Enquiry Question: Should Functional Constituencies in Legislative Council be abolished?

Year of Examination: ___2018_________

Name of Student: ______________________________

Class/ Group: _________________

Class Number: ________________

Number of words in the report/ short written text: ____4466____ Viewing time of the non-written report: ______

Notes:
1. Written reports should not exceed 4 500 words. The reading time for non-written reports should not exceed 22 minutes and the short written texts accompanying non-written reports should not exceed 1 100 words. The word count for written reports and the short written texts does not include the covering page, the table of contents, titles, graphs, tables, captions and headings of photos, punctuation marks, footnotes, endnotes, references, bibliography and appendices.
2. Candidates are responsible for counting the number of words in their reports and the short written texts and indicating it accurately on this covering page.
3. If the Independent Enquiry Study Report of a student is selected for review by the School-Based Assessment System, the school should ensure that the student’s name, class/ group and class number have been deleted from the report before submitting it to the Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority. Schools should also ensure that the identities of both the schools and students are not disclosed in the reports. For non-written reports, the identities of the students and schools, including the appearance of the students, should be deleted.
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A. Problem Definition

Introduction
The Legislative Council (LegCo) is the unicameral legislature of Hong Kong (HK). LegCo consists of 70 members, with 35 members returned from geographical constituencies (GCs) and the remaining from functional constituencies (FCs). In FCs, 5 members are from district council (II) (DC(II)) constituency and the others are returned by 29 constituencies, which represent different sectors of the community and the FCs is the only constituency which is not democratically elected by majority of population in HK.\(^1\)

Historical Development of FCs
Before 1985, the LegCo members were chosen by the Governor of Hong Kong. Concept of FCs was first developed in "Green Paper: A Pattern of District Administration in Hong Kong" in 1984.\(^2\) It was part of an overall plan in developing a representative government. In 1999, Constitutional Affairs Bureau stated two aims of FCs, which is to ensure that economic and professional sectors which are substantial are represented in the legislature, and they can have opportunities to contribute their knowledges to the political work.\(^3\) Also, suggested by Vice-Premier of the People’s Republic in China in 2002, the main aim of FCs is to ensure that people from various walks of life can have balanced participation in political life.\(^4\)

According to the Basic Law Article 68, universal suffrage is the ‘ultimate aim’ in electing legislature.\(^5\) Stated by Sir David Akers-Jones, the Chief Secretary for Administration of Hong Kong in 1985, the FCs only acted as a transitional arrangement between direct and indirect election. It aimed to maintain the confidence of professionals and financial sector on Hong Kong after the handover in 1997.\(^6\)

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\(^1\) Composition of LegCo

\(^2\) Full text of Green Paper: A Pattern of District Administration in Hong Kong, 1984
https://archive.org/stream/greenpaperfurthe00hong/greenpaperfurthe00hong_djvu.txt

\(^3\) A Critical Introduction to Hong Kong’s Functional Constituencies, 1999

\(^4\) Functional Constituency: A unique feature of Hong Kong Legislature, 2006
https://books.google.com.hk/books?id=10XDGJLrTK0C&pg=PA62&lpg=PA62&dq=ensure+that+people+from+various+w+of+life+can+have+b+balanced+participation+in+political+life&f=false

\(^5\) Basic Law Full Text, 2017

\(^6\) Functional Constituency: A unique feature of Hong Kong Legislature, 2006
https://books.google.com.hk/books?id=10XDGJLrTK0C&pg=PA62&lpg=PA62&dq=ensure+that+people+from+various+w+of+life+can+have+b+balanced+participation+in+political+life&f=false
Point of interest for enquiry
Firstly, this topic is controversial under different stakeholders’ views. Supporting views from pro-establishment and pro-business sector believe that FCs enhances administrative efficiency of government. FCs can also prevent HK from turning into a welfare state because FCs mainly involves representatives from business sector. They will ban motions which promote welfarism under split voting system.

Opposing views from pro-democrats then stated that FCs cannot improve public’s social quality of life and has a low effectiveness in achieving the function of LegCo. There is also a high feasibility for abolishing FCs due to the high public support in abolishing FCs and high legal feasibility. FCs also have a low necessity as there is a presence of alternatives. Divided views appear in the society.

Significance
FCs has a high social significance on social, economic and political aspects. LegCo is the unicameral legislature of Hong Kong. The main function of LegCo is to set up laws, approve budget and to monitor government’s performance. The Legislative Council is also given the power to endorse the appointment and removal of the judges of the Court of Final Appeal and the Chief Judge of the High Court, as well as the power to impeach the Chief Executive. Therefore, the lawmakers elected cast a huge influence socially, economically and politically and thus the society is concerned of election method and composition of LegCo.

Focus question
1. Is FCs effective in achieving its aim?
2. Is it necessary to set up FCs?
3. Is FCs able to improve standard of living of people?

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7 LegCo Official site
B. Relevant Concepts and Knowledge/Facts/Data

Concepts

1. Administrative Efficiency
Administrative efficiency\(^8\) refers to the capacity of an institution to produce desired results with a minimum expenditure of energy, time, money etc. It is used in opponents’ arguments in part C to show that FCs can encourage administrative efficiency of the government.

2. Standard of living
Standard of living\(^9\) is the level of wealth, comfort, material goods available to a certain socio-economic class. The standard of living includes factors such as income, economic stability etc. I will use this in part D to explain whether FCs can improve the standard of living of citizens.

3. Welfarism
Welfarism\(^{10}\) means that government plays a key role in the protection and promotion of the social and economic well-being of its citizens by funding the money through high taxation rate. It is based on the principles of equitable distribution of wealth and public responsibility for those unable to avail themselves of the minimal provisions for a good life. It is used in the opponents’ argument as welfarism may arise upon abolishment of FCs.

