



**TUNKU ABDUL RAHMAN UNIVERSITY OF MANAGEMENT
AND TECHNOLOGY**

Faculty of Social Science and Humanities

Department of Mata Pelajaran Pengajian Umum

MPU-3322/3342 CONTEMPORARY MALAYSIAN ISSUES

ASSESSMENT 3: REFLECTIVE DIALOGUE

(Semester 1, Year 2023/2022)

Program / Tutorial Group	
Lecturer's Name	

SCORE:

1 – Very Weak 2 – Weak 3 – Fair 4 – Good 5 – Very Good

ASSESSMENT 3: REFLECTIVE DIALOGUE (30%)

CRITERIA	SCORE
Relevance	/ 5
Optimisation	/ 5
Engagement	/ 5
Inquisitive Mind	/ 5
TOTAL (100 marks)	/ 20 x 100 =
Comments:	

No.	Discussion Question	Tutor's Remarks
1	<p><i>The Universities and University Colleges Act (Auku) 1971 was enacted to allow higher education to have a centralized framework for expansion. However, its restriction on university autonomy and students' freedom of expression have made it a contentious issue (FMT, 2023). Recently, there are calls for the government to repeal the Act in order to guarantee students' autonomy in universities.</i></p> <p><i>Should the University Act that bars students from political involvement be amended to give more liberty to university students to become more active in political engagement? Explain ONE reason.</i></p> <p><i>Material:</i> https://www.nst.com.my/news/nation/2023/04/897322/anwar-only-part-auku-should-be-repealed</p> <p>Answer by Group 1 and Present by Group 1</p>	<p>Politics</p>
	<p>Answer by Group 2</p> <p>In our opinion, we think that the University Act that bars students from political involvement should be amended to give more liberty to university students to become more active in political engagement.</p> <p>In our view, the university is often considered a centre of intellectual development and critical thinking. The students could engage in real-world issues, analyse from different perspectives, and formulate their own opinions by participating in political activities. It allows the students to express their political views and this could cultivate a sense of civic responsibility among the students and lead to active participation in the democratic process.</p> <p>According to Malaysiakini (2022), the ability to freely participate in politics is every citizen's right which is guaranteed by the Federal Constitution under Article 10. The new legislation made it possible for 18 years old to vote in elections, marking significant progress in promoting political engagement among young citizens. However, the University Act contradicts the progress, by limiting the students' involvement in political matters (Chai, 2022). Nicholas Chung also stated that the University Act should be amended to ensure independent, inclusive, and professional governance of universities (Chung, 2021).</p> <p>(187 words)</p> <p>https://www.malaysiakini.com/letters/632651</p> <p>https://www.iseas.edu.sg/articles-commentaries/iseas-perspective/2022-63-the-paradox-of-malaysias-l</p>	

	owering-of-voting-age-expanded-enfranchisement-devalued-by-more-unequal-representation-by-james-chai/ https://www.freemalaysiatoday.com/category/nation/2021/10/26/student-led-heya-engages-politicians-in-push-for-higher-education-reforms/	
	Answer by Group 3	
	Answer by Group 4	
2.	<p><i>Electric Vehicles (EVs) are commonly considered to be better for the environment as they do not contribute to carbon emission. However, EV battery production can adversely impact the environment.</i></p> <p><i>Explain ONE negative impact of EVs towards the environment.</i></p> <p><i>Material:</i> https://www.nytimes.com/2021/03/02/climate/electric-vehicles-environment.html</p>	Environment
	Answer by Group 1	
	<p>Answer by Group 2 and Present by Group 2</p> <p>In our opinion, we think that electric vehicles (EVs) still bear a considerable carbon footprint stemming from manufacturing, battery production, and charging energy, especially for EVs with extended ranges that necessitate larger batteries, thereby incurring a more substantial initial carbon penalty.</p> <p>Donut (2020) asserts the adverse environmental effects of EVs. The battery production, reliant on materials like lithium, emits greenhouse gases and triggers water depletion in regions such as the Lithium Triangle (Chile, Via Boli, Argentina). Battery recycling poses challenges, and EVs might draw power from coal-fired plants.</p> <p>Akshay Singhal (2021) contends that EV manufacture, particularly batteries utilising rare earth minerals, emits more carbon than diesel counterparts. While EVs emit fewer emissions during</p>	

	<p>operation, their green impact is compromised by coal and natural gas-derived electricity. Efficient batteries are pivotal to curbing upfront and ongoing carbon costs, promoting long-term eco-friendliness. Singhal's video highlights the "green threshold" of around 100,000 kilometres for EVs to outshine diesel vehicles environmentally.</p> <p>The Guardian underscores that although EVs emit fewer tailpipe emissions, their production carries 60% higher carbon emissions than traditional cars, attributed to rare metal extraction and battery manufacturing</p> <p>(185 words)</p> <p>Donut (2020). Are Electric Cars REALLY Better for the Environment? [online] Available at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G67i_Z8ukD4&t=150s&ab_channel=Donut [Accessed 31 Aug. 2023].</p> <p>Akshay Singhal. (2021). What's making EVs dirtier than Diesel? Akshay Singhal TEDxGateway. [online] Available at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Worx8EcaH8U&ab_channel=TEDxTalks [Accessed 31 Aug. 2023].</p> <p>TheGuardian (2022). How green are electric cars? It's Complicated. [online] Available at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Chp9VIs25c&ab_channel=TheGuardian.</p>
	Answer by Group 3
	Answer by Group 4

