



中華人民共和國香港特別行政區政府總部教育局
Education Bureau
Government Secretariat, The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
The People's Republic of China

本局檔號 Our Ref. : EDB(CD)/ADM/55/1/89 (4)

電話 Telephone : 2892 5801

來函檔號 Your Ref. :

傳真 Fax Line : 2117 9240

9 March 2011

Miss Odelia LEUNG
Legislative Council Secretariat
Legislative Council Building
8 Jackson Road
Central
Hong Kong

Dear Miss LEUNG,

**Panel on Education
Follow-up to meeting on 14 Oct 2010**

The responses of the Administration to the following item raised in the captioned meeting are as follows:

How LS examination papers were marked and some sample LS examination papers with good or bad grades

Designing marking criteria

The marking of Liberal Studies (LS) examination scripts is based on a set of criteria accorded to each examination question. Each examination question set would be relevant to issues covered in the six modules of the LS curriculum. Each question would involve a real world issue/task requiring the understanding of relevant knowledge and concepts, application of enquiry skills such as analytical and critical thinking, the knowledge and concept of a viewpoint/perspective or more, the construction of arguments with direct

evidence, the understanding of an underlying value and using it to solve problems or make a suitable judgment as required. Some of the criteria to be used to judge candidates' performance in the LS examination scripts are:

- the ability to understand the question and the issues concerned;
- the ability to apply relevant knowledge and concepts, as well as to show understanding of the complexity of an issue;
- the ability to analyse and interpret information;
- the ability to illustrate with relevant examples as evidence to support an argument or one's own viewpoint(s);
- the ability to consider different viewpoints and to discern the values underlying them;
- the ability to draw conclusion on an issue from a range of perspectives, to solve a problem, or to make judgment based on value position; and
- the ability to communicate ideas and argument clearly and cogently in writing.

Ensuring same standards to be employed by markers in awarding marks

In the marking process, the following procedures will be adopted to ensure fairness and marking reliability:

- Suggested marking guidelines with marking criteria will be established for each question by the moderation committee.
- To standardize the marking standard among markers in the application of criteria, sample scripts illustrating responses to individual questions at different standards of performance will be chosen and discussed among chief and assistant examiners.
- With reference to the criteria set for each question, the marks are to be awarded on the basis of matching the performance to the sample scripts illustrating typical performance at different standards.
- The marking criteria in the marking guidelines will be thoroughly discussed and finalized in the markers' meeting, which will be adhered to by all markers in the marking process.

Monitoring of marking quality

The following standardized measures are taken to ensure quality:

- Markers will be recruited from LS teachers who have to go through stringent training and pass the qualifying test before they are allowed to mark the live scripts.
- Marking will be conducted on-screen so that markers' marking standard and consistency will be closely monitored through control scripts and regular check-marking.
- Each marker will be assigned to mark one question only. Double-marking is adopted so that each question will be marked independently by two markers. If there is a substantial difference in the marks awarded by the two markers, the question will be marked by a third marker.

Provision of sample papers and exemplars of student performance for reference

The Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority (HKEAA) has developed sample papers to illustrate the requirements of the examination and exemplars of typical performances have been selected from a pilot test conducted to illustrate the various standards of performance. In developing the sample papers and exemplars, professional input from experienced examiners, frontline teachers, university academics and curriculum officers has been sought and taken into consideration before finalizing the requirements. Some annotated exemplars with good and poor performances are provided in the **Annex** for your reference. Please note that samples of live performance of students will only be available after the first administration of the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination in 2012.

Training for teacher markers


The HKEAA is conducting a series of markers' training workshops for LS teachers with an aim to familiarize them with the marking procedures as well as the marking criteria and standards. Hands-on experience is provided for teachers through trial marking sample examination scripts and participating in the discussion during markers' meetings and standardization meetings led by experienced LS teachers. 27 sessions of the workshop, offering a total of 2,000 places, are scheduled to be conducted in the 2010/11 school year.

Date for reporting on the progress of the implementation of the new academic structure

The original suggestion of reporting progress in July takes account of the fact that schools are expected to submit Stage I of LS Independent Enquiry Study marks for S5 students by end of May which would be incorporated into a

report in July to Members. Having regard to Members' request for us to advance the reporting, we would be happy to advance our progress report on the implementation of the new academic structure in schools from July 2011 to June 2011. The latest development of LS would therefore have to be further and separately reported.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of stylized initials and a surname, positioned above a horizontal line.

