



DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL STUDIES

FINAL EXAMINATION

Student ID (in Figures) :

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Student ID (in Words) : _____

Course Code & Name : **MPU2232 Thinking Skills**
Semester & Year : January – April 2020
Lecturer/Examiner : Nur Harizah Mohd Faiz
Duration : 2 Hours

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

1. This question paper consists of two (2) parts:
PART A (30 marks) : Argumentation
PART B (70 marks) : Problem Solving
2. Candidates are not allowed to bring any unauthorized 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 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.

Total number of pages = 6 (including the cover page)

PART A: ARGUMENTATION (30 MARKS)

INSTRUCTION: There is **ONE (1)** question. Use the answer booklet.

Where do you stand on the following issue? Write a simple two-sided argument based on the prompt given below to convince me of your claim.

The traditional market for tourism accommodation involves tourists renting rooms from formal businesses, such as hotels. Airbnb has shaken up this model by providing an online marketplace that permits the large-scale rental of spaces from one ordinary person to another ('peer-to-peer accommodation'). As such, Airbnb is part of a larger rise in the 'sharing economy' (often also called 'collaborative consumption'), one aspect of which involves individuals renting access to their underused assets.

However, peer-to-peer accommodation has previously been limited by the difficulty hosts faced in making their accommodations known to potential guests, and the challenge of establishing the needed trust between hosts and guests. Airbnb has been able to overcome these obstacles by exploiting newly available internet technologies, which allow users to generate the content published on websites (e.g. Facebook users creating their own dynamic pages).

*Adapted from: Guttentag, D., 2015. Airbnb: disruptive innovation and the rise of an informal tourism accommodation sector. *Current issues in Tourism*, 18(12), pp.1192-1217.*

How have 'home-stay accommodation' platforms like Airbnb changed the market for tourism? What are the benefits and drawbacks?

Your argument should be structured into five sections, as follows:

- (1) claim [3 marks]
- (2) reasons in support of the claim – a minimum of three [6 marks]
- (3) counter claim – the strongest argument for the opposite/alternative claim [3 marks]
- (4) reasons in support of the counter claim – a minimum of three [6 marks]
- (5) refutations matching the reasons in support of the counter claim [12 marks]

NOTE

Marks will be subtracted for internal inconsistency, logical inconsistency, inappropriate use of extraneous material, fallacies, manipulative language and/or rhetorical ploys (minus a maximum of 10 marks).

END OF PART A

PART B : PROBLEM SOLVING (70 MARKS)

INSTRUCTION(S) : There is **ONE (1)** question. Use the answer booklet.

Identify and solve the problem, using the convergent and divergent thinking techniques that we practised in class.

Study the information (below and on the next few pages) carefully. What is it all about and how do the various parts connect? Pay attention to detail and identify trends and patterns. Then answer the questions below.

(1) Describe the problem from **THREE (3)** different perspectives.

[4 marks × 3 = 12 marks]

(2) Choose one of the three perspectives from Question (1) and explain **THREE (3)** current solutions to solve the problem from that perspective.

[8 marks × 3 = 24 marks]

(3) a) Which of the three solutions from Question (2) is the best one?

[4 marks]

b) Why is (3a) the best solution? By comparing it to the other two solutions, explain using **FOUR (4)** evaluative criteria.

