

FACULTY OF LIBERAL ARTS

FINAL EXAMINATION

Student ID (in Figures) :

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Student ID (in Words) : _____

Subject Code & Name : **MPU 2232 Thinking Skills**
Semester & Year : May – August 2017
Lecturer/Examiner : Shazan Khan Omar
Duration : 2 hours

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

1. This question paper consists of 2 parts:

PART A (60 marks) : READING COMPREHENSION

There are **TWO (2)** sections in this part. Read the passages and answer all questions in the space provided.

PART B (40 marks) : PROBLEM SOLVING

There is only **ONE (1)** section in this part. Write your answers in the space provided.

- 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 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 = 10 (including the cover page)

PART A : READING COMPREHENSION (60 marks)

INSTRUCTION(S) : There are **TWO (2)** sections in this part. Read the passages and answer **ALL** questions in the space provided.

SECTION 1: Questions 1 – 8 (30 marks)

Read the passage carefully and answer the questions that follow in the space provided.

- A** The earth is losing its forests. Presently, trees cover about 30 percent of the earth's surface, but they are being destroyed at an alarming rate, especially in the tropics. Timber harvesting is a major reason for the destruction of the forests. Trees are used for building houses, making furniture, and providing pulp for paper products, such as newspapers and magazines. At least 40 hectares of rainforest are being felled every minute, mostly in order to extract the valuable timber.
- B** Another way that man is destroying the world's forests is by burning them down. In the Amazon, for example, rainforests are being burnt down at a rate of 20 hectares per minutes. The main reason for this is to clear the land for farming. Farmers in rainforest countries are often poor and cannot afford to buy land. Instead, these farmers clear rainforest land to raise their animals or grow their crops. Because tropical rainforest soil is so poor in nutrients, farmers cannot reuse the same land year after year. In the following years, farmers just clear more land, destroying the forest piece by piece. Already more than 30 tropical countries have reached a critical level of forest destruction and one-time exporters of timber such as Nigeria and Thailand now have to import timber for their domestic needs.
- C** Should we get all excited and worried about the loss of the forests? Yes, we should. Healthy trees are a vital part of the environment, and keep the entire balance of the atmosphere agreeable to all life forms. Forests are catchment areas for rainwater, holding the rainwater in the leaves of the trees, so that it will not sink so quickly into the earth's crust. Furthermore, the forests help maintain the water cycles in the area. The masses of cloud that provide the rain are formed over the moist forests. Thus, the destruction of forests may also lead to a reduction in rainfall over the area, resulting in drought.
- D** Forests also protect and feed the earth's fragile mantle of soil. Trees curb soil erosion. Without the tree cover, the land is totally exposed to the agents of erosion, such as strong winds and heavy rainfall. The strong winds blow away the top layers of the soil and the flowing water carries it away into the rivers, lakes or sea. Consequently, the once fertile land is converted into a barren wasteland. In addition, denuded hill slopes are vulnerable to landslides, which can be catastrophic disasters, resulting in the loss of homes and lives.
- E** Apart from preventing soil erosion and landslides, forests, with their abundant supply of leaves, give compost back to the land, thus helping it to remain fertile. The leaves of the trees and the droppings of the birds, animals and insects which live in them, fall to the ground, where they decay and replenish the soil with mulch, minerals and manure.

F Forests are rich in flora and fauna. The rainforests are home to over half of the entire species of the world, which are being destroyed with the rainforests; and some of those species that are killed will never return again. Plants and creatures are god's gift to us and they serve mankind, each in its own way. For example, plants are the source of our clothes; and the rubber used for tyres comes from trees. Plants are also the source of sugar, coffee, tea, rice, wheat and many delicious and nutritious fruit.

G In addition, most of the medicines that have been used by men are derived from plants and animals. Most of the Chinese medicines, for example, such as ginseng and ginkgo, are herb-based. An example from the realm of modern Western medicine is the drug 'vincristine'. This drug, which is derived from a jungle plant, is used in the treatment of leukaemia. Many of those species that have not yet been discovered may very likely cure cancer, AIDS, and many of the other diseases and virus-based illnesses of today. In fact, one research scientist in the field of botany has concluded that in Costa Rica's forests alone, 15 percent of the plant species may have the potential as a treatment for cancer. What potential life-saving medicines are we losing each day as the forests are being destroyed ?

Adapted from <http://www.englishdaily626.com/comprehension.php?303>

1. State **TWO (2)** main ways that forests are being destroyed. (4 mark)

2. What is the main purpose for the burning of the trees in the forests of the Amazon? (2 marks)

3. What point is the writer trying to show in mentioning the fact that Nigeria and Thailand have to import timber? (2 marks)

4. Briefly explain why the destruction of forests may lead to drought. (8 marks)

5. Why is soil erosion a greater problem in areas that have been cleared of forests? (2 marks)

6. What does the writer mean by "denuded hill slopes"? (2 marks)

7. Based on the passage, what is the relationship between forests and peoples' health? (6 marks)

8. Using your own examples, briefly describe **TWO (2)** business ethics that a company should apply in order to conserve forests so that it can be inherited to the future generations. (4 marks)

SECTION 2: Questions 9 – 18 (30 marks)

Read the passage carefully and answer the questions that follow in the space provided.

- A** There are many misconceptions and myths that people have about dyslexia. It is important to address these so that we can have a true understanding of dyslexia. It will help promote the strengths of people who have the condition. Many people think that clever people will not be dyslexic or have a learning disability. The real fact is that there is no relationship between intelligence and dyslexia. There have been many cases of dyslexic people who were very bright and creative and have achieved amazing results.
- B** Dyslexia is one of the most common learning disabilities to affect children. Research has shown that one fifth of all Americans are affected by the condition. Some people may have mild forms of dyslexia whereas others may experience it more severely. This goes to show that dyslexia is more common than we think. Dyslexics have difficulty on reading, writing or spