

2017-DSE

LS

PAPER 2

HONG KONG EXAMINATIONS AND ASSESSMENT AUTHORITY
HONG KONG DIPLOMA OF SECONDARY EDUCATION EXAMINATION 2017

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.

Not to be taken away before the end of the examination session
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Extended response questions

Answer *one* question only.

1. Consider the following source:

An extract from a newspaper report dated 18 November 2015

'Fast fashion' is a retail model in which trends are delivered as quickly as possible and at highly affordable prices. Fashion used to revolve around the four seasons of spring, summer, autumn and winter. Today, as new trends are introduced every week, there are practically 52 fashion seasons in a year.

'Fast fashion' is supported worldwide by an estimated 40 million garment workers. This industry relies on low-wage labour, particularly in Eastern Europe and Asia.

'Fast fashion' promotes a culture of disposability. As a result, consumers do not experience much remorse or loss when these clothes are only worn a few times, donated to charity, or thrown away. Every piece of clothing, from production to disposal, has an impact on our planet.

- (a) Explain the possible environmental impacts of 'fast fashion' as a globalized industry. (8 marks)
- (b) To what extent is it possible for people to resist the culture of disposability in a globalized economy? Justify your view. (12 marks)

2. Consider the following sources:

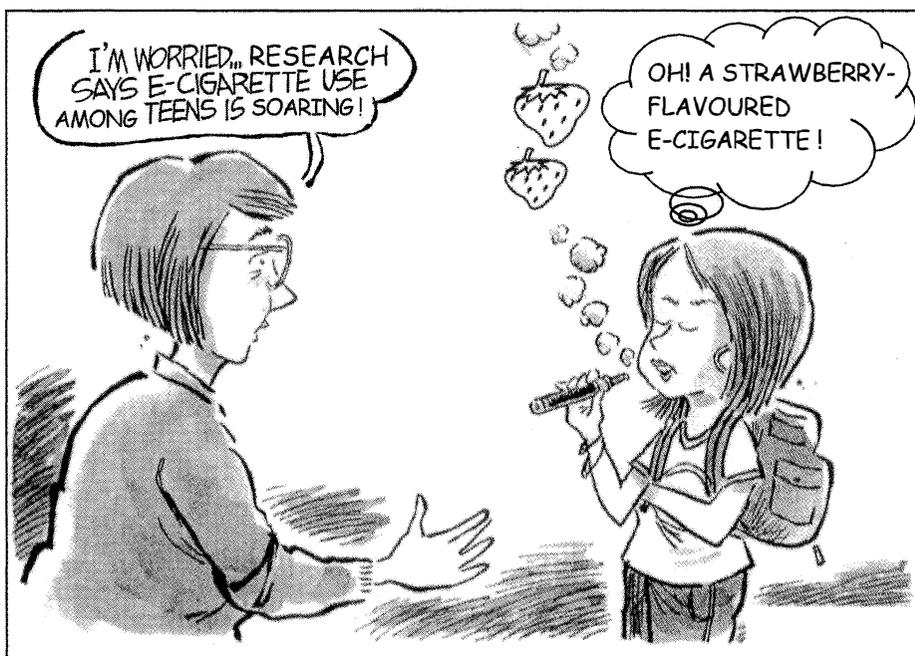
Source A: Adapted from a newspaper report dated 11 July 2016

A recently published study opens up a new front of debate about e-cigarettes*. It claims that chemicals in e-cigarette vapour containing nicotine produce short-term signs of potential cardiovascular (the heart and blood vessels) harm. These signs were similar to, but lesser than, those induced by smoking, according to the study. Those who support e-cigarettes as an alternative to tobacco say the study does not actually demonstrate any danger, especially when compared to smoking. But e-cigarette sceptics say that signs of potential cardiovascular damage point to new risks not sufficiently considered by e-cigarette advocates.

Some countries have banned the sale, advertising, import, distribution and manufacturing of e-cigarettes but others are dragging their feet, citing inconclusive medical research. The Hong Kong Food and Health Bureau says it is discussing with other departments to ban e-cigarettes and hopes to submit a proposal to the Legislative Council as soon as possible. At present, the sale of e-cigarettes containing nicotine to those without doctors' certification is prohibited in Hong Kong. The use of all types of e-cigarettes is banned in statutory no smoking areas.

*An e-cigarette is an electronic device that vaporises a solution, which may contain nicotine. There are more than 8 000 different flavours in the global market.

Source B



- (a) What factors do you think might be contributing to the use of e-cigarettes by young people? Explain your answer. (8 marks)
- (b) 'Banning the sale of certain products is the best way to safeguard the public health of young people in Hong Kong.' Do you agree with this view? Explain your answer. (12 marks)

3. Consider the following source:

An extract from a newspaper report dated 12 October 2015

Ordering fresh chickens at an ‘i-Chicken stall’ by selecting them on a computer screen, and using a free Wi-Fi connection within the market are some of the 21st century shopping experiences being offered in 2015 at Siu Sai Wan Market in Chai Wan following its HK\$25 million overhaul.

The renovation of the wet market is a strategy to differentiate it from traditional local wet markets, which are popular among shoppers seeking bargains, but not very clean.

A highlight of the colourfully decorated Siu Sai Wan Market is the ‘i-Chicken stall’, which sells chickens and eggs. The market allows customers to buy live chickens while avoiding any contact with them. Customers watch live chickens on a large computer screen at the stall and select from there. They can return to pick up the slaughtered chickens within half an hour.

A customer service centre at the market offers a range of free lending services including umbrellas, wheelchairs and baby carriages as well as mobile phone battery chargers.

The modernisation has attracted criticism from grass-roots groups. They are concerned it would lead to higher rents and higher prices. However, the management company says the modernised market will provide consumers with greater choice.

- (a) In what ways might the modernisation of traditional wet markets as described in the source improve the quality of life of people in Hong Kong? Explain your answer. (8 marks)
- (b) Evaluate the impact of technological innovations on traditional culture in Hong Kong nowadays. Justify 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.