4. Basic Law Article 68
According to the Basic Law Article 68\(^{11}\), “The ultimate aim is the election of all the members of the Legislative Council by universal suffrage.” It is used in the supporters’ arguments to show abolishment of FCs is legally feasible as it does not contradict with existing law.

\(^{8}\) Sensagent

\(^{9}\) Investopedia

\(^{10}\) 香港電台通識網「一日一通識」
http://www.liberalstudies.hk/daily_concepts/?word=539

\(^{11}\) Basic Law Full Text, Chapter 4
5. Corporate Voting
Corporate voting\textsuperscript{12} is a voting mechanism applied in the FCs election. Eligible voters in a FC may include designated legal entities such as corporations.\textsuperscript{13} This concept is applied in the supporters’ arguments as corporate voting makes FCs lawmakers focus on needs of corporates but not general public.

6. Simple majority and split voting system
Simple majority\textsuperscript{14} is a majority in which the highest number of votes cast for any issues exceeds the second-highest number. This is included in the voting system of LegCo. For motions, bills or amendments introduced by the government, they require a simple majority vote of the Legislative Council members present. For those introduced by individual members, they require a simple majority vote in both FCs and GCs. This is the split voting system.\textsuperscript{15} It is used in part C and part D in supporters’ arguments to illustrate the problems brought by split voting system.

7. Social Quality of Life
Social quality of life\textsuperscript{16} is the general well-being of individuals. It observes life satisfaction, including everything from family, interpersonal relationship etc. It is used in the supporters’ arguments in part C to show that FCs leads to a lower social quality of life of general public.

\textsuperscript{12} A Critical Introduction to Hong Kong’s Functional Constituencies, 2004

\textsuperscript{13} Wikipedia
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Functional_constituency_(Hong_Kong)

\textsuperscript{14} Oxford Living Dictionary
https://en.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/simple_majority

\textsuperscript{15} Legislative Council In Brief No.13

\textsuperscript{16} Wikipedia
8. Table showing benchmarks and evaluating criteria used in part C and D

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Benchmark</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Level of effectiveness</td>
<td>Level of effectiveness refers to the degree to which objectives are achieved. This will be used as a benchmark in part C in the opponents’ argument to show the ineffectiveness of FCs in achieving the function of LegCo and an evaluating criteria in part D to evaluate the effectiveness of FCs in achieving its aim.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level of necessity</td>
<td>Level of necessity refers to something that is necessary or an urgent need. This will be used as an evaluating criteria in part D to evaluate the necessity of FCs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scope of influence</td>
<td>I will use this as an evaluating criteria in part D to evaluate whether FCs can improve standard of living of people.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feasibility</td>
<td>Feasibility refers to how successfully a project can be completed, accounting for factors that affect it such as economic, technological, legal factors. It is used in part C as benchmark to illustrate the opponents’ and supporters’ arguments in part C.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pros and cons</td>
<td>The pros and cons of something are its advantages and disadvantages, which you consider carefully so that you can make a sensible decision. It is used in part C as a benchmark to illustrate the opponents’</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
and supporters’ arguments in part C.

Data/Facts/Knowledge

1. Table 1: The situation of corporate voting in Finance and Financial Service Constituencies

| Voters of Finance Constituency | 125 corporate votes |
| Voters of Financial Service Constituency | 622 corporate votes |
| Number of workers in the above 2 constituencies | 20 million |
| Percentage of number of votes to the number of workers | 0.35% |

It is used in supporters’ arguments to show FCs lawmakers are unable to address the needs of employees as corporate voting exists, thus leading to deterioration in people’s social quality of life.

2. Table 2a: Result of interview carried out on 256 people by Hong Kong Confederation of Trade Unions

| Question | Agree | Disagree |
| “The current working hours is too long” | 140 | 116 |

Table 2b: Result of further interview carried out on the 140 people who agreed that the current working hours is too long

| Agree | Disagree |
| “Long working hours affects my lives with family” | 130 | 10 |
| “Long working hours destroy their social lives and interpersonal relationships” | 126 | 14 |

21專業團體倡改革三功能組別 擴大選民基礎至 15 萬
https://www.hk01.com/%E6%B8%AF%E8%81%9E/3178/%E5%B0%88%E6%A5%AD%E5%9C%98%E9%AB%94%E5%80%A1%E6%94%B9%E9%9D%A9%E4%B8%89%E5%8A%9F%E8%83%BD%E7%B5%84%E5%88%A5-%E6%93%B4%E5%A4%A7%E9%81%B8%E6%B0%91%E5%9F%BA%E7%A4%8E%E8%87%B315%E8%90%AC

22香港職工會聯盟- 逾半青年不滿工時過長 損害進修及生活
They are used in supporters’ arguments to show FCs focus on fighting for the vested interests of businessmen instead of general public, so they ban legislation on standard working hours which leads to deterioration in social quality of lives.

3. Table 3: Public Opinion Programme carried out by The University of Hong Kong on the 2016 Legislative Council election

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Support ( % )</th>
<th>Do not support ( % )</th>
<th>Neutral ( % )</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Abolish functional constituencies</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abolish split voting system</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase the GCs seat to the 3/4 of the LegCo composition, decrease the FCs seat to 1/4 of the LegCo composition</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

It is used in supporters’ argument to show the high feasibility of abolishing FCs with high public support.

4. Table 4: The list of uncontested candidates in FCs in 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Candidate(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Heung Yee Kuk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insurance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labour (3 seats)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Real Estate and Construction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commercial (Second)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Industrial (First)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Industrial (Second)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Import and Export</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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23Public Opinion Programme carried out by University of Hong Kong, 2013

It is used in supporters’ argument to help us to understand more about the non-competitive election.