(Dr CHEUNG Kwok-wah)
for Secretary for Education

Sample Liberal Studies Questions and Exemplars

The following shows some sample LS examination questions and exemplars with good and poor performance. The sample questions were developed by the HKEAA based on the learning outcomes in the Curriculum and Assessment Guide and the assessment objectives in the assessment framework. The sample questions were piloted on a sample of senior secondary students with different abilities from a range of schools. The exemplars and annotated comments were chosen and developed by a working group which comprises members from different sectors, including curriculum officers, school teachers, university academics and experienced examiners, following rigorous procedures adopted for public examinations. It must be emphasised that the annotated comments were provided to the exemplars to help illustrate the performance standards. In the marking of live examination scripts, marks instead of comments would be awarded, following the rigorous marking and standardization procedures as stipulated earlier. Further sample questions/exemplars and the marking guidelines can be obtained from the HKEAA website: http://www.hkeaa.edu.hk/en/hkdse/hkdse_subj.html?A1&1&3_15

Question 1

Consider the following information:

Source 1: Views expressed by three students towards the 'Trial Scheme on School Drug Testing'

Michael	The scheme will lead to tense relationships between parents and children if parents insist that their kids take the tests and the youngsters object.
Mary	I support the drug testing scheme, and believe it can act as a deterrent. It can discourage drug use and stop its spread within a school.
Marley	I am not sure to whom my drug test result would be disclosed and I am also worried about being punished for testing positive.

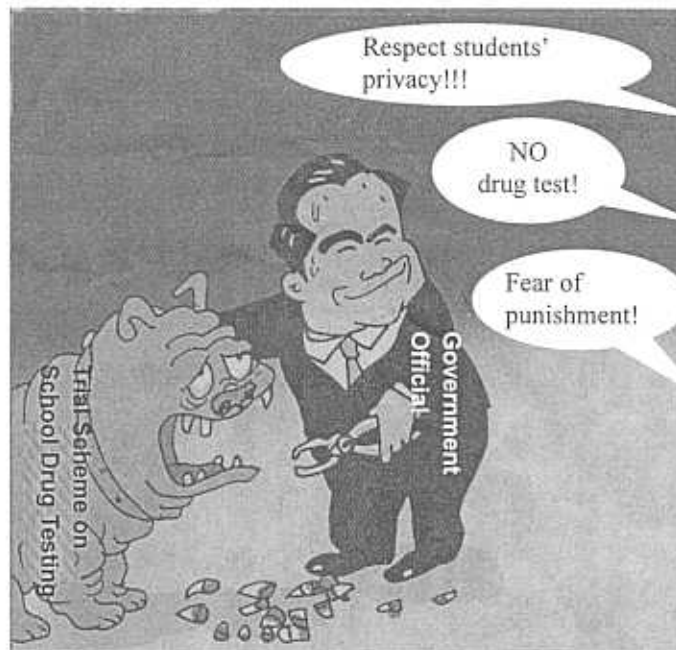
Source 2

Commissioner for Narcotics, Ms Sally Wong said, "During the second half of 2009, the Narcotics Division, Security Bureau and Education Bureau held a series of consultation and sharing sessions to exchange views with the relevant stakeholders on the drug testing scheme* details. We have refined the details of the scheme after fully considering the views of relevant parties."

Under Secretary for Education, Mr Kenneth Chen said, "Full protection of students' privacy is in place in the refined scheme details. Any drug testing results will be safeguarded under the principle of confidentiality and the relevant authorities will only provide the information to people on a need-to-know basis and will not let just anybody obtain such information."

*This scheme refers to the Trial Scheme on School Drug Testing in Tai Po District.

Source 3



- What are the factors considered by the 3 students in Source 1 when expressing their respective views? (4 marks)
- Refer to Sources 2 and 3. Describe and elaborate on the message conveyed in the cartoon. (5 marks)
- How far do you agree with the viewpoint reflected in the cartoon? Explain your answer. (8 marks)

Exemplars:

Part	Exemplars illustrating good performance	Exemplars illustrating poor performance
(a)	Exemplar 1	Exemplar 2
(b)	Exemplar 3	Exemplar 4
(c)	Exemplar 5	Exemplar 6

Exemplar 1 (good performance):

- (a) What are the factors considered by the 3 students in Source 1 when expressing their respective views? (4 marks)

Michael considered the social factors. He worried about the tense relationship between parents and children that may be brought about by the drug testing scheme. Parents may want the child to take the test but the child may object.

Mary considered the effectiveness of the scheme. She believed that the test could act as a deterrent, to scare students away from attempting to take drugs in school. It could discourage drug use and stop its spread effectively.

Marilyn considered the privacy factors and consequences. She worried about the confidentiality of the test results, whether it would be disclosed to irrelevant people. She had the fear of punishment if she's tested positive.

Comment:

- The candidate was able to conceptualize the factors with reference to the views of the students.
- The factors considered by each of the students were clearly identified and explained as well.

Exemplar 2 (poor performance):

- (a) What are the factors considered by the 3 students in Source 1 when expressing their respective views? (4 marks)

They are considering about the drug testing scheme, they are thinking that if it'll be good or bad to let the scheme works.

From the sources, we can see positive and negative thinkings. Mary supports the drug testing scheme with no doubts but Marley is scared if the testing result came positive.

They are all worry about the drug testing scheme, and giving their own opinions-

Comment:

- The candidate rephrased and briefly compared the views of the 3 students, instead of identifying the factors each of them considered.

Exemplar 3 (good performance):

- (b) Refer to Sources 2 and 3. Describe and elaborate on the message conveyed in the cartoon. (5 marks)

Referring to Source 3, the Government Official is using his tool to take the dog's teeth off. The dog represents the Trial Scheme on School Drug testing. There are speech bubbles saying the concerns of parents and students to the test.

According to Source 2, there is a refined scheme which has a full protection of students' privacy.

The government official taking the dog's teeth off means he is taking the effectiveness of the scheme away. They receive opinions from students and parents to refine the scheme. However, the scheme becomes less effective.

From the facial expression on the government official's face, he isn't doing something he is willing to do, but he has no choice because of mass pressure. They are forced to follow stakeholders' opinions.

Comment:

- The key message of the cartoon was clearly identified and was explained in detail with reference to the sources.
- Good analytical skill was demonstrated by the detailed explanation of how the message was conveyed in the cartoon.
- However, the discussion on “privacy” and “the effectiveness of the scheme” is expected to be in greater detail.

Exemplar 4 (poor performance):

- (b) Refer to Sources 2 and 3. Describe and elaborate on the message conveyed in the cartoon.

(5 marks)

From the sources 3, ~~we~~ we can tell that students dislike ~~the~~ the scheme because it may be very private to the test result.

Sources 2 strongly support the drug test because the test scheme may help the social very much to control the number of students taking drugs.

Many people have different points of views, so we don't know if it's really working or not. The message says that there are more and more objections, so the ~~scheme~~ scheme may not be successful.

Comment:

- The candidate only described part of the cartoon but failed to explain its key message.
- The key message of the cartoon was misinterpreted as “objections” making “the scheme” “not successful”. He/she failed to identify the key stakeholders in the cartoon, showing that he/she was not familiar with the issue.

Exemplar 5 (good performance):

(c) How far do you agree with the viewpoint reflected in the cartoon? Explain your answer.¹
(8 marks)

I agree with the viewpoint to a large extent.

First, it is because the government's lenient trial scheme of drug testing cannot effectively halt the spread of drug abuse of HK juveniles as it ~~cannot~~ is under a voluntary ~~to~~ and non-mandatory basis that students with potential drug abuse can easily evade their guilt or being followed up with some work that can be offered, like counselling, ~~and the contrast to~~

Second, without punishment, the trial scheme is just like what the cartoon wanted to convey - useless and failed to act as a deterrent. Teenagers will not be alerted the severity of their guilt of taking drugs since there ~~are~~ is no punishments. They will simply continue their habits and spread the drug abuse problem.

Third, since the trial scheme is over-protective towards student's privacy. Just like the cartoon revealed, the trial scheme loses its effectiveness. The confidentiality is too much that the relevant parties like teachers, parents may not be included, only social worker's

assistance is not enough that more help offered should be more efficient.

Yet, I ^{don't} agree with the cartoon to a small extent. Because the trial scheme ~~does have~~ ^{is just a trial} scheme that wants to run and try it out smoothly that how a testing scheme should work, the students involved should be respected with its human right to (And) choose its option and ^{their} ~~its~~ privacy should be ~~protected~~ ^{protected} to a certain extent. Since any revelation can pose & insurmountable problems arised afterwards.

To conclude, the ^{view of} trial drug testing scheme ~~is~~ shown in the cartoon. I agree to a large extent.

Comment:

- The stand point was clearly explained with succinct arguments.
- The candidate demonstrated his/her ability in formulating a balanced argument by pointing out some of the reservation he had over the criticism on the scheme, other than the undermined effectiveness. However, his/her reservation could have been elaborated more clearly.
- His/her view on the government's attitude towards the scheme, being part of the message of the cartoon, should also be discussed.

Exemplar 6 (poor performance):

(c) How far do you agree with the viewpoint reflected in the cartoon? Explain your answer.

