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Legislative Council

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From : Clerk to the Legislative Council

To : All Members of the Legislative Council

Council meeting of 25 March 2015

**Amendments to motion on
“Comprehensively reviewing the subject of Liberal Studies
under the New Senior Secondary curriculum”**

Further to LC Paper No. CB(3) 505/14-15 issued on 12 March 2015, seven Members (Hon Mrs Regina IP, Dr Hon Helena WONG, Dr Hon Kenneth CHAN, Hon IP Kin-yuen, Hon WONG Kwok-hing, Hon Cyd HO and Hon Starry LEE) have respectively given notice of their intention to move separate amendments to Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG’s motion on “Comprehensively reviewing the subject of Liberal Studies under the New Senior Secondary curriculum” scheduled for the Council meeting of 25 March 2015. As directed by the President, the respective amendments will be printed in the terms in which they were handed in on the Agenda of the Council.

2. The President will order a joint debate on the above motion and the seven amendments. To assist Members in debating the motion and the amendments, I set out below the procedure to be followed during the debate:

- (a) the President calls upon Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG to speak and move her motion;
- (b) the President proposes the question on Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG’s motion;
- (c) the President calls upon the seven Members who wish to move amendments to speak in the following order, but no amendment is to be moved at this stage:
 - (i) Hon Mrs Regina IP;
 - (ii) Dr Hon Helena WONG;

- (iii) Dr Hon Kenneth CHAN;
 - (iv) Hon IP Kin-yuen;
 - (v) Hon WONG Kwok-hing;
 - (vi) Hon Cyd HO; and
 - (vii) Hon Starry LEE;
- (d) the President calls upon the public officer(s) to speak;
- (e) the President invites other Members to speak;
- (f) the President gives leave to Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG to speak for the second time on the amendments;
- (g) the President calls upon the public officer(s) to speak again;
- (h) in accordance with Rule 34(5) of the Rules of Procedure, the President has decided that he will call upon the seven Members to move their respective amendments in the order set out in paragraph (c) above. The President invites Hon Mrs Regina IP to move her amendment to the motion, and forthwith proposes and puts to vote the question on Hon Mrs Regina IP's amendment;
- (i) after Hon Mrs Regina IP's amendment has been voted upon, the President deals with the other six amendments; and
- (j) after all amendments have been dealt with, the President calls upon Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG to reply. Thereafter, the President puts to vote the question on Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG's motion, or her motion as amended, as the case may be.

3. For Members' reference, the terms of the original motion and of the motion, if amended, are set out in the **Appendix**.

(Odelia LEUNG)
for Clerk to the Legislative Council

Encl.

(Translation)

**Motion debate on
“Comprehensively reviewing the subject of Liberal Studies
under the New Senior Secondary curriculum”
to be held at the Council meeting of 25 March 2015**

1. Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG’s original motion

That the subject of Liberal Studies under the New Senior Secondary curriculum has received much concern since its implementation and is controversial in terms of its curriculum design, coverage of teaching, assessment method and teacher training, etc.; in this connection, this Council urges the Government to comprehensively review the subject of Liberal Studies under the New Senior Secondary curriculum.

2. Motion as amended by Hon Mrs Regina IP

~~That the subject of Liberal Studies under the New Senior Secondary curriculum has received much concern since its implementation and is controversial in terms of~~ *the original intent of the New Senior Secondary curriculum implemented since 2009 is to provide students with a broad and balanced curriculum to enable their inter-disciplinary learning to facilitate whole-person development; however, while various sectors have had divergent views on the new curriculum since its implementation, they invariably consider that there is still room for improvement; the subject of Liberal Studies has even received much concern, not only in that its curriculum design, coverage of teaching, assessment method and, teacher training, etc. and quality of teaching materials, etc., are yet to be improved, but also in that the subject has failed to facilitate amending the situation of dividing students into arts, science or commerce streams under the old secondary academic structure; instead, due to its status as a core subject and its tremendous workload placed on teachers and students, the subject has left students with less time and energy for studying other elective subjects, resulting in a general decline in the number of candidates sitting for various elective subjects, especially those for advanced Mathematics and the humanities, thus narrowing secondary students’ knowledge, in contravention of the concept of ‘inter-disciplinary learning’ stressed in the subject of Liberal Studies and even affecting the long-term competitiveness of Hong Kong;* in this connection, this Council urges the Government to comprehensively review the

subject of Liberal Studies under the New Senior Secondary curriculum; *the relevant review should include:*

- (1) *introducing clear guidelines and recommended reading passages for the subject of Liberal Studies, such as setting out the basic concepts and the theories and classics of different schools of thoughts that students should master in respect of the different issues in the curriculum, so as to enable students to equip themselves with the necessary basic knowledge for exploring a specific issue, so that they can judge the authenticity of information, acquire the truth and construct arguments, thus training their ability to distinguish between right and wrong and becoming informed, rational and responsible citizens, so as to solve at root the unhealthy trend of keeping books without reading and making arguments without grounds;*
- (2) *as textbooks remain one of the important sources of teaching materials and information for teachers of the subject of Liberal Studies when preparing for lessons, the Government should require textbooks on the subject of Liberal Studies be submitted to the Education Bureau for review, so as to ensure the contents meet the basic academic standards for assuring the quality of the curriculum in the subject of Liberal Studies, and prevent excessively frequent revision of textbooks on the subject of Liberal Studies to avoid increasing students' financial burden;*
- (3) *ensuring that the coverage of the examination papers on the subject of Liberal Studies dovetails with the curriculum and that equal emphases are placed on the six modules in the curriculum, so as to restore public confidence in the examination of the subject of Liberal Studies;*
- (4) *exploring ways of adding weight to the assessment on students' ability in using data analysis in the examination of the subject of Liberal Studies; and*
- (5) *streamlining the School-based Assessment arrangements for the subject of Liberal Studies to lessen the burden on teachers and students.*

Note: Hon Mrs Regina IP's amendment is marked in *bold and italic type* or with deletion line.