5. Table 5: Comparison of performance by FCs and GCs lawmakers in 2014-2015 LegCo

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>LegCo member</th>
<th>Constituency</th>
<th>Times of absence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Lau Wong-fat</td>
<td>FCs</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Leung Ka-lau</td>
<td>FCs</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Cheung Kwok-che</td>
<td>FCs</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Tong Ka-wah</td>
<td>GCs</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Fang Kang</td>
<td>FCs</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Tien Puk-sun</td>
<td>GCs</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The table can illustrate the difference in performance between FCs and GCs lawmakers. It is used in the supporters’ arguments to show the ineffectiveness of FCs lawmakers in achieving the function of LegCo with a low participation rate.

6. Table 6: List of LegCo members with the highest frequencies of being absent from weekly LegCo meetings on Wednesday in 2014-2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ranking of members with highest frequencies of absence</th>
<th>LegCo member</th>
<th>Constituency</th>
<th>Times of absence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Lau Wong-fat</td>
<td>FCs</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Leung Ka-lau</td>
<td>FCs</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
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<td>FCs</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Tong Ka-wah</td>
<td>GCs</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Fang Kang</td>
<td>FCs</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Tien Puk-sun</td>
<td>GCs</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

It is used in the supporters’ arguments to illustrate the frequent absence of FCs lawmakers

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as 4 FCs lawmakers are included among the 6 lawmakers.

7. Table 7a: Significant bills rejected because of FCs under split voting system in 2012-2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bills</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Effect</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Apply Power and Privileges Ordinance to check papers of CLP Power</td>
<td>8/2/12</td>
<td>Avoid affecting HK business environment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Impeach Chief Executive C.Y. Leung</td>
<td>9/1/13</td>
<td>Avoid affecting the work of C.E.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vote of No Confidence against Chief Executive</td>
<td>16/10/13</td>
<td>Support the government’s administration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apply Power and Privileges Ordinance to check papers of Executive Council</td>
<td>7/11/13</td>
<td>Protect the confidentiality of Executive Council</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 7b: Significant bills approved because of FCs under split voting system in 2012-2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bills</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Effect</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Budget for Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link Hong Kong</td>
<td>16/01/2012</td>
<td>Increase integration between HK and Mainland, Increase competitiveness of HK and increase job opportunities</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

They are used in the supporters’ arguments to show presence of FCs allow government to improve its administrative efficiency.

8. Table 8a: Political camp distribution among FCs members elected in the 2016 LegCo election

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of FCs members</th>
<th>Pro-Establishment members</th>
<th>Pan-democrats</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>35</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 8b: Political camp distribution among LegCo members elected in the 2016 LegCo election

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pro-Establishment members</th>
<th>Pan-democrats</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>43</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

They are used in the opponents’ arguments to show that FCs can enhance administrative efficiency of government as the pro-establishment members who are the majority in FCs and the whole LegCo will not pose as much opposition towards the bills as pan-democrats.

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27 大公报

28 Apple Daily
9. News Extract from Ming Pao\textsuperscript{29}

“Although the motion of standard working hours was passed in GCs, due to the split voting system, the motion was banned as FCs banned the motion.”

This news extract is used in supporters’ arguments as it shows that standard working hours, a motion which can improve employees’ social quality of life is banned.

10. News Extract from Oriental Daily\textsuperscript{30}

“Representative from managerial sector states that standard working hours result in an increasing production cost.”

It is used in supporters’ arguments to show that FCs banned legislation of standard working hours, which leads to deterioration in public’s social quality of life.

11. Family Affairs Committee of Democratic Alliance for the Betterment and Progress (DAB) of HK-HK Young Families Independent Study, 2012\textsuperscript{31}

“One of the factor accounting for the high divorce rate is long working hours.”

It is used in the supporters’ arguments as FCs banned the motion of legislating standard working hours which leads to decrease in social quality of life of public.

12. News extract from Apple Daily\textsuperscript{32}

“People held protests against FCs. However, the police did not allow the protesters to go further. This action angered the protesters and physical clashes happened between the two parties.”

This news extract shows that due to people’s discontent of FCs, protests are held. This leads to a disruption of social harmony. It is used in supporters’ arguments to show that FCs lead to decrease in social quality of life of public.

\textsuperscript{29}明報－標準工時議案立會否決
https://news.mingpao.com/pns/E6%8A%99%E6%BA%96%E5%B7%A5%E6%99%82%E8%AD%B0%E6%A1%88%E7%AB%8B%E6%9C%83%E5%90%A6%E6%B1%BA/web_txc/article/20150605/s00002/1433441526377

\textsuperscript{30}東方日報- 總商會堅決反對標準工時

\textsuperscript{31}民建聯家庭事務委員會－香港年青家庭專題研究, 2012

\textsuperscript{32}打倒不義議會踢走功能組別 爭雙普選 學聯遊行警察又拉人
13. Voter Registration Statistics\textsuperscript{33}
“There is an average of around 8000 voters for a FC verses an average of 100000 voters voting for a GC or DC(II).”
It is used in the supporters’ arguments to show the difference in electoral base result in low public support of FCs.

14. Functional Constituency, Stay or Leave?\textsuperscript{34}
“When the bills do not involve direct interests of their sectors, FCs lawmakers become less enthusiastic in meetings.”
It is used in the supporters’ arguments to show the low quality performance of FCs lawmakers, which leads to ineffectiveness of them in carrying out the function of LegCo.

15. LegCo Official Site\textsuperscript{35}
“The main functions of the Legislative Council are to set up laws, approve budget and to monitor government’s performance.”
It is used in the supporters’ arguments to show FCs cannot effectively achieve the function of LegCo.

