

UNIVERSITI TUNKU ABDUL RAHMAN

ACADEMIC YEAR 2022/2023

SEPTEMBER 2022 EXAMINATION

MPU32083/UALL1053 CRITICAL READING AND THINKING

WEDNESDAY, 21 SEPTEMBER 2022

TIME: 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM (2 HOURS)

BACHELOR OF COMPUTER SCIENCE (HONOURS)

BACHELOR OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (HONOURS) COMMUNICATIONS AND
NETWORKING

BACHELOR OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (HONOURS) COMPUTER ENGINEERING
BACHELOR OF SOCIAL SCIENCE (HONOURS) PSYCHOLOGY

Instructions to Candidates:

This paper has **THREE (3)** sections. All sections have to be answered.

SECTION A [TOTAL: 30 MARKS]

Reading Comprehension

Answer **ALL** questions.

SECTION B [TOTAL: 30 MARKS]

Error Identification

Answer **ALL** questions.

SECTION C [TOTAL: 40 MARKS]

Essay Writing

Answer only **ONE (1)** question.

MPU32083/UALL1053 CRITICAL READING AND THINKING**SECTION A [TOTAL: 30 MARKS]****READING COMPREHENSION**

Read the following article and answer **ALL** the questions using your own words.

Why I'm A Racist (Jeff Cook)

1 I am a white American male. I'm married to a beautiful blond-haired green-eyed woman, and have two amazing blond-haired blue-eyed boys. I was a blond-haired blue-eyed child who grew up in suburban New Jersey in a solid family with a mother, a father, a brother and two dogs. I lived a life **marked** by opportunity and forgiveness; and while I may not have always had "much," I have always had the benefit of the doubt. I was raised to treat everyone equally, regardless of race, or any other demographic for that matter. And while my town may have been predominantly white, I certainly didn't grow up isolated from other races and cultures. But even with the upbringing and exposure I was blessed with, I'm probably still a racist. It is okay for me to admit this. It doesn't make me evil. It makes me ready for change.

2 I live my life day in and day out and only rarely am I *forced* to confront these realities. Certainly, the media, social and otherwise, shine a light on the issue, but that is not what I mean. Reading a powerful blog post or an inspiring tweet does not constitute confronting anything. What I mean is that when I get pulled over, shop in a store, go for a job interview, meet a new person for the first time, etc... I expect to be judged by who I am. Yes, I am tattooed and bearded so I'm sure that on occasion someone generalizes about me, but I don't worry about it because I know that once they get to know me, they will move beyond those judgements. And I assume that they will eventually get to know me, because even with their judgement, they will give me the benefit of the doubt. I live my life benefiting from other people's glass walls. That is simply not true for people of color. They are forced to confront it every single day.

3 The security guard that makes a mental note that they are there, the woman who locks her car door as they walk by, and yes, the times they get pulled over for driving while black. (No matter how much or how little you think that happens, we all know it happens.) So you see, while I am very uncomfortable when forced to confront a terrible reality that I can generally avoid, my friends and neighbors of color are forced to **confront** it every day. Consequently, they have formed a thicker skin to the subject and are more free to discuss it. This can easily be misunderstood as being **rash** or aggressive because it creates an uneasy feeling in me. Let me put it this way: we all have that person in our lives who always manages to say the one thing that makes everyone in the room uncomfortable. Maybe it's a friend or coworker, maybe it's your cousin or your sister-in-law; whoever it is, our attitude is generally that it is *their* problem. We feel like *they* are doing something to *us*, because we are feeling uncomfortable with what they are saying or doing, rather than taking responsibility for our own feelings.

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4 I was recently watching a Sunday service from North Point Church. In the service the lead pastor, Andy Stanley, invited two African American men who were also Christian leaders to be a part of a discussion about recent events and racism in general in this country. They both explained the reality that they were taught how to behave if they ever got pulled over by the police. They talked about it as if it was just another part of growing up. An obvious lesson like don't drink and drive or always pay your bills. This may not seem so strange until they described exactly what they meant by "how to behave if you ever get pulled over." One of the men relayed that he was taught that you never reach for your wallet. Now, I understand that if you are being **addressed** by a police officer you don't want to be erratic or make any sudden moves, but the degree to which this lesson was ingrained in him as an African American young man was startling. It ran so deep in his heart that when he heard about recent events, he admitted that there was a part of him that thought to himself, '*Why'd you reach for your wallet? You know you're not supposed to reach for your wallet.*'

5 I live in New Jersey. I am not someone who has gone their whole life without interacting with people of color. I am not someone who is solely informed by the media in regard to cultures and races outside my own. I have friends, co-workers, neighbors, **mentors** and family members who are people of color, but I am still distant from the racial inequalities that mark their lives. I have never made it a secret that I was a "rebellious youth". I also regularly share with people how grateful I am for all of the opportunities I have been given to do things I really wasn't qualified for. I have been allowed behind the scenes in a lot of situations that shaped who I am and developed me in my field with no explainable reason. While I will never really know for sure, I have to wonder if my experience would have looked the same way if I didn't. The "deficit of the doubt" that people of color experience throughout their lives is something that I am only beginning to understand. And that understanding is really only an intellectual one. It is often said that the greatest distance in the world is 18", the distance from your head to your heart. *I will always remain distant from the deficit of the doubt until I allow it to hit close to my heart.* The question then is: how?

