

UNIVERSITI SAINS MALAYSIA

Peperiksaan Semester Pertama
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HET 303 Struktur Bahasa Inggeris

Masa: [3 jam]

THIS EXAMINATION PAPER CONTAINS SIX [6] QUESTIONS IN FOUR [4] PAGES.

Answer FOUR [4] questions. QUESTION 1 AND 2 are COMPULSORY.

Equal marks are allocated to all questions.

1. Study the following passage carefully. Then comment with examples on the various types of grammatical devices and concepts the writer employs to make it an effective piece of communication. Grammatical devices may include things like Active/Passive voice, SVOA, SVOC, SVC structures, the use of clauses, the verb and noun phrases etc.

He greets visitors to his Cambridge University office with an impish grin and a hint of conspiracy in blue eyes twinkling behind stell-rimmed glasses. Even at 42, his boyish face makes him look more like a student at the British university than a distinguished professor of mathematics. But his body, slumped awkwardly in a motorized wheel-chair, is thin and wasted, with the muscle structure of a bedridden old man. His speech is so labored it is almost impossible to understand.

Despite these handicaps--perhaps because of them--Stephen Hawking has managed some of the greatest strides in physics since Albert Einstein. In fact, he often has been portrayed as this half-century's answer to Einstein.

Some physicists even think Hawking could pull off one of the greatest coups in science history. That would be the creation of the single theory reconciling the twin pillars of modern physics: Einstein's theory of general

.../2

relativity, which declares that gravity controls the behavior of planets, stars, galaxies and the universe itself and does it in a predictable manner; and the quantum-mechanics theory, which maintains that, at the atomic level, matter behaves randomly. Einstein, who spent the last 30 years of his life trying to reconcile these seeming contradictions of nature, rejected the randomness of quantum mechanics. "I cannot believe that God plays dice with the cosmos," he said.

Finding the underlying interaction that explains both of these theories is an almost religious quest to some scientists, who believe that such a unification would remove the last barrier to a fundamental understanding of the universe. Just as Einstein pulled back the curtain on the atomic age, a unifying theory could usher in a new era of understanding for mankind. Formulating this theory is the goal of Stephen Hawking, whose life is a remarkable lesson in grit, adaptability and the power of the human intellect.

Crippling Disease. Hawking whose father was a research scientist, is the eldest of four children of a bookish, tightly knit family. At Oxford University, which he entered in 1959, he was free-spirited, witty, somewhat unruly, and popular among his friends in the town's many pubs. For a while Hawking was coxswain on the second of his college's crews.

Because of his first-rate mind, his teachers tolerated Stephen's casual approach to academic life. Though he did little work, he could easily handle any mathematical problem put before him. At graduation he was required to take a special oral exam to determine whether he should receive a first-class honors degree (equivalent to magna cum laude in American universities), which he needed to gain a scholarship for a graduate physics program at Cambridge, Oxford's ancient rival.

2. The following passage contains grammatical errors. Correct the errors and then give grammatical explanations for each error.

Salvador Dali, the surrealist painter, was a genius in his own right. He was never born in his native Spain but in Paris. As a young man, he grew up in the scenic beauty of Paris. He seemed to have no purpose, direction or aim in life. One fine day he discovered his niche in

.../3

life. - painting. Initially, the quality of his paintings were not good. But he labored and discovered new techniques on his own. One of his close friends confided to his wife 'If I were him I wouldn't continue to live the life of an artist.' Painting on the balcony of his apartment one summer, an idea hit him. He discovered surrealist art. To the layman, surrealist art is abstract art. Dali was to become from that day onwards the father of abstract art: surrealism. Soon everyone was saying 'there goes Mr. Dali whom they say is the best surrealist artist in the world.

As a surrealist artist Dali was better than any painter living. He then moved to Madrid. However Dali, being a moody person, he was given to bouts of depression. But this was the period of some of his great pieces of art. His abstract painting entitled CONFLICT, depicting the troubled mind, was one of the best paintings that have been done this century. He painted profusely. During this period of self doubt and depression he had a collection of great works and which has been in his family for years.

Salvador Dali lived to a ripe old age of 84. Many in the art world do not forget his enthusiasm who brought this movement of surrealism to greatest heights. Many thought his paintings were more preferable than any other artist of his time including Picasso.

When he passed away, seldom had a city like Madrid seen a more costlier funeral. Salvador Dali will always remain alive to all people in the art world for his contribution to surrealist art.

3. In English there is a functional similarity and overlap between the -S- GENETIVE for the inflection and the OF-GENETIVE for the prepositional form. For example:

the ship's name
the name of the ship.

There are compelling reasons for preferring one or the other construction in a given case. Oftentimes there are numerous environments in which only one construction is grammatically acceptable. Comment.

4. Distinctions between verbs need to be drawn not only in relation to object and complement types but also in relation to whether they themselves admit the aspectual contrast of progressive and non-progressive. Explain with examples the categories of verb in English.

5. Write a few sentences on each of the following:

- [a] the clause in English.
- [b] finite and non-finite verb phrase.
- [c] verb forms and their functions.
- [d] determiners in the English language.
- [e] modals.

6. Write briefly on the syntactic functions of adjectives with specific reference to the following areas as:

- [a] attributive and predicative.
- [b] postpositive (or post-posed).
- [c] head of noun phrase.
- [d] verbless adjective clause.

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