16. News extract from Tai Kung Po\textsuperscript{36}
“Absence of members may also result in postpone of the meetings, which may leads to accumulation of bills that have not been discussed”
This is used in the supporters’ arguments and shows the high absence of FCs, which leads to ineffectiveness of them in carrying out the function of LegCo.

\textsuperscript{33}Voter Registration Statistics, 2016
http://www.voterregistration.gov.hk/chi/statistic20161.html#2

\textsuperscript{34}功能組別去或留
http://slidegur.com/doc/82366%E3%80%8A%E5%8A%A9F%E8%83%BD%E7%B5%84%E5%88%A5%E F%BC%E5%8E%BB%E6%88%96%E7%95%99%E7%80%8B%E7%B0%A1%E5%A0%B1

\textsuperscript{35}LegCo Official site

\textsuperscript{36}大公報
17. News extract from Commercial Radio of Hong Kong
“When the C.E. was announcing the policy address in LegCo, Wong Yuk-man threw 3 bananas towards C.E. to fight for the cancel of the mean-testing of Old Age Allowance.” It is used in the opponents’ arguments to show that GCs lawmakers pose great opposition to government policy and presence of FCs can enhance administrative efficiency of government.

18. News extract from Apple Daily
“Leung Kwok-hung criticized Mr. John Tsang for not including Universal Retirement Scheme in the budget. He will propose 100-200 amendments.” It is used in the opponents’ arguments to show that GCs lawmakers promote welfarism in order to enlist support from anti-government citizens. FCs can ban amendments which promote welfarism.

19. RTHK Liberal Studies Website
“Universal Retirement Scheme enables citizens to receive a fixed amount of money from the government when they reach the retirement age.” This is used in the opponents’ arguments and allows us to understand what is universal retirement scheme.

20. In Media HK
“According to David Webb, a famous stock investment commentator, profits tax and salaries tax have to be increased by 35% and 33.5% respectively if universal pension is carried out.” It is used in the opponents’ arguments to show the severe impacts brought by welfarism if FCs do not exist.

37 商業電台

38 Apple Daily

39香港電台通識網
http://www.liberalstudies.hk/daily_concepts/?word=452

40 In Media HK
http://www.inmediahk.net%E5%85%A8%E6%B0%91%E9%80%80%E4%BC%91%E4%BF%9D%E9%9A%9C%E8%88%B7%E5%A3%83%E6%9C%83%E5%B0%8E%E8%87%B4%E4%A4%A7%E5%B9%85%E5%A0%E7%A8%85%EF%BC%9F
21. MBA library\(^{41}\)
"Welfarism induces high tax rate imposed on citizens. The government may result in
economic danger and hinders economic development as foreign investment is deterred.”
This shows the downside of welfarism and is used in the opponents’ arguments to show
FCs can prevent welfarism.

22. Hong Kong University- Future Development of Retirement Protection in Hong
Kong\(^{42}\)
“Universal Protection Scheme has already been banned by FCs for a few times in 2006,
2012 and 2014”
This is used in the opponents’ arguments as it shows FCs can prevent welfarism.

23. Methods for Selecting the Chief Executive in 2017 and for Forming the
Legislative Council in 2016\(^{43}\)
“According to the Decision of the National People’s Congress Standing Committee
(NPSC) in 2007, only after the C.E. is selected by universal suffrage, the election of
LegCo may be implemented by universal suffrage.”
It is used in the opponents’ arguments to show the low feasibility of abolishing FCs at the
current stage.

24. Method for selecting the Chief Executive by Universal Suffrage Official site\(^{44}\)
“The person who have obtained endorsement of more than half of all Nominating
Committee members will go onto the public ballot. The reform could not be passed in
LegCo at last.”
It is used in the opponents’ arguments to show the failure of C.E. universal suffrage,
which implies universal suffrage of LegCo is infeasible in near future.

\(^{41}\) MBA 智庫百科 - http://wiki.mbalib.com/zh-tw/%E7%A6%8F%E5%88%A9%E4%B8%BB%E4%B9%89
\(^{42}\) 香港大學社會工作及社會行政學系-香港退休保障的未來發展, 2014

\(^{43}\) Methods for Selecting the Chief Executive in 2017 and for Forming the Legislative Council in 2016, 2013

\(^{44}\) Method for selecting the Chief Executive by Universal Suffrage Official site
25. We Connect, Manifesto of Ms Carrie Lam, 2017⁴⁵

“However, I am also mindful of the controversial nature of reforming package. We must seek consensuses at a suitable timing only.”

It is used in the opponents’ arguments to show the infeasibility of universal suffrage of C.E. in the near future, and thus, universal suffrage for LegCo is also infeasible.

Research methodology

I will use second hand data to support my research, for example news articles, reports done by third parties to give evidences for arguments for supporting and abolishing FCs. They will help me answering the enquiry question.

⁴⁵ We Connect, Manifesto of Ms Carrie Lam, 2017
C. In-depth Explanation of the Issue

Supporting Views

1. Fail to improve social quality of life

FCs lawmakers tend to fight for vested interests of businessmen instead of general public as their voters are the former instead of the latter. For example, as seen in table 1, the lawmakers of finance and financial service constituencies are elected by corporate bodies instead of the 20 million employees working under these two sectors.

Table 1: The situation of corporate voting in Finance and Financial Service Constituencies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Voters of Finance Constituency</th>
<th>125 corporate votes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Voters of Financial Service Constituency</td>
<td>622 corporate votes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of workers in the above 2 constituencies</td>
<td>20 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of number of votes to the number of workers</td>
<td>0.35%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Therefore, some socially beneficial bills which affect the interests of businessmen are rejected by FCs. For example, in the case for legislation of standard working hours, the motion was banned by FCs under split voting system. FCs banned the motion so as to protect employers’ interests as standard working hours lead to higher production costs as a result of increasing wage bill.

