**Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary School Education**

**History**

School-based Assessment Task One

Presentation of study outline

Name of student: ________________________________ Class: _______ Class no.: _______

Selected elective (please put ✓ in the appropriate box):  
Comparative studies □  Issue-based studies ✓  Local heritage studies □

**Title**  
Berlin Wall: Controversies Behind

**Study outline**  
The Berlin Wall was built since 1961 and was demolished in 1989. The wall is mainly related to two controversies. The first one is ideology. Berlin was divided into two parts after the Second World War. One side of the Berlin Wall was capitalism while another side was communism. The set up of the Berlin Wall in 1961 became the focus point of the blaming of two camps. Communism said the wall was the self-defense measure against fascism but capitalism said that the wall was a freedom obstacle. I more agree the latter view. It is because people living were poor after East Germany implemented the agricultural cooperation in 1958. Many East German escaped to West Berlin through East Berlin. In order to stop the escapes, East German government built up the Berlin Wall. Moreover, the freedoms of East German continued to be threatened after the set up of the wall. A statistic showed that 840 people would be arrested every two hours in the peak. And the numbers of secret police were amazing. For every 63 people, there was a secret police. But there was only one for every 5,830 people in Soviet Union when it was Stalin period. It is obviously that the Berlin Wall is a free obstacle. ‘Against Fascism’ was the mantra of the communists during the Cold War period. It only reflects a hostile relation. The escapes of a large number of East German show that they seem to support fascist rather that against it. So the view of communist camp is not creditable.

Another controversy is about the retention of the Berlin Wall. The East German government was officially downfallen. As both East and West Germany thought the fall of communist government of East Germany as the revolution, they strongly desired to pull down this symbol of communist regime – the Berlin Wall. If ‘breaking the wall’ represents an ideal, ‘against breaking the wall’ is a practical consideration. Since 1961, after 30 years of development, East and West
Berlin to East and West Germany had become two completely different societies indeed. When removing the wall, the economy of West Germany would be collapsed by East Germany. So when many East German climbed the wall in 1989 and shouted, ‘I don’t feel like I’m in prison anymore!’, West German government had already booted to them by saying, ‘We love you, and if you come, we will welcome you with open arms – but really, we wish you would stay home.’ However, no matter East Berlin or West Berlin, many people still miss the ‘wall’s era’ after the demolition of the wall indeed.

So, it can be said that the controversies of the Berlin Wall is still continuing.

Bibliography
“Berlin Wall”[/http://www.u-s-history.com/pages/h1867.html]