

Final Examination Semester 3/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. We know of the earthquake and tsunami in Palu recently, and it is learnt that there are over 1,000 LGBTs who were involved in such activities when the tragedy happened. As a result of that, the whole area was wiped out. And this is Allah's punishment to them. (*The Sun Daily*)

Unsupported Belief

1. Either inflation will increase, or personal debt will increase. If the central bank does not increase interest rates, inflation will not increase. The central bank will not increase interest rates. Personal debt will increase.

Argument

1. Unless the government recognizes Unified Examination Certificate (UEC) from Chinese independent schools, the national unity will not be endangered. (*The Sun Daily*)

Conditional statement

1. Minister in charge of religious affairs Datuk Mujahid Yusof Rawa said, ‘unless the extreme ideas of LGBT dictate in Malaysian life, our country would not be in disaster’. (*Malaymail*)

Report

1. Everyone is free to profess and practise his religion because this is protected by the constitution.

Explanation

1. Chemical elements, as well as compounds, can be represented by molecular formulas. Thus, oxygen is represented by “O2,” water by “H2O,” and sodium chloride by “NaCl.”

Illustration

# 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. We co-existed with the former Soviet Union when it had nuclear weapons. Therefore, we can co-exist with Iran, should it obtain nuclear weapons.

Analogy Argument. Weak.

1. If abortion is not murder, then infanticide is not murder. If infanticide is not murder, then killing innocent children is not murder. Killing innocent children is murder. Abortion is murder.

Hypothetical Syllogism. Valid.

1. Croatia has never won the World Cup. Therefore, Croatia probably will never win the World Cup.

Predictive Argument. Strong

1. The food in Johor Bahru is lousy, judging from this meal.

Inductive Generalization. Strong

1. John is elder than Michael. John is also elder than Ricky. Therefore, Ricky is elder than Michael.

Argument based on definition. Invalid.

# Section D: Please identify whether the following italic phrases are VAGUE, OVER-GENERAL or AMBIGIOUS? (10%)

1. He is looking for *a match*.

Ambiguous

1. We are confirmed that Jho Low is hiding in *a country where Malaysia has no extradition treaty*.

Over-general

1. We are confirmed that Jho Low is hiding in *an Asian country*.

Over-general

1. However, without *decent* information, and thus civility and conciliation, society will descend into chaos and democracy will be threatened. (*The Sun Daily*)

Vague

1. The 2019 Budget will be *a difficult one* for the federal government, said Finance Minister Lim Guan Eng. (*The Sun Daily*)

Vague

# 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. Death penalty has been abolished in many countries. It is a global trend. Therefore, Malaysia should abolish death penalty.

Bandwagon Argument

1. I think that the nasi-lemak made me sick. After all, no one has shown me that they didn’t make me sick.

Appeal to be ignorance

1. The Government’s transport policy is a joke. How can we take them seriously when they tell us to leave the car at home and use public transport when they themselves go everywhere by official car and driver?

Look Who’s Talking

1. Minister in charge of religious affairs Datuk Mujahid Yusof Rawa said: ‘People commit adultery due to the widespread of pornography. Therefore, we should wipe out pornography’. (*Sinchew Daily*)

Questionable cause.

1. The decriminalisation of cannabis would be just the start. It would lead to a downward spiral into widespread abuse of harder drugs like heroin and cocaine.

Slippery slope.

1. To allow every man unbounded freedom of speech must always be . . . advantageous to the state; for it is highly conducive to the interests of the community that each individual should enjoy a liberty, perfectly unlimited, of expressing his sentiments

Begging the question.

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

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: It C, then B.

C: Therefore, if A, then C.

Counter example

P1: If dogs are mammals, then dogs are animal.

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

C: Therefore, if dogs are mammals, then dogs are white.

1. Some farm workers are not people who are paid decent wages, because no undocumented individuals are people who are paid decent wages, and some undocumented individuals are not farm workers.

P1: No A are B.

P2: Some A are not C.

C: Some C are not B.

Counter example

P1: No fish are dogs.

P2: Some fish are not eating fish animals.

C: Some eating fish animals are dogs.