Table 2a: Result of interview carried out on 256 people by Hong Kong Confederation of Trade Unions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>“The current working hours is too long”</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>116</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

46專業團體倡改革三功能組別 擴大選民基礎至15萬
https://www.hk01.com/%E6%B8%AF%E8%81%9E/3178/%E5%B0%88%E6%A5%AD%E5%9C%98%E9%AB%94%E5%80%A1%E6%94%B9%E9%9D%A9%E4%B8%89%E5%8A%9F%E8%83%BD%E7%B5%84%E5%88%A5%E6%93%B4%E5%A4%A7%E9%81%B8%E6%B0%91%E5%9F%

47明報-標準工時議案立會否決
https://news.mingpao.com/pms/%E6%A8%99%E6%BA%96%E5%B7%A5%E6%99%82%E8%AD%B0%E6%A1%88%E7%AB%8B%E6%9C%83%E5%90%A6%E6%B1%BA/web_tc/article/20150605/s0006/1433441526377

48東方日報- 總商會堅決反對標準工時

49香港職工會聯盟- 逾半青年不滿工時過長 損害進修及生活
Table 2b: Result of further interview carried out on the 140 people who agreed that the current working hours is too long

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>“Long working hours affects my lives with family”</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Long working hours destroy their social lives and interpersonal relationships”</td>
<td>126</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As seen in the above tables, employees are subjected to long working hours and cannot enjoy free time for family, social life and interpersonal relationship. Subjectively, they may feel dissatisfied as they have less free time. Objectively, they may have an unhealthy social life and badly maintained interpersonal relationships. This may lead to social disharmony as the divorce rate may increase when relationship is poorly maintained. Therefore, peoples’ social quality of life are worsened.

With cases like the disputes on standard working hours happened, social discontent may arise. For example, during 2010, Hong Kong Federation of students held a protest against FCs. Physical clashes occurred between the protesters and the police as many physical contacts happened between them. This results in social disharmony which further deteriorates people’s social quality of life.

2. High Feasibility

It is feasible to abolish FCs. We can examine its feasibility in two aspects, public support and legal feasibility.

Table 3: Public Opinion Programme carried out by The University of Hong Kong on the 2016 Legislative Council election

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Support (%)</th>
<th>Do not support (%)</th>
<th>Neutral (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Abolish functional constituencies</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

50 民建聯家庭事務委員會－香港年青家庭專題研究, 2012

51 打倒不義議會踢走功能組別 - 爭雙普選 學聯遊行警又拉人

52 Public Opinion Programme carried out by University of Hong Kong, 2013
This interview is carried out on local HK adult citizens randomly through the phone. 898 people were interviewed. Most people support abolishing FCs or changing the existing composition or voting system. Only a few interviewees do not support it, accounting for less than 20% of the interviewees.

There are a few possible reasons accounting for the low public support for FCs. Firstly, majority of population in HK cannot vote for FCs. They enjoy a less value of vote due to large electoral base in GCs. There is an average of around 8000 voters for a FC verses an average of 100000 voters voting for a GC or DC(II). Also, their voices cannot be reflected as FCs lawmakers are not directly accountable to the general public. Thus, the public support of abolishing FCs is high and it is feasible to abolish FCs.

It is also legally feasible to abolish FCs. Basic Law Article 68 states that “the ultimate aim is the election of all the members of the Legislative Council by universal suffrage”. Therefore, it is legally feasible to abolish FCs as it does not contradict with existing law.

3. Low effectiveness of FCs lawmakers in achieving the function of LegCo

Table 4: List of uncontested candidates in FCs in 2016 LegCo election:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Functional Constituency</th>
<th>Candidate(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Heung Yee Kuk</td>
<td>Kenneth Lau Ip-keung (BPA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insurance</td>
<td>Chan Kin-por (Independent)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labour (3 seats)</td>
<td>Poon Siu-ping (FLU)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ho Kai-ming (FTU)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Luk Chung-hung (FTU)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Real Estate and Construction</td>
<td>Abraham Shek Lai-him (BPA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commercial (Second)</td>
<td>Martin Liao Cheung-kong (Nonpartisan)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Industrial (First)</td>
<td>Andrew Leung Kwan-yuen (BPA)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 4 shows the uncontested candidates in traditional FCs in 2016 election. There are 12 unopposed candidates, who are all pro-establishment members and are successfully elected.

When candidates like Chan Chun Ying from finance constituency are uncontested, they have low motivation as they do not have to necessarily respond to people’s demands so as to secure the seat in LegCo. The performances of FCs lawmakers are therefore dissatisfying. When the bills do not involve direct interests of the lawmakers’ own constituencies, they tend to become passive with actions like raising less questions and amendments or being absent from the meeting.\(^5\)

**Table 5: Comparison of performance by FCs and GCs lawmakers during weekly meetings in 2014-2015 LegCo\(^6\)**

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55 功能組別去或留
http://slidegur.com/doc/82366/%E3%80%8A%E5%8A%A5%E5%8A%9F%E8%83%BD%E7%B5%84%E5%88%A5%E F%BC%8C%E5%8E%BB%E6%88%96%E7%95%99%E5%9F%E3%80%8B%E7%B0%A1%E5%A 0%B1

The table shows that FCs lawmakers were outperformed by the GCs lawmakers according to their participation rate. In terms of the average number of questions, speeches and motions and amendments initiated, GCs lawmakers performed better as they initiate many more in each of the category. The difference is the largest in the average number of speeches initiated, with a number of 6.9.

