the cartoon with reference to Source A by identifying its key message of contaminated rice imported from the mainland. The skills of making full use of the information from Source A to elaborate on the message of the cartoon were however inadequate for some candidates.
- (b) Many candidates were able to explain the negative impacts on the quality of life brought by industrial and agricultural development. Yet some candidates exhibited the following weaknesses: (i) reference to Source A was inadequate in their answers; (ii) the concept of quality of life was inadequately elaborated.
- (c) Stronger candidates showed a wider spectrum of different ways of reducing the risk by identifying more than one stakeholder involved (for example, government, consumers, restaurants, and rice importers) and suggesting what these stakeholders could do.
- Q.2 (a) Candidates in general mastered the skills of reading numerical data in the table. Yet not all candidates were able to identify the trends with a correct interpretation of the data.
- (b) Candidates were able to point out the current situations faced by the young people aged 18-22 in general. Yet not many candidates were able to conceptualize these current situations into challenges such as social mobility, job satisfaction, and keen competition.
- (c) Some candidates were not able to identify the viewpoint of the principal official in the first place. The discussion then became vague and directionless. Many answers were also one-sided, without a full consideration of the coin on both sides.
- Q.3 (a) Some candidates did not describe the pattern by identifying the key features of the bar chart as shown in Source A. It showed that some students did not have the skill of reading the data from a holistic perspective.
- (b) Many candidates were able to suggest and to explain one or two reasons with varying degree of elaboration. Candidates were advised to state the difference between preferred and actual work-life ratios while accounting for the difference.

- (c) Candidates in general were able to make their standpoints clear with some supporting reasons. Stronger candidates had the ability to weigh the costs and benefits of the suggestion of setting working hours for employees in Hong Kong.

## Paper 2

- Q.1 (a) Many of the answers did not show a strong connection between the behaviour of men sending/women receiving flowers and the concept of gender stereotyping. Candidates tended to give reasons why men sending flowers and women receiving flowers on Valentine's Day but they missed the focus of the question on whether flower-giving on Valentine's Day reflected gender-stereotyping in Hong Kong.
- (b) Some candidates did not focus on discussing why Valentine's Day is more popular than the Yuan Xiao Festival in Hong Kong. Some others inappropriately applied a generic analytical framework (such as political, economic, social aspects) to address the question.
- Q.2 (a) Many candidates tended to suggest reasons to account for the Chinese government's proposal to reduce economic growth and energy consumption respectively without an attempt to relate the joint reductions to environmental preservation.
- (b) Candidates in general were able to identify and explain how the interests of the stakeholders would be affected by the proposal. Stronger candidates were able to frame the above discussion into conflicts between or among stakeholders.
- Q.3 (a) Candidates elaborated adequately the prejudice against ethnic minorities in Hong Kong with examples. However, some weaker candidates did not adequately apply the concepts of prejudice and personal development to the discussion. Various aspects of personal development should be addressed to see how prejudice would pose any obstacles for the personal development of people in Hong Kong from ethnic minorities.
- (b) Most candidates were able to suggest some methods for the Hong Kong government and young people to facilitate ethnic harmony. Stronger candidates were able to consider a wider spectrum of methods from legislation on welfare provision to individual initiatives.

## General comments

For the skills of using data, candidates should make full use of the information provided in the source to answer questions. That does not mean that candidates should copy directly all the information without interpretation and digestion. Candidates should identify useful information and make effective use of the information to substantiate their arguments.

Candidates should also have a holistic view of the quantitative data. In other words, candidates should try to have a comprehensive interpretation of the whole master data set in order to grasp the main messages as reflected by the data, rather than to just focus on a particular item or data.

Candidates should try to avoid a blanket application of generic frameworks to answer questions without appropriately addressing the main focus of the question. Very often the main focus of the question is missed with improper use of the generic analytical or conceptual framework.

Rote memorisation of everything from textbooks or lecture notes will not help them to answer questions. Candidates should screen the information and only make use of information and concepts relevant to the main focus of the question.