3.	<p><i>The Malaysian government is expected to save between RM15 billion and RM17 billion annually if subsidies are not enjoyed by the high-income earners (T20 group) under a targeted subsidy mechanism, according to Deputy Minister of Finance I Datuk Seri Ahmad Maslan.</i></p> <p><i>Should petrol subsidy be removed from the T20 group? Explain ONE reason.</i></p> <p><i>Material: https://www.bernama.com/en/business/news.php?id=2201603</i></p>	Economy
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	Answer by Group 1	
	<p>Answer by Group 2</p> <p>In our opinion, we think that petrol subsidy should be removed from the T20 group.</p> <p>The principle of subsidies is that they were originally designed to provide economic relief to those who are genuinely in need. High-income earners belonging to the T20 group possess greater financial capacity to absorb the costs of essential commodities without relying on government assistance. The government would be able to focus its resources on those who truly need it, fostering a more equitable distribution of resources.</p> <p>According to BusinessToday (2022), the phased removal of blanket subsidies is said to lower emissions and lead to emission targets being achieved in the long run by prompting consumers to discontinue their current habits of heavily relying on fossil fuels in favour of more environmentally friendly options. Furthermore, Public Investment Bank Bhd estimated that the removal of fuel subsidies for the T20 group will result in an annual increase in inflation of 0.45 to 0.75 percentage points (The Star, 2023), indicating that the economy is growing. A Putra Business School associate professor, Latif, also believes that those in the T20 group would not be severely impacted by the removal of subsidies as they were the fastest to recover in terms of their income and wealth after the pandemic (Lim, 2023).</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Including in-text citations (213 words)</p> <p>https://www.businesstoday.com.my/2022/05/31/gradual-removal-of-blanket-fuel-subsidies-why-malaysia-needs-this-now/</p> <p>https://www.thestar.com.my/business/business-news/2023/05/30/impact-of-excluding-----t20-from-fuel-subsidies</p> <p>https://paultan.org/2023/05/26/targeted-subsidy-policy-wont-impact-high-income-group-t20-able-to-afford-it-say-economic-experts/</p>	
	Answer by Group 3 and present by Group 3	
	Answer by Group 4	

4.	<p><i>Covid-19 pandemic has prompted Malaysian consumers to choose digital payment over cash. It is predicted that most nations would go cashless by the year 2030.</i></p> <p><i>Will a cashless society be our future in Malaysia? Explain ONE reason.</i></p> <p><i>Material:</i> <i>https://themalaysianreserve.com/2022/06/17/cashless-society-in-malaysia-a-within-3-years/</i></p>	Economy
	Answer by Group 1	
	<p>Answer by Group 2</p> <p>In our opinion, we think that a cashless society will be our future in Malaysia.</p> <p>The point of success of digital payment is the convenience that digital payments guarantee when performing financial-related activities. Instead of carrying physical cash and facing the risk of losing them, payment can be simply done by scanning the business QRcode via mobile phones. This eliminates the hassle of ATM withdrawals and empowered instant account reload, even at the point of purchase. The automatic transaction recording inherent to digital payment allows the user to keep track and manage their expenses effortlessly (Manickam et al., 2019), and enhances their ability in financial management.</p> <p>According to Mahadhir Aziz (2022), the adoption of digital payment in Malaysia is rapidly increasing due to the changing preferences and government’s effort in promoting cashless transactions. The convenience offered by digital payment has become the major driver of public reference. Malaysian Central Bank, BNM, launched a five-year-long e-payment campaign called e-Duit in October 2022 to raise awareness of the consumers and small business (Malaysian Central Bank, 2023), guiding them in adopting digital payment. BNM has revealed their objective to encourage the shift to electronic payments, achieving an increment in the e-payment transaction per capita from 44 transactions to 200 transactions in the next ten years (Bank Negara Malaysia, 2023).</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Include citation - (216 words)</p> <p>References Manickam, T., Gomathinayagam, V. and Subramanian, S.M. (2019) Effect Of Cashless Payment Methods: A Case Study Perspective Analysis, Article in International Journal of Scientific & Technology Research. Available at: https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Sp-Mathiraj-Subramanian-2/publication/344198737_Effect_Of_Cashless_Payment_Methods_A_Case_Study_Perspective_Analysis/links/5f5afbba4585154dbbc87e91/Effect-Of-Cashless-Payment-Methods-A-Case-Study-Perspective-Analysis.pdf (Accessed: 26 August 2023).</p>	

	<p>Mahadhir Aziz (2022) Covid-induced growth of digital payments propels Malaysia into the next fintech wave, The Malaysian Reserve. Available at: https://themalaysianreserve.com/2022/06/22/covid-induced-growth-of-digital-payments-propels-malaysia-into-next-fintech-wave/ (Accessed: 29 August 2023).</p> <p>Malaysian Central Bank (2023) E-payment adoption in Malaysia going full steam ahead, Digital News Asia. Available at: https://www.digitalnewsasia.com/digital-economy/e-payment-adoption-malaysia-going-full-steam-ahead (Accessed: 30 August 2023).</p> <p>Bank Negara Malaysia (2023) Driving towards electronic payments. Available at: https://www.bnm.gov.my/driving-towards-electronic-payments (Accessed: 29 August 2023).</p>
	Answer by Group 3
	Answer by Group 4 and present by group 4