(8 marks)

I partly agree with the viewpoint reflected in the cartoon. I am not strongly disagreeing the drug testing scheme as this is a important source for the government to know more about the situation of taking drugs in schools. Support will be given to those students who engaged in drugs.

But it is known that government always promised the public about a certain issue, they don't take any actions on it. People started not to trust the government. In the cartoon, the students told the government officials to respect students' privacy. This has been promised by the government, but still there are some students who think the government is lying to them. This reflected that the government has failed to gain trust from the public.

According to the cartoon, students say that they are fear of punishment. That means punishment have been made after the drug testing scheme, and the results are being disclosed to their parents or other people. That means the government didn't really consider the privacy of students. Also, there may be errors in the drug tests. Some ^{innocent} students who didn't take drugs may test positive, and punishment are given. This is not fair.

Comment:

- The sources were misinterpreted.
- The candidate did not explain whether he/she agreed or disagreed with the key message of the cartoon, which is a sarcastic comment over the ineffectiveness of the scheme and the role of the government. Instead, he/she just elaborated a bit about the opposition of the public towards the scheme.

Question 2

Consider the following newspaper extract:

There are many brightly-lit high-rise buildings in Hong Kong, and it is known as the “Pearl of the Orient” due to its sparkling night-lights. However, light pollution has already prevented one-fifth of the people in the world from seeing the Milky Way at night. Experts have warned that light pollution not only prevents people from seeing starry skies, but also affects people’s health, in ways which range from causing sleeplessness (due to disruption of one’s biological clock) to inducing cancer. Scientists have carried out research and found that women living in districts most seriously affected by light pollution have a greater chance of acquiring breast cancer. It is believed that the non-natural light at night affects women’s hormonal levels, for example greatly reducing the secretion of the cancer-inhibiting melatonin.

The Environmental Protection Department is studying the experience of other cities which are similar to Hong Kong, and assessing the feasibility of regulating external lighting by legislation.

- (a) Referring to the information above and based on your own knowledge, should the Hong Kong government regulate external lighting through legislation? Explain. (10 marks)
- (b) Apart from legislation by the government, suggest a few ways to alleviate the problem of light pollution that can be adopted in Hong Kong. Explain. (10 marks)

Exemplars:

Part	Exemplars illustrating good performance	Exemplars illustrating poor performance
(a)	Exemplar 7	Exemplar 8
(b)	Exemplar 9	Exemplar 10

Exemplar 7 (good performance):

(a) Hong Kong urban areas have been seriously affected by unnatural lighting. Up to now, laws have not been enacted to regulate this kind of problem. Therefore, I suggest that there is a need for legislation to control light pollution.

To begin with, citizens' health under serious light pollution is in high risk. Under strong lighting at night, not only does the emotion or psychological health are affected, but also, physical health problems can be observed. For example, from the news extract, women's hormonal levels are being disrupted by light pollution for a long time. Research states that the chance of getting breast cancer is higher than normal people because of the great reduction of the secretion of the cancer-inhibiting melatonin. From these, we know that health can be seriously affected by light pollution and legislation to regulate the problem is necessary.

In addition, although we have beautiful night scenery in Hong Kong, the light has been so bright that we cannot observe dimmer stars in Milky Way at night. Especially in highly developed urban areas like Central and Mong Hong, advertisement lightings dominated the city. However, the lights have been so strong that it prevent lights originated from the stars entering the city, because their lights are covered. So, apart from main star series and the moon, we can hardly see any stars at night if we live in urban areas.

More, the habits of the animals living in Hong Kong will be changed and the ecosystem in Hong Kong may break down. Due to strong lighting, wild animals or birds may think that the daytime has not ended yet.

Indeed, their 'daytime' is never going to end in urban areas. This caused the loss of natural ability of animals and develop mutational behaviours, which is a problem that we should take note of.

Someone may say that the legislation process is going to be difficult since companies and organizations may have great opposition on the issue because of the wasted interests, like the effectiveness of advertisements and the good-looking of the buildings. However, if we don't legislate and enact laws to regulate light pollution in Hong Kong, the problem is going to be more and more serious due to urban expansion and the increasing future development. At last, residents are going to suffer. Which is more important, the short-term well-being of those companies or the long-term health crisis of people?

All in all, due to health problem and the disruption of ecosystem, the Hong Kong government should try their best to regulate external lighting through legislation, so that companies are going to have guidelines to follow to reduce unwanted lights. We have already passed laws in air, water, noise and different kinds of pollution, why can't we have one for light pollution in order to protect Hong Kong citizens?

