SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

ACADEMIC YEAR 2020

JANUARY EXAMINATION

**HMPU3313/BOMS1043 CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS**

DATE : 24 January 2021 TIME : 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

## GENERAL STUDIES MPU SUBJECT

**Instruction to Candidates :**

1. Answer ALL questions. All questions carry equal marks.
2. Download the question file and the answer file.
3. Write down you name and student ID in the first page of answer file.
4. Write down your answers in the columns provided.
5. Any discussion and contact are forbidden.
6. Any duplication and plagiarism are forbidden and would be awarded ZERO once found.
7. Save the file and rename in the format: HMPU3313&BOMS1043\_2020OCT\_Your Student ID.docx.
8. Upload your answer file to Microsoft Teams submission area. Please make sure you click the "Submit".
9. No return and amendment are allowed once submitted.
10. One mark will be deducted for every minute late submission.

Q1. (a) Please identify whether the following sentences are argument, explanation,

illustration, report, conditional statement or unsupported belief?

(i) Donald Trump: “I believe that one day the virus, like a miracle, will disappear.” (2 marks)

Unsupported belief

(ii) According to the Budget 2021, the government plans to spend RM322.5 billion on 2021. It expects the economic to grow by between 6.5% and 7.5%. (2 marks)

Report

(iii) Most billionaires are from tech industry. You see that Bill Gates, Jeff Bezos and Mark Zuckerberg are. (2 marks)

Illustration

1. A successful military campaign must move swiftly. No army can sustain a war for a protracted period of time. Hitler ignored this. Therefore, he failed. (2 marks)

Argument

(v) Hitler failed because his decision to attack Russia committed him to a long and protracted war. (2 marks)

Explanation

1. Please identify the missing components in the following argument and write in the standard form. You should standardize the statements in your own words if necessary.
2. We have a duty to provide enough food for future generations. So we have a duty to develop genetically engineered crops. (5 marks)

HP1: Develop genetically engineered crops help provide food for future generations

P2:

C:

1. If today is Sunday, Zoe is either at home or on the training course. Therefore, Zoe is at home. (5 marks)

P1:

HP2: Today is Sunday

HP3: Zoe is not at training course.

C:

1. Gay marriage? No way. If we allow gay marriage, then we will have to allow polygamy. (5 marks)

P1:

HP2: We cannot allow polygamy

C: We cannot allow gay marriage

[Total : 25 marks]

Q2. (a) Please use RULE METHODS to evaluate the validity of the following

arguments. You are required to translate the sentences into the standard form of categorical statements if necessary. You should use a table to demonstrate your answer as follows:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Question | Standard categorical syllogism form | Mode | Evaluative status (including fallacy if any) |
|  |  |  | Valid or Invalid |

Q2. (continued)

1. Some medical professionals are not liberals, because some medical professionals are not supporters of euthanasia and some supporters of euthanasia are liberals. (5 marks)

P1:some medical professionals are not supporters of euthanasia

P2:some supporters of euthanasia are liberals.

C:Some medical professionals are not liberals

Some S are not M

Some M are P

Some S are not P

Su O Md

Mu I Pu

Su O Pd

Fallacy of illicit major

(ii) Not all major disease are curable because AIDS is a major disease and it is incurable. (5 marks)

All disease identify to AIDS are major disease No disease identify to AIDS are curable

Some major disease are not curable.

All M are S

No M are P

Some S are not P

Md A Su

Md E Pd

Su O Pu

1. When he was a player, Michael Jordan won the NBA Final MVP. Nobody who counted as great player was never won the NBA Final MVP, which explain why Michael Jordan can be counted as great player.

All people identify to Michael Jordan won the NBA Final MVP.

No one are counted at great player if not won NBA Final MVP

All people identify to Michael Jordan are counted at great player

Sd A Mu

Pd E Md

Sd A Pu

(5 marks)

(b) Please state the following arguments in standard form and use COUNTER-EXAMPLE METHOD to prove the following arguments are invalid. You are required to translate the statements if necessary. You should use a table to demonstrate your answer as follows:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Standard argument form | Mode | Counterargument |
|  |  |  |

1. Everything that Pete won at the carnival must be junk. I know that Pete won everything that Bob won, and a few stuffs that Bob won are junk.

(5 marks)

P1: All people identify to Pete won everything that people identify to Bob won

P2:: Some people identify to Bob won are junk.

