
UNIVERSITI SAINS MALAYSIA

Peperiksaan Kursus Semasa Cuti Panjang
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JUE 201 – Bahasa Inggeris II

Masa : 1 jam

Before you begin this paper, note that the booklet contains **EIGHT** printed pages.

Answer ALL questions contained in this booklet in the spaces provided.

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Regional Centre:

Read the passage below and answer all the questions that follow.

THE ABANDONMENT OF THE ELDERLY

Stories about abandoned old people, although not overwhelmingly many, are so **familiar** that *this* now barely leaves an impact. But not every story of granny-dumping (and it could very well also be grandpa, mama or papa) is motivated by nothing more than sheer cruelty. Poverty and desperation play a big role, whether the abandonment is done at roadsides, hospitals, government or private old folks' homes. 5

Dr. Cheah, president of the Primary Care Doctors' Organisation, has been running a nursing home for over a decade. *He* has known **numerous** residents as well as spoken to *their* families. The reality is that family structure is changing. Families are shrinking in size, which means fewer siblings to share the responsibility of caring for the old. Moreover longer life-spans mean that working family members have to support both the old and young at one time. Naturally, priority is given to the young. Besides there is a loosening of family **ties**; a sad state of affairs but *one* which is very difficult to reverse. To make matters worse, more women, the traditional care-givers, now work outside the home. 10

The reality is that the cost of living and medical care, especially in the urban areas, is very high and *it* is unlikely to go down. Inflation has eaten into the life savings of the old. 15

Pile all these together and the stack is a great barrier to low-income or even middle-class families taking care of the **elderly**. While this doesn't absolve *them* from the responsibility, it does mean that there is an **urgent** need for some form of a support system. The system should cover a wide range of **measures** such as community-based recreation and health centres, home nursing and day-care centres. It also means elderly-friendly housing, **incorporating** features like non-slip tiles to enable them to live at home. 20

This even includes old folks' homes. But all these are very expensive. Whatever little that exists now, for instance home nursing, comes with a huge bill which is beyond the reach of most. Dye to the high cost of a support system, the Government cannot handle the task alone. *It* needs the cooperation of individuals, corporate bodies and non-governmental organisations. 25

The NGOs can also play a role in giving out vital information. Very often, problems occur and frustration builds up because the family has no idea how to care for the old, especially the bedridden or wheelchair-bound. Information on preventing bedsores, renting a wheelchair, making the home safe and even preparing for retirement can go a long way in preserving harmony in the home. 30

Old folks' homes also provide a roof for the elderly who don't have family or *who* are separated from their families, for instance those with an alcoholic background, history of abusive behaviour or who had walked out on their families. Of the 2,400 residents in the eight Government-run homes, over 80 per cent don't have children. A breakdown of last year's statistics shows that about 45 per cent of the residents are single, 26 per cent widowed without children, eight per cent divorced without children and three per cent are couples without children. Most had been aid recipients living on their own but have become too old to do so. Some are brought in by members of the public *who* find them wandering or living in terrible conditions. A small number of "unclaimed patients" are referred by the hospitals. 40

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[JUE 201]

SECTION A.

Circle True (T) or False (F) for the following statements.

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1. Stories about abandoning old folks do not surprise the public anymore. | T | F |
| 2. Old folks are abandoned because of sheer poverty. | T | F |
| 3. Some families leave their elderly at the road side or in hospitals. | T | F |
| 4. When families become smaller the responsibilities to care for the elderly will increase. | T | F |
| 5. A majority of the old do not have enough savings to pay for their own medical bills. | T | F |
| 6. Family members are not close to each other anymore. | T | F |
| 7. Elderly-friendly houses should have expensive equipments. | T | F |
| 8. Children do not know how to help their disabled parents. | T | F |
| 9. Old folks who are separated from their families are usually drunkards. | T | F |
| 10. Over 1900 old folks in the Government-run homes have no children. | T | F |

(10 marks)

...5/-

SECTION B - COMPREHENSION

Answer the following questions in complete sentences.

1. What are two of the support systems suggested to help care for the elderly?

(3 marks)

2. Why is there a need for a support system?

(3 marks)

3. State three types of information which families can obtain from NGOs on how to care for the elderly at home.

(4 marks)

4. Give three reasons mentioned in the passage why old folks are abandoned by their families. Elaborate.

(5 marks)

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5. In your opinion when we have to support both the old and the young, why is priority given to the young?

(4 marks)

6. Apart from giving information, suggest another way NGOs can support the government in helping the old.

(5 marks)

7. In your opinion, do you think the practice of sending the elderly to old folks' homes will decrease in the future? Elaborate your answer with two reasons.

(6 marks)

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SECTION C.

Choose the most suitable meaning of the words given below from the list of words provided.

1. familiar (line 1) : _____
2. numerous (line 7) : _____
3. ties (line 12) : _____
4. elderly (line 18) : _____
5. urgent (line 19) : _____
6. measures (line 20) : _____
7. incorporating (line 22): _____
8. task (line 27) : _____
9. vital (line 29) : _____
10. walked out on (line 36) : _____

| | | |
|-----------|-----------|-------|
| steps | serious | bonds |
| important | common | job |
| many | left | |
| old | including | |

(10 marks)

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SECTION D.

State what the following words found in the passage refer to.

1. this (line 2) : _____
2. He (line 7) : _____
3. their (line 8) : _____
4. one (line 12) : _____
5. it (line 15) : _____
6. them (line 18) : _____
7. this (line 24) : _____
8. it (line 27) : _____
9. who (line 35) : _____
10. who (line 41) : _____

(10 marks)