Comment:

- The candidate demonstrated his/her ability to analyse and explain the problems brought about by light pollution from different perspectives and in a systematic manner.
- Furthermore, he/she was able to put forth sound, and clearly supported arguments.
- Counter-arguments were mentioned in the discussion of the necessity and feasibility of legislation, again providing evidence of multiple-perspective thinking.
- Nevertheless, there was too much emphasis on the impact of pollution. In order to fully address the question, the importance and effectiveness of legislation should have been further elaborated.

Exemplar 8 (poor performance):

(a) Yes, from the information given, ~~the~~ light pollution can really bring us a lot of health problems. Scientists believe that women who are seriously affected by light pollution have a greater chance of acquiring breast cancer and the sleeplessness can also induce cancer.

On top of that, the legislation of ~~regulating~~ "regulating" ~~is~~ external lighting is ~~needed~~ needed. For me, I think that external lighting has no actual use. They can only bring us pollution and the over ~~and~~ consumption of electricity. If we regulate external lighting through legislation, external lighting will be greatly reduce, and it will improve the quality of life of the people.

Comment:

- The candidate briefly pointed out some negative impacts of light pollution.
- However, the inadequate supporting arguments and the absence of discussion on the impact of "regulation" revealed the lack of understanding of the issue and the question.

Exemplar 9 (good performance):

(b) Apart from government's legislation on the effects brought by light pollution, there are indeed other ways to alleviate the problem.

Firstly, the poor shielding of street lightings cause light trespass to the surrounding areas and affects the biological clock of residents as well as other biological species. Therefore, I think the government can also improve the design of the street lightings to reduce the amount of light trespass and alleviate the problem. As the investment put into such improvement is huge, I believe the government should take small and careful steps in improving the problem to prevent the misuse and waste of money.

Secondly, there are lights switching on round the clock every day in commercial areas in Hong Kong. A shopping mall in West Kowloon even leave its lights (over 600) on over the night for the use of a convenient store. This is shocking but I am not exaggerating. I do think that this is a matter Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) of the businessmen as well as the firm since the government can do nothing to force the commercial centres and shopping malls to turn off all or just most of the lights as it is indeed the firm who is paying for the electricity bill.

However, I do think that the government can encourage the two electric companies in Hong Kong to increase the electricity bill of commercial electricity consumption. This can increase the cost of the firm which indicates a lower revenue. It can urge the firm to reduce its cost by conserving electricity which I believe they would turn off most lights at nights as they are unnecessary.

Moreover, at night, there are skyscrapers along the Victoria Harbour to shoot light onto the sky, making it looks like a starry stage and attracts more tourists to admire the artificial

light performance. This is obviously a factor which contribute to light pollution as they reflect light up high to the sky, increase the night brightness and decrease the number of stary nights.

I know such performance is astonishing and even myself enjoy it much. Therefore, I suggest the government reduce the nights of using skyscrapers rather having it every night, for instance, make it twice a week. This can maintain the honour of Pearl of the Orient as well as alleviate the problems caused by light pollution.

I believe the above three measures are effective in alleviating the problems caused by light pollution and with the effort of government legislation, I believe the problems can be alleviated much.

Comment:

- The candidate discussed quite clearly various types of measures which might help alleviate the problem, demonstrating good analytical skills and an understanding of the demand of the question.
- The candidate was also able to identify that the private sector, besides the government, constitutes the key stakeholders in alleviating the problem.
- Nevertheless, some measures could have been further explained, for instance, the adjustment to the light shows.

Exemplar 10 (poor performance):

(b) Apart from ^{the} legislation by the government, all the people who are suffering from the light pollution should hold a demonstration to recall the ^{govt} ~~governance~~ ^{responsibility} of this problem. ~~These~~ Through the demonstration, people can ^{public} ~~told~~ ^{persuade} others not to buy things in the ~~to~~ building that give out light pollution. Once the business in the shops ~~is~~ ^{is} affected, the light will be turned off. Also, when ~~there is one~~ building give up of ~~the~~ ^{external} ~~using~~ ~~external~~ light, ~~besides~~, all the buildings should be encourage to stop the external light. ~~people and message~~ ~~newspaper can report that~~ ~~street~~

Besides, government ^{should} ~~to~~ rise the ~~external~~ prices of external light. If the building's owner feel that the price is too high, they will definitely ~~to~~ give up the external light.

Comment:

- The candidate was only able to point out that demonstration and boycott by the public would help alleviate the problem.
- However, not much effort is evident in the explanation of the measures. The feasibility of the measures was also neglected when making the suggestions.