

UNIVERSITI SAINS MALAYSIA

Peperiksaan Semester Kedua
Sidang 1993/94

April 1994

HEK 202 Kemahiran Lanjutan dalam Pembacaan
dan Penulisan Bahasa Inggeris

Masa: [3 jam]

THIS EXAMINATION PAPER CONTAINS FOUR [4] QUESTIONS IN TWO [2] PAGES.

Answer ALL FOUR [4] questions.

Equal marks are allocated to all questions.

1. Parents have the right to make major decisions in the lives of their children. Argue either (a) for, or (b) against this assertion.

(Note: For this question only - please hand in the first draft and the final version of your essay.)

2. In a humorous essay for a stipulated audience [choose one (a) a close friend, or (b) parent], write about student **attitudes** towards a reading and writing class, using the following thesis statement:

My reading and writing class consists of three basic types of students: the motivated student, the clown, and the 'vegetable'.

3. Write an essay for your classmates, describing either (a) a hero/heroine, or (b) a villain. Provide enough descriptive details for your audience to understand why you admire or despise this person. Focus on a dominant impression and on at least three characteristics that support your impression.

.../2

4. Summarize the following non-fiction text on 'Juvenile Crime', reducing it to one-third its original length.

The incidence of juvenile crime in America is staggering. According to recent estimates, roughly 50 percent of all serious crimes are committed by people from 10 to 17 years old. Yet the same age group represents only 17 percent of the nation's population. Arson, for example, seems predominantly a juvenile crime. According to psychologist Kenneth Fineman and S.E. Jares, "a conservative estimate of fires set by juveniles is 25 percent, although other estimates go as high as 70 percent."

Because of the high visibility of ghetto violence, it is easy enough to assume that juvenile crime is confined to poor urban areas. But such an assumption is far from accurate. Researchers point out that ghetto youths usually commit crimes because of poverty. And, with parents who cannot afford to get them out of trouble, they often end up in court. Furthermore, because they are committed for profit, ghetto crimes usually are against strangers. And strangers tend to press charges. Thus the ghetto stereotype receives most attention -- even though juvenile crime is by no means only an urban problem.

More often than not middle-class Americans wish to admit, the suburban teenager next door -- or even their own son or daughter could become the next criminal statistic. Although almost as widespread as ghetto crime, middle-class juvenile crime is not motivated by poverty. As sociologist Harjit Sandhu points out, "middle-class delinquency is not focused on personal gains." Instead, these offenders often commit crimes against their families, just to see people hurt.

Experts disagree about who is ultimately responsible for this crime epidemic. Some place the blame entirely on young people themselves, arguing that "they just haven't learned the value of human life." Other experts point to various social ills (lower moral standards, an obsession with wealth, TV violence). They claim that the resultant confusion prevents young people from knowing right from wrong, causing them to "want to get all the goods or money they can get in any way they can." The real causes, however seem much more immediate. In fact, the bulk of expert opinion suggests that juvenile crime results largely from parental indifference, peer pressure, and lenient court systems -- all providing mutual reinforcement for deviant behaviour.

(by G. Tarullo - approx. 400 words)

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