SOUTHERN

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

Final Examination Semester 2/Year 2018

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. Dr. Mahathir: “If we hold on to the principles of a democratic nation, we can fight and take on the world”. *(The Sun Daily)*

Report

1. Every time we have a full moon, people behave strangely. So, the full moon must cause the strange behavior.

Unsupported belief

1. Since everyone deserves health care, and more than 40 million Americans don’t have medical insurance, the United States should institute national insurance.

Arguments.

1. Barisan Nasional lost GE14 due to the impact of GST and corruption scandals in the country.

Explanation.

1. People are not satisfied with GST. Besides, there are several unbearable corruption scandals for the government. These make Barisan Nasional lost GE14.

Argument.

1. The Earth has a spherical shape. Aristotle had this view, so with Copernicus and Galileo.

Illustration.

Section B: The following **arguments** are either **Deduction or Induction. Determine (a) what kind of COMMON PATTERN they** are, (b) **whether they** are **VALID / INVALID,** or STRONG **/ WEAK? (20%)**

1. Either these mega projects will be halted or our country will have a high debts and borrowings. Now, these projects will be halted. Therefore, our country will have a high debts and borrowings.

Disjuntive Syllogism. Invalid.

1. Nobody has ever run 100 metre in less than 9.75 second. Therefore, someone will ever run 100 metre in less than 9.72 second.

Inductive Generalization. Weak.

1. All snakes are reptiles. Some snakes are venomous. Therefore, some reptiles are venomous

Categorial Syllogism. Valid.

1. John is just like his brother Peter, and Peter is a really generous guy, so I think that John must be generous too.

Argument from Analogy. Strong.

1. I saw a ravel shouting to me yesterday. It tried to signal me something I had no idea. Today I have an accident while walking to school.

Causal Arguments. Weak.

# Section C: 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. People criticize me simply because they are jealous to my achievements.

Attacking the motives.

1. Menteri Besar of Johor said: “The former government never gave any allocations to opposition party. Now, why should we give them allocations in turn?” *(New Straits Times)*

Two wrongs make a right.

1. Zamihan Mat Zin: Chinese people were being unhygienic. Therefore, they should not use the Muslim-only launderette in order to keep the need for Muslims to remain “pure”. *{The Star)*

Personal attack.

1. It is ethical to terminate the pregnancy because there is no moral proof for ending

— pregnancy as being immoral.

Appeal to ignorance.

1. I don’t think the new government can improve Malaysia’s economy. Previously, they terminated the High-Speed Railway (HSR) project. This time they postpone MRT3 project. Next time, maybe they will review on Digital Free Trade Zone (DFTZ). At the end, there will be no major public projects that can boost for economic growth.

Slippery slope.

1. A: I think the mega projects proposed by former government should be keep going on because they are beneficial to people.

B: I can’t believe you still support former PM Najib Tun Razak. These projects should be halted.

Straw man fallacy.

# Section D: RE-FORMALIZE the argument and find out the MISSING PREMISE or CONCLUSION. (8%)

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.

P1: If you want to do well in this class, then you must work very hard.

P2: I know you want to do well in this class.

HC: Therefore, you must work very hard.

1. We should keep the death penalty. We ought to find a justice way to the victim and murderer. How could a brutal murderer be allowed to live?

P1: We ought to find a justice way to the victim and murderer.

HP2: Death penalty is the only justice to the victim and murderer

C: We should keep the death penalty.

1. Since chocolate contains sugar, it’s bad for your teeth.

HP1: Sugar is bad for your teeth.

P2: Chocolate contains sugar.

C: Chocolate bad for your teeth.

1. I’m sorry, but you may stay in the country only if you have a current visa, and

your visa has expired.

P1: You may stay in the country only if you have a current visa.

P2: Your visa has expired.

HC: You can’t stay in the country.

# Section E: DIAGRAMMING the following arguments. (15%)

1. Look, if you don’t get to the gate by 5:45, you will miss your flight. And, frankly, there’s no way you will get to the gate by 5:45, since it’s 5:40 and you haven’t yet made your way through security. So, you have to accept that you will miss your flight.
   1. if you don’t get to the gate by 5:45, you will miss your flight
   2. there’s no way you will get to the gate by 5:45.
   3. since it’s 5:40.
   4. you haven’t yet made your way through security.
   5. you have to accept that you will miss your flight.