Table 6: List of LegCo members with the highest frequencies of being absent from weekly LegCo meetings on Wednesday in 2014-2015\(^{57}\)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ranking of members with highest frequencies of absence</th>
<th>LegCo lawmaker</th>
<th>Constituency</th>
<th>Times of absence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Lau Wong-fat</td>
<td>FCs</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Leung Ka-lau</td>
<td>FCs</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Cheung Kwok-che</td>
<td>FCs</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Tong Ka-wah</td>
<td>GCs</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Fang Kang</td>
<td>FCs</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Tien Puk-sun</td>
<td>GCs</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 6 shows the LegCo members with the most absence. We can see that among the top 6 lawmakers with the highest number of absence, a majority of 4 of them belong to FCs. Among all, Lau Wong-fat has a record of 31 times of absence from the meetings which is significantly higher than others.

The main function of LegCo is to set up laws, approve budget and to monitor government’s performance.\(^{58}\) From the tables, we can see that FCs lawmakers have a lower participation rate than GCs lawmakers in the meeting. When FCs lawmakers participate less actively in discussions and are always absent, their chances to contribute their knowledge in LegCo are lowered because their number of speeches are limited and they may not fully comprehend details of each motion and bills due to constant absence. This makes the FCs lawmakers less effective in achieving the function of LegCo than GCs lawmakers because their abilities to live up to their job duties are doubted. Absence of members may also result in postpone of the meetings, which leads to accumulation of bills that have not been discussed, and thus, LegCo is unable to carry out its function of approving budgets and set up laws effectively.\(^{59}\) Thus, FCs should be abolished.

\(^{57}\) LegCo Monitors Report 2014-2015, 2015

\(^{58}\) LegCo Official site

\(^{59}\) 大公报
Opposing views

1. Encourage government in achieving administrative efficiency

Table 7a: Significant bills which are rejected because of FCs under split voting system in 2012-2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bills</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Effect</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Apply Power and Privileges Ordinance to check papers of CLP Power</td>
<td>8/2/12</td>
<td>Avoid affecting HK business environment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Impeach Chief Executive C.Y. Leung</td>
<td>9/1/13</td>
<td>Avoid affecting the work of C.E.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vote of No Confidence against Chief Executive</td>
<td>16/10/13</td>
<td>Support the government’s administration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apply Power and Privileges Ordinance to check papers of Executive Council</td>
<td>7/11/13</td>
<td>Protect the confidentiality of Executive Council</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 7b: Significant bills which are approved because of FCs under split voting system in 2012-2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bills</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Effect</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Budget for Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link Hong Kong</td>
<td>16/01/2012</td>
<td>Increase integration between HK and Mainland, Increase competitiveness of HK and increase job opportunities</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

With the presence of FCs, split voting system can be carried out. Under split voting system, for motions, bills or amendments introduced by the individual members, they require a simple majority vote of in both the FCs and the GCs. FCs can prevent undesirable motions to be passed, for example, impeaching C.E. so as to avoid affecting the work of C.E. because the latest composition of FCs in LegCo includes more pro-establishment members than pan-democrats as seen in table 8a. Pro-establishment members take the stance of supporting government.

Table 8a: Political camp distribution among FCs members elected in the 2016 LegCo election

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of FCs members</th>
<th>Pro-Establishment members</th>
<th>Pan-democrats</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>35</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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60 大公報  

61 大公報  

62 Apple Daily  
Also, government is able to pass its desirable bills with the presence of FCs. Table 7b shows that government’s desired budget for Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link Hong Kong is able to be passed under the support of pro-establishment members and will bring positive impacts to HK as stated above. For motions, bills or amendments introduced by the government, they require a simple majority vote of the Legislative Council members present. The number of pro-establishment members in LegCo is more than pan-democrats because of the overwhelming amount of pro-establishment members in FCs as seen in table 8b.63

Table 8b: Political camp distribution among LegCo members elected in the 2016 LegCo election

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pro-Establishment members</th>
<th>Pan-democrats</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>43 (26 from FCs, 27 from GCs)</td>
<td>27 (9 from FCs, 18 from GCs)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As a result, FCs is able to restrict the power of directly elected members in GCs in LegCo. Aggressive GCs lawmakers may do violent actions and promote welfarism to enlist support from the anti-government voters. Former lawmaker Wong Yuk-Man threw a banana towards former C.E. Donald Tsang when he is announcing the policy address64, in response to the C.E.’s suggestion of mean-testing for Old Age Allowance. With FCs, split voting system is able to be carried out and undesirable motions can be banned. Government can then produce its desired results with a minimum expenditure of energy, time, money etc., which encourages government in achieving administrative efficiency. Thus, FCs should not be abolished.

2. Prevent welfarism
FCs can prevent HK from turning into a welfare state. FCs lawmakers include representatives from business sectors who fight for interests of businessmen and reject policies which exploit the interests of businessmen and increase the welfare of the general public. On the contrary, GCs members are elected directly by citizens. Candidates from GCs have to fight for welfare for citizens so as to gain support from them. They may voice out opinions to government of providing huge welfare. For example in 2014, pan-democrats like Leung Kwok-Hung and Wong Yuk-Man fought for universal retirement protection, which is regarded as a policy

63 Apple Daily

64 商業電台
promoting welfarism. They aim to fight for such scheme which aims to give an amount of money to all elderly regardless of their background. This undoubtedly increases the financial pressure of HK government and poses threat to the fiscal reserve of the government. Once welfarism is promoted, government may have chance to increase the tax to cover the expenses on welfare. According to David Webb, a famous stock investment commentator, profits tax and salaries tax have to be increased by 35% and 33.5% respectively if universal pension is carried out. This may hinder HK’s competitiveness with lower foreign investment. When there is lower foreign investment, business environment in Hong Kong may deteriorate and job opportunities decrease.

