



評判語錄
馮應謙：Good to have a logical flow of reason, and then provide a solution.

談網絡媒體和科技發達促進青少年參與反修例運動

新聞評述比賽
冠軍 張心賢

高中組 | 中文

反修例運動已持續將近四個月的時間，運動中青少年的政治參與最為顯著，尤其在這個政治氛圍下，讓青少年從運動中得以提升對香港的歸屬感、身分認同感，甚或願意走上街頭抗爭，在沒有所謂「大台」的組織，沒有如反國教運動學民思潮的領袖，青少年的政治參與與——體現出網絡媒體如何促進其政治參與。除了「民陣」發起主要大型集會遊行外，大部分示威者均在無組織帶領和呼籲下，發起形形色色的抗議活動，例如眾籌幾百萬港元在國際媒體購買頭版廣告、到多國領事館請願、包圍警察總部、圍堵稅務局大樓、或是在地鐵發起不合作運動等等，一一體現出網絡媒體的號召力。

青少年政治參與的例子

第二，反修例運動的逆行數字亦創近年新高，當中以青少年為主。透過多間網絡媒體於社交平台和網上發布消息，第一次由民陣發起的「反送中」大遊行，有103萬人，而第二次的「連儂鎮壓；撤回惡法大遊行」則有近200萬人。這些數字均為香港前所未見的政治參與數字。尤其在科技更為發達後，消息流動性提升，青少年很容易接觸到相關資訊，加上政治氛圍下，更促使青少年走上街頭成為抗爭者，並分別命名為「勇武派」和「和理非」，又進行文宣和教育工作，貼上圖片、口號於各區的「連儂牆」，和平表達意見。由於網絡媒體擁有獨立的政治立場，與其他機構或政府掛勾，反而使青少年更認同網媒的分析和報導，同時使青少年更能了解與其立場有關的新聞，從而促進青少年政治參與有所提升。

第一，經過網絡媒體、社交媒体軟件如Instagram、Facebook和通訊軟件Telegram的號召，本年的選民登記數字大幅上升。根據政府網頁顯示，本年度登記做選民的人數有4,132,977人次，較上年高出近8.4%，接近30萬人次，為近十年來最高的選民登記數字。可見，網媒的急速發展促成青少年的政治參與。

再者，網媒風格亦吸引青少年網民，就如100毛、立場新聞、香港01等，各自有其轉型及特色，吸引青少年關注和閱讀，而不少網媒均有探討政治事件、社會議題，讓青少年對於政治事件有更快的回應，網媒透過討論區、Instagram、Facebook、高登連登討論區，以及通訊軟件Telegram都能即時快速地讓其他人知道現場發生的事情，網媒體又較傳統媒體容易接觸和即時，因而令青少年無時無刻都容易關注反修

例運動的新聞和現場即時消息，使青少年容易透過網絡媒體和通訊軟件即速號召一大群人響應，這些均成為了重要的文宣和教育工作的平台。

其次，網媒立場亦是主要因素。本地網媒大部分以自資為主，資金多在網上籌組而得，不同於傳統媒體受廣告商資金限制其報導取態，不需跟隨主流的新聞風向，能夠堅持網媒的獨有政治立場，予讀者討論空間。《獨立媒體》創辦人葉蘋麗表示，《獨》為社會運動轉慢份子背書，非大眾傳媒，因此內容不需過於取悅大眾。由於網絡媒體擁有自己的新聞作風，使青少年較忠於網媒立場。另外，網媒文化盛下，朋友認同和尋求獨立自主下，遷移默化影響青少年政治參與。

提升青少年資訊素養的方法

相反網媒會以誇張的標題或捏造新聞以博取網友眼球。為免青少年受假新聞影響批判思考，青少年應接觸不同媒體以了解事情始末，避免因接觸單一主流媒體或網媒，令青少年避免了向單一媒體希望讀者的閱讀方向去了解政治和社会大事。在這個標準下，青少年能夠循不同角度了解一件事或新聞，避免掉入內容農場和假新聞的陷阱。

然而媒體所報導的新聞和通訊軟件所流通的資訊並非完全正確，青少年可能會因而受到假新聞誤導。因此，資訊素養則是青少年在接受資訊時所需要關注的地方。

首先，青少年應避免關注單一媒體。一般而言，傳統媒體報導舉守較嚴謹，運用事實查證，並發掘不少候選人的

余文晃 香港培英中學

評判語錄
陳智傑：論述清晰，羅列反論據，能駁駁這個觀點，亦不失中肯平和。

評論《港大民調： 「香港人」身份認同感1997年以來新高》



高中組 | 中文

港大民調顯示，市民在身分認同方面，「香港人」身分認同感錄得1997年有紀錄以來新高，「中國人」身分認同感，則錄得1997年以來新低，而只有不到四成的人認同自己是「香港人」或「中國的香港人」；反映港人對中國人的身份認同感愈趨薄弱，當中尤彰於年輕人身上。回歸至今，港人身份認同感跌宕起伏，從九七年回歸之初的質變，到零八年北京奧運舉世矚目的成功而有所上升，後因毒奶粉事件、八三一框架等社會爭議致使其認同感急轉直下，爾後「港獨」慢慢浮現，更讓情況變得拮据，這種情況緊緊牽扯著香港前途的指南，及至中華民族未來的前景。

西方普世價值觀，引領著現代港人的潮流，此正是傳統文化在香港人心中開始消彌，以致成為別人口中「無根」的一代。

反觀內地社會價值觀及政治風氣卻大不同，像打壓維權人士和建新疆集中營

是社會進步的先行者，就應作領頭人，實不該將同胞罵個狗血噴頭，然後枉死活，如此缺乏同理心，使人不樂。

再者，在省察之餘，年輕人也應自謀正道，在香港的普及教育下，應當抱持知識分子的觀念去看待自己的民族，就是對國家和民族有責任心與使命感，若不滿現況，就致力去實行改革，當改革不成，才趨於更激烈的革命，以挽救民族利益，這種不因禍福趨避之的精神，年青人應加以學習，而非擁一隅之地，懶理國事盈臺，獨把天下聚焦香港。

有見及此，香港年青人或可啟鑑百年前的五四運動，昔日的學生們追求民族身份的責任感，節奏長短以補中國之短，其抗爭的改革理念跟港人現在可謂相似；故此香港年輕人學習西方知識，去無存養，固然值得稱道，但也須多了解中國歷史，培養民族情感，以為民族願景奉獻力量。

等醜聞，都有悖於年輕人所言奉的普世價值，令其產生負面印象；而且，建國後的人權歷史，還有自回歸後，中央逐步蠶食香港制度文化，如二十三條立法和國民教育等，也導致中港矛盾愈演愈烈，影響兩地完全接軌；以上例子比比皆是，都是港人對自我身分失衡，自認是中國人，偏向港獨的主因。

巨筆者認為，所謂中國人身份，不必偏益於以共產黨專政的「中華人民共和國」人民，年輕人應自省自察，辨明愛國和愛黨，免於墮入黨國合一的陷阱；因為廣義上，中國是由共產黨建立的中華人民共和國，但狹義上，是指從西周起解作「中央之國」，用以世代各個政權延續的承傳，後者蘊含的是數千年的文化內涵，由此凡愛其文化者，也謂之愛國，這就是哈佛大學教授杜維明所謂「文化中國」，而非「政治中國」的概念。

對乎香港多數的年輕人，多不齒內地人文化素養低，明顯暗處中，端的是烏黑而罵，就不見有人效法迅寫「阿Q正傳」，又或是老舍著《貓城記》以批評國人，達至針砭時弊，教化國人的作用，想港人自許高風亮節，

不變，雙方除了經濟互惠穩定，又與割出去的土地何異。

時至今日，香港年輕人對身份定位模糊，對中港兩地只會百害無一利，試想香港終有一日，有一套完備的法治制度和高度社會發展，人人安居樂業，那麼五十年後面對兩地制度相融的衝擊，又該何去何從？還是借著鄧小平在面對基本法港方草委時所講的說話：「五十年之後沒有變的必要」，就盡力掙扎求存？基於對中國沒有歸屬感下，不對民族有關愛的情感，而力主為正，還是把中國當作自古已有的洪流猛獸，還般莫道五十年不變，即使是一百年

「如果不能根除堅持錯誤的成見，

不能稱心滿意地治好積久的弊端，您切不可因此地棄這個國家，正如您不能因為控制不在您，就在風暴中掉船一般。」





預設醫療指示——我的生命我作主

評論員
陳景祥：生與死的題目不容易討論，作者做了詳細的資料搜集，結論平實且令人深思。

陳杏雲 司徒中學（藍色屬主辦）

新聞評述比賽

高中組 | 中文

政府於本年9月6日起展開為期三個月有關預設醫療指示立法的諮詢。預設醫療指示是一種以書面形式作出的陳述。指示者在自己精神健全情況下，透過預設指示，指明自己一旦因陷於末期病患、長期昏迷或植物人狀態、或其它晚期不可逆轉的疾病而精神不健全的話，他希望或不希望接受醫療。例如指示者能夠預設當自己面對死亡時，不需要任何沒有意義的維持生命治療（如心肺復甦法）。

