

UNIVERSITI SAINS MALAYSIA

Peperiksaan Semester Kedua
Sidang 1990/91

Mac/April 1991

HEK 202^{*} Kemahiran Lanjutan dalam Pembacaan
dan Penulisan Bahasa Inggeris

Masa: [3 jam]

This Examination paper contains FOUR (4) questions in FOUR (4) pages.

Answer all FOUR (4) questions.

1. Read the following essay carefully and answer the question that follows it.

Three passions, simple but overwhelmingly strong, have governed my life: the longing for love, the search for knowledge, and unbearable pity for the suffering of mankind. These passions, like great winds, have blown me hither and thither, in a wayward course, over a deep ocean of anguish, reaching to the very verge of despair.

I have sought love, first, because it brings ecstasy-- so great that I would often have sacrificed all the rest of life for a few hours of this joy. I have sought it, next, because it relieves loneliness--that terrible loneliness in which one shivering consciousness looks over the rim of the world into the cold unfathomable lifeless abyss. I have sought it, finally, because in the union of love I have seen, in a mystic miniature, the prefiguring vision of the heaven that saints and poets have imagined. This is what I sought, and though it might seem too good for human life, this is what--at last--I have found.

With equal passion I have sought knowledge. I have wished to understand the hearts of men. I have wished to know why the stars shine. And I have tried to apprehend the Pythagorean power by which number holds sway above the flux. A little of this, but not much, I have achieved.

Love and knowledge, so far as they were possible, led upward toward the heavens. But always pity brought me back to earth. Echoes of cries of pain reverberate in my heart. Children in famine, victims tortured by oppressors, helpless old people a hated burden to their sons, and the whole world of loneliness, poverty, and pain make a mockery of what human life should be. I long to alleviate the evil, but I cannot, and I too suffer.

This has been my life. I have found it worth living, and would gladly live it again if the chance were offered me.

Analyse this essay in terms of organization, methods of development and techniques of support (including transitional linkages).

(25 marks)

2. Read the following passage carefully and answer the question that follows it.

So Bob Taft, as his biographer has described it, was "born to integrity." He was known in the Senate as a man who never broke an agreement, who never compromised his deeply felt Republican principles, who never practiced political deception. His bitter public enemy, Harry Truman, would say when the Senator died: "He and I did not agree on public policy, but he knew where I stood and I knew where he stood. We need intellectually honest men like Senator Taft." Examples of his candor are endless and startling. The Ohioan once told a group in the heart of Republican farm territory that farm prices were too high; and he told still another farm group that "he was tired of seeing all these people riding in Cadillacs." His support of an extensive Federal housing program caused a colleague to remark: "I hear the Socialists have gotten to Bob Taft." He informed an important political associate who cherished a commendatory message signed by Taft that his assistant "sent those things out by the dozen" without the Senator ever seeing, much less signing them. And a colleague recalls that he did not reject the ideas of his friends by gentle indirection, but by coldly and unhesitatingly terming them "nonsense." "He had," as William S. White has written, "a luminous candor of purpose that was extraordinarily refreshing in a chamber not altogether devoted to candor."

It would be a mistake, however, to conclude from this that Senator Taft was cold and abrupt in his personal relationships. I recall, from my own very brief service with him in the Senate and on the Senate Labor Committee in the last months of his life, my strong impression of a surprising and unusual personal charm, and a disarming simplicity of manner. It was these qualities, combined with an unflinching courage which he exhibited throughout his entire life and most especially in his last days, that bound his adherents to him with unbreakable ties.

What is your opinion about the effectiveness of this form of writing in achieving its purpose (support your answer with evidence from the writing).

(25 marks)

3. Write a summary of the following excerpt on language acquisition.

Of all the changes a child goes through, none is more dramatic than the acquisition of language. Like motor abilities and perception, language depends on both physical maturation (control of the muscles that move the mouth and tongue) and experience.

At about 2 months the infant begins cooing (a rather nondescript word for rather nondescript sounds). In another month or two the infant enters the "babbling" stage and starts to repeat sounds. Gradually the infant's babbling begins to resemble the rhythms of adult speech. Between 8 and 10 months, infants seem to take special pleasure in "talking" aloud to themselves as they work at grabbing hold of things and crawling. Vocalization at this age is still primarily nonsocial. Soon, however, infants begin to imitate sounds and to use their voices to get attention. By 10 or 11 months, they show signs of understanding things said to them. At about 12 months infants utter their first word, usually "mama", "dada" or "papa." During the next 6 to 8 months they build a vocabulary of one-word sentences: (Pick me) "Up!"; (I want to go) "Out"; (Tickle me) "Again!" They may also use a number of compound words, such as "Awgone" (all gone.) To these they add greetings--"Bye-bye" being a favorite--and a few exclamations such as "Ouch!" Most small children are also interested in possessives: (The shoes are) "Davy's.": But perhaps

the overwhelming passion of 2-year-olds is naming. At play the child will say the word "block," for example, over and over again looking for parent approval each time.

Soon the child begins to formulate two and three-word sentences of nouns and attributes. Typical beginner's sentences are "Baby crying," "My ball," "Dog barking." A number of psychologists have recorded mother-child dialogs at this age to see just what children pick up and what they omit. Most noticeably, children at this age omit words not emphasized in their parents' speech.

(25 marks)

4. Explain how errors in logic can cause an argument to lose its strength. Your answer should include at least six examples of common errors in logical thinking. Write your answer in the form of a unified, complete and coherent essay.

(25 marks)

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