6 I have to make it my business to overcome my discomfort; I have to be **intentional** about educating myself and raising my awareness so that my ignorance can diminish; and I have made it personal. I need to let my heart break at the fact that there are people in this country who do not receive the benefit of the doubt, ever. I need to care enough to do something. **The responsibility for having it isn't on me; but the responsibility for what I do with it is.**

Adapted from https://www.huffpost.com/entry/why-im-a-racist_b_57893b9ee4b0e7c873500382

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- Q1. How will you describe the author? (3 marks)
- Q2. What does this *Why'd you reach for your wallet? You know you're not supposed to reach for your wallet.* (Paragraph 4) mean? (4 marks)
- Q3. Explain the following sentence using your own words: '*I will always remain distant from the deficit of the doubt until I allow it to hit close to my heart.*' (Paragraph 5). (3 marks)
- Q4. Do you agree with the author on this? '*The responsibility for having it isn't on me; but the responsibility for what I do with it is.*' (Paragraph 6). Provide **THREE (3)** reasons to support your stand. (3 marks)
- Q5. Give the meaning for the words in bold as used in the passage:
- | | | |
|-----------------|---------------|----------|
| (a) marked | (Paragraph 1) | (1 mark) |
| (b) rash | (Paragraph 3) | (1 mark) |
| (c) confront | (Paragraph 3) | (1 mark) |
| (d) addressed | (Paragraph 4) | (1 mark) |
| (e) mentors | (Paragraph 5) | (1 mark) |
| (f) intentional | (Paragraph 6) | (1 mark) |
- [Total: 6 marks]
- Q6. Summarise the information provided by the author in Paragraph 2 and 3 on discrimination. (5 marks)

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Q7. Elaborate **THREE (3)** ways that the author can take to reduce the discomfort faced. (6 marks)

[Total: 30 marks]

SECTION B [TOTAL: 30 MARKS]**ERROR IDENTIFICATION**

Answer **ALL** questions. Identify and provide the definition for the fallacy found in each argument. Then, explain the fallacy in the argument.

- Q1. 'That's what abortion is – killing innocent humans for money. Abortionists are government licensed hit men.' (Charley Reese, The Daily Iberian) (5 marks)
- Q2. 'I am not going to have a monthly or every three months conversation about whether or not we pay our bills because that in and of itself does severe damage. Even the threat of default hurts our economy. It's hurting our economy as we speak. We shouldn't be having that debate.' (Barack Obama, The Daily Signal) (5 marks)
- Q3. 'Then we had a death. A 32-year-old woman haemorrhaged to death as a result of a cervical laceration. I finally realized; we weren't helping women – we were destroying them.' (Carol Everett on abortion in an advertisement published by the National Right to Life) (5 marks)
- Q4. 'A person apparently hopelessly ill may be allowed to take his own life. Then he may be permitted to deputize others to do it for him should be no longer be able to act. The judgment of others then becomes the ruling factor. Already at this point, euthanasia is not personal and voluntary, for others are acting on their behalf of the patient they see fit. This may well incline them to act on behalf of other patients who have not authorized them to exercise their judgment. It is only a short step, then, from voluntary euthanasia (self-inflicted or authorized), to directed euthanasia administered to a patient who has given no authorization, to involuntary euthanasia conducted as a part of a social policy.' (J. Gay Williams in 'The Wrongfulness of Euthanasia') (5 marks)
- Q5. 'The Beast will make off with your children. He'll come after you in the night. We're not safe 'til his head is mounted on my wall. I say we kill the beast!' (Gaston, Beauty and the Beast) (5 marks)

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- Q6. ‘There is more freedom in North Korea sometimes than there is in the United States. When I go to the airport, I have to get in the surrender position. People put hands all over me. And I have to provide a photo ID in a couple of different forms and prove that I really am not going to terrorize the airplane. But if I want to go vote, I don’t need a thing.’ (Mike Huckabee (R), former Arkansas Governor) (5 marks)

[Total: 30 marks]

SECTION C [TOTAL: 40 MARKS]**ESSAY WRITING**

Answer only **ONE (1)** question. Your essay should be between **400 – 450 words**.

- Q1. In an article published in 2021, UNESCO declared that environmental education must be a core curriculum component by 2025. In your opinion, what are the advantages and disadvantages regarding the implementation of this curriculum in schools? (40 marks)
- Q2. Many young people are considering entrepreneurship as a career option. In your opinion, do you think this is a viable choice or otherwise? (40 marks)

[Total: 40 marks]