

HONG KONG EXAMINATIONS AND ASSESSMENT AUTHORITY
HONG KONG DIPLOMA OF SECONDARY EDUCATION EXAMINATION 2013

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. Answers written in this Question Paper will **NOT** be marked.
- (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.

Not to be taken away before the
end of the examination session

Extended response questions

Answer *one* question only.

1. Consider the following source:

The daily quantity of municipal solid waste (including domestic, commercial and industrial solid waste) being dumped into Hong Kong's three strategic landfills stands at 9 100 tonnes, which is enough to fill up three Olympic-sized swimming pools. In view of the tremendous demand for landfill space, the Hong Kong government proposed a municipal solid waste charging scheme in January 2012. The objective of the scheme is to create an economic incentive* to achieve waste reduction. The government said it would kickstart a consultation process through which the entire community could come to a broad consensus on the issue of charging for municipal solid waste.

A survey conducted by a green group on 1 007 Hong Kong residents found that 52% of respondents were in favour of paying for waste disposal according to the amount generated. However, one-third opposed it. Some restaurant owners had reservations about the scheme and suggested that other incentives should be offered. The green group commented that the success of the plastic bag levy scheme indicated that economic incentives would be effective in tackling the problem of solid waste in Hong Kong.

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

- (a) What would be the difficulties for the Hong Kong government in achieving, through consultation, a broad consensus among citizens on the issue of the municipal waste charging scheme? Explain your answer. (8 marks)
- (b) Do you think that providing economic incentives is the most effective way to achieve solid waste reduction in Hong Kong? Justify your view. (12 marks)

2. Consider the following sources :

Photograph A : Hong Kong people participating in the June Fourth Candlelight Vigil in the Victoria Park in 2012



Photograph B : Hong Kong people landing on Diaoyu Islands on 15 August 2012



Photograph C : Hong Kong people donating money for the Sichuan earthquake disaster relief in 2008



- (a) What do you think are the factors motivating Hong Kong people to participate in some major events concerning the nation, such as those shown in the above photographs? Explain your answer. (8 marks)
- (b) 'Hong Kong people's participation in major events concerning the nation will enhance their national identity.' To what extent do you agree with this view? Explain your answer. (12 marks)

3. Consider the following source :

An extract from a newspaper report dated 2 June 2012

In the last 20 years, China has achieved much in the field of sustainable development.

China has carried out ecological improvement works on an unprecedented scale, implementing a series of major ecological projects, including the protection of natural forests, returning farmland to forests and returning land from ranching to natural grassland. In 20 years, a total of 925 million acres of woodland has been planted, and desertification, which was once increasing, has been reduced. Since 2005, China's energy consumption per unit of GDP has dropped by 21%, while the total sulfur dioxide emissions have decreased by 16%.

However, sustainable development in China is still facing acute challenges. China is facing the dual pressures of accelerating economic development and the need for environmental protection. It is still a developing country and the level of productivity is not high. Accelerating economic development remains an important task. However, the emissions of major pollutants continue to exceed the capacity of the environment to deal with them. To ensure economic development without damaging the environment is an important challenge to China.

- (a) How may sustainable development help to improve people's quality of life in China? Explain your answer. (8 marks)
- (b) 'In view of the current development of China, economic development should take priority over environmental protection.' 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 *Examination Report and Question Papers* published by the Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority at a later stage.