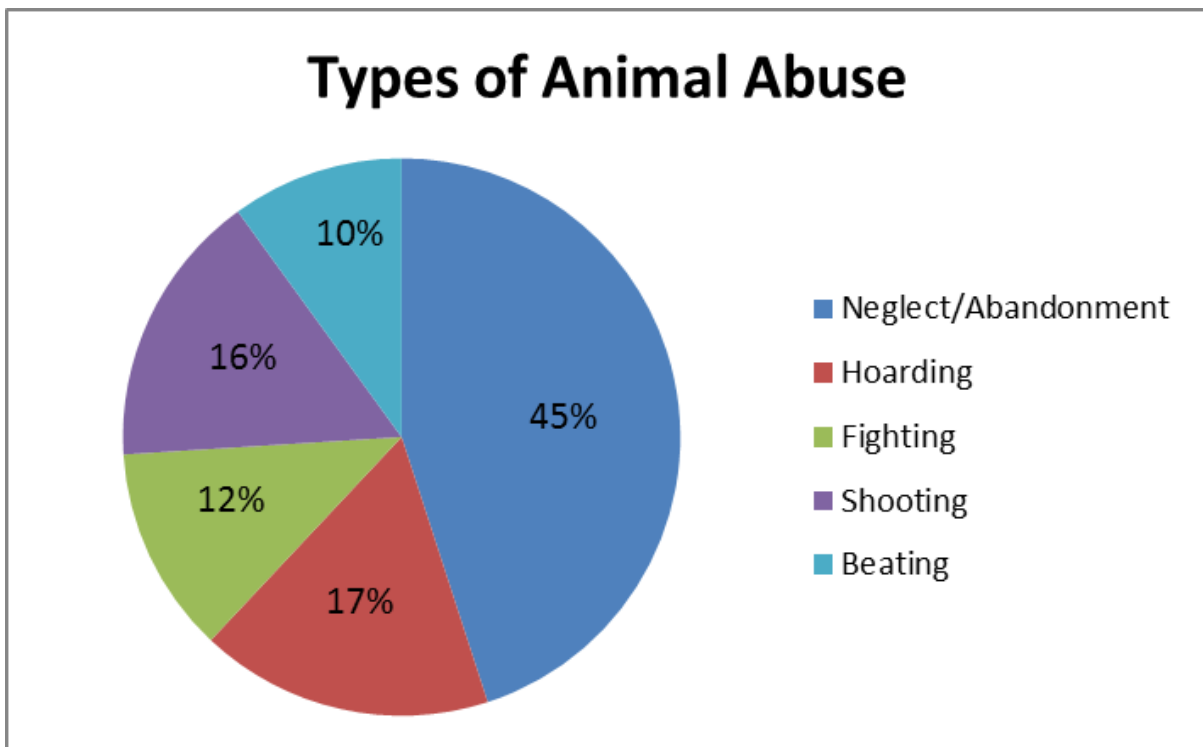
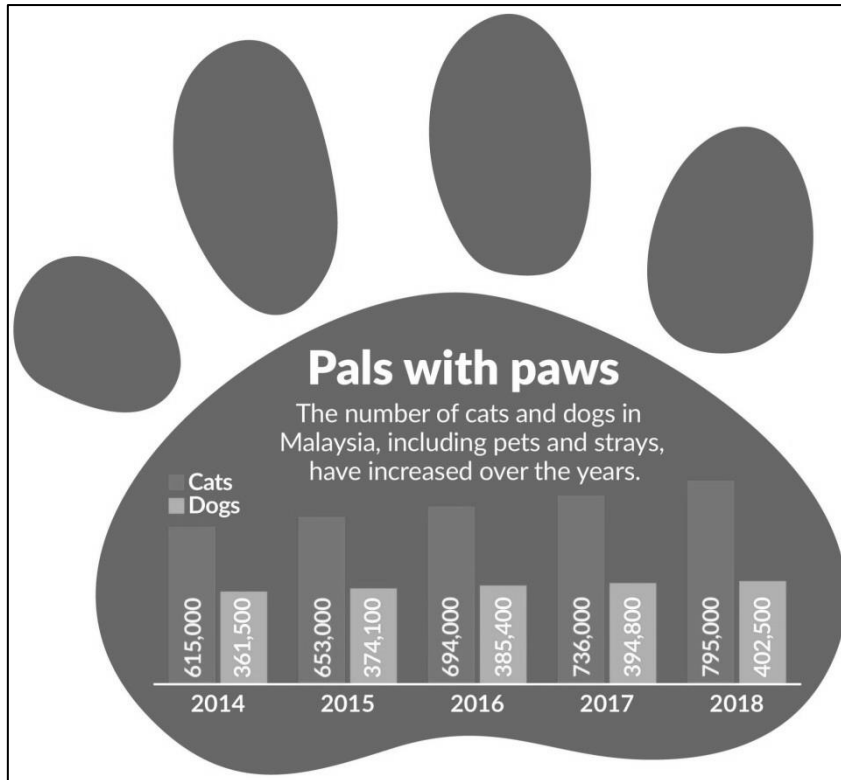
[4 marks × 4 = 16 marks]

(4) Generate **ONE (1)** new “out of the box” solution by modifying any of the solutions given in Question (2).