預設醫療指示好處多

去，但他們知道如果對病人使用維持生命的治療，病人會承受極大的痛苦，在兩難的情況下，預設醫療指示就能免除家屬在病人生死徘徊之際，因要作出大抉擇而受壓。第二，家屬的經濟壓力能夠得以減輕，使用維持生命治療後，病人通常需要靠儀器維持生命，直至死亡，家屬因此需要長時期支付醫療費用，形成龐大的經濟負擔。如果病人早年預設醫療指示列明不接受維持生命的治療，就能避免家屬承受不必要的壓力。

再者，從醫務人員的角度，預設醫療指示能方便醫務人員治療病人。一般來說，醫生如未取得到病人同意，是不能為病人施予治療或展開醫療程序的。在病人精神危殆，假如有兩位家屬對於病人的治療有分歧，醫務人員就會難以決定究竟聽從哪一方的決定，這樣會降低醫務人員的工作效率，甚至有可能因此有能力表達自己的意願時，醫務人員仍能夠通過預設醫療指示，根據病人的意願，為病人作出做解心的援助。

其次，從病人家屬的角度，預設醫療指示能夠減輕病人家屬的壓力。第一，家屬的心理壓力能夠得以減輕。作為家屬，當然希望病人能夠繼續生存下

段將之移除。此舉大大提高醫務人員的工作效率，並能避免許多醫療紛爭的發生。

立法未能順遂

香港法律改革委員會在2006年曾作出預設醫療指示的相關建議，政府亦於2009年就此諮詢公眾。不過，鑑於這問題的社會認知度低，有些市民甚至將其視為忌諱，政府最終仍未適宜為由取消立法。事隔十年，至今預設醫療指示議題依然沒有受到社會關注。在此大部分市民了解不足，即使政府諮詢，亦難以收集市民真正的意見。

而且，若然將預設醫療指示立法，急救人員就需要在施行急救前確認病人有否訂立預設醫療指示，如有，急救人員更需要時間仔細辨別清楚哪些措施可以

應用，哪些不可以。令急救人員的工作變得繁瑣，病人有可能因此而錯過急救的黃金時間。這是由於公眾對醫護反應冷淡，未全盤真切的試行，故未能以試行階段的經驗作出改良修正。結果本來

是為病人著想而設的法例，反而導致病人不能及時受到治療，簡直是本末倒置。

創造條件，優化計劃

而針對急救人員無法及時確認病人有否訂立預設醫療指示的問題，政府可信賴美國：美國不少州份為此引入電子系統，方便急救人員查閱醫嘱表格。香港政府可以製作有關的應用程式，紀錄病人的預設醫療指示，讓急救人員能夠在短時間內通過手機應用程序確認病人所訂立的預設醫療指示，及時施以合適的急救措施。香港作為科技城市，理應容易推行。

為了加深市民對這個議題的認識，讓諮詢更能反映市民的意見，政府應該大力宣傳有關預設醫療指示的資訊，而非單向地在網上供詳情。預設醫療指示的重點對象是長者，而很多長者仍然不懂得上網，所以政府應該利用電視和電台廣告為此宣傳，或以長者的家屬為宣傳目標，鼓勵市民積極表達意見。並非所有人都認為延續生命就是好事，對某些人而言，依靠機器生存下去是一種折磨，令他們無比痛苦。我永遠記得數月前看過的一篇報道，

總結

而那位因不想患病妻子苦痛地生存下去，忍痛結束她的生命，然後報警自首的美國萬伯伯說：「受過折磨的人，才會明白。我明白蠅蠅尚且偷生，但一病起來真的無法選擇。」真正為病人著想，並不一定要強迫他們活下去，而是應該尊重他們的意願，因為每個人的生命都應由自己作主。

我永遠記得數月前看過的一篇報道，



評判語錄
渴謙：A good issue to argue with. Good to quote with. Good to do much on recycling
suggest that HK doesn't do much on recycling

中美貿易戰下，香港回收之路何去何從呢？

曾凱琳 粉嶺救恩書院

比賽

優異

高中組 | 中文

要思考「環保回收」行業，不能只以「經濟價值」，更要賦予「社會價值」。若單純以經濟價值為考慮，回收行業的經濟價值十分低，回收從業員普遍給人的印象就是長者、蒼老、伍寧歷、低技術人士，都是低產值的勞動人士。而「廢紙」、「廢膠」、「廢金屬」都是低價值的東西，而經初步回收處理後的製成品亦未會為社會帶來高增值。在經濟掛帥的香港，回收行業的價值被誤認為沒有太大的重要性，自然被排除在大眾討論發展的目光外。

(一) 社會價值與經濟價值

物質生活享受，往往有太多資源的浪費。回收行業有助資源的重用（紙、膠、金屬）、減少我們要棄置這些資料，而帶來地球的污染（如不斷擴建堆填區的問題）。當中的社會意義及價值往往未能從政府政策中被提及。回收行業在社會寸步難行，正正因為長期只以經濟原則來量度其重要性，而被無視其社會價值。

(二) 本地系統與依賴外地

雖然，本土的回收業困難重重，然而令人驚訝的是香港是全球回收物料的最大轉口港。以往，本地回收業雖被人忽略，但因可從事轉口貿易，仍有一線的空間，將本地的回收物料轉往內地進行加工，仍有利可圖。但近期所發生的中美貿易戰卻無意中影響了整體運作過程。在中美貿易戰下，中國與美國仍受消費需求的影響，個人主義所影響，講求個人的

性，就不應單以金錢來量度，就如：政府對教育的投入。當全球都高舉「可持续發展」，討論如何令經濟發展配合長遠社會需要。當香港仍受消費主義、個人主義所影響，講求個人的需求，將本地的回收物料轉往內地進行加工，仍有利可圖。但近期所發生的中美貿易戰卻無意中影響了整體運作過程。在中美貿易戰下，中國與美國仍受消費需求的影響，個人主義所影響，講求個人的

伴隨而來，亦有大量的環境問題。一直以來，中國對工業發展來者不拒，包括在回收業中，處理洋垃圾亦有不少的經濟收入。但近年政府開拓出深思維的轉變，中國選擇升級其產業，向服務業及旅遊業兩大方向發展，希望提升國家的收入。為中國可持續發展為重點，拒絕為短暫的經濟利益，犧牲環境。

2019是香港回收業充滿困難的一年。香港更出現滿街的廢紙沒有人回收，出現廢紙圍城。雖然，政府最終推出以現金補貼前線回收商，但不少回收商已推不過寒冬，香港回收業命懸一線。香港政府對回收行業的政策，早在1998年開始推廣垃圾分类，可惜的是，堆填區的棄置量及真正的回收量亦沒有太大的變化。社會上更時有聽聞外判回收商把仍有價值的回收物料棄置。政府雖有政策提倡，然而回收從業員、回收商、以至整個回收系統體系在過去二十多年原地踏步，未有重大改善。在此，社會必須小心翼翼思考當中令回收業走上困境的原因。

中國的製造業大受影響。而中國部分的生產原材料是依賴各國的回收發料，當中國的生產量下跌代表著中國對各國的回收廢料需求也下跌。在香港紙快過於求的情況下，出現了年頭香港廢紙的回收價大跌。從中美貿易戰中最大的發現是本地回收行業發展欠完整。以往只着重「收」後「轉」在內地，本地缺少了真正處理、加工、為回收物料增值的工序。因此，當轉往內地的途徑不通時，回收物料完全沒有價值，本地回收行業往往過份依賴外地，欠完整本地回收的工序。

(三) 內地思維的轉變與本地思維一成不變

近年內地政府對環境的着墨愈來愈重視。在改革開放後，工業急速發展為中國帶來巨大的經濟成果，然而

政府領導，全民支持

隨香港的經濟成本相當高，但其社會價值亦應被肯定。回收業的成本包括場地租金、人力成本、機器成本、更會是運輸成本非常高。要全社會共同努力，參考歐美較早前已實行生產者責任制。市民支付部份回收垃圾的開支，大大減低了回收垃圾的成本。盡快進行垃圾徵費，有助為回收業帶來穩定的資助，更有助市民建立回收的意識。垃圾徵費從經濟誘因的角度，有助增加市民回收率，亦會減低其固體廢物量，真正可以源頭減廢。

反觀香港一直沒有思維上的轉變，面對香港塑膠廢料的回收率退嚴重，由七年前即2012年的28%回收率，大幅下滑至2015年的11%，到2018年才稍回升至13%。現時，每天棄置堆填區的塑膠廢料，數量達2,132公噸。面對種種的問題，政府卻有長遠的規劃方向和具體的行動，只是繼續一如既往。

要扭轉局勢，帶領回收業走出困境，必須由政府帶領。

港回收業的發展。政府亦應為回收業提供一定金融的資助，從而減低回收業的成本，更有助增加回收業商家的數量。助推動回收業的發展。

解決了基建問題，其次，要全民支持，可參考歐美較早前已實行生產者責任制。市民支付部份回收垃圾的開支，大大減低了回收垃圾的成本。盡快進行垃圾徵費，有助為回收業帶來穩定的資助，更有助市民建立回收的意識。垃圾徵費從經濟誘因的角度，有助增加市民回收率，亦會減低其固體廢物量，真正可以源頭減廢。

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大陸國家統計局數據顯示，2018年中國大陸65歲以上老年人佔比達11.9%，總數達1.66億。持儕的老齡化為中國「銀髮經濟」的崛起打下堅實基礎，「銀髮一族」也成為中國大陸數字經濟發展的「新勢力」。

