

UNIVERSITI SAINS MALAYSIA

First Semester Examination
Academic Session 2000/2001

September 2000

SEA305 - Contemporary Malaysia

Duration: [3 hours]

Instruction: Answer **THREE** (3) of the eight questions below. All questions carry equal marks.

1. With reference to *either* the Kadazandusuns of Sabah *or* the Dayaks of Sarawak, discuss the origins of the ethno-regional movement that emerged in the 1980s. How did the emergence and development of the movement affect ethnic relations in the respective state? Discuss also how were federal-state relations affected.
2. The last three decades saw Muslim politics in Malaysia taking new directions that affect both the ruling UMNO and the opposition Islamic Party, PAS. Outline these "shifts" in Muslim politics and discuss their implication for Malaysian politics generally.
3. Good government is a concern of Malaysians as well as foreign investors. And accountability is central to good government. Discuss this issue in the context of Malaysia.
4. "In Malaysia, many bureaucrats and state managers who were at the common frontier of the state and business in the government's efforts to expand Malay ownership have themselves become businessmen" (P. Searle, *The Riddle of Malaysian Capitalism*, 1999, p. 81). Discuss how ethnicity, class and state policy have played a role in facilitating this transition of some bureaucrats and state managers to the corporate sector since 1970.

5. **The punishment for murder, treason and drug trafficking in Malaysia is death. What would be the similarities and differences in public opinion of capital punishment in your country and in Malaysia? Explain from a socio-political perspective.**

6. **Describe and discuss the main social, political and economic division within Malaysia, and indicate how they affect the national unity process.**

7. **Discuss the status of women in Malaysian society today. What are the problems facing them and how are these problems being addressed?**

8. **Discuss some social trends in the women's movement in Malaysia which are linked to religious and political issues? How are these trends supportive or contradictory to ideas of feminism or indigenous feminism?**