
UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE MALAYSIA

Second Semester Examinations
Academic Session 2000/2001

February/March 2001

SEA305 – Contemporary Malaysia

Duration: 3 hours

Please check that this examination paper consists of TWO printed pages before you begin the examination.

Answer any THREE (3) questions.

1. Assess the status of Malaysian women in development by:
 - a) examining their situation from the economic, political and cultural aspects.
 - b) highlighting some of the major contentious issues that will affect progress towards gender equality in Malaysia.

(100 marks)
2. Explain the concept of “consociationalism” and discuss its application in the context of Malaysia’s multi-ethnic society. Can Malaysia’s political system in the year 2000 still be regarded as a consociational one?

(100 marks)
3. Discuss the problem of accountability in Malaysian government.

(100 marks)
4. Explain briefly the major changes in foreign policy introduced by Malaysia’s Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad since 1981. In your opinion, which policies have been most successfully implemented and which have failed?

(100 marks)

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5. The punishment for drug trafficking is death in Malaysia. What would be the similarities and differences in public opinion of capital punishment in Malaysia and in your country/another country of your choice. Explain from a sociological perspective.
(100 marks)
6. What justification would you see in the label “soft authoritarianism” being attached to the current Malaysian political system?
(100 marks)
7. Islamic movements in Malaysia have gone through three forms or approaches – confrontational, accommodative and political – since the 1970s. Explain the nature of these approaches and the reasons for their emergence.
(100 marks)

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