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遙想當年，在移動互聯網初步起步的時候，「不會玩」、「學不會」是許多中老年人面對電子產品和智能手機時的態度。可是如今，無數的大爺大媽開始在「抖音」、「快手」上活躍，拍攝短視頻；在「拼多多」的「多多果園」上種植澆水，賺取購物優惠；在「趣頭條」、「惠頭條」上閱讀賺錢。可以

說，眼下的銀髮經濟浪潮與智能手機的普及，移動互聯網影響至中老年人這些毛細血管的終端用戶有著很大的關係。在消費趨勢上，蘇寧金融研究院8月發布的「銀髮人群消費趨勢報告」顯示，老年人的消費觀念已不同以往，且正在發生四方面變化：一是追求產品品質，享受型消費成為潮流；二是更加注重體驗與店內服務；三是網上購物和移動支付不再是年輕人的專屬；四是智能化、數字化產品備受青睞。老年人也開始追趕着潮流的脚步。而且近年來，中年人收入持續上漲，30至50歲高淨人群佔比穩中有升，為「銀髮經濟」注入動力，中國銀發經濟有較大前景。

總括而言，社交媒體的興盛與移動支付的便利，在潛移默化中影響著老年群體的消費思維模式。同時，收入提升與政策加碼，為中國「銀髮經濟」的發展提供五大利好，「銀髮經濟」有望成為未來大陸經濟增長的重要因素。

《禁蒙面法》規定：「任何人不得在身處非法集結、未經批准集結等時，使用相當可能阻止識辨身分的蒙面物品。」另外，「《禁蒙面法》亦賦予警員可以在公眾地方要求市民除下口罩確認身份的權力，若被截查市民拒絕，警員甚至可以除下被截查人的蒙面工具。」（資料來源：香港01）行政長官林鄭月娥表示，由於社會運動越趨激烈，實行《禁蒙面法》可以壓制違法行為，有助警隊執法。但是，我認為政府這樣的做法只會帶來反效果，並不是一個明智之舉。



論《禁止蒙面條例》

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鑑於最近政府修訂《逃犯條例》在社會引起的示威活動，香港行政長官林鄭月娥於十月初宣佈，引用《緊急情況規例條例》的授權，制定《禁止蒙面規例》（又稱「禁蒙面法」），並於十月初五凌晨零時生效。

總括來說，修訂《反蒙面法》對反修例風波是不治標不治本的做法。要解決以上問題，政府可以透過與市民、示威者和平地對話，以及制定一個網上平台，讓市民發表自己的見解，選出一個市民普遍認同的方法，盡快解決損害社會的社會問題，讓香港重回正軌。

帶。政府對擾亂公共秩序和沒有正當理由遮掩臉孔的定義不明。最近是流感高峰期，市民可能會因防流感而佩戴口罩。另外，市民可能會因應自己的需求，如遮羞面，這些理由又是否可信？政府並沒有就此作出很詳細的定義，令警員可能在執行上會有阻滯。

第三，政府引用緊急法立法，開了壞的先例。自從1997年香港回歸，一直奉行三權分立，但是緊急法卻繞過立法會來立法，整個過程不用數小時。這樣做可能會違反《基本法》第66條「立法會是香港的立法機關」。雖然加拿大、美國不少州份也有相關法例，但與香港不同，他們透過立法機關立法，並不是引用緊急法推行，令條例成效可疑。

有人言，實行《禁蒙面法》能為示威者帶來阻嚇作用，有助警察執法。但是，有很多前線示威者也表示，自己已經預料會被拘捕，但也希望可以表達訴求。可見實行《禁蒙面法》對示威者的阻嚇性不大。



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周愷嵐 嘉諾撒聖瑪利書院

新聞評述比賽

評語錄

陳智傑：評論稿及正反意見，並未如輿論般一面倒扼殺自娛區的
存在價值，並提出修例及執法建議，讓各持份者合理地
共享公共空間。

論取消屯門公園自娛區



屯門公園多年來被批評長期受到噪音滋擾，有部分表演者作出不雅行為。在今年七月，有網民發起「光復屯門公園」行動，促請政府處理問題。隨後區議會通過取消屯門公園自娛區，此事引起廣大市民的關注。究竟取消屯門公園自娛區是否能完全解決問題呢？

但是，我認為取消屯門公園自娛區的聲浪多年來令附近居民怨聲載道，而且近年有部分表演者在表演時作出不雅行為，但政府部門一直沒有妥善執法，間接容讓表演者作出傷風敗德的行為，令公園問題變得日益嚴重，加上部分表演者的不雅行為和涉及金錢打賞的活動，最終令區議會在今年七月取消了存在13年的自娛區。

首先，我認同屯門公園自娛區有其存在的需要。沒有自娛區，表演者便會失去練習及表演的平台，住在附近居民和長者亦失去一個消磨時間的好去處。由於長者沒有太多金錢消費，亦屬於身體狀況，大多不會長途跋涉到他區消遣。而自娛區的成本較低，住在附近的居民和長者也能在休閒時欣賞表演者唱歌跳舞，在他們而言是一項極為方便和吸引的娛樂。因此，取消屯門公園自娛區會令大部分居民和長者失去一個消遣娛樂的地方。

但是，我認為暫時取消屯門公園自娛區。由於自娛區的聲浪多年來令附近居民怨聲載道，而且近年有部分表演者在表演時作出不雅行為，但政府部門一直沒有妥善執法，間接容讓表演者作出傷風敗德的行為，令公園問題變得日益嚴重，加上部分表演者的不雅行為和涉及金錢打賞的活動，最終令區議會在今年七月取消了存在13年的自娛區。

根據明報報導特首林鄭月娥於6日宣布引用《緊急情況規例》（緊急法）訂立《禁止蒙面規例》（禁蒙面法），即晚引起多個示威抗議，並延續至昨晚未止，網上有人呼籲今日百萬計人上街遊行反惡法。林大師聯同眾司局長發表電郵講話，形容「暴徒的極端行為令香港度過了非常黑暗的一夜」，清楚說明香港的公共安全已受到廣泛危害，正是訂立禁蒙面法的「堅實依據」。

總括而言，我認為屯門公園自娛區在修例後可重新開放，讓表演者和市民繼續享用。為了不讓自娛區故態復萌，政府可加強規管各項表演，包括要求表演者必須簽署同意書承諾遵守表演規定，一旦出現違規情況將來的申請一概不獲批准；表演回響亦必有就表演者的揚聲器音量及涉及金錢打賞的問題加強檢控，在必要時可要求警方採取聯合執法行動。如此一來，表演者的行為會受到恰當的規管，相信此舉會減低對附近居民的影響。同時亦可平衡其他公園使用者的需要。長遠而言，政府必須重新建立良好的文化風氣，注入正經和自娛區多元的公園空間，才可確保自娛區的運作不會變質。

在我看來，禁蒙面法不只能起到阻嚇性，更會加劇暴力行為。正如報章顯示引起多宗抗議，和根據網民所早連登號召（6日）舉行全民戴口罩的反香港《公眾條例》相關規定。被拘捕或判理非大過行，冀入數達300萬，打破6月16日遊行紀錄（民陣稱有200萬），能遵守蒙面法嗎？明顯地蒙面法是不能夠

羅淳澤 過密主恩中學

新聞評述比賽

評語錄

陳智傑：資料充份、題材熱門、惟論點與坊間輿論融合，並未見新意。

評論《禁蒙面法今生效 合法示威禁除有下文》



根據明報報導特首林鄭月娥於6日宣言引用《緊急情況規例》（緊急法）訂立《禁止蒙面規例》（禁蒙面法），即不滿會令人們加以利用暴力行為泄憤，甚至引起參與暴力行為。

根據民間記者會於6日晚回應反蒙面法傳言，表示「緊急法一立，就是end-game（終局之戰）時候」，認為是意味政權在製造緊張狀態，法制體系也會隨之作廢。」香港是法治社會，當法制體系紊亂，人心惶惶，只會帶來社會的不安寧。而其中帶來的緊張狀態更會帶來是0。民與警方的關係僵化，出現的不信任會引起市民對警方信任度下降，警方的信譽能否正確地執法進行質疑，甚至因而導致衝突，不能認出自己的外貌而進行暴力行為，引致蒙面法執行的效果。現時不斷有人以非法集會、暴動等罪名進行拘捕，但仍然一直有更多人違反和不能起到約束性逃避刑責。

在我看來，禁蒙面法不能起到阻嚇性，更會加劇暴力行為。正如報章顯示引起多宗抗議，和根據網民所早連登號召（6日）舉行全民戴口罩的反香港《公眾條例》相關規定。被拘捕或判理非大過行，冀入數達300萬，打破6月16日遊行紀錄（民陣稱有200萬），能遵守蒙面法嗎？明顯地蒙面法是不能夠

季軍

新闻評述比賽

評語錄

陳智傑：評論稿及正反意見，並未如輿論般一面倒扼殺自娛區的
存在價值，並提出修例及執法建議，讓各持份者合理地
共享公共空間。

論取消屯門公園自娛區



首先，我認同屯門公園自娛區有其存在的需要。沒有自娛區，表演者便會失去練習及表演的平台，住在附近居民和長者亦失去一個消磨時間的好去處。由於長者沒有太多金錢消費，亦屬於身體狀況，大多不會長途跋涉到他區消遣。而自娛區的成本較低，住在附近的居民和長者也能在休閒時欣賞表演者唱歌跳舞，在他們而言是一項極為方便和吸引的娛樂。因此，取消屯門公園自娛區會令大部分居民和長者失去一個消遣娛樂的地方。