With assists from FCs, motions like this can be rejected. Universal Protection Scheme has already been banned by FCs for a few times in 2006, 2012 and 2014. Therefore, we can see that FCs can prevent welfarism effectively and should not be abolished.

3. Low feasibility

According to the Decision of the NPCSC, universal suffrage of LegCo can only be carried out after universal suffrage of C.E.. Currently, there are diverse political views as there are conflicting parties: pro-establishment, pan-democrats and the newly risen Localists. In June 2015, LegCo banned the electoral reform of electing CE by all eligible adult voters in Hong Kong, although a pre-screening would be applied. As stated in the Manifesto by the new C.E., Ms Carrie Lam, she hopes to

65 Apple Daily

66 香港電台通識網
http://www.liberalstudies.hk/daily_concepts/?word=452

67 In Media Hk
http://www.inmediahk.net/%E5%85%A8%E6%B0%91%E9%80%80%E4%BC%91%E4%BF%9D%E9%9A%9C%E8%8A%88%E5%8A%83%E6%9C%83%E5%B0%8E%E8%87%B4%E5%A4%A7%E5%B9%85%E5%8A%A0%E7%A8%85%EF%BC%9F

68 MBA 智庫百科
http://wiki.mbalib.com/zh-tw/%E7%A6%8F%E5%88%A9%E9%A9%E4%B8%BB%E4%B

69 香港大學社會工作及社會行政學系-香港退休保障的未來發展, 2014

70 Methods for Selecting the Chief Executive in 2017 and for Forming the Legislative Council in 2016, 2013

71 Method for selecting the Chief Executive by Universal Suffrage Official site

24
focus on economic and social issues before restarting reforming package, as the society becomes overwhelmingly political and polarized views exist when reforming package is being carried out. Looking at the current society, a long time will be taken for consideration for universal suffrage for electing C.E. due to such diversified political views. Therefore, it is infeasible for universal suffrage to be carried out in LegCo in the near future as universal suffrage for CE is unable to be carried out looking at the current society situation.

Without universal suffrage, a portion of LegCo members will be remained not elected by general public, which means FCs shall remain and thus, it is infeasible to abolish FCs.

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72 We Connect, Manifesto of Ms Carrie Lam, 2017
D. Judgment and Justification

I support the abolishment of FCs.

1. Low effectiveness of FCs in achieving its aim

The main aim of FCs is to ensure people from various walks of life can have balanced participation in political life. Somebody may say that FCs can effectively achieve this aim by including different sectors joining the legislation process. Thus, policies making can concern interests of various stakeholders as FCs lawmakers can reflect opinions of their respective sector in LegCo.

However, FCs cannot meet its aim effectively. Currently, there is a presence of corporate voting and a strict requirement in becoming voters for a certain sector, which makes people from various walks of life actually unable to participate in political life. For example, in commercial constituencies, voters must be members of “The Chinese General Chamber of Commerce”, in which the members are all establishers of a business organization registered in Hong Kong. For corporate voting, business tycoons can set up subsidiary branches in various constituencies in order to obtain a vote in the election. Businessmen like Ng Kwong-ching and Li Ka-shing is said to control about 107 and 84 votes in FCs election respectively in 2016 LegCo election. In other words, different sectors in society cannot vote for FCs. FCs cannot ensure various walks to have balanced participation in political life as they cannot express their political views through voting.

73 Functional Constituency: A unique feature of Hong Kong Legislature
https://books.google.com.hk/books?id=10XDGYLrTK0C&pg=PA62&lpg=PA62&dq=ensure+that+people+from+various+walks+of+life+can+have+balanced+participation+in+political+lifenbsp;source=bl&ots=9MaO7B-C4m&sig=7shfocCyTduZbB1EpH1jOMCTO4xhl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwieyJLUr9rRAhWBpZQKHcGoB3sQ6AEIHTAB#v=onepage&q=ensure%20that%20people%20from%20various%20walks%20of%20life%20can%20have%20balanced%20participation%20in%20political%20life&f=false

74香港01－圖解功能組別議席挑戰難度「建制堡壘」難攻破嗎？
https://www.hk01.com/%E7%AB%8B%E6%B3%95%E6%9C%83%E9%81%B8%E8%88%89/17083-%E7%AB%8B%E6%9C%83%E9%81%B8%E8%88%89-

75The Chinese General Chamber of Commerce Official site

76 Standnews report- https://thestandnews.com/politics/%E6%98%8E%E5%9A%A0%E7%B5%B1-%E7%AB%8B%E6%B3%95%E6%9C%83%E9%81%B8%E8%88%89/17083-%E7%AB%8B%E6%9C%83%E9%81%B8%E8%88%89-

%E5%90%B3%E5%85%89%E6%AD%A3%E6%93%81107%E7%A5%A8%E9%81%A0%E8%B6%85%E6%9D%8E%E5%98%89%E8%AA%A0-%E6%98%8E%E5%9A%A0%E7%B5%B1-%E7%A5%A8%E6%8D%874%E5%80%8D/
Thus, the aim of FCs cannot be fulfilled. Looking at the level of effectiveness of FCs, it has a low degree in achieving its objectives. FCs is ineffective in achieving its aim and thus it should be abolished.

2. Low necessity in setting up FCs

The aim of FCs is to ensure people from all walks of life to have balanced participation of political life. Setting up FCs is the best way to fulfil the aim as the experienced professionals can represent their respective fields by occupying a seat in the LegCo. LegCo thus serve as a convenient platform for the respective fields to voice out their opinions towards policies. Quoting from LegCo member Philip Wong, FCs is the best way to ensure balanced political participation of people with different backgrounds and there are no better alternatives.

