

UNIVERSITI SAINS MALAYSIA

Peperiksaan Semester Kedua
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HEK 222 – Critical Reading and Writing

Masa : 3 jam

THIS EXAMINATION PAPER CONTAINS FOUR [4] QUESTIONS IN FIVE [5] PAGES.

Answer **ALL** questions. Equal marks are allocated to all questions.

1. Assess the following article on foreign students in local colleges and universities by answering these questions.
 - [a] What is the text about?
 - [b] What kind of audience is being addressed?
 - [c] What is the writer's attitude/tone to his topic?
 - [d] Rewrite the article either in a personal or impersonal style.

Colleges and universities in this country appear to be full of international students. It could be argued that instead of coming here and taking places away from home students, international students should stay in their own countries.

The government has a policy of increasing the number of students in higher education. However, a survey of colleges and universities will reveal that the increase in numbers is made up of international rather than home students. Thus, it seems that instead of giving priority to increasing the number of home students, the higher education sector has given precedence to students from abroad. This would seem to be a misapplication of government policy.

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In addition to taking up university places, international students compete for accommodation, making it difficult for home students to find places to live. Furthermore, as most international students appear to be more affluent than home students, they can afford to pay higher prices for accommodation, thus inflating rental levels beyond the means of local students.

It could be asked what international students give in return for their time in this country. It appears that, having come here to study, they return to their home countries with new-found ideas which they then apply to their own commercial and industrial enterprises. Since they have cheap labour, they can out-price this country's products, so undermining the industrial sector. Thus, it appears that the beneficiaries of a policy of encouraging international students to study in this country are the foreigners themselves.

2. Compare these two texts on marriage by answering the following questions.
 - [a] What differences can you note in the structure of the arguments?
 - [b] How would you change Text 1 to give it the structure of Text 2?
 - [c] How would you change Text 2 to give it the structure of Text 1?
 - [d] What conclusion could follow from Text 1 and 2 read as steps in an argument?

Text 1

Marriage has a beneficial effect on men. Compared to single men of the same age group, married men enjoy better physical and mental health. Their lives are likely to be longer and happier. In addition, they enjoy more successful careers, fill higher status occupations and consequently earn more money. Critics may argue that it is simply that more successful men tend to get married, but the evidence shows that it is marriage which brings about these beneficial effects. Hence the best guarantee of a long, happy, healthy and successful life for a man is to have a wife devoted to homemaking and the care of her husband.

Text 2

Surveys show that more wives than husbands express dissatisfaction with their marriage and consider their marriages unhappy. More wives start divorce proceedings. In addition, wives are much more likely to suffer from stress, anxiety and depression than their partners. Compared to their single peers, wives have poorer physical and mental health. It is clear that for many women, marriage cannot be considered a beneficial experience.

3. The "Questioning the Author" (Beck et.al 1997) approach has been claimed to be an effective approach to get readers to become actively involved as they read.

Do you agree or disagree? You may use the following text to support your answer.

Leisure in Place of Work – A realistic Goal?

The idea that in a post-employment society employment could be largely replaced by leisure activities and that increasing numbers of people could live lives of leisure, is open to serious question from two points of view.

Firstly, many people without employment would resist the idea that they were expected to make no useful contribution, either meeting their own needs or towards meeting those of other people, and were merely expected to keep themselves amused and out of trouble. They would resent the sense of uselessness and futility which this would imply, and feel that their lives were condemned to be empty of value and meaning. It is not as if most of us today are heirs to an aristocratic tradition of cultured leisure. We have inherited the protestant work ethic, and the need to feel useful which goes with it.

Second, many of the people still in employment would resent the idea that they were expected to support large number of idle drones. The situation would be one in which the employed were perceived as doing all the useful work and the unemployed were seen, on a larger scale and a more permanent basis than today, as making no useful contribution to society. The question of how to finance the leisure of the unemployed in a leisure society would thus be a difficult one.

They would need a money income. Thus some extension of today's unemployment and social security benefits system would be needed, perhaps going as far as the introduction of a Guaranteed Basic Income (GBI).

But this would be much more difficult to introduce in the context of a society clearly split between workers and non-workers, than in the context of a society in which it was understood that the purpose of the basic income was to give all citizens the freedom to choose their own mix of paid and unpaid work.

Finally, if anything resembling the leisure society did come about, one thing is sure. Many of those in leisure would in fact use their time for useful activities of many kinds. In other words, they would find ways of working on their own account, to provide useful goods and services for themselves and for one another. A leisure society would automatically transform itself, at least to some extent, into their own society.

In short, the prospect of moving towards a leisure society cannot be accepted as providing a realistic solution to the present crisis of unemployment and work.

4. What is a Critique? Using the steps in writing a critique, describe how you would react to the ideas presented in the following text which was taken from an article entitled "The Importance of Women in development?".