C: All people identify to Pete won at carnival must be junk

All A are B

Some B are C

All A are C

P1: All male are human

P2: some human are female

C: All male are female

1. All homeless people who are panhandlers are destitute individuals. Therefore, all homeless people are destitute individuals. (5 marks)

All homeless people who are panhandlers are destitute individuals.

All A are C

All A who are B are C

All A are C

All animals who are dogs are mammals

All animals are mammals

[Total : 25 marks]

Q3. Please identify the informal fallacies in the following arguments:

1. 25 million people own a Maytag washer. You should own one too. Maybe they know something you don’t. (2.5 marks)

Bandwagon Argument

1. Sure, Sara says she saw me cheat in the game, but Sara’s stupid, so you shouldn’t pay any attention to her. (2.5 marks)

Personal attack

1. The government should lockdown the country. For otherwise, the pandemic of COVID 19 would become worse. Once the pandemic becomes worse, the economic would be collapse. This would lead our society into chaos. (2.5 marks)

Slippery slope

1. The surgeon general says that abortion is immoral, so it is. (2.5 marks)

Appeal to Authority

1. The virus of COVID 19 cannot stand in higher temperature. Therefore, it will be going to fade in summer. (2.5 marks)

Questionable cause

1. Senator Jones says that we should not fund the attack submarine program. I disagree entirely. I can’t understand why he wants to leave us defenseless like that. (2.5 marks)

Straw man fallacy

1. President Lukashenko of Belarus said. “There are not viruses here. Do you see any of them flying around? I don’t see them either.” (2.5 marks)

Appeal to ignorance

1. Dr. Tun Mahathir said, “The election manifesto is not a bible that has to be followed and abided. Therefore, it is not necessary to comply it.” (2.5 marks)

Appeal to Authority

1. The main support for tax reductions comes from people who pay taxes, so their views cannot be a reliable indicator of what the best policy is. (2.5 marks)

Attacking the motives

1. Capitalism is the only correct economic system, because without it free enterprise would be impossible. (2.5 marks)

False Alternatives

[Total : 25 marks]

Q4. Please read the following article and answer the questions:

**Benefits of Working From Home (from *The Star*)**

One of the positives from our dire Covid situation is the focus on WFH (work from home); that has benefits including less productive time loss on office commuting, less pressure on the transport system, less pollution. Organisational experts also point to improvement in employees' motivation and productivity.

However, certain conditions must be met for a successful "WFH economy". Our government needs to properly plan and implement infrastructure to enhance connectivity. At present, our internet connectivity is about 94%, mostly in urban areas. Note that we may need to constantly improve our technology as WFH is dependent on reliable and fast connectivity.

Companies must also have a structured approach to ensure the right technology tools to maximise productivity and to ensure efficient training of staff, and also ensure sound communication and feedback between employees and head office.

Importantly, organisations need to be aware that the WFH model can be "frustrated" by some managers who still prefer to have staff back at work. These managers are said to suffer from three key shortcomings:

Q4. (continued)

Control. Some managers are control freaks and do not like losing the ability to micromanage their staff. Such managers still have the traditional office mindset and generally tend to be sceptical about WFM benefits of flexible hours and work arrangement and the idea of work-life balance.

Mistrust. These same managers often do not trust their staff to be sufficiently motivated, productive and diligent in the online remote work model. If anything, technology has enhanced the ability to track performance and output in real time.

Irrelevance. Arguably, the WFH model in Covid times has sometimes exposed the irrelevance and costs of having many layers of management. Lean management means less managers being ineffective and inefficient, with redundant meetings to make themselves look indispensable.

In short, successfully managing a sound WFH culture brings positives, including a better work-life balance, is cost effective and efficient. And, importantly in the process, we get to flatten the dire Covid-19 curve. Even in the post-Covid environment, with technology advancements, WFH is likely to be the "new normal" of how many people will work in many businesses.

1. The author tries to argue that working from home likely becomes a new normal. Please refute ONE of the premises of author’s argument. (10 marks)

WFH culture brings positives, including a better work-life balance, is cost effective and efficient.

Work from home more likely won’t work-life balance since company would require to do more from home and it likely will break the environment of the home to become a work place. According to research have shown that, workplace and home should be separated for people to work in high efficiency or having rest.

1. Please construct ONE counter argument for your view in contrast to author’s.

(15 marks)

P1: Research shows that work from home makes people lack of community and team work.

P2: Lack of community and team work is bad for a company to grow stronger.

C: Therefore, we should not work from home to make company stronger.

[Total : 25 marks]

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