但是，我認為暫時取消屯門公園自娛區。由於自娛區的聲浪多年來令附近居民怨聲載道，而且近年有部分表演者在表演時作出不雅行為，但政府部門一直沒有妥善執法，間接容讓表演者作出傷風敗德的行為，令公園問題變得日益嚴重，加上部分表演者的不雅行為和涉及金錢打賞的活動，最終令區議會在今年七月取消了存在13年的自娛區。

在我看來，禁蒙面法不只能起到阻嚇性，更會加劇暴力行為。正如報章顯示引起多宗抗議，和根據網民所早連登號召（6日）舉行全民戴口罩的反香港《公眾條例》相關規定。被拘捕或判理非大過行，冀入數達300萬，打破6月16日遊行紀錄（民陣稱有200萬），能遵守蒙面法嗎？明顯地蒙面法是不能夠

Law Chor Yin Chloe

Heep Yunn School

Judge's Comment
Professor TSO Hung, Scarlet:
Good to choose a global issue as the topic. Clear presentation of a complicated issue with supporting evidence.

Giving Our People a Chance to Breathe: The Global Crisis of Human Trafficking



Imagine a child, soft as a flower, sitting in the palm of your hand. Now take the child and fling him into a world of harsh words, endless labour, emotional and physical abuse. 'Who would ever do that?' We often wonder out loud. But in reality, human trafficking is often overlooked, even ignored. But what exactly is human trafficking, and how is it suffocating people from all over the globe?

Human trafficking is the action or practice of illegally transporting people from one country or area to another, typically for the purpose of forced labour or sexual exploitation. According to the International Criminal Police Organization, human trafficking is classified as an international, organized crime that contributes to the problem of modern slavery. In 2009, 26 countries set up organizations to track and monitor the issue of human trafficking. However, in 2018, only 65 countries have similar mechanisms in place. This implies that only 40 more countries have implemented suitable measures against human trafficking over the course of a decade.

If human trafficking really is as horrifying and degrading as the media paints it, why are governments in areas where human trafficking runs unchecked not taking measures to alleviate the problem? To better inspect the issue, we have to go into the identity of the victims and why they are vulnerable to human

trafficking. Out of 26,750 victims from 110 countries, studies have shown that women are the main targets of traffickers, with over 70% of human trafficking victims being female. As of 2016, data shows that 49% of trafficking victims are adult women, half of all victims. These women are often sexually exploited, with 83% of adult women and 72% underaged girls affected. This phenomenon is particularly serious in Europe and the US, East Asia and areas of the Pacific. As for the male victims, 82% of adults and 50% of the children are exploited for labour, mostly in African countries south of the Sahara and central-south Asia. This is illustrated in the case of 'Seafood from Slaves': where American Press journalists uncovered

that in Indonesia, where seafood is mass imported to countries like the US, Burmese and Thai fishermen had been trafficked there and forced to perform labour. Over 2,000 slaves were freed as a result of the investigation and was one of the most significant cases highlighting the problem of human trafficking.

Now that the victims have been selected, where would they be sold to? As a matter of fact, 58% of all trafficking victims are rescued in their own countries, taking up the vast majority. On the other hand, the rest of the 42% will end up in other countries, however still within their original region or sub-region. This highlights a few questions: while remaining within their own region or sub-region, how do authorities

uneseducated village girls, promising to find them jobs in big cities when in reality they're reselling the girls into prostitution. To make matters worse, Nepalese do not have to show identification documents upon entry to India, and thus leaving no record of the victims leaving the country. This shows that loose law enforcement along with structural flaws in LDCs' customs system only adds fuel to the fire of human trafficking.

Human trafficking can also be attributed to citizens in LDCs facing unstable living conditions. In recent years, climate change, armed conflicts, natural disasters and other factors have caused people from different areas to flee their homes. As a result, people who have lost their homes, refugees in essence, will become more vulnerable to human trafficking as they are desperate for money and stability. In regions where the rule of law is nearly imperceptible, the human trafficking problem will only escalate. For example, in Myanmar, the Rohingya crisis have seen tens of thousands of Rohingya Muslims flee the country to neighbouring Bangladesh and Indonesia. According to the report by Human Rights Watch in 2019, a number of Rohingya women living on the Myanmar-Chinese border have been sold to Chinese families as 'brides'. In conclusion, under times of conflict in LDCs, the human trafficking issue only intensifies. Apart from refugees, unstable social conditions may also cause the trafficking issue to rise. According to the Korea Future Initiative, hundreds of thousands of female North Korean defectors are forced to perform sexual labour in China, many taken to Chinese brothels or pornographic websites. To make matters worse, since increased border security means that less people try to escape, traffickers turn to selling the women to earn larger profits. At the same time, since defectors are eager

to leave North Korea they are willing to take the risk of being exploited. This shows that unstable living conditions further aggravate the problem of human trafficking.

Fortunately, we are already making progress- on and international level, the United Nations(UN) is an association imperative in fighting human trafficking. The United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons was adopted by the General Assembly on 30 July to urge governments worldwide to take coordinated and consistent measures to combat human trafficking. In 2000, the UN also passed the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, where they collected 117 signatories. Many countries now have laws set up to combat human trafficking.

Furthermore, it is imperative to implement measures to protect victims after they are freed. According to the 2019 Trafficking in Persons report made by the US, the following criteria must be met in order to provide rehabilitation to victims and allow them to reintegrate into society: a secure, affordable living environment, vocational training, life skills training and therapy as part of social services. This would reduce the stress brought upon trafficking victims and prevent the stigmatization of victims. Governments should take up the responsibility of providing these services, putting in money to fund these projects and help trafficking victims return to normal life as quickly as possible. In my opinion, both MDCs and LDC governments should have these schemes implemented in place, with MDCs, being more well-off

than LDCs, investing in such infrastructure to fulfill their moral obligation to help lesser countries.

Finally, we should take steps to prevent the occurrence of crime. Governments should raise citizens' awareness to the prevalence of human trafficking through media like education and advertisements to prevent crime. For example, in Hong Kong, a guide to distinguishing potential trafficking victims was given to medical professionals and those who may have frequent contact with victims, so they would know what to do when they come across one. With precise and prompt identification, legal processes can be carried out more smoothly and all parties' moral and legal obligations are fulfilled.

As citizens, we also hold the social responsibility to offer help to those in need. Therefore, even though we do not hold the power to create concrete change, we can still play our part by pressuring our governments to take action. For instance, we can push for even stricter laws with broader definitions to them to bring traffickers to justice by means of protests and petitions. Outside of the government, we can donate to humanitarian organisations committed to the betterment of trafficking victims. In hopes that the money would be used to rehabilitate and allow trafficking victims to settle.

In a globalized world, it is inevitable that organized crimes happen on a global scale. However, we are holding the child in the palm of our hands right now. If you choose to take action against traffickers, the palm will open and the child will taste freedom. But if we do not, we are only crushing him in an excruciating death. Which one would you choose?



Chen Tszi Yiu

Judge's Comment
Professor TSO Hung, Scarlet:
Different views are presented systematically. Personal opinion is clearly presented with supporting figures.

Should the Education Bureau revamp the compulsory Liberal Studies as an elective subject in Hong Kong senior secondary schools' curriculum?

The issue of whether Liberal Studies should revamp from compulsion to elective in Hong Kong senior secondary schools' curriculum has come under the spotlight in pace with the escalating and unceasing protests in the society recently. Some educators advise making this subject elective and putting less focus on social and political issues to Hong Kong senior secondary students.

Regarding this issue, Kwan Chin-ki, the president of the Liberal Studies Teachers' Association in Hong Kong, is against to revamp the compulsory Liberal Studies as an elective subject. He stated that students generally like the subject and they find this subject particularly useful in cultivating human relationships, increasing problem-solving abilities and building a team spirit, which are the essential skills for people to be successful in any careers of their choices. An Education Bureau survey in 2014 found 82 per cent of Secondary Six graduates agreed liberal studies enhanced their ability to think from multidimensional perspectives, while 80 per cent said the subject increased their awareness of society. Moreover, this subject also strengthens students' understanding on the progress and development of

'schools' students. Chen supports the idea of revamp.

To take a broad view, I think that revamping the compulsory Liberal Studies as an elective subject in Hong Kong senior secondary schools' curriculum is neither beneficial nor feasible.

However, Chen Baosheng, China's education chief found it necessary to revamp the compulsory Liberal Studies as an elective subject. He claimed that the rise of pro-independence sentiment in Hong Kong was linked directly to its education system. Students may make biased political judgments on social controversies when they study Liberal Studies as the subject lacks specified topics and contents. The current liberal studies curriculum in secondary schools is to blame for politicizing young people, including encouraging them to participate recent violent clashes between the police and young protesters decrying the government's now-suspended extradition legislation. Besides, it is criticized that the teaching of liberal studies in Hong Kong package political propaganda

Secondly, Liberal Studies is a subject to motivate socio-political participation to broaden students' horizon and offers different views and perspectives for them to ponder over disputable topics, exactly fits in the compulsory senior secondary curriculum for students to be in touch with their society before they receive further education and enter the workforce.

