

Liberal Studies

(for students studying in S4 in the 2013/14 sy and taking the 2016 HKDSE Exam)

Why do you need to study Liberal Studies?

Liberal Studies aims to broaden students' knowledge base and enhance their social awareness through the study of a wide range of issues. The modules selected for the curriculum focus on themes that are significant to students, society and the world, and are designed to enable students to make connections across different fields of knowledge and to broaden their horizons.

What will you learn from Liberal Studies?

Areas of Study	Modules	Independent Enquiry Study (IES)
Self and Personal Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Module 1: Personal Development and Interpersonal Relationships Theme 1: Understanding oneself Theme 2: Interpersonal relationships	Students are required to conduct an IES making use of the knowledge and perspectives gained from the three Areas of Study. The title chosen should bear linkages to one or more of the Areas of Study and extend to new themes or issues. The following themes are suggested: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Media ● Education ● Religion ● Sports ● Art ● Information and Communication Technology
Society and Culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Module 2: Hong Kong Today Theme 1: Quality of life Theme 2: Rule of law and socio-political participation Theme 3: Identity	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Module 3: Modern China Theme 1: China's reform and opening-up Theme 2: Chinese culture and modern life	
Science, Technology and the Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Module 4: Globalization Theme 1: Impact of globalization and related responses	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Module 5: Public Health Theme 1: Understanding of public health Theme 2: Science, technology and public health	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Module 6: Energy Technology and the Environment Theme 1: The influences of energy technology Theme 2: The environment and sustainable development	

How will you be assessed in Liberal Studies?

The public assessment will consist of a public examination component and a school-based assessment component as outlined in the following table:

Component	Part	Weighting	Duration
Public Examination	Paper 1 : Data-response questions (All of which will have to be answered)	50%	2 hours
	Paper 2 : Extended-response questions (Consists of three questions. Candidates will be required to answer one question only.)	30%	1 hour and 15 minutes
School-based Assessment (SBA)	Independent Enquiry Study (IES)	20%	--

School-based Assessment

The IES is adopted as the mode of SBA in Liberal Studies. The IES is an investigative study in which candidates are required to demonstrate various skills such as problem-solving, data gathering and analysis, and communication. Each IES project should include a certain amount of subject matter based on candidates' reading, research and personal experiences. Candidates can carry out an enquiry-based project, and the main body of the project can be in written or non-written form. The latter should be accompanied by a short written text explaining the main idea of the project, and showing the candidate's reflections on it. The following table outlines the assessment framework of the IES:

Assessment Stage	Assessment Items (Weighting)	
	"Process" (20%)	"Task" (80%)
Project Proposal	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Independent thinking● Communication● Effort	Project Proposal (25%)
Product		Product (55%)

How can the subject help you prepare for your future?

Liberal Studies builds on what students have learnt in basic education (Primary 1-Secondary 3). Through exploring themes important to the modern world, it helps students to extend their breadth of knowledge, depth of understanding, independent thinking skills and ability to make connections. The study of Liberal Studies enables students to explore different pathways for further studies and future careers. Liberal Studies will help to foster intellectual ability in general, and develop multiple perspectives that will be of benefit to students in further studies at the tertiary level. The civic literacy, social awareness and ability to make informed decisions that students will have developed will also prepare them for effective learning and wise decision making in the ever-changing work environment.

For further information, please refer to the following websites or consult your teacher.

- Education Bureau "The Web-based Resource Platform for Liberal Studies" <http://www.ls.hkedcity.net>
- The Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority "Public Assessment of HKDSE - Liberal Studies" <http://www.hkeaa.edu.hk/dsels/en/>
- Education Bureau "New Academic Structure Web Bulletin" <http://334.edb.hkedcity.net/EN/>