

UNIVERSITI SAINS MALAYSIA

Peperiksaan Semester Pertama

Sidang Akademik 1999/2000

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HEK 221 – Bacaan dan Tulisan Kritis

[Masa: [3 jam]

THIS EXAMINATION PAPER CONTAINS **FOUR** [4] QUESTIONS ON **FIVE** [5] PAGES

Answer ALL **FOUR** [4] questions.

Equal marks are allocated to all questions.

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

Do you agree or disagree? Use the following text to support your answer.

Romantic Landscape Photography

Romanticism is one of the most widely popular styles of landscape photography. Within the romantic style there have been many different individual styles which have been more or less fashionable at any one time.

Early pastoral approaches, such as that of George Davies, followed painterly influences and are still popular with some photographers. A certain amount of softness is often deliberately introduced by a number of means. Soft-focused and diffused lenses are an obvious method. Others include shallow focus, soft-printing and the use of fast film for graininess. The subject matter tends to be comfortable, familiar and rural rather than wild and unusual.

Drama and grandeur are other versions of the romantic theme, and are generally more acceptable to modern tastes because they appear to be less contrived and dominated by technique than the pastoral photographs. Yet the apparent impression of spontaneity is often false. Ansel Adams, for instance, visualises his photographs as closely as possible before taking them. This is evident in both the timing and the precision of his composition, which tends to exploit the dramatic potential of views to the full. A more extreme presentation of drama in subjects (such as mountains and deserts), lighting (low sun, dusk and dawn), and design (extreme focal length and high sky-to-land ratios) is common in modern magazine photography.

(From M. Freeman, *The Encyclopaedia of Practical Photography*, London; Quarto Books 1994).

2. The following is an article from the Guardian giving its author's views about teachers. Read it and make an assessment of it. You should pay particular attention to the arguments (if any) and the use of rhetorical devices such as persuaders and emotive language.

I Blame the Teachers

Not a day goes by without the usual media headlines informing us of yet more disquieting facts and figures on football hooliganism, drug abuse, child sexual abuse, muggings, rapings and murder. But whenever I hear of a criminal brought to justice I always feel the real criminals go free. Who do I mean? I mean the teaching profession. They know that hidden in their well protected ranks are the people who regularly criminalise the next generation. Not many people will agree with this philosophy but personal experience has reinforced it for me time and time again.

If a child comes into school at the tender age of five or less, from a deprived home with socially inadequate parents schooling will do nothing for him. Indeed it will often exacerbate his problems. Very soon a psychologically unsound teacher will use that child as a scapegoat – the means of keeping the rest of the class in order despite their boredom.

I know this because I've been a scapegoat (although my home wasn't deprived and my parents were socially adequate). I know this because my three children were always in classes where it happened. I know this because my husband was a schoolteacher until utter disillusionment made him throw in the towel. Ask any individual and they can all name a scapegoat, from their schooldays. Ask any individual teacher and they will admit it privately: 'of course it goes on' they say, 'but what can I do about it?' they plead.

I also have written evidence in my postbag every day of the week. Working for an educational organisation is heartrending work. The stories of scapegoating and humiliation in our schools make dreadful daily reading.

... Now, years later, the children that my children saw beaten, humiliated, ridiculed and generally demoralised make news in the local newspapers as thieves, drunks and general hellraisers. They are, of course, punished but the real criminals are still highly respected members of the community and no doubt continue to criminalise their present disadvantaged pupils as do so many members of the highly protected teaching profession. As I said, the real criminals go free. And I say it on behalf of all those who aren't free to do so.

(Janet Everdell, Guardian, 30 September 1986, p. 11, column 1)

3. Using the Freirean approach (1976) or framework offered by Kress (1985) on critical reading, evaluate the following text on foreign students in local colleges and universities.

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.

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.

4. What is a Critique? Using the steps in writing a critique, describe how you would react to the assumptions presented in the following text which is about the development of Asian universities after World War II.