3. Motion as amended by Dr Hon Helena WONG

That, ~~as the subject of Liberal Studies under the New Senior Secondary curriculum has received much concern~~ *all along emphasized helping students develop multiple perspectives and critical thinking in respect of perennial and contemporary issues in different cultural, social, economic, political and technological contexts* since its implementation and ~~is controversial in terms of its curriculum design, coverage of teaching, assessment method and teacher training, etc.;~~ in this connection, this Council urges the Government to ~~comprehensively review~~ *that when reviewing* the subject of Liberal Studies under the New Senior Secondary curriculum, *the Government should make professional judgment after incorporating the viewpoints of teachers and students, exercise educational professionalism in examining curriculum development, and provide necessary support to further enhance the learning and teaching quality of the subject in order to cultivate students more effectively in terms of basic knowledge and skill in understanding their relationship with the society, the country and even the whole world.*

Note: Dr Hon Helena WONG's amendment is marked in *bold and italic type* or with deletion line.

4. Motion as amended by Dr Hon Kenneth CHAN

That ~~the subject of Liberal Studies under the New Senior Secondary curriculum has received much concern since its implementation and is controversial in terms of its curriculum design, coverage of teaching, assessment method and teacher training, etc.~~ *the cultivation of young people's independent thinking and ability for critical analysis is of utmost importance for developing Hong Kong's civil society and safeguarding Hong Kong's core values, and the subject of Liberal Studies under the New Senior Secondary curriculum plays a significant role in this regard;* in this connection, this Council urges the Government to comprehensively review the subject of Liberal Studies under the New Senior Secondary curriculum *to enhance students' interests, knowledge and effectiveness of learning in exploring issues relating to school, community, society as well as politics.*

Note: Dr Hon Kenneth CHAN's amendment is marked in *bold and italic type* or with deletion line.

5. Motion as amended by Hon IP Kin-yuen

That ~~the subject of Liberal Studies under the New Senior Secondary curriculum has received much concern since its implementation and is controversial,~~ *as the*

authorities are currently conducting a review on the New Senior Secondary curriculum, and same as other subjects, the subject of Liberal Studies has received much concern in terms of its curriculum design, coverage of teaching, assessment method and teacher training, etc.; *the authorities should respond expeditiously to the demands of the academia for strengthening teacher training, increasing teaching resources and upgrading teaching standards of the subject; in respect of improvement on the teaching coverage, consideration should be given from the perspective of the teaching profession when deciding whether the curriculum of the subject of Liberal Studies is too voluminous, so as to lessen the burden of teachers and students, but without evading issues of current affairs and politics;* in this connection, this Council urges *that when* the Government to ~~comprehensively review~~ *comprehensively reviews* the subject of Liberal Studies under the New Senior Secondary curriculum, *it must follow established procedures, adhere to the principle of professionalism in education, and improve the teaching and learning of the subject as the premise, and the review should not be affected by political factors.*

Note: Hon IP Kin-yuen's amendment is marked in *bold and italic type* or with deletion line.

6. Motion as amended by Hon WONG Kwok-hing

~~That the subject of Liberal Studies under the New Senior Secondary curriculum~~ *there are views that the subject of Liberal Studies under the New Senior Secondary curriculum is too extensive in contents, with some of the learning contents even overlapping with those of the subject of Chinese History, thus making it difficult for teachers and students to master them in teaching and learning; and the subject* has received much concern since its implementation and is controversial in terms of its curriculum design, coverage of teaching, assessment method and teacher training, etc.; in this connection, this Council urges the Government to comprehensively review the subject of Liberal Studies under the New Senior Secondary curriculum *to streamline the curriculum contents and consolidate the overlapping learning contents in the subjects of Liberal Studies and Chinese History, so that the curriculum contents of the subject of Liberal Studies become clearer and more comprehensible, and the subject of Chinese History can be included as a core subject after consolidation.*

Note: Hon WONG Kwok-hing's amendment is marked in *bold and italic type* or with deletion line.

7. Motion as amended by Hon Cyd HO

That, *as* the subject of Liberal Studies under the New Senior Secondary curriculum has received much concern since its implementation ~~and is controversial in terms of its curriculum design, coverage of teaching, assessment method and teacher training, etc.;~~ in this connection, this Council urges the Government to comprehensively review the subject of Liberal Studies under the New Senior Secondary curriculum, *so as to achieve the objectives of cultivating students to have independent personality with critical thinking, equipping them with an awareness of respecting human rights and safeguarding freedom, and enabling them to proactively participate in public affairs without any restrictions, thus fostering social progress.*

Note: Hon Cyd HO's amendment is marked in *bold and italic type* or with deletion line.

8. Motion as amended by Hon Starry LEE

That the subject of Liberal Studies under the New Senior Secondary curriculum has received much concern since its implementation and is controversial in terms of its curriculum design, coverage of teaching, assessment method and teacher training, etc.; in this connection, this Council urges the Government to comprehensively review the subject of Liberal Studies under the New Senior Secondary curriculum, *and review by phases various aspects of the subject, including striking a balance among the six modules in setting the examination questions and marking criteria; and the Government should also provide more professional support to schools to establish guidelines on and teaching materials for the teaching and learning of the subject, strengthen teacher training so that teachers can master the curriculum contents from multiple perspectives, and review the school-based assessment and learning sessions of the subject, so as to implement the subject of Liberal Studies more effectively.*

Note: Hon Starry LEE's amendment is marked in *bold and italic type*.