However, there is actually a presence of alternatives in fulfilling the aim of FCs. A possible alternative to substitute FCs is to enquire professionals from respective fields to involve in a certain policy-making process each time. Government can approach political parties, think tanks etc. to consult for opinions. In other words, the main aim of setting up FCs, which is to ensure that people from various walks of life can have balanced participation in political life and to include professional sectors to participate in political work can be fulfilled. Using this alternative, FCs can be abolished and universal suffrage of LegCo can be carried out.

Therefore, looking at the level of necessity of FCs, there is a presence of alternative in achieving the same aim, which makes FCs unnecessary. In other words, FCs should be abolished.

3. Fail to improve standard of living of people

77 Functional Constituency: A unique feature of Hong Kong Legislature-
https://books.google.com.hk/books?id=10XDGI1rTK0C&pg=PA62&lpg=PA62&dq=ensure+that+people+from+various+walks+of+life+can+have+balanced+participation+in+politic&f=false

78 功能組別有重要作用

79 Ming Pao
Somebody may say through FCs, sectoral interests can be protected, resulting in a higher income earned by those sectors and economic stability is enhanced. They can then fulfil their materialistic desire easily, thus improving the standard of living.

For example, in the case for comprehensive review of Mandatory Provident Fund (MPF), FCs rejected the motion for cancelling offsetting of MPF under split voting so as to protect employers’ interests. Employers’ interests are protected as the offsetting allowed employers to use their portions of contributions to the MPF to offset the severance or long service fee of an employee, which has saved companies over $20 billion in the past 13 years. Employers sector can save more money under the offsetting and can have a better standard of living with higher profit earned. Another example is the case of government’s purchase of the shares of Link Reit. FCs rejected the motion as they majorly represent the views of managerial classes. By rejecting the motion, Link Reit can continually be operated under a private corporation, which implies a higher rent for shops and malls. Business sectors’ interests can be well-protected as they can earn much more profit and enjoy a better standard of living.

However, in the case of MPF, the majority party, the employees are not able to be benefited. Under split voting, FCs banned the above motions. Now, employees will get less money as they retire. They cannot maintain economic stability when they retire. For the case of buying back shares of Link Reit by the government, the majority party, the general public are not able to be benefited. Once again, this motion is banned by FCs under split voting. Now, the rent of the shops in the malls under Link Reit is subjected to higher price and thus people have to purchase more expensive goods and services. They cannot fulfil their materialistic desire with a lower cost.

Comparing the scope of influence, setting up FCs can improve standard of living of the

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80 強積金對沖機制 取消動議遭否決

81 Mandatory Provident Fund Schemes Authority Official Site
http://www.mpfa.org.hk/eng/information_centre/faq/employer/mpf_employer/index.jsp

82 香港 01- 回購領展街市商場 救回民生
https://www.hk01.com/01%E5%8D%9A%E8%A9%95-%E6%94%BF%E7%B6%93%E7%A4%BE/12163/%E5%9B%9E%E8%B3%BC%E9%A0%98%E5%B1%95%E8%A1%97%E5%B8%82%E5%95%86%E5%A0%B4-%E6%95%91%E5%9B%9E%E6%B0%91%E7%94%9F
minority (employers, businessmen) but not the majority (employees, general public). From the above 2 cases, we can see that FCs block motions which could directly encourage economic stability of the majority, thus a high ability to fulfill their materialistic desire and improve the standard of living of them. Therefore, FCs should be abolished by looking at its impact of public’s standard of living.

**Conclusion**

To conclude, I agree FCs should be abolished. It is because of its ineffectiveness in achieving its aim, failure in improving standard of living of majority in the society and presence of alternatives in achieving the aim. It is a suitable time for the government to rearrange the arrangement of LegCo.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sample No.</th>
<th>Marks*</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>S6</td>
<td>AB 6</td>
<td>The candidate was able to review the scope of the enquiry in Part A. The criteria for analysis and judgement were also clearly introduced and explained. The focus questions were, however, quite rudimentary and unclear.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CD 6</td>
<td>A huge amount of background information from various sources was provided on p.8-16 of Part B. Though relevant to the enquiry, the candidate made little attempt to organise the information.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PO 6</td>
<td>It is worth noting that the candidate chose to focus on the more practical functions of Functional Constituencies (FCs) rather than the usual discussions on democratic values and principles. This should be respected as a valid choice, as candidates should be allowed to make such decisions as long as they are able to justify them in the enquiry.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>The candidate was able to present arguments for and against the abolition of FCs in Part C with a reasonable amount of elaboration. Some discussions, however, were rough around the edges, for instance:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- The candidate suggested that FCs are unpopular and the evidence presented was that the voter base of FCs is small (p.19). However, popularity and representation are not necessarily related unless further elaboration is given;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Criticism of FC legislators for being absent from LegCo weekly meeting was offered as a piece of supporting evidence for the abolishment of FCs, but the table presented (p.21) showed that among the top six LegCo members who were absent, two came from Geographical Constituencies (GCs);</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Some minor inconsistencies were found in the data presented. For instance in Table 8b, instead of 26 FCs + 27 GCs (53 in total), there should be 40 Pro-Establishment members (24 FCs + 16 GCs); likewise, the Pan-democratic camp should have a total of 11 FCs + 19 GCs, thus a total of 30 instead of 27 as listed by the candidate.</td>
</tr>
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<td>In Part D, the candidate claimed to support the abolishment of FCs. However the discussion was lopsided with little attempt to incorporate the opposing view. Also the verdict was not based on the discussion in Part C.</td>
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<td>The report as a whole was reasonably structured and well-written. Linkage among the four Parts, however, was not evident. Citations of sources were made in the footnotes, but the information provided was too basic.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*AB: Problem Definition and Identification of Concepts/Knowledge (Parts A and B)
CD: Explanation and Justification (Parts C and D)
PO: Presentation and Organisation (the whole report)