[8 marks]

(5) Describe how the new solution compares to the “best” solution you identified in Question (3) above.

[6 marks]



Source: Humane Society of the US (2016 <https://letters2president.org/letters/4011>)



The Animal Welfare Act 2015 provides for harsher penalties for abusing animals. -NSTP/ MUHD ZAABA ZAKERIA

By **Tan Sri Lee Lam Thye** - February 20, 2019 @ 11:37pm

FREQUENT posts on social media about neglect and cruelty against animals show that people are more aware of the rights of animals and how to save them.

At the same time, their concerns about animal welfare have helped the authorities charge culprits, with many receiving harsh punishment under the Penal Code and Animal Welfare Act (AWA) 2015.

We need to send a message to the public that animal abuse and cruelty should never be tolerated, while more campaigns must be held to create awareness of the issue.

AWA 2015 requires pet owners to be responsible for the wellbeing of animals under their care, which includes lodging, healthcare and diet.

People must be reminded that they will get harsher penalties for mistreating animals under AWA 2015, which was enforced in 2017.

AWA 2015 covers all animals, except wildlife, which is covered under the Wildlife Conservation Act 2010.

Under Section 29 of AWA 2015, those found guilty

of abusing animals can be fined between RM20,000 and RM100,000, or jailed up to three years, or both.

Under the previous Animals Act 1953, which was replaced by AWA 2015, animal abusers faced a maximum fine of RM50,000, one year in jail, or both.

Under Section 428 of the Penal Code, those found guilty of killing or maiming animals face a maximum three years in jail, a fine, or both.

I hope the Veterinary Services Department can employ and train more animal welfare officers, who must have compassion for animals, as the implementation of the law relies on people's compassion, along with training.

The Education Ministry must inculcate love and compassion for animals in students.

This will create a generation that respects animal welfare and is against animal cruelty.

The department said better awareness resulted in more animal abusers being charged, with 13 people convicted of abusing animals last year, an increase from four in 2017 and five in 2016.

Statistics showed that animal cruelty complaints made to the department shot up by 30 per cent from 510 cases in 2017 to 662 last year.

Local authorities should stop the catch-and-kill method to control stray animals.

They should emulate the Selangor government's approach, which promotes highly subsidised spay or neuter operations spearheaded by the state branch of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

Animal welfare complaints



60% of complaints over the past two years received by the Veterinary Services Department (DVS) are involving pet owners.

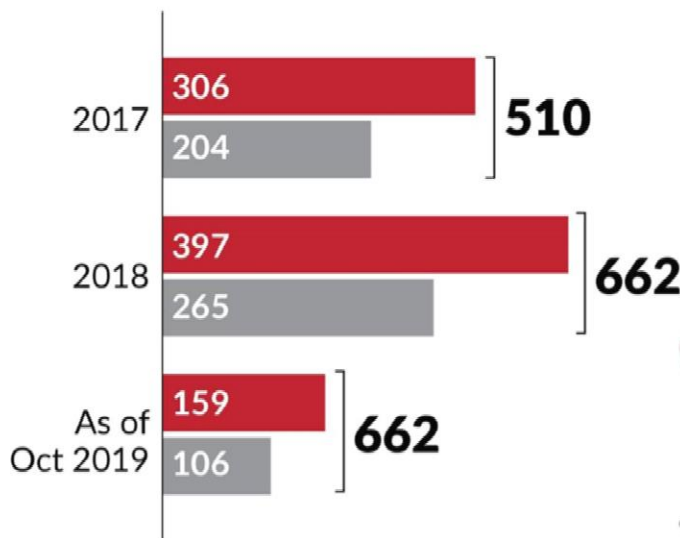


There were about **32,400** pet owners in Peninsular Malaysia in 2015.



Most or **90%** of animal cruelty cases are involving dogs and cats.

- Complaints involving animal owners
- Complaints involving animals without owners (including strays)



Source: Veterinary Services Department (DVS), Euromonitor International

©The Star Graphics

END OF EXAMINATION PAPER