



## SCHOOL OF LIBERAL ARTS

### FINAL EXAMINATION

Student ID (in Figures) : 

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Student ID (in Words) : \_\_\_\_\_  
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Subject Code & Name : **MPU 3232 Academic Writing Skills**  
 Semester & Year : January – April 2016  
 Lecturer/Examiner : Ms Aishvarya Nair  
 Duration : 2 hours

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#### INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

1. This question paper consists of 2 parts:

**PART A (60 marks) : READING COMPREHENSION & SUMMARY**  
 Answer ALL the questions in the answer booklet provided.

**PART B (40 marks) : ESSAY WRITING**  
 Write the essay in the answer booklet provided.

2. Candidates are not allowed to bring any unauthorised materials except writing equipment into the Examination Hall. Electronic dictionaries are strictly prohibited.
3. This question paper must be submitted along with all used and/or unused rough papers and/or graph paper (if any). Candidates are NOT allowed to take any examination materials out of the examination hall.
4. Only ballpoint pens are allowed to be used in answering the questions, with the exception of multiple choice questions, where 2B pencils are to be used.

**WARNING:** The University Examination Board (UEB) of BERJAYA University College of Hospitality regards cheating as a most serious offence and will not hesitate to mete out the appropriate punitive actions according to the severity of the offence committed, and in accordance with the clauses stipulated in the Students' Handbook, up to and including expulsion from BERJAYA University College of Hospitality.

**Total Number of pages = 5 (Including the cover page)**

**PART A** : **READING COMPREHENSION & SUMMARY (60 MARKS)**  
**INSTRUCTION(S)** : **This part consists of TWO sections.**  
**Answer ALL the questions in the booklet provided.**

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**Section 1: Reading Comprehension**

**(30 marks)**

**Instructions: Read the text below carefully and answer the questions which follow.**

**What's Wrong with the Circus?**

- 1 

*The circus is coming to town!* This familiar phrase conjures vivid images of amazing acrobats, capering clowns ... and exotic animals. Unlike the human performers who choose to work in circuses; however, exotic animals are forced to take part in the show. They are involuntary actors in a degrading spectacle, forced into an unnatural life. Therefore, some governments such as China and Greece have issued a ban on animal circuses and highlighted some “common myths” about animal circuses.
  
- 2 

To begin with, “the show must go on” is the main principle in the circus - even if the animal ‘stars are unwilling or unable to participate. This myth contradicts with the statement made; saying that circuses use only “positive” training methods on animals. Conversely, circuses demand obedience from the animals they exploit, and the training methods they use are largely based on breaking an animal’s will and beating or threatening an animal into submission. The demeaning tricks that animals are forced to perform, night after night, are frightening, unnatural, and even painful. In order to achieve the desired results, the standard industry practice is to use archaic, torturous devices to dominate and control animals much bigger and stronger than their trainers. For example, the bull hook (also called a “hook” or “ankus”) is perhaps the most notorious weapon in the trainer’s arsenal. A bull hook is a long, thick pole with a sharp metal hook attached to the end, and is used almost exclusively on elephants. Elephants have thick — but highly sensitive — skin. When hit with a bull hook, an elephant typically will scream, drop to his or her knees, and do everything he or she can to escape further blows. Bull hooks can cause serious, permanent injuries or even death. Therefore, the fact clearly indicates that training is almost always based on intimidation and violence rather than “positive” training as mentioned earlier.
  
- 3 

Many believed that circuses help conserve species. Time and again, circuses that exploit animals make sweeping claims about the educational and conservational value of their shows. In truth, however, keeping wild animals in captivity and forcing them to perform unnatural tricks does nothing to reduce — or even to teach people in a meaningful way about — the threats endangered animals face in their native habitat. Upon examination, the circuses’ high-minded claims are shown to be disingenuous. In an attempt to justify keeping endangered and threatened wild animals, such as elephants, tigers, and other species, in captivity, the circus industry claims that it provides a necessary service: preserving species through captive breeding. However, baby animals produced through captive breeding programs exist solely to enhance the circuses’ bottom line. None of the animals born through circuses’ captive

breeding programs have ever been released into the wild; most are slated to become “replacement” performers. Captive breeding programs do nothing to address the real threats endangered animals face in the wild, such as poaching, trophy hunting, loss of habitat, and loss of prey. Clearly, the conservation and education claim made by circuses is merely a veiled attempt to justify the exploitation of animals for profit.

