HMPU3313/BOMS Critical Thinking Skill

Academic Year 2020

October Semester

Mid-Term Examination

Examination Date: 23 November 2020 (Monday)

Time: 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

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| Instructions:   1. This mid-term examination will be proceeded on Microsoft Team. 2. The examination will proceed with 2 hours, start at 10 am, end at 12 pm on sharp. 3. There are three sections in this mid-term paper. Students should answer all sections. 4. All questions must be answered in the Test of Microsoft Team accordingly. 5. Any late submission will not be accepted. |

**Section A: Identify the following sentences being argument, explanation, illustration,** **conditional statement, report or unsupported belief? (40 marks)**

**Example: argument**

1. You can apply this programme only if you credit with Bahasa Kebangsaan and History of your SPM.

Conditional statement

1. Plastic is composed of major toxic pollutants, as it has the potential to cause great harm to the environment in pollution.

Illustration Explanation

1. As plastic is composed of major toxic pollutants, it has the potential to cause great harm to the environment in the form of air, water and land pollution. It is our duty to protect the environment. Based on these, we have to reduce the usage of plastic.

Argument

1. The drag on GDP growth came from multi-faceted factors (weakening exports, declines in mining and agriculture output, a sharp contraction in public investment and moderate private investment growth). (*The Star*)

Report (Illustration)

1. According to the comments by Lee Heng Guie, the Malaysian economy is expected to face another tumultuous year in 2019 as it is being challenged by on-going domestic adjustments and rising external headwinds, particularly lingering uncertainties about the state of the US-China trade disputes and further tightening of the US interest rates. (*The Star*)

Report

1. Vaccination is ridiculous and should be rejected. How can this protect human immune system by injecting weaker or attenuated viruses to human body?

Unsupported belief

1. If you eat too much, you’ll gain weight.

Conditional statement

1. Ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country.

Unsupported belief.

1. I bet that he’s at Starbucks because I’ve seen him there most days at about this time.

Arguments

1. My car has been in the shop since last Tuesday because the mechanic keeps breaking it.

Explanation

**Section 2: Identify the following argument being Deduction or Induction. Identify also what the common pattern are they. (40 marks)**

**Example: Deduction, Categorical Syllogism**

1. Susan is an excellent cat-sitter. Therefore, she would be an excellent babysitter.

Deduction. Argument from Definition. (Induction, Argument from Analogy)

1. Ramirez’s body was found in fire scene. But he was also found to ingest a large dose of disinfectant. This is the main reason for his death.

Deduction. Disjunctive Syllogism (Induction, Causal Argument)

1. Some people like chess cake. Some people like black forest. So, some people who like chess cake must also like black forest.

Deduction. Categorical Syllogism.

1. Either the Maid is the murderer or the Butler is the murderer. And the Butler just confessed. So, the Maid is innocent, after all.

Deduction. Disjunctive Syllogism.

1. The map says the buried treasure should be right here. So, we will find the treasure at here.

Induction. Argument from authority.

1. The PRIMA Home open for the Malaysians citizens who are at least 21 years of age with household monthly income RM2,500 – RM15,000, and must not own more than one property before. You are not eligible. Therefore, you cannot apply it.

Deduction. Argument based on definition.

1. Only local students are admitted to the class. John is a local student, so he is admitted to this class.

Deduction. Categorical Syllogism.

1. The Lakers almost didn’t beat the Heat in this season. They’ll never get past Heat in the Final on next month.

Induction. Causal argument. (Induction, Predictive Argument)

1. When I was walking on the street, I saw some people were refused to wear medical mask. I think the people in this area have no responsibility to public health.

Induction. Inductive Generalization.

1. The case of infection will be increasing, given that there is no effective vaccine for the virus. There is no effective vaccine for the virus only if the case of infection will be increasing.

Induction. Predictive Arguments. Deduction, Hypothetical Syllogism

**Section 3: Read the following essay carefully and follow the instructions:**

1. **The author tries to argue that legislation may not be effective and that filial responsibility could best be encouraged by incentive schemes.**
2. **Please find out the reasons for support in the essay and construct TWO arguments for above two viewpoints**
3. **You are required to put them in standard form. (20 marks)**

**Filial piety better cultivated in other ways**

I REFER to the report “Waytha: New law to protect neglected parents being planned” (The Star, Feb 4, 2019).

The statistics do not lie; Malaysia’s ageing population is swelling very fast. By 2020, the number of people aged 65 and above is expected to reach two million, and by 2040, it is supposed to be six million.

The two biggest concerns related to an ageing population are poverty and non-communicable diseases. It is good that our government is willing to study the proposal to create a new law to protect parents who are being neglected by their children, as announced by Minister in the Prime Minister’s Department P. Waythamoorthy recently.

I have read that in Hong Kong, adult children have a moral duty to provide financial support for their elderly parents. However, in many other countries including Singapore, China, the United States and Canada, adult children, depending on their financial situation, are required by law to provide their elderly parents with a minimum standard of living.

But legislation may have a negative effect on family harmony and may not be effective as it is difficult to enforce. Filial responsibility, I believe, could best be encouraged by incentive schemes such as providing tax rebaetes and community support services to help carers of the elderly.

Government has an important role in formulating policies that reward and encourage care for the elderly by their families. Caring the elders casts financial burdens on the families of B40.

It is also good that the national health protection scheme for the B40 group, Peduli Kesihatan (Peka B40), addresses some core issues in healthcare access for cancer and non-communicable diseases especially among the elderly population. (*The Star*, Letters)

Legislation may not be effective

P1:Legislation may have a negative effect on family harmony.

P2:Legislation is difficult to enforce.

C :Legislation may not be effective.

Filial responsibility could best be encouraged by incentive schemes.

P1:Legislation may not be effective.  
P2:The two biggest concerns are related to an ageing population are proverty and non-communicable diseases.

C:Filial responsibilities could be the encouraged by incentive schemes.