

Final Examination Semester 1/Year 2019

COURSE : CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS COURSE CODE : HMPU3313

DURATION : 2 1/2 HOURS

DEPARTMENT : GENERAL STUDIES CENTRE LECTURER : TAN MING ZHENG

Student’s ID :

Batch No. :

Notes to candidates:

1. The question paper consists of 5 pages and 7 sections.
2. Students are required to answer ALL questions in answer booklet.
3. Return the question paper with your answer booklet.

# Section A: Determine whether the following passages are best understood as ARGUMENT, CONDITIONAL STATEMENT, ILLUSTRATION, REPORT, UNSUPPORTED BELIEF or EXPLANATION. (12%)

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 the form of air, water and land pollution.

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.

Arguments.

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*)

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

# Section B: Find out the missing components and diagramme the arguments. (12%)

1. If you want to do well in this class, then you must work very hard. And I know you want to do well in this class.

HC. So, you must work very hard.

1. If you want to do well in this class, then you must work very hard
2. I know you want to do well in this class.
3. So, you must work very hard.

1 + 2

↓

3

1. You should consider working fewer hours while attending college full-time. Since you and your family have paid a great deal of money for your college education, you really must take your studies more seriously. Therefore, you should stop working so much.
2. You should consider working fewer hours while attending college full-time
3. Since you and your family have paid a great deal of money for your college education. You really must take your studies more seriously.
4. HP: You got enough money to pay for college.
5. Therefore, you should stop working so much.

2 + 3

↓

4

1. George won’t be happy unless Peabody is elected. But Peabody won’t get elected, since he is not on the ballot; so you can see for yourself what will follow from that. Now if George is unhappy, then Grace will be unhappy, too. Thus, it is clear that Grace will be unhappy.
2. George won’t be happy unless Peabody is elected.
3. Peabody won’t get elected
4. since he is not on the ballot.
5. George won’t be happy.
6. if George is unhappy, then Grace will be unhappy.
7. Thus, it is clear that Grace will be unhappy.

3

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2 + 1

↓

4 + 5

↓

6

# Section C: The following arguments are either Deduction or Induction. Determine

* 1. **what kind of COMMON PATTERN they are; (b) whether they are VALID / INVALID, or STRONG / WEAK? (20%)**

1. No males are females. No women are males. Therefore, no women are females.

Categorical Syllogism. Invalid.

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

Argument from Analogy. Weak.

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

Argument from Authority. Weak.

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.

Disjunctive Syllogism. Valid.

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.

Argument based on definition. Valid.

# Section D: Please determine for each question whether the former item is “Sufficient Condition”, “Necessary Condition”, “Necessary Condition and Sufficient Condition” or “Neither Necessary nor Sufficient Condition” for the latter item. (12%)

1. True premises are for sound argument.
2. Valid argument is for sound argument.
3. Being male is for Prime Minister.
4. Being human is for being mortal.
5. Passing in both Bahasa Kabangsaan and History are for

obtaining a SPM Certificate.

1. Having degree certificate is for being employed.

# Section E: Determine whether the following statements consist of any FALLACY. If YES, write down what fallacies they are. If NO, write down as “No Fallacy”. (12%)

1. My son was responsible for causing several accidents when he was a teenager, so this goes to show that most male teenagers are high-risk drivers.

Hasty Generalization

1. Jane is the best qualified candidate because she is out of work and desperately needs a job.

Appeal to emotion.

1. Sure, it sounds good in theory, but curbing violence in movies doesn’t make sense. It’s crazy to think they should only make movies for kids.

Straw man fallacy.

1. North Korea is developing massive destructive nuclear weapons. Everyone knows that!

Personal attack.

1. He wants to lower drinking age? Forget about that. He owns a liquor store. So, we should not support his idea.

Attacking the motive.

1. No, I don’t think the government should set the basic salary at RM1,100 per month. The next thing you know it will be RM1,200 per month, then RM1,300, then who knows what. We will be giving out our entire paycheck.

Slippery slope.

# Section F: Put the following arguments in STANDARD FORM, then use COUNTER-EXAMPLE METHOD to prove the INVALIDITY of the following arguments. (15%)

1. All Malaysians are open-minded. Hence, some Malaysians are females, because some open-minded people are not females.

P1: All A are B.

P2: Some B are not C.

C: Some A are C.

Counter example

P1: All sharks are animal who live in sea.

P2: Some animal who live in sea are not fish.

C: Some sharks are fish.

1. If human rights are recognized, then civilization flourishes. If equality prevails, then civilization flourishes. Thus, if human rights are recognized, then equality prevails.

P1: If A, then B.

P2: If C, then B.

C: If A, then C.

Counter example.

P1: If shark are fish, then dogs are mammals.

P2: If dogs are white, then dogs are mammals.

C: If shark are fish, then dogs are white.

1. No presidents are teachers. No teachers are robbers. Therefore, no presidents are robbers.

P1: No A are B.

P2: No B are C.

C: No A are C.

Counter example

P1: No octopus are mammals.

P2: No mammals are fish.

P3. No octopus are fish.

# Section G: Read the TWO articles and answer the following questions. (17%)

**(ARTICLE 1) Waytha: New law to protect neglected parents being planned** SEREMBAN: The government is willing to study the proposal to create a new law to protect parents who are being neglected by their children, said Minister in the Prime Minister’s Department P. Waytha Moorthy.

However, he said the matter would need a really detailed and in-depth study before it could be implemented.

“It is really inappropriate for any child to neglect or abuse his or her parents and I think, if there is a need, we can have a law to protect those senior citizens and to ensure that their children could not simply wash their hands off their responsibility to take care of the parents,” he told reporters here yesterday.

Universiti Putra Malaysia’s Department of Human Development and Family Studies head Assoc Prof Dr Rahimah Ibrahim had said such a law was needed against children found to have purposely neglected or abused their parents emotionally, including by leaving them home alone or at old folks homes. (*The Star*, Feb 4)

**(ARTICLE 2) 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).

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 Women, Family and Community Development and Health ministries will be hard- pressed to ensure that adequate healthcare, financial resources, infrastructure and organised programmes are in place to cater to our growing elderly population.

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 rebates 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.

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)

# Questions:

1. Whether the following quotes is vague, over-general or ambiguous? (4% with each for 2%)
   1. If there is a need, we can have a law to protect those senior citizens.

Over general.

* 1. adult children, depending on their financial situation, are required by law to provide their elderly parents with a minimum standard of living.

Vague

1. Please FORMALIZE the main argument of Article 2 and DIAGRAMME it. (5%)

1: Legislation may have a negative effect on family harmony and may not be effective as it is difficult to enforce

2: Government has an important role in formulating policies that reward and encourage care for the elderly by their families

3: Filial responsibility could best be encouraged by incentive schemes.

1 + 2

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3

1. Refer to Question 2, please raise ONE assumption in this argument? (2%)

Government’s helps can reduce the financial difficulties of the adult children.

1. Refer to Question 2, how would you evaluate the authors’ argument? (6%)

Filial responsibility could be encourages by incentive schemes provided by government.

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