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.

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