1. All homeless people who are panhandlers are destitute individuals. Therefore, all homeless people are destitute individuals.

P1: All A who are B are C.

C: Therefore, all A are C.

Counter example

P1: All snake who are pregnant are female.

C: All snake are female.

# Section G: Read the article and answer the following questions. (18%) A myth to promote BM to strengthen unity?

AT the ‘Malaysia: A New Dawn’ forum recently, former international trade and industry minister Tan Sri Rafidah Aziz commented on Education Minister Dr Maszlee Malik’s concept of “Memartabatkan Bahasa Malaysia” (empowering Bahasa Malaysia).

I would like to add to her rhetoric. To me, promoting Bahasa Malaysia to strengthen national unity is nothing but a myth.

This concept has been sung by politicians and academicians for many decades. This narrow-mindedness has sidelined English and other vernacular languages. This has destroyed the country’s competitiveness in the international arena.

How can Malaysia be an Asian Tiger if its people can hardly speak standard English and communicate with the rest of the world? With Bahasa Malaysia, we can only reach out to people in Nusantara.

With English and other vernacular languages, we can conquer at least two-thirds of the world, but after all these years of promoting Bahasa Malaysia at the expense of other languages, we have become a kampung within a world of mega cities and metropolises.

With China fast becoming an economic powerhouse in this region, being able to speak Mandarin is an important communication tool when trading with the Chinese. Mandarin, Tamil and Hindi are spoken by nearly two billion people, or one-third of the world ’s population.

By all means, Bahasa Malaysia should be promoted extensively. It is embarrassing to learn that one can use the Read Aloud app on iPhones for text in Mandarin, but not those in Bahasa Malaysia.

As pointed out by Rafidah, some politicians in Malaysia Baru, including Maszlee, are still singing the slogan “Memartabatkan Bahasa Malaysia”, thinking it will lead to national unity.

Why do I call it a myth? The answer is simple. Look at how Malays voted in the last general election. Sixty per cent of the country ’s population voted in three directions. All speak Bahasa Malaysia and practise the same religion, but where is the unity?

The Chinese, Indians, Dayaks and Kadazan Dusuns united with one-third of Malays to vote out the old regime, bringing about a new dawn in Malaysia.

We each speak different languages, yet whenever a ceramah is conducted using the common language, everyone understands and a bond is created. In some ceramah, politicians speak in Mandarin and Tamil as well, but yet they could not rally the different races together.

Why do we still think that Bahasa Malaysia alone will unite the nation when this is just a myth?

Malaysians have proven that with race, religion and language set aside, we can unite in the last general election. Can’t we unite ourselves with a common vision to bring Malaysia to the next level, putting aside our differences in race, religion and language, which otherwise would divide us?

If we want to see Malaysia become an Asian Tiger, we have to make a paradigm shift. We have what it takes to trade with the rest of the world using the language our trading partners are most comfortable with. Let us not lose our diversity. There is unity in diversity. Commonness only leads to communism.

# Questions:

1. What is the main argument of this article? Please DIAGRAMME it. (5%)
   1. All speak Bahasa Malaysia and practice the same religion
   2. voted 60% voted in three directions.
   3. Promoting Bahasa Malaysia to strengthen national unity is nothing but a myth.

1 + 2

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1. Please find ONE argument consisted with fallacy in the article. (2%) WHAT fallacy it is? (2%)
   1. This concept has been sung by politicians and academicians for many decades.
   2. This narrow-mindedness has sidelined English and other vernacular languages.
   3. This has destroyed the country’s competitiveness in the international arena.

Fallacy of straw man fallacy.

What is the ASSUMPTION of “Promoting BM has sidelined English and other vernacular languages. This has destroyed the country’s competitiveness in the international arena.”? (2%) In this context, what is the IMPLICATION of “Empowering Bahasa Malaysia” by Dr. Maszlee Malik? (2%)

Assumption:

People only focus on BM and ignore other languages and refuse to use other language.

Implication

Using Bahasa Malaysia will help people to unite.

1. Refer back to your ANSWER of Question 1, do you agree with the argument? (5%)

No. Using a same language could help us understand each other thoughts and prevent from causing misunderstanding between each other.

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