Winning Articles of News Commentary Competition

Chen Tszi Yiu

Senior | English Section

1ST Runner-up

senior secondary students and at the same time it complements the insufficient of civil education in Hong Kong. Cheung Yu-fai, a secondary school's Liberal Studies teacher in Hong Kong, emphasized that the subject's goal is to make our young people responsible citizens with the ability to think from different perspectives. It would not be a compulsory subject if this goal is not important when it was implemented in 2009. Although the major conflict of Liberal Studies states that the extensive modules and broad content in the Liberal Studies curriculum is directly in connection with student's standpoint that the ideas such as 'Hong Kong's independence', dissatisfaction towards Hong Kong government may be raised, it is equivalently important for students to get deep cognition on all kinds of local and international issues. During the learning process, students have to recognize their identities as a Hong Kong citizen that they should not be politically-excluded even on sensitive issues. Liberal Studies, aiming to broaden students' horizon and offers different views and perspectives for them to ponder over disputable topics, exactly fits in the compulsory senior secondary curriculum for students to be in touch with their society before they receive further education and enter the workforce.

Therefore, the Education Bureau should not revamp the subject randomly. Last but not least, Liberal Studies cannot be replaced by any other subjects. In terms of syllabus, according to the guideline of the Education bureau, Liberal Studies include six modules : 'Personal Development and Interpersonal Relationships', 'Hong Kong Today', 'Modern China', 'Globalization', 'Public Health' and 'Energy Technology and the Environment'. These modules are not repeated with any curriculum of core subjects nor electives. While in terms of class calculation, the three-year compulsory Liberal Studies is more than 270 hours. If it is an elective subject, there is only 210 hours. This is absolutely an obstacle of effective teaching and learning performance. If Liberal Studies is revamped into an elective, then part of the students cannot study these modules which are actually fundamental in the learning process.

New senior secondary Liberal Studies has been running for 10 years, there may be inadequacies, but it also has its own unique features and benefits. At the moment, I don't think revamping the compulsory Liberal studies into an elective

CHAU IVY YEE YU

MUNSANG COLLEGE

Judge's Comment
Professor TSO Hung, Scarlet:
Clear & well-developed arguments with figures to support.

Overseas Doctors in Hong Kong



In 2019, Hong Kong's winter influenza season started early in the first week of January, peaking around mid to late January. With the influenza ending in early April, the total number of influenza cases for adults was 601, and 24 severe cases for children were reported in the same period. The public attention started to shift from public health concern to the long waiting time of public medical service and the problem of shortage of doctors. Since the social awareness kept rising and the discontent from the staffs of public hospital due to the manpower shortage were increasing, the government announced extra funding of HK\$500 million for public hospitals. The Hospital Authority have even made 6 videos with celebrities such as Tam Wing Lun and Yeung Chin-wah and organized a "snack day" at the Tuen Mun Hospital to cheer on medical professionals to 'ease the problem'.

Firstly, the incentive brought by this proposal is inadequate to attract overseas doctors to work in Hong Kong. Although overseas doctors can apply their work more easily after relaxing the rules of admission such as by exempting the licensing examination and internship, their concerns about whether to work or not in Hong Kong are not simply limited in this and there are still few reasons that they are not willing to work in Hong Kong. The main concern is the heavy workload of doctors in public hospital. The average weekly working hours of doctors in public hospital is 61 hours and some frontline doctors may even need to work over 65 hours a week. Doctors lack sleeping time and they are not able to achieve work-life balance. At the same time, doctors need to make the diagnosis for 30 to 40 patients in 3 hours while foreign doctors such as in Australia and US only have to diagnose 5 to 6 patients in 3 hours. Because of this stressful working environment, many local doctors choose to work in private hospital where they can have more flexible working hours and higher salaries instead of public hospital. In 2018 to 2019, the average wastage rate of doctors in public hospital is 6%, which is the highest among these years. The willingness of Hong Kong doctors to serve in public hospital is low, let alone overseas doctors. Besides, housing problem is another worry of overseas doctors. Without the support of the government, it is hard for them to find a good housing under the limited land supply and high housing price in Hong Kong. Therefore, why overseas doctors will tend to leave their countries that may have a more relaxing working environment just because of the less strict licensing examination and internship in Hong Kong? To attract them, I believe that the government need to introduce a more comprehensive measure combining other policies such as ensuring the working hours of doctors not to exceed a certain standard and providing a housing in a lower market price for overseas doctors.

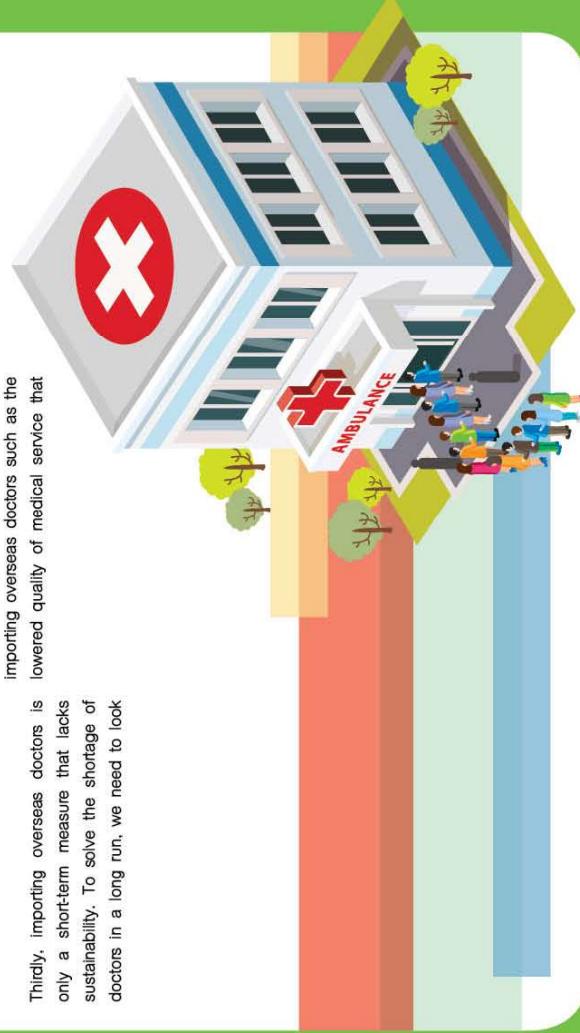
Secondly, the problem of imbalance between public and private healthcare sector cannot be solved, thus the efficiency of public medical service is still low. In Hong Kong, 50% of the specialists work in public hospital to serve 90% of the patients, while another half of specialists serve the remaining 10% of patients in private hospital. The manpower and resources allocation public-private healthcare sector are totally imbalanced, leading to the shortage of doctors in public hospital. This problem will not be alleviated by only importing overseas doctors, since the number of overseas doctors may be insignificant to change the current situation. It is also possible that they leave public hospital after the full registration. Why not the government focuses on the problem of imbalance between public and private healthcare sector instead of blindly increasing the number of doctors? Alternatively, the government can make more effort and resources to retain and recruit more healthcare staff including both doctors and nurses to meet the service demand.

Thirdly, importing overseas doctors is only a short-term measure that lacks sustainability. To solve the shortage of doctors in a long run, we need to look

deeply into the management problem of the Hospital Authority. The root cause of the shortage of doctors in public hospital is the poor management of the Hospital Authority, which can be easily reflected by the foolish responses to the discontent of healthcare staffs during the influenza season, high wastage rates of doctors in public hospital, and most importantly, the imbalance of public-private healthcare sector. In my opinion, allocating the resources and manpower properly in the public hospital should be done to relieve the pressure of doctors and is better to retain them to stay to work, and also a better cooperation with the private healthcare sector can be carried out to assign some patients to receive treatment in private hospital. Importing overseas doctors can only increase the number of doctors in Hong Kong slightly, but not effectively tackling the problem in a long run. I believe reforming the Hospital Authority and improving the medical system should be considered first.

There are still some concerns about importing overseas doctors such as the lowered quality of medical service that

may brought by exempting the licensing examination. In conclusion, I think simply importing overseas doctors is not enough to meet the manpower demand since it is only an urgent measure. I think more details should be discussed such as what is the standard to assess whether the overseas doctor should or should not take the licensing examination or internship if the government really implements this.



Winning Articles of News Commentary Competition

2nd Runner-up

CHAU IVY YEE YU

MUNSANG COLLEGE

Senior | English Section

Judge's Comment
Professor TSO Hung, Scarlet:
Clear & well-developed arguments with figures to support.

Overseas Doctors in Hong Kong

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To look at this issue, the shortage of doctors should be studied. In Hong Kong, there are about 14,290 doctors, and the number of doctors per 1,000 people is 1.9, while the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) put the acceptable global standard at 3.4 doctors for every 1,000 citizens. Currently, it takes seven years to train a

Dannie Zhu Yiddan

Heep Yunn School

Senior | English Section

Judge's Comment
Professor TSO Hung, Scarlet:
Topic well defined with supporting examples.

