

UNIVERSITI SAINS MALAYSIA

Peperiksaan Semester Pertama

Sidang 1987/88

HEK 201 - Kemahiran Asas dalam Pembacaan dan  
Penulisan Bahasa Inggeris

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Tarikh: 29 Oktober 1987

Masa: 9.00 pagi - 12.00 tengahari  
(3 jam)

Answer FOUR(4) questions, TWO(2) from Section A and TWO(2) from Section B.

SECTION A - Answer ALL questions

1. Study the following selection and then answer questions on it.

RICHARD CORY, ALL OVER AGAIN

*Roy Meador*

[1] The same as the rest of us, my friend wanted to be somebody. To make his mark in the world. To have his life count. At the end, he did make his mark in headlines: Deaths Called Murder-Suicide. *Son Finds Bodies.*

[2] Carl L. Stinedurf was a good friend. We often lunched together, and our conversations ranged from politics to literature. Carl enjoyed ideas. He knew how to laugh. Face-to-face, most people used his middle name, Larry. But the waitress called him "*Frank*" because he preferred Sinatra's old records to new stuff. Carl often talked enthusiastically about his family, his son at the university, his daughter in high school. He mentioned his wife, Norma, with special pride. In her 30's, with his help she had finished college and begun teaching. Carl was delighted with his family's accomplishments. But underneath, well-masked, there must have been agonizing terror. Carl carried his pain in silence.

[3] My friend worked as an estimator and customer representative for a large printing firm. He was gentle, always softspoken, exceptionally conscientious. When I gave him work to do for my company, I knew it would be finished with care.

[4] Carl tended toward the liberal. He thought more of people than of profits. He deplored cruelty. I considered him one of those who patiently keep what we call civilization humming along after its fashion.

[5] There was just one anomaly I never understood. Carl's hobby was guns. He kept a loaded .38 in his bedroom. There were hand-guns and rifles throughout his home. Carl used them for target shooting and hunting. A fellow hunter said Carl was an expert marksman, that when he fired at game he made certain of his shot so the animal wouldn't suffer.

[6] I couldn't appreciate the gun side of my friend's character. I guess I had seen too much of the gun religion in the Korean war. Carl and I disagreed about guns. He would vote for George McGovern and simultaneously support every argument of the National Rifle Association and the gun lobbies. Yet because he was a peaceful, compassionate man, I considered him one of those who could be trusted to own and use guns responsibly.

[7] I saw Carl on that last Friday afternoon. We talked about a printing job. He was cheerful, and I think he was already on the other side of his decision. He finished his work that day like someone going on vacation. Like someone not expecting to return on Monday.

[8] We had a relaxed talk. Later I learned of the misery he had concealed. "He saw customers and kept control," his employer told me. "When the customer left, he often went in the restroom and vomitted. Family trouble."

[9] The virus of restlessness. Norma, after 23 years, with a new career and new friends, wanted to leave. She needed to seek that popular, elusive goal, "more out of life." But Carl was an old-fashioned man captive in a time of new fashions. He couldn't handle this threat to the family. He sought medical advice, but every answer seemed to require letting Norma go, with the frail hope she might come back. Carl couldn't live with the uncertainty.

[10] It rained that Friday night. Carl went home and in their bedroom he put two bullets through his wife's head, one through his own. He use a .357 magnum handgun. One of Carl's friends told me this proved it was carefully planned. The .357 magnum meant Carl didn't want Norma to suffer. That friend and others were reluctant to credit guns as factors in the event. "Guns are simply tidier than axes," said one. But Carl was a sensitive, orderly man. I doubt he could ever have done the job with less efficient, messier weapons. It had to be over in a moment. So he used the mercy weapon, the no-pain gun, the .357 magnum. It was <sup>64</sup>handy in a house of guns.

- [11] Endless postmortems began among those who knew Carl and Norma. Why in his torment couldn't he wait? Why couldn't he give time a chance! Why?
- [12] No one I listened to blamed the guns, questioned their proximity, their easy availability. It will probably be a long time before Carl's small estate is settled for the son who found the bodies, for the daughter in high school. I suppose his guns eventually will be sold and redistributed, including the .357 magnum. Guns are made from enduring metal. They outlive their owners. They go on about their business.
- [13] News accounts carried the standard facts: Description of Carl's hobby. His age, 39. The comment of a neighbor that Carl and Norma were "very nice." Details of the Funeral. There was no indication whether or not gun clubs and the National Rifle Association sent flowers, or assistance for the survivors.
- [14] The irony department: Carl learned enthusiasm for guns as an adult. His teacher later abandoned guns in favor of photography.
- [15] I'll miss Carl very much. His last day was Edwin Arlington Robinson's poem translated into tragic fact. "And Richard Cory, one calm summer night, / Went home and put a bullet through his head." Richard Cory wans't the sort to use an icepick. The same with Carl. Only a gun.
- [16] Damn those guns.

## RICHARD CORY

*Edwin Arlington Robinson*

Whenever Richard Cory went down town  
We people on the pavement looked at him;  
He was a gentleman from sole to crown,  
Clean favored, and imperially slim.

And he was always quietly arrayed,  
And he was always human when he talked;  
But still he fluttered pulses when he said,  
"Good-morning," and he glittered when he walked.

And he was rich - yes, richer than a king--  
And admirably schooled in every grace:  
In fine, we thought that he was everything  
To make us wish that we were in his place.

So on we worked, and waited for the light,  
And went without the meat, and cursed the bread;  
And Richard Cory, one calm summer night,  
Went home and put a bullet through his head.

- (a) Using contextual clues and/or word analysis explain the meaning of each of the words underlined in the passage. Include in your explanation the sentence or sentences, phrases or words which helped you derive the meaning of each given word.