4 The third myth about the animals in circuses is they live and travel in comfort while the truth is; these “performing” animals spend the bulk of their days in trailers, cages or chains. In the wild, elephants live in large, sociable herds and walk up to 25 miles every day. Most other wild animals found in circus settings, including lions and tigers, are also constantly on the move in their native habitats. To deprive these creatures of the freedom to roam and to engage in other instinctual behaviours is inherently cruel. In the clutch of the circus, wild animals are confined to travel trucks or trains for, on average, 11 months of each year. Life “on the road” takes a heavy toll on animals. For thousands of hours, over long distances, they may be chained in vehicles that lack climate control, forced to stand in their own waste. Even when the animals are not in transit, they are forced to live in grim conditions. Again and again, USDA inspection reports show that animals are frequently deprived of clean water, fresh and nutritionally-appropriate food, clean living quarters, and even the most basic shelter from weather. The travel vehicles used by circuses are small, dark, dank, dirty, and are often in a dangerous state of disrepair. It dramatically illustrates the absurd cruelty and degradation involved in using wild animals “props” in travelling shows.

5 Hence, when the circus comes to town, it doesn’t mean that animals need to be used and exploited. Circuses that employ only human performers are increasing in popularity, and offer families and communities the chance to be amazed and entertained in a cruelty – free manner. While many people associate the circus with “wholesome” fun (an association promoted aggressively by the circus PR machine), the truth is much darker. Using animals in circuses is an out-dated, unnecessary, and cruel practice, and sends to children the message that it’s acceptable to use animals for amusement and profit. Thus, when people turn away from circuses that exploit animals and attend animal – free circuses, their actions make a real difference, and help create a brighter future for wild animals.

Adapted from: Bornfreeusa.org

Published: 15<sup>th</sup> June 2004 in <http://www.bornfreeusa.org/articles.php?p=493>

Accessed on: January 18, 2016

Instructions: Answer the questions below in the booklet provided.

1. What is the whole passage about? (3 marks)
2. Identify the truths and myths listed in this passage. (6 marks)

3. Why did some governments ban animal circuses in their country? (3 marks)
4. Why is bull hook mentioned as the most notorious weapon used by trainers? (3 marks)
5. What does the usage of bull hook on circus animals indicate? (2 marks)
6. Circuses claim that their shows are educational and have conservational value. Why do they make such claims? (2 marks)
7. Provide the end-of-text (reference list) citation of the passage using the Harvard style. (3 marks)
8. *Some people believe that zoos, pseudo-sanctuaries, marine parks and other similar attractions are also a form of animal exploitation.*

Do you agree with the above statement? Provide strong reasons to support your stand. (8 marks)

## **Section 2: Summary**

**(30 marks)**

**Instructions: Answer the question below in the booklet provided.**

1. Summarise the passage in SECTION 1 titled “What’s Wrong with the Circus”. Your summary must **NOT BE MORE than 100 words**.

**END OF PART A**

**PART B : ESSAY WRITING (40 MARKS)**  
**INSTRUCTION(S) : Part B consists of one section only.**  
**Write your essay in the answer booklet provided.**

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Instructions: Choose **ONE** of the topics below and write an argumentative essay in the answer booklet. The length of your essay must be **NO LESS THAN 350 WORDS.**

Circuses have captivated audiences for decades, but the hype surrounding these spectacles disguise a serious problem. Animals involved in circuses are forced to perform these meaningless and physically uncomfortable tricks by their trainers. There need to be a greater respect for animals, not dominance over animals. Therefore, circuses should be free from animals.

How far do you agree with this statement?

You must fulfil **ALL** of the following tasks when writing your essay:

1. Write an argumentative essay :
  - The length of essay must be **NO LESS THAN 350 WORDS.**
  - The organisation of the essay must be in **BLOCK pattern.**
2. Demonstrate your skills in referencing for the essay :
  - You must cite **ONE (1) idea** from the reading comprehension article in **Part A (pages 2 - 3).**
  - For the citation, you must **paraphrase** the original sentence(s) and provide the correct **in-text referencing** based on the Harvard Referencing format.
  - At the end of your essay, write out the **end-text referencing** (Harvard Referencing format) for the reading comprehension article in **Part A (pages 2 - 3).**

**END OF EXAMINATION PAPER**