Facebook's devastating new stance on free expression and censorship



Facebook pledges to policy hate speech and misinformation, but apparently politicians are exempt from this rule. In a winding speech almost forty minutes long, Mark Zuckerberg, the founder and current CEO of Facebook, attempted to defend his company's newest policy regarding censorship by invoking the importance of free expression. The policy in question was announced by a month before the speech, that Facebook would no longer fact check or take down political ads (including paid ones) containing hate speech or fake content, adopting a hands-free stance towards regulating political content. Zuckerberg's justification was that ads and comments by politicians, even if they were proven to be fake, would add to public discourse and therefore would be in the public's best interest to be shown. The announcement was immediately met with much criticism and controversy, sparking heated debates around the world, with critics of the policy claiming that Zuckerberg's un-nuanced take on "free expression" would only lead to a corrosion of free speech and democracy.

Now Facebook's new policy allows politicians to do the same thing publicly and legally, without any sort of repercussions. US President Donald Trump himself immediately "put this policy to the test." by releasing an advertisement falsely accusing Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden of corruption with Ukraine. The ad has since then been viewed more than 5 million times, demonstrating the reach false news can have on Facebook. Under the new policy, politicians aren't held accountable for their claims they make on social media, the modern equivalent of a public broadcast, which it enables them to lie to the public without any sort of consequences. With Facebook's failure to fact check and remove such content, it's likely that more and more people will be misled into believing its legitimacy, increasing the incentive for politicians in general to make false claims in order to benefit themselves.

With over 2.41 billion active users on Facebook, the tech giant has long faced public scrutiny on the way it censors sensitive content. Following the infamous Russian disinformation campaign and the horrifying live-stream of the New

Zealand mass shooting, both conducted using Facebook, multiple parties have been pushing for better and more comprehensive censorship policies. Now, with lawmakers and governments breathing down their neck, it makes sense that Facebook is scrambling to come up with a decent policy to get legislators off their backs. However, a policy that publicly allows politicians to spread lies, misinformation and hatred with any sort of consequences is most definitely not the solution.

To start off with, such a policy would further facilitate the spread of fake or exaggerated news that often deviates from the truth, giving politicians a powerful tool for manipulating public perception. In recent years, more and more people have been receiving their daily dose of news from social media instead of traditional journalism. In a study conducted in 2016 by the Pew Research Center, 62% of Americans get their news from social media, the main source, unsurprisingly, being Facebook. With over 2.41 billion monthly active users around the world, Facebook's widespread userbase allows it to reach an astonishingly large amount of people. Couple that with an algorithm that according to digital strategist and founder of Higher Ground Labs inherently benefits hate and negativity and anger", in other words, emotionally charged

content, already creates an atmosphere that allows politicians to effectively spread misinformation among a wide chunk of the population. This was best seen during the 2016 US election, where Russian bots and trolls managed to spread pro-Donald Trump ads and content all over Facebook, much of which were exaggerated or fabricated.

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politicians to do the same thing publicly and legally, without any sort of repercussions. US President Donald Trump himself immediately "put this policy to the test." by releasing an advertisement falsely accusing Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden of corruption with Ukraine. The ad has since then been viewed more than 5 million times, demonstrating the reach false news can have on Facebook. Under the new policy, politicians aren't held accountable for their claims they make on social media, the modern equivalent of a public broadcast, which it enables them to lie to the public without any sort of consequences. With Facebook's failure to fact check and remove such content, it's likely that more and more people will be misled into believing its legitimacy, increasing the incentive for politicians in general to make false claims in order to benefit themselves.

This will ultimately lead to a prevalence of fake news on Facebook, spread

throughout the country by the influence and reach of politicians using social media. Without anyone to police the truth, politicians would be free to spin different and untrue narratives on the same subject, manipulating public perception and discourse to their will. They will no longer be required to provide legitimate evidence to support their claims, but could instead twist and distort the truth to fit into their own narrative. Without Facebook's safeguard mechanism of fact-checking theres claims, the public will be unable to effectively distinguish between what is true and what is not. Worse still, politicians can take advantage of the new policy to deliberately create disinformation campaigns, campaigns that aim to manipulate public opinion through exaggeration, half truths, or even straight up lies, which now have the potential to reach thousands of millions of users through Facebook.

What will this imply for the future of politics? Research and evidence shows that the prevalence of fake news may ultimately threaten democratic governments and even the concept of democracy itself. For example during elections, if the public is poorly-informed due to the dissemination of fake news, voters may make their decisions based on illegitimate sources, leading to a higher chance of mistakes being made at the polls. As a result, this may lead to corrupt or incompetent officials being elected, leading to an inefficient or in the worse case, a self-dealing government. Furthermore, being constantly lied to and deceived by politicians through social media may cause the public to lose faith in the government, or even the media. Claims made by politicians, even ones in the highest positions of government, would no longer be trusted, which calls into question the legitimacy of government institutions themselves. Without public support, it

would be harder for governments to enact policies efficiently, sending society into a downward spiral.

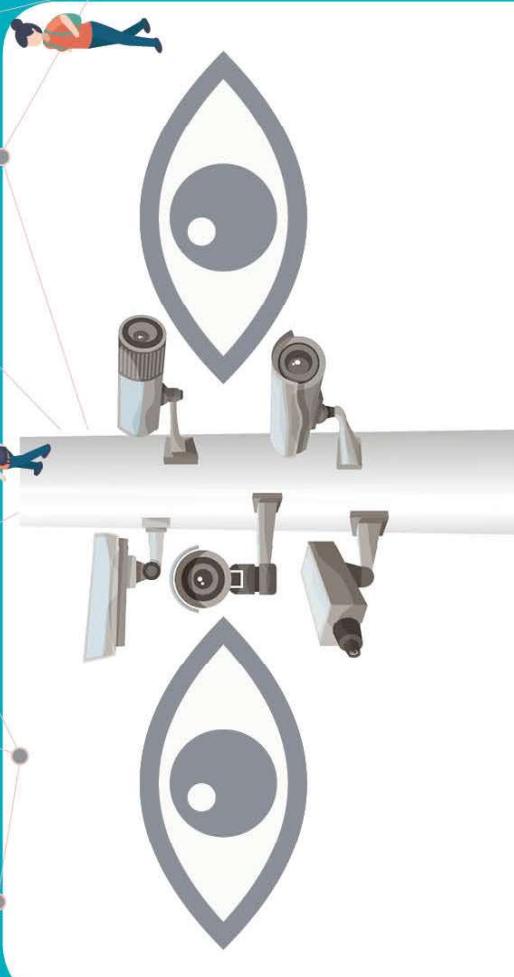
Even if the consequences weren't so catastrophic, the spread of disinformation and hate speech, now facilitated by Facebook's new policy could cause significant problems in society. Aside from false advertisements, politicians are now able to spread hate speech without consequences, enabling those with extreme stances to spread messages containing, for example, anti-muslim sentiments throughout the platform, amplifying feelings of resentment, hatred and irrational fear, all while evading accountability from voters. These kind of hate-based campaigns are already hard to manage seen from the 2016 criminal case involving a girl named Lisa, who alleged that she was raped by a gang of refugees in Germany, causing anti-immigration hysteria to flare up across the country. The story was later proven to be false, proved to be an attempt to spread anti-refugee sentiments by a suspicious Facebook group called Anonymous. Kollktiv. Now, politicians, having been given a green-light from Facebook, could go ahead and do the same thing, except this time the hatred they spread will reach a much larger audience and be much harder to disprove or put out. This could create a potentially harmful social climate leading to social division or even social polarization across a country.

Some might argue that Facebook's new policy would encourage more political discourse in which the public could hear and over debate what the politicians had to say. Yet in reality, the policy might do just the opposite, drowning out discussion and discourse instead of encouraging it. When politicians are given a free-reign to say whatever they want on social media, it discredits opposition voices as their

3rd
Runner-up

opinions may easily be drowned out by a new wave of disinformation. A similar example is found in 2011 in which social media research alleged that the Assad regime paid an unnamed firm to flood opposition discussions and hashtags with pictures of natural scenery and sports. Because it could not be bothered to censor untrue content, Facebook creates a situation in which statements have no basis to the truth, making it much harder for public discourse to reach meaningful debate and discussion due to multiple versions of the "truth".

Zuckerberg may stand for free expression and democracy, but the actions of his company never seem to suggest that Facebook's newest policy spells disaster for both politics and society, and will ultimately undermine the very ideals they claim to support.



Keziah Cho Shu Nga Heep Yunn School

Judge's Comment
Professor TSO Hung, Scarlet:
Topic well presented with thoughtful arguments and supporting evidence.

Big Brother and I: A World With Mass Surveillance

Winning Articles of News Commentary Competition

Senior | English Section

3rd
Runner-up

There are people who staunchly insist that anyone who requires privacy must be doing something they shouldn't be doing; these are the same people who keep their email accounts, bank accounts and diaries under lock and key using complex passwords. Privacy is not a method of escaping scot-free from wrongdoings, it is a fundamental human right. Despite being social animals, human beings need privacy, psychologically and emotionally, for the simple reason that it provides us with a space in which we can think, feel and act naturally without judgement or scrutiny from others. Too little physical space causes suffocation; the same goes for psychological space.

