



Modern Education Group Limited

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First-ever HKDSE Liberal Studies Examination held today Modern Education LS Tutor comments: "The first-ever LS examination was difficult for students as it eliminated reciting, and was filled with political and social issues"

(Hong Kong, 2 April 2012) The first Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education (HKDSE) Liberal Studies (LS) Examination, which was a matter of great concern, was held today. **Dr. Costa Chan, LS tutor of Modern Education**, who has years of experience in teaching LS, expressed her view, "The content of the examination was set as what the Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority (HKEAA) announced: candidates must be knowledgeable in political and social issues since issues like "policy address", "political parties", and "the airport building a third runway" were set as questions in the first ever LS examination. The traditional method of learning by rote no longer works."

Overall, Dr. Costa believes this examination paper was in line with the goal of the HKDSE LS curriculum. First of all, students were asked to analyze data and interpret a comic strip, and the examination paper also contained a number of "To What Extent..." questions. Students had to express a clear stance and support their views with authentic examples in order to achieve high scores.

Furthermore, the questions also required students to be familiar with a wide variety of current issues in social, economic, environmental, and political aspects. Questions concerning politics were the most difficult as students in Hong Kong are commonly uninterested in political topics. Students were also required to discuss the roles and conflicts of different stakeholders in their respective fields, which corresponds with LS's goal of nurturing students' abilities in critical thinking and identifying points of contention.

Below is Dr. Costa's analysis of the first HKDSE LS examination paper:

Paper 1	Question Analysis	Traps
Q1: Population policy	Policy question: a common question, but difficult to obtain high scores as students normally only consider the need for legislation and overlook its feasibility or its effectiveness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Fail to assess the effectiveness of the legislation ■ Fail to discuss the feasibility of legislation
Q2: Measures on banning cigarette smoking	Multiple-choice question: It is easy for candidates to fall into a trap while answering this question as many students may only consider choosing which two options and overlook the phrase "more effectively", which requires candidates to compare and explain why these two options are superior to the other ones.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Fail to compare the effectiveness of the chosen policies with the other ones
Q3: Development of local party politics	When the Education Bureau first introduced LS, they expressed their intention to make students care about current affairs, and this question corresponds with their stated goal.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Particularly difficult for students who are indifferent to politics, and hard to obtain a high score without an authentic example
Paper 2	Question Analysis	Traps
Q1: Constructing the third airport runway	Current issue question: candidates must be familiar with issues such as the third runway, the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge, and even the Express Rail Link and the Shatin-Central Link to use them as support in their answers. Moreover, students will also need to clearly distinguish the concept of the stakeholder from that of socio-political participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Fail to compare social interests with individual interests
Q2: Whether globalization will cause Western culture to replace other cultures	This question inherited A-Level LS examinations' question-setting practice on globalization, through a theme that students are familiar with - McDonald's. By stating certain features of globalization, this question requires students to apply them to actual social situations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Lack concrete examples
Q3: Ethical issues resulting from genetic testing	Comic strip question: concerning social and ethical issues. It is supposed that many students will only scratch the surface of the subject and fail to discuss the issue through multiple perspectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Only scratch the surface of the subject, and focus on answering "against the laws of nature" rather than discussing the issue through multiple perspectives

About Dr. Costa Chan

Dr. Costa Chan is the only Liberal Studies (LS) tutor in Hong Kong awarded a doctoral degree in Education for researching into “HKDSE Liberal Studies Examination”. Dr. Costa has enormous experience in teaching LS and she is a renowned icon in LS education. The number of student enrollments in Dr. Costa’s HKDSE LS summer courses and regular courses has stayed on top in Hong Kong for three consecutive years, and her courses are widely acclaimed. The distinguished results of Dr. Costa’s students have been a solid proof of her teaching quality. Last year, 77.8% of Dr. Costa’s students acquired A’s in LS in the Hong Kong Advanced Level Examinations.

About Modern Education Group Limited

Modern Education is one of the major chain education service providers in Hong Kong and it is the only company listed on the Main Board of the Hong Kong Stock Exchange in the industry. The Group offers a wide range of education programmes and services consisting of primary and secondary school tutoring services, English language training and test preparation courses, secondary day school education, overseas studies consultation services and other bridge programmes and services leading to overseas higher education. The Group successfully entered the Chinese education market in 2010 and is currently providing technical consultation, management and software licensing services to Beijing Yasi School (北京雅思學校), which has a nation-wide school network of 15 cities in the People’s Republic of China. Additional information on Modern Education can be found at www.moderneducationgroup.com.

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