

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

**ETHICS AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES PAPER 1**

**(Sample Paper)**

XX.XX am – XX.XX am (1 3/4 hours)  
This paper must be answered in English

This paper consists of two parts:

Part A: Normative Ethics, answer ALL questions.

Part B: Personal and Social Problems, answer TWO out of four questions.

Not to be taken away before the  
end of the examination

**Part A Normative Ethics****Compulsory Part**

1. “Don’t do unto others what you don’t want others to do unto you”  
Discuss whether the above saying can be treated as a moral principle and be applied to moral judgement. (6 marks)
2. Give examples to explain the following concepts:
  - (a) Instrumental value (3 marks)
  - (b) Intrinsic value (3 marks)
3. Some ethicists advocate that an act can be judged as moral or immoral depending on the “consequences” of that act. Discuss ONE weakness of such an approach to moral judgement. (4 marks)
4. Hong Kong is a pluralistic society and people from different backgrounds may have different moral judgements on the same matter. Give ONE example from real life to illustrate such phenomenon and suggest one way to help maintain harmony in a pluralistic society. (Do not cite examples used in this paper) (4 marks)

**Part B Personal and Social Problems****Answer 2 out of 4 questions**

5. In 2007, the Hong Kong Chinese University Student Press published a ‘sex column’ which caught the public’s attention. The column involved a questionnaire which asked questions about promiscuity and human-animal sex. Interviewees were even asked if they had ever dreamt of having sex with their parents. Some readers felt uncomfortable and lodged complaints.
  - I. Some people think that people should have freedom of speech and conducting a questionnaire survey is a normal academic activity and hence should be upheld. The editor of the Student Press made no fault and outsiders should not hinder the publication of the above information.
  - II. Nevertheless, some other people think that freedom of speech and academic freedom do not mean the freedom to offend others. The editor of the Student Press made the wrong decision in publishing the above information.Discuss the two different viewpoints above from the perspective of media ethics. State your position and argument(s). (20 marks)
6. Some people criticize the welfare system in Hong Kong because they think it makes people lazy. They think that the comprehensive social security assistance (CSSA) scheme encourages unemployed people not to work even though they have the ability to do so. This is unfair to the hard-working taxpayers. Discuss the above viewpoint from the perspective of ethics and state your position and argument(s). (20 marks)

7. A recent survey found that university students in Hong Kong had diverse opinions on whether pre-marital sex was acceptable.
- Do you accept university students having pre-marital sex? State your position and argument(s) from the perspective of ethics. (20 marks)
8. Stephen Hawking, a famous physicist, said, “while there’s life, there’s hope” during his visit to Hong Kong in order to encourage physically disabled people to live bravely. Discuss whether the above saying can be used as a ground against euthanasia. State your position and argument(s). (20 marks)

**END OF PAPER**