Another worrying issue regarding mass surveillance is whether or not it will lead to an abuse of power. Mass surveillance in Western countries is now reportedly being used to prevent crime, but there is no guarantee that such a system will not open a can of worms; should a leader wish to use the data gained for purposes other than preventing crime, such as consolidating one's power, he or she could easily do so, with the system readily at hand. In this way, mass surveillance could transform from a comparatively benign network of crime-preventing cameras into a system

that could infringe not just on people's right to privacy but also on their freedom of thought, speech and the press.

Mass surveillance has certainly proved effective in preventing crime. Advanced cameras can detect a passerby's height, facial features and age, and should a crime occur, investigators need only check the surveillance cameras and the culprit has little to no chance of escaping. This was made fully apparent last year, when a Chinese fugitive was successfully located at a Jacky Cheung concert with the help of surveillance cameras. This news, however, was met with more horror than relief in regions outside China. This is not because people would somehow want a fugitive to run wild. It is a good thing that mass surveillance deters crime, but this news has given us a clearer picture of the costs of safety: the constant lack of privacy. Big Brother protects you, but he also sees you wherever you go, be it to a concert or to rob a bank, until you feel as though you need to be protected from Big Brother, rather than by him.

Human Rights this year. The legal battle

is estimated that by 2020, China will have one camera installed for every two people.

The goal of this system, according to the Chinese government, is to catch and

costs outweigh the benefits of mass surveillance is something to think about for global leaders.

The ancient Roman Empire employed spies who would eavesdrop on conversations in public markets to detect signs of instability. The surveillance system of the Catholic Church in medieval times operated in a similar manner. In light of this, we may be moving backwards into a society before the emergence of modern human rights in the 17th century, but with better technology. While some regard legal actions against mass surveillance as a step forward in ensuring the protection of privacy rights, it would seem to human rights advocates more like a step forward taken by one who is already slipping gradually down a slope: it is not so much an advancement as an attempt to prevent regression. The fact that we as global citizens must fight to prevent a regression back into a past society with a dim concept of human rights—albeit a 'new and improved' one with cameras and artificial intelligence is worrying.

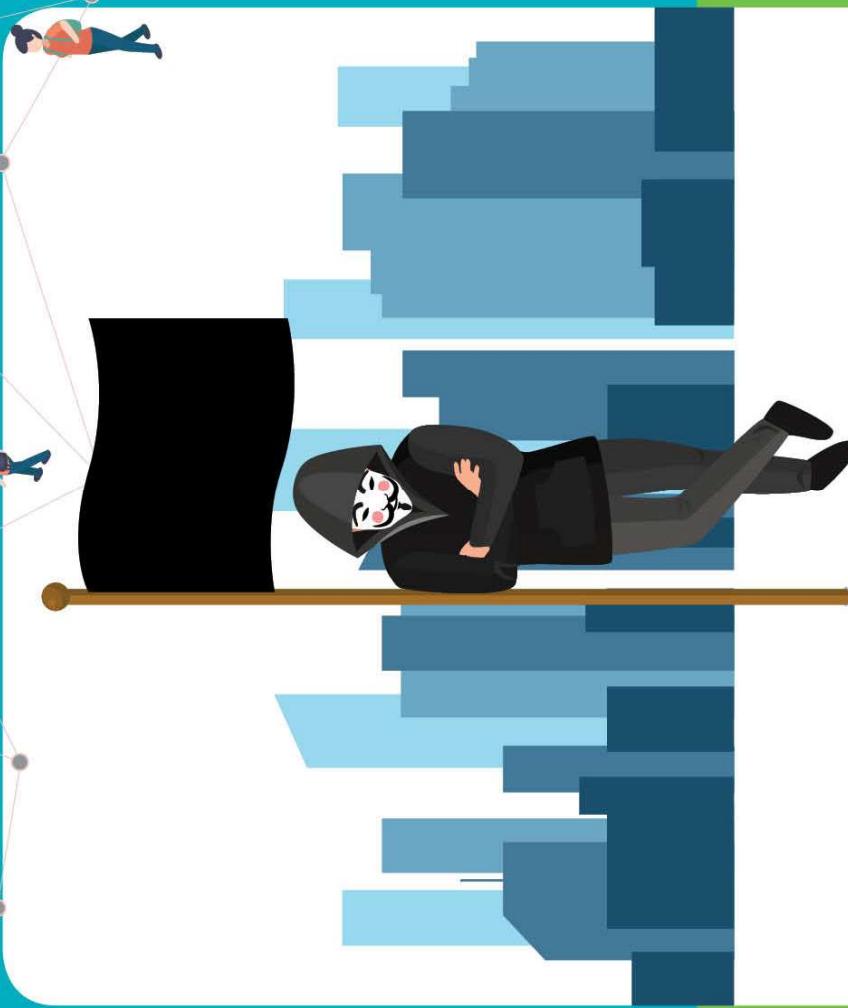
Yes, mass surveillance prevents crime; it also prevents people from being able to think or act as freely as human beings ought to. Whether or not the

intensive than simply installing cameras on the street. Voice-recognition software is also increasingly used to identify speakers in, say, phone calls.

China is, however, only one example of the extensive use of mass surveillance in our current world. Ironically, this practice has reached the West as well, where core values of democracy, freedom of speech and basic human rights are supposedly most protected, and where Chinese surveillance is most loudly condemned. In May 2019, a survey revealed that there were 627,707 surveillance cameras in London alone. Although Britain has had a relatively long history of mass surveillance, the amount of surveillance appears to be rising, and this has been brought to light by the recent legal battles against such a system: in fact, the surveillance system has once more been examined by the highest chamber of the European Court of Human Rights this year. The legal battle

proved unsuccessful for human rights organizations, though, with the court ruling in favour of the surveillance system. Are we then, at the beginning of an era of worldwide surveillance where citizens from every country will be monitored by surveillance networks?

Mass surveillance is most controversial in the sense that it violates the right to privacy, or personal space. There is a surprisingly common misconception about privacy, and it is that privacy is wholly unnecessary if one has 'nothing to hide'. so to speak. This is true, except for the fact that humans never have 'nothing to hide'.



the police's identities. It causes the problem of mistrust between police and citizens to intensify even more.

I understand that there is a portion of the society as well as the government think the anti-masking law does more benefit than disadvantages. The main argument is that it can help police arrest protesters more efficiently as protesters cannot hinder their identities. However, we can see that numerous people still go onto the streets to protest while wearing masks. It is impossible for the police to arrest thousands of people at the same time. Also, the reason why there are so many protests is because the government refuses to reply the citizens' demands. What is the point of keep suppressing the

citizens' voices and avoid tackling the root cause of everything?

In a nutshell, I think the anti-masking law does not help solve the problems in Hong Kong, but even intensifies it. I hope the government can listen to the citizens' voices with an opened-heart and reply to the five demands as soon as possible in order to earn back the trust from citizens.

Kwai Hoi Yan Hayley Munsang College

Judge's Comment
Chris YEUNG :
Well written with clear structure, smooth flow, clear points with good argument. Some minor writing mistakes.

Anti-masking Law ... Masking the Future of Hong Kong?

The Hong Kong extradition bill, at long last, was formally withdrawn. Yet protests continue as the government has not replied to the five demands. In order to identify protesters involved in illegal actions during protests, the government has introduced the anti-masking law to identify them. This law aims to stop protesters from breaking the law. But is this law the key to stop all the social unrest in Hong Kong or a law that destroys the future of Hong Kong? My answer is, without a doubt, the latter.

Firstly, the anti-masking law damages Hong Kong's international image. Power is divided among three branches in Hong Kong, namely executive, legislation and judiciary. The government introduced anti-masking by using the Emergency Regulations Ordinance. Therefore, the government passed this law without voting in the Legislative Council. People around the globe are concerned that Hong Kong may become a place with no freedom and people who oppose the government will be arrested, just like Mainland China. Hong Kong has a high competitiveness because Hong Kong has freedom and a free market. The Emergency Regulations Ordinance gives the government the power to control foreign exchange rates. The government can use the anti-masking

law as an example to use the Emergency Regulations Ordinance to control foreign exchange rates in the future and thus greatly interfere the free market in the future. Therefore, it negatively affects the confidence and incentives of investors in Hong Kong and they may suspend their investment in Hong Kong. As a matter of fact, some billionaires in Hong Kong has already started to transfer their assets to foreign countries, fearing the Hong Kong government may use the Emergency Regulations Ordinance to confiscate their properties.

Thirdly, police are exempted from the anti-masking law, so they can arrest protesters with brutal ways, regardless of the consequences as they cannot be identified. From videos on the internet, we can see that police wear masks and cover their police identity number, leaving protesters no channel to file complaints. With the introduction of this law, police can use unnecessary force, such as shooting protesters with their guns at a short distance and leave permanent damage to the protesters while they can walk away as a free man. It is unfair to protesters because police can mask their own faces and use powerful weapons to attack and arrest them while they must reveal their identities to the police while not knowing

Winning Articles of News Commentary Competition

Junior | English Section

Champion

Masking the Future of Hong Kong?

Judge's Comment
Chris YEUNG :
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The Hong Kong extradition bill, at long last, was formally withdrawn. Yet protests continue as the government has not replied to the five demands. In order to identify protesters involved in illegal actions during protests, the government has introduced the anti-masking law to identify them. This law aims to stop protesters from breaking the law. But is this law the key to stop all the social unrest in Hong Kong or a law that destroys the future of Hong Kong? My answer is, without a doubt, the latter.

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Secondly, the anti-masking law only enrages protesters more and causes the problem of social polarization even more serious. It is doubtless that protesters grow angrier towards the government day by day since the government has not done anything to solve problems like the police's abuse of power. This law only makes them even more furious as their right to demonstrate, their rights to join peaceful and legal assemblies is demolished. This evaded their rights stated in the Basic Law. On 4 October 2019, the night before the anti-masking law was launched, the protesters' behaviours were more violent than before. Moreover, citizens wear masks during protests after the law was

Winning Articles of News Commentary Competition

Kwok Yip Tung Judy Heep Yunn School

Judge's Comment
Chris YEUNG :
Clarity in points, argument and writing. Would be even better if the student cites "tiger mom" cases to enliven the article.

Student's stress skyrocketed Due to Overly Demanding Parents

Hong Kong children are stressed, not only because of long hours of studying, frequent testing, and too much homework, but also because of pushy and demanding parents.

Although exam stress levels were said to be at an all-time low for local secondary six pupils this year, more felt under pressure from their parents than ever before, according to a survey by Hok Yau Club, an NGO that provides support and guidance to local students. The figures revealed that more than 40 per cent of pupils interviewed felt parental pressure in relation to their academic performance.

I think that the parents should not impose so much pressure to their children. Sometimes, the right pressure as push students as propulsion and motivate them to perform better in exams. Nevertheless, on the other hand, too much stress may bring an opposite effect. Parents should not punish their children even they have got a bad result in tests or exams. Instead, they should support them and console them. Parental emotion support is far more effective than punishing a child. Punishments will certainly worsen their level of depressed. In contrast, parent's recognition and motivations can bring

self-esteem was destroyed after being publicly embarrassed. It traumatized his precious childhood!

Students should not always hold the thought of being a perfectionist or be the cream of the crop. When they are under too much stress from their parents, they should express their view to their parents that they are giving them too much pressure. Students should not bury their emotions and feelings in their heart. It will cause parents to misunderstand and think it is alright to continue pushing their child to limits by harsh methods and it will be bad for students own health too.

Children do need discipline from parents, but at least not in a way that will harm and pose negative impacts on them. The development of children in early age holds the key to their future, so it is essential to protect the youth. For instance, I saw another news that reported a parent of an eight years old boy punished his child for doing badly at school. Can you imagine how he punish the kid? He made the boy cross a busy road on his knees! This is an absolutely unacceptable way to punish a kid who is just eight years old! The busy passers-by may accidentally kicked the boy even they did not want to. The boy's

parents. As a conclusion, parents should stop giving their children too much pressure in a mistaken way. They already have such a long to-do list, some of them even have a lot of extra-curricular activities to join. They are already very under a lot of tension. Yet, they still have to bear the horror of facing punishments. Parents should comfort and encourage their children but not go for the hard ways when they fail to achieve their standards. In this way, children can unwind and it will be a win-win for both students and parents. Who does not want their children to have a happy childhood? Hopefully, the situation can be eased and aware in the society.

If rainforest could voice their pain, would we have heard the weeping of the rainforest sooner? Would we have saved this invaluable forest much earlier? As raging fires swept across the Amazon rainforest, the 'Lungs of the Earth' were devoured at an unstoppable speed. With huge plumes of smoke billowing into the air, billions of trees were burn down and millions of animals species suffered the loss of their habitat in an instance. They are left homeless and helpless. It is of paramount importance that we make a critical reflection on how heavy the price we will have to pay by putting

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Winning Articles of News Commentary Competition

Siu Pui Lam Heep Yunn School

Judge's Comment
Dr. Simon SHEN :
Well chosen topic. In-depth discussion.

The Weeping Rainforest: Is economy more important than Amazon?



has revealed that more than 78,000 forestfires have been recorded in Brazil in 2018, which is the highest number since 2013. When Brazilian government places emphasis on economic development over the conservation of the Amazon forest, destroying the rainforest is probably the worst direction for the government in policy making.

First and foremost, the significant loss of Amazon forest will undeniably worsen the climate change and global warming. In his response to the global outcry of Amazon forest fire, Brazil President Jair Bolsonaro put blame on the long-

Winning Articles of News Commentary Competition

Siu Pui Lam Heep Yunn School

Judge's Comment
Dr. Simon SHEN :
Well chosen topic. In-depth discussion.

The Weeping Rainforest: Is economy more important than Amazon?



over-emphasis on short term economic benefits.

The Amazon forest has long been subject to deforestation due to the growing demands for farmlands in South Africa. Farmers are encouraged to set fires in the tropical forest to give way for economic plantation, grazing and construction of roads. It is, without a doubt, the easiest and cheapest way to obtain land. Nevertheless, this is usually done indiscriminately, resulting in vigorous clearance and unfortunately uncontrollable wildfires. Brazil's National Institute for Space Research

dry season of Amazon in causing wildfires. Nonetheless, what has been overseen is that the long-dry season, which Jair Bolsonaro made excuse on, is the result of worsening climate change. The massive disappearance of Amazon forest not only leads to the decrease in carbon dioxide absorption in the globe, but also reversely releases a huge amount of carbon dioxide which has been taken in and stored in the burning trees. Consequently, greenhouse effect will be aggravated. When global warming seems to be a distant phenomenon, the rising global temperature will continuously affect the Amazon climate, making the dry season longer and the forest more vulnerable to forest fire. Once the Amazon forest is lost, there will be an irreversible change to our planet's climate. Drought will occur more frequently in Brazil and result in the farmers' inability to produce their own food. Agricultural industry, which Brazil has been relying on, will suffer tremendous loss. Farmers will be subjected to dangerous working condition. There is no need to mention about economic development which Brazilian government has valued more than anything.

Despite the negative consequences of deforestation, many have argued about the necessity of deforestation in tackling poverty in Brazil. Nevertheless, the Brazilian government has overseen the essence of sustainable development in the long run for the country to truly flourish. Not only does deforestation cause environmental deterioration in the Amazon, but it also deprives the country of all the essential resources for developing long term economy including quality water, plant and animal species and food. Amazon forest should not be treated as only a land provider. The abundance of natural resources and biodiversities are, indeed, the most valuable sources for generating long term income for the country. Poverty is a pressing issue. It is, nonetheless,

crucial not to undermine the integrity and stability of the natural system. Burning the rainforest and exhausting its resources in exchange of short term economic benefits is simply compromising the ability of the future generation of Brazil to persist and sustain quality of life.

The Amazon rainforest takes years to be built yet minutes to be destroyed. Actions speak louder than words. While we are moaning about the loss of Amazon and simply sharing photos on social media, actual action matters more. We, as consumers, should do our parts to save the rainforest. Reduction on paper, wood and beef consumption are simple acts but will make a big difference if joint efforts are made. The Amazon is not simply a rainforest; it is the greatest treasure that our planet has given to us. No matter how successful we are in generating profit, if the rainforest dies, it will mark the end of human kinds. Ultimately, what is more important - dollar bills for the present or our planet for the future?

The second focus falls upon the disappearance of unique plant and animal species. From a short term perspective, land may have greater economic value than trees as it allows massive economic activities to be developed and regenerate domestic income. However, indiscriminate clearance of Amazon forest will lead to the loss of plant and animal species which provide valuable sources to medicines. As World Wildlife Foundation (WWF) states in the article The vital links between the Amazon rainforest, global warming and you, over a quarter

3rd
Runner-up

Junior | English Section

Is Liberal Studies Responsible for the Social Unrest?



Judge's Comment
Dr. Simon SHEN:
Well chosen topic. Good discussion.

of them are alleged to mislead students and indirectly causing the students' involvement in civil disobedience, but teachers have strict instructions on discussing political issues with students, such as they are not allowed to share their political views with students or imposing their own political bias to allow equitable discussion among students. Therefore, we should be clear that educators are neutral and professional enough to guide students through the analysis of political issues.

I would suggest that the learning materials of liberal studies should be reviewed periodically by independent advisers collaborating with the Education Bureau to prevent the spread of hatred and bias and promote students' independent thinking towards an issue.

In my viewpoint, this subject can enhance the students' critical thinking and the ability to analyse social issues. The subject focuses on social problems relating to the livelihood of citizens rather than politics. As society nowadays doesn't only require teens to have outstanding academic results, but also the ability to think in different aspects by understanding others' concerns and needs.

As the subject is more or less bond with politics, it is believed that the rise of pro-independence sentiment in Hong Kong is linked directly to the subject. Pro-Beijing supporters claim that the subject sowed the seeds of anti-government sentiment and call for its abolition, while Tung, a vice-chairman of China's top political advisory body, also said that the subject was a failure, and was partly to blame for the escalating violent protests including the anti-national education campaign in 2012, and the Occupy movement in 2014.

However, youngsters and educators have given positive feedback on the subject. A survey conducted by the Education Bureau in 2014 found 82 percent of Form Six graduates agreed that the subject enhanced their multi-

dimensional thinking skills. To sum up, these are all the crucial qualities of the younger generation.

Some may question about the professionalism of educators as some

The subject of liberal studies, being the most controversial topic of all times, is again under fire after a series of social events. Liberal studies have become a compulsory subject of all secondary schools since 2009. This subject aims to develop social awareness, independent thinking, and positive values among students, but does it do the job?

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