

Tempat Duduk: _____

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UNIVERSITI SAINS MALAYSIA

**Peperiksaan Semester Kedua
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HEA 101 Pengantar Pengajian Bahasa Inggeris

(Bahagian 2)

Masa: [2 jam]

INSTRUCTIONS

- THERE ARE **THREE (3)** SECTIONS WITH **SEVEN (7)** QUESTIONS IN 18 SHEETS IN THIS PAPER.
- Answer **ALL** the questions.
- **Write all your answers in this booklet.**

A. Reading comprehension

There are three reading texts in this section. Read each text carefully and answer the questions that follow.

1. In what now seem like the prehistoric times of computer history, the early post-war era, there was a quite widespread concern that computers would take over the world from man one day. Already today, less than forty years later, as computers are relieving us of more and more of the routine tasks in business and in our personal lives, we are faced with a less dramatic but also less foreseen problem. People tend to be over-trusting of computers and are reluctant to challenge their authority. Indeed, they behave as if they were hardly aware that wrong buttons may be pushed, or that a computer may simply malfunction.

Obviously, there would be no point in investing in a computer if you had to check all its answers, but people should also rely on their own internal computers and check the machine when they have the feeling that something has gone awry. Questioning and routine double checks must continue to be as much a part of good business as they were in pre-computer days. Maybe each computer should come with the following warning: for all the help this computer may provide, it should not be seen as a substitute for fundamental thinking and reasoning skills.

i. Choose the best answer to each question and write your answer (A), (B), (C), or (D) in the blank provided.

_____ A. What is the main purpose of the passage?

- A. To look back to the early days of computers.
- B. To explain what technical problems may occur with computers.
- C. To discourage unnecessary investment in computers.
- D. To warn against an over-trusting attitude towards computers.

_____ B. The passage recommends those dealing with computers to

- A. be reasonably skeptical about them.
- B. check all their answers.
- C. substitute them for basic thinking.
- D. use them for business purposes only.

_____ C. An "internal computer" is

- A. a computer used exclusively by one company for its own problems.
- B. a person's store of knowledge and the ability to process it.
- C. the most up-to-date in-house computer a company can buy.
- D. a computer from the post-war era which is very reliable.

- _____ D. The passage suggests that the present-day problem with regard to computers is
- A. challenging.
 - B. psychological.
 - C. dramatic.
 - D. malfunctioning.
- _____ E. It can be inferred from the passage that the author would disapprove of
- A. computer science courses in high schools.
 - B. businessmen and women who use pocket calculators.
 - C. maintenance checks on computers.
 - D. companies which depend exclusively on computers for decision-making.
- _____ F. According to the passage, initial concerns about computers were that they might
- A. lead us into the post-war era.
 - B. be quite widespread.
 - C. take control.
 - D. take over routine tasks.

(3 marks)

ii. **Read the following comprehension questions carefully. In the space provided write your answers in complete sentences.**

A. **What does the phrase 'prehistoric times' in the first sentence refer to?**

B. **What does the word 'relieving' in the fourth line of the first paragraph mean?**

(2 marks)

2. In approximately 260 A.D., a massive volcanic eruption buried some highlands of Central America in ash, forcing the Mayan people to abandon this area for decades and up to two centuries in the worst hit areas. The eruption was swift; it occurred in only two identifiable stages, with almost no interval in between. As a result of the lava outlet route being under water, steam explosions contributed to the violence of the eruption, and the rapid cooling of magma to tephra (ash and other materials) by the lake waters created very small particles, which the wind carried long distances. The magnitude of the eruption can be calculated from the three-foot-deep ashfall forty-five miles from the source. One small area in this region was struck by three additional eruptions in the years that followed. These various eruptions differed in terms of the size of the area devastated and the nature of the tephra blasted into the air, but in each instance people showed a dogged determination to reoccupy the lands affected, thereby taking obvious risk but also reaping the less obvious benefits of volcanic activity.

i. Choose the best answer to each question and write your answer (A), (B), (C), or (D) in the blank provided.

