

UNIVERSITI SAINS MALAYSIA

Peperiksaan Semester Kedua
Sidang Akademik 1992/93

April 1993

HEK 202 Kemahiran Lanjutan Dalam Pembacaan
dan Penulisan Bahasa Inggeris

[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. Describe your vision of the ideal university for either (a) a student committee or (b) Faculty committee, charged with developing a plan for getting your university more in tune with the 90s.

[Note: For this question only -- Please hand in the first and second drafts of your essay].

2. In a human-interest article for your campus newspaper, discuss some feature of our society that you find humorous, depressing, contemptible or admirable. Choose one [1] of the following subjects:
 - (a) our eating habits.
 - (b) our consumer habits.
 - (c) our suburban living habits.
 - (d) our idea of a vacation.

Provide at least three [3] well-developed examples to support your thesis.

3. Write a story for a stipulated audience, [choose one [1]: (a) classmate; (b) close friend; (c) parent; (d) employer] telling of the events that led up to a decision you have made. Be sure that your treatment of the story (e.g. tone) is appropriate to the situation, audience and your purpose. Your story should be in the form of a narrative that makes a point. To increase interest, either begin with the action, saving the main point for the last, or without stating the main point directly, simply imply it in the narrative.

To avoid gaps in your narrative and to improve readability and coherence, limit the time of your story to a few hours, or to no more than a day or two.

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

Freud, Kant, Beethoven, Dante, Einstein and Julius Caesar -- what do they have in common? All these eminent men were firstborn children. Although many later-born children also became famous, certain studies hint that a first-born child is more likely to excel. For example, more firstborns become National Merit scholars, earn doctor's degrees and rate mention in Who's Who.

Researchers suggest several explanations for the higher achievement of firstborns. Some believe that the reason is simply that firstborns are more likely than other children to attend college. They argue that economic factors alone account for this difference, although firstborns typically get higher grades before college as well.

Others suggest that firstborn children have a higher need to achieve (Rosen 1984). This need to achieve may be an outcome of the relationship between firstborn children and their parents. Firstborns have their parents exclusive attention and seem to interact more with parents than other children (Gevwitz and Gerwitz, 1965). Parents of firstborns also seem to expect more of them (Hilton, 1967). As a result, firstborns may seek approval by conforming to adult standards, including standards of achievement.

Whatever the reasons, firstborn children also tend to be more conforming, shyer, more anxious than other siblings -- and more likely to outdo them.

("Are Firstborns Better?" from Psychology)

(approx. 300 words)

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