- i. agonizing
- ii. conscientious
- iii. deplored
- iv. anomaly
- v. postmortems
- vi. proximity

(12 marks)

- (b) What is the central theme of "Richard Cory, All Over Again"?

(2 marks)

- (c) Read paragraph 6 again, George McGovern, the 1972 Democratic presidential candidate, ran against Richard Nixon. McGovern's liberal views included being in favour of strong gun-control legislation. Why did Carl vote for McGovern?

(2 marks)

- (d) Choose the best answer.

In paragraph 9 the image "virus of restlessness" is contained in the words.

- i. "Carl was an old-fashioned man."
- ii. "... to seek that popular, elusive goal, 'more out of life'."
- iii. ".... this threat to the family."
- iv. "He sought medical advice."

(2 marks)

- (e) In paragraph 15 the author quotes from Edwin Arlington Robinson's poem "Richard Cory". Why?

(2 marks)

- (f) Read the poem again. Why does Roy Meador call his essay "Richard Cory, All Over Again"?

(2 marks)

2. (a) "Reading is not just an active process but an interactive one". Discuss this statement with reference to the roles of the writer, the text and the reader.

(14 marks)

- (b) What are the features of a text known to give rise to difficulties for the reader? Illustrate your answer with examples.

(14 marks)

### SECTION B

Answer TWO(2) questions from this section. (Use the Appendix where and when necessary). Start on a new booklet.

3. (a) What do you understand by "mature writing"?

- (b) Explain in detail three aspects of mature writing?

(25 marks)

4. Good paragraphs are said to have unity, coherence and transition devices. Discuss. (Refer to Appendix B).

(25 marks)

5. You are going to write an essay on the following thesis:

Dada, an anti-art movement that originated in Europe after World War I and had a brief stay in America, changed the way Americans look at art today.

You have worked on your outline:

- (A) Dada began in Europe.

a. It originated in Germany

b. Its original purpose was to ridicule all institutions.

c. Contradiction existed among the originators of the movement.

- (B) Dada caught on slowly in America

a. The reaction to the Armory Show was unfavorable.

b. The American temperament was not receptive to Dada.

- i. Americans did not have the same antiwar reactions that Europeans did.
  - ii. Americans were more used to realistic art than Europeans were and reacted badly to Dada.
- (C) Dada finally gained acceptance in America.
  - a. Two European Dadaists did some important work in America.
    - i. Picabia's work with machines was influential
    - ii. Marcel Duchamp's Nude Descending a Staircase and his readymades gained attention.
  - b. Man Ray was the most important American Dadaist.
    - i. He invented the aerograph.
    - ii. He developed the rayograph.
- (D) The Dada movement gradually ended, yet it left its mark.
  - a. Some artists moved on to other artistic pursuits.
  - b. The Museum of Modern Art exhibition failed to revive interest in the movement.
  - c. Its major significance was in its effect on contemporary art.

**QUESTION**

**EITHER**

- (a) Describe the steps you have to take to complete this assignment.

**OR**

- (b) Describe the steps on how you arrived at this outline (or any outline).

(25 marks)

## APPENDIX A

It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair, we had everything before us, we had nothing before us, we were all going direct to Heaven, we were all going direct the other way--in short, the period was so far like the present period, that some of its noisiest authorities insisted on its being received, for good or for evil, in the superlative degree of comparison only.

There were a king with a large jaw and a queen with a plain face, on the throne of England; there were a king with a large jaw and a queen with a fair face, on the throne of France. In both countries it was clearer than crystal to the lords of the State preserves of loaves and fishes, that things in general were settled for ever.

(A Tale of Two Cities, Charles Dickens)

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## APPENDIX 2

### LIVING IN A CLASS HOUSE

*by*

RICHARD MARTIN

Over the last 25 years, British society has changed a great deal--or at least many parts of it have. In some ways, however, very little has changed, particularly where attitudes are concerned. Ideas about social class--whether a person is 'working-class' or 'middle-class'--is one area in which changes have been extremely slow.

10 In the past, the working-class--that is those people who do manual work--tended to be paid less than middle-class people, such as teachers and doctors. As a result of this and also of the fact that workers' jobs were generally much less secure, distinct differences in life-

styles and attitudes came into existence. The typical working man would collect his wages on Friday evening and then, it was widely believed, having given his wife her 'housekeeping', would go out and squander the rest on the 3 B's--beer, 'baccy' and betting.

20 The stereotype of what a middle-class man did with his money was perhaps nearer the truth. He was--and still is--inclined to take a longer-term view. Not only did he regard buying a house as a top priority, but he also considered the education of his children as extremely important. Both of these provided him and his family with security. Only in very few cases did workers have the opportunity (or the education and training) to make such long term plans.

30 Nowadays, a great deal has changed. In a large number of cases factory workers earn as much, if not more, than their middle-class supervisors. Social security and laws to improve job-security, combined with a general rise in the standard of living since the mid-fifties, have made it less necessary than before to worry about 'tomorrow'. Working-class people seem slowly to be losing the feeling of inferiority they had in the past. In fact there has been a growing tendency in the past few years for the middle-classes to feel slightly ashamed of their position.

40 The changes in both life-styles and attitudes are probably most easily seen amongst younger people. They generally tend to share very similar tastes in music and clothes, they spend their money on having a good time, and save for holidays or longer-term plans when necessary. There seems to be much less difference than in previous generations. Nevertheless, we still have a wide gap between the well-paid (whatever the type of job they may have) and the low-paid. As long as this gap exists, there will always be a possibility that new conflicts and jealousies will emerge, or rather that the old conflicts will re-appear, but between different  
50 groups.

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