

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.

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