

UNIVERSITI SAINS MALAYSIA

Peperiksaan Semester Pertama
Sidang Akademik 1995/96

Oktober/November 1995

HEK 201 Kemahiran Asas Dalam Pembacaan dan
Penulisan Bahasa Inggeris

Masa: [3 jam]

THIS EXAMINATION PAPER CONTAINS FOUR [4] QUESTIONS IN THREE [3] PAGES.

Answer ALL FOUR [4] questions.

Equal marks are allocated to all questions.

1. "READING SYSTEMATICALLY FOR UNDERSTANDING DEMANDS PATIENCE AND IS TIME CONSUMING".

To what extent is this statement true? Explain with examples.

2. Write an essay of about 400 - 500 words on one [1] of the following topics:

[a] Which form or forms of education are most likely to contribute to a country's economic and social development?

[b] Tourism: What can be done?

[c] Reducing global warming: What each individual can do?

3. Briefly summarize the information discussed in the following passage in not more than 150 words.

.../2

THE IMPORTANCE OF WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT

In recent years, there has been an increasing recognition of the contribution of women to economic development around the world. On the one hand, it is evident that calculations of national productivity fail to include the existing contribution of women to a country's welfare. On the other, there is a growing awareness that improved conditions for women are fundamental to improvement in overall living standards.

The unregistered contribution to economies of work performed by women is enormous. All over the world, women may provide as many unpaid health services as the formal health sectors in their countries. In Africa, they are largely responsible for food growing (accounting for at least 70 per cent of staple food production in the Sub-Saharan part of the continent), as well as participating in other activities in the agricultural sector (such as raising livestock, marketing and food processing). As pointed out in a UN report (1985), women represent half the world's population, work two-thirds of the world's working hours but earn only one tenth of what men earn. Furthermore, they own as little as one hundredth of the property owned by men.

Education is the key to improving conditions for women. It leads to wider employment opportunities and better information on how to improve the welfare of families. Both developments contribute to a reduction in fertility. The cost of caring for children is inclined to rise, which tends to encourage smaller families with healthier children rather than large ones. Greater awareness of the need for family planning and for better infant nutrition also tends to reduce fertility. Statistics suggest strongly that increases in the literacy of women have led to declining fertility rates in almost every country in the world. In the period 1965-85, the only area in the world which did not witness a falling birth rate while experiencing improved literacy for its female population was Sub-Saharan Africa, where there was an increase of 1.5 per cent in the fertility rate.

Many governments have accepted the importance of investing in improved education of women in order to bring about changes in health, population growth and economic performance. However, even in those places where equal opportunity is actively pursued, there is still a lot of room for improvement. Women continue to be unpaid or underpaid for the work they do, to be

.../3

constrained in the kind of work they can do and to reach lower levels of attainment educationally than men. In countries where women constitute a large part of the agricultural labour force and are involved in managing production, they may have less access to information, technology and credit than men. These problems are largely due to the persistence of traditional constraints. The result is that resources are inefficiently used, production is sub-optimal and the overall welfare of a society continues to be depressed.

4. McCuen & Winkler (1992) claim that the art of writing an essay, or for that matter of writing anything, is a process. What kind of evidence would you consider to be relevant to confirming or disconfirming such a claim?

-ooo000ooo-