_____ A. A huge volcanic eruption caused the Mayans to abandon parts of Central America

- A. about 620 years ago.
- B. about 2,250 years ago.
- C. about 1,725 years ago.
- D. about 260 years ago.

_____ B. Mayans in the area had to leave

- A. for about 10 years.
- B. for about 260 years.
- C. in two stages.
- D. for as long as 200 years.

_____ C. It can be inferred that the explosion was particularly strong because

- A. the eruption was swift.
- B. the escape route for the lava was underwater.
- C. the magma cooled rapidly to tephra.
- D. the ash forty-five miles from the source was three feet deep.

- _____ D. The magma was cooled quickly to tephra thanks to
- A. ash and other materials.
 - B. very small particles.
 - C. the wind.
 - D. the water of the lake.
- _____ E. The size of the eruption can best be gauged by the fact that
- A. there was a deep ash a great distance from the eruption itself.
 - B. the wind carried particles a great distance.
 - C. the lave outlet route was under water.
 - D. three additional eruptions occurred.
- _____ F. A sequel which all three additional eruptions mentioned in the passage had in common was
- A. the size of the area devastated.
 - B. the type of tephra generated.
 - C. the return of the inhabitants to affected areas.
 - D. the obvious risks of volcanic activity.

(3 marks)

ii. Read the following comprehension questions carefully. In the space provided write your answers in complete sentences.

A. 'The magnitude of the eruption can be calculated from the three-foot-deep ashfall forty-five miles from the source.' What other word could be used to replace the word 'magnitude' without changing the meaning of the sentence?

B. What does the author mean by the phrase 'dogged determination' in the last sentence of the paragraph?

(2 marks)

3. When most people think of Melvil Dewey, they think of the classification system for cataloguing and arranging the books and pamphlets in the libraries that he devised in the second half of the nineteenth century. This system classifies books and other publications into ten major categories, each category being further subdivided by number. Dewey was fortunate enough to see the Dewey Decimal System adopted by libraries throughout the world and by 96 percent of the public and 89 percent of the college libraries in the United States, but his work did not end with this success. Dewey also helped found the American Library Association, established the first library school in America, set up the Lake Placid Club, and worked out his own orthography. Dewey considered the spelling system of English a nuisance and a great waste of time, called for the simplification of the language, and insisted that once spelling was freed from complexities and absurdities inherited from the past and made uniform, three years could be saved in a child's education. His zeal was such that he not only used his simplified spelling exclusively, he even would correct the spelling in his mail as he read it through.

i. Choose the best answer to each question and write your answer (A), (B), (C), or (D) in the blank provided.

- _____ A. Dewey's major claim to fame rests on
- A. his founding of the American Library Association.
 - B. his founding of the Lake Placid Club.
 - C. his library classification system.
 - D. his simplified spelling system.
- _____ B. From the passage, it can be inferred that the Dewey Decimal System was adopted by
- A. most public libraries throughout the world.
 - B. most college libraries throughout the world.
 - C. all but 4 percent of college libraries in the United States.
 - D. a higher proportion of public libraries than college libraries in the United States.
- _____ C. Dewey's objections to traditional English spelling were based on
- A. its simplicity.
 - B. its uniform nature.
 - C. its inconsistency.
 - D. its nuisance value.

- _____ D. Which of the following can not be inferred from the passage?
- A. Dewey's correspondents did not always use his writing system.
 - B. Dewey's writing system was adopted in American schools.
 - C. Dewey always used his writing system once he had invented it.
 - D. Dewey's activities were not confined to inventing a new writing system.
- _____ E. From the passage, it can be inferred that orthography is
- A. a counting system.
 - B. an alphabet.
 - C. a spelling system.
 - D. a cataloguing system.
- _____ F. Dewey devised the classification system sometime
- A. after the 1850s.
 - B. after the 1950s.
 - C. before the 1950s.
 - D. in 1950.

(3 marks)

ii. Read the following comprehension questions carefully. In the space provided write your answers in complete sentences.

A. What is the Dewey Decimal System?

B. What is orthography?

(2 marks)

4. Choose the one word or phrase which would best keep the meaning of the original sentence if it were substituted for the underlined word. Write your answer in the blank provided.

_____ A. After seeing the performance, the audience felt that they had been shortchanged.

A. entertained.

B. bored.

C. surprised.

D. swindled.

- _____ B. The country is plagued by turmoil.
- A. constant change.
 - B. bad weather.
 - C. utter confusion.
 - D. fuel shortages.
- _____ C. The course provides a comprehensive overview of nineteenth century American literature.
- A. an understable.
 - B. a wide-ranging.
 - C. a contemporary.
 - D. a simple.
- _____ D. Due to unfavourable conditions, the launch has been postponed for the time being
- A. temporarily.
 - B. because of the weather.
 - C. as a result of the late hour.
 - D. irreparably.

- _____ E. Innovative approaches to manufacturing, coupled with the tremendous size of the domestic market, led to the emergence of the United States as an industrial giant.
- A. followed by.
 - B. combined with.
 - C. deriving from.
 - D. mixed with.
- _____ F. Walt Disney, the film-maker, also became famous as a great humanitarian.
- A. investigator into anthropological problems.
 - B. producer of human-interest stories.
 - C. contributor to the betterment of society.
 - D. example of the human race.
- _____ G. The doctor preferred to resign rather than be accused publicly of infamous conduct.
- A. unknown.
 - B. extraordinary.
 - C. mysterious.
 - D. disgraceful.

- _____ H. The human ear admits only a very limited range of frequencies.
- A. confesses.
 - B. gives off.
 - C. forces in.
 - D. lets in.
- _____ I. Stock-market analysts monitor a great variety of financial indicators.
- A. come up with.
 - B. look into.
 - C. keep track of.
 - D. take charge of.
- _____ J. A thorough grounding in math and physics is an essential prerequisite for taking this graduate course.
- A. A solid.
 - B. A long.
 - C. An unusual.
 - D. A hard.

(5 marks)

B. Grammar

5. Identify the one underlined word or phrase, (A), (B), (C), or (D), that should be corrected or rewritten. Write your answer in the blank.

_____ A. The opening of the Suez Canal in 1869 gave ships the means by whom they
A B C
could travel from Europe to the East without sailing around Africa.
D

_____ B. Although neither animal can outrun the cheetah, both the gazelle or the
A B C
impala run faster than fifty miles per hour.
D

_____ C. Life on earth originated about 2,000 million years ago, but the older good
A B
fossil remains are merely 550 million years old.
C D

_____ D. Few inventors have to their credit as much useful inventions as Thomas
A B C D
Alva Esison.

_____ E. Since a pet may go into shock after a serious injury, it is important to take
A B C
preventive action before this condition sits in.
D

_____ F. Because of advances in medical technology, doctors can now administer
A B
drugs at a time when the body can make optimum use of it.
C D

- _____ G. A good sentence in English is one that is brief, short and easy to
understand.
A B C D
- _____ H. Digitalis is a drug which is prepared from the seeds and leafs of a plant with
the same name and is used as a cardiac stimulant.
A B C
D
- _____ I. The pilot that was killed in the crash maintains an outstanding record of
safety.
A B C
D
- _____ J. When filled with a gas more lighter than air, a balloon becomes bouyant
and rises.
A B C
D

(5 marks)

6. Each sentence contains an error. Underline the part of the sentence that is not grammatical, then write the correct sentence in the space provided.

A. I am very sure that it was him who saved the boy.

B. Latex paint is as good, if not better than, oil-based paint.

C. Farther information will be issued by the weather bureau as the situation develops.

D. To tell a problem to a stranger is sometimes easier than explaining it to a friend.

E. Although he strongly believes in a healthy lifestyle, but he still contracted the HIV virus.

(5 marks)

C. **Writing**

Write a 300-word essay on one of the following topics.

- A. The environment.
- B. The English language.
- C. Family.

Narrow down your topic accordingly and decide on an appropriate title for your essay. Write the title you have chosen at the beginning of your essay. Use the sheet provided to write your essay.

(20 marks)