3 + 4

↓

2 + 1

↓

5

1. We won’t have good government unless qualified people are elected. This proves that we won’t have good government, for no good people are elected. If we don’t have good government, then life will be harder, so it appears that life will be harder.
   1. We won’t have good government unless qualified people are elected.
   2. We won’t have good government.
   3. No good people are elected.
   4. If we don’t have good government, then life will be harder.
   5. it appears that life will be harder.

1 + 3

↓

2 + 4

↓

5

1. Government mandates for zero-emission vehicles won’t work because only electric cars qualify as zero-emission vehicles, and electric cars won’t sell. They are too expensive, their range of operation is too limited, and recharging facilities are not generally available.
   1. Government mandates for zero-emission vehicles won’t work.
   2. only electric cars qualify as zero-emission vehicles
   3. electric cars won’t sell.
   4. They are too expensive.
   5. their range of operation is too limited.
   6. recharging facilities are not generally available.

4 + 5 + 6

↓

3 + 2

↓

1

# Section F: Put the following arguments in STANDARD FORM (you may have to use obversion, conversion, or contraposition operations to accomplish Categorical Syllogisms), then use COUNTER-EXAMPLE METHOD or RULES METHOD to determine the VALIDITY of the following arguments. (15%)

1. Some lizards are poisonous. Anything that is poisonous should be avoided. Many lizards should be avoided.

P1: Some A are B.

P2: All B should be C.

C: Some A should be C.

1. No transparent metals are not good conductors of heat. All transparent metals are good conductors of electricity. Therefore, some good conductors of electricity are good conductors of heat.

P1: All A are B.

P2: All A are C.

C: Some B are C.

Counter example

P1: All animals are 4 legs.

P2: All dogs are vertebrate animals.

P3: Some 4 legs are vertebrate animals.

1. If energy taxes are increased, then either the deficit will be reduced or conservation will be taken seriously. If the deficit is reduced, then inflation will be checked. Therefore, if energy taxes are increased, then inflation will be checked.

P1: If A, then B or C.

P2: If B, then D.

C: Therefore, if A, then D.

Counter example

P1: If I am sick, then I will go to school or stay at home.

P2: If I go to school, then I will present.

C: Therefore, if I am sick, I will present.

# Section G: Read the article and answer the following questions. (18%) Hide Time To Include Coding In School Curriculum

STUDENTS are going online more and more and the popularity of social media sites is growing exponentially.

As parents and educators, it is our duty to ensure that we are helping to raise responsible digital citizens who can use online resources safely and effectively. This is also a good way to teach digital literacy as it is viewed as an essential component of modern education.

Coding, popularly known as programming, is a critical skill that every child should acquire to keep up with the rapidly changing technological world.

Many countries are starting to introduce coding as a foundation skill alongside reading, writing and arithmetic. Students as young as five years old are being schooled in coding for the future.

Teaching code is a great platform to interest kids in pursuing IT careers. Influential tech firms have called for programming classes in schools to ensure that future job seekers are equipped with appropriate industry skills. Many interesting and creative jobs all depend on a degree of coding ability. Coding helps children to learn thinking skills as they have to imagine coming up with a set of instructions to enable the computer to do something for them.

In 2014, Britain became the first country in the European Union to mandate computer science classes for all children between the ages of five and 16. More countries are now following suit.

Malaysia must ensure that its young are not left behind. We have so much hope now with our new Government wanting to do the right thing. The time is right to review our curriculum to ensure that we are giving our young the best opportunity to succeed in future.

A good education is a fundamental right of every society.

As with any major change to the curriculum, teachers will first need to be trained to teach the subject. We should start on this now with a view to introducing this in our curriculum by 2021.

Questions:

1. What is the main argument in this article proposed by the author? Please

DIAGRAMME the argument. (8%)

* 1. Coding is a critical skill that every child should acquire.
  2. Coding helps children to learn thinking skills.
  3. Many countries have started let children learn coding.
  4. Malaysia must ensure that its young are not left behind
  5. Kid should learn programming.

3

↓

4 + 1 + 2

↓

5

1. Please find ONE argument consisted with fallacy. (2%) WHAT fallacy it is? (2%)

Britain became the first country in the European Union to mandate computer science classes for all children between the ages of five and 16. More countries are now following suit.

Malaysia must ensure that its young are not left behind.

Bandwagon Argument

1. Refer to the context of the quote: “We have so much hope now with our new Government wanting to do the right thing. The time is right to review our curriculum to ensure that we are giving our young the best opportunity to succeed in future”. There are TWO IMPLICATIONS in this quote, what are they? (6%)
   1. We need government to add coding in curriculum to ensure the best opportunity to our kids.
   2. If government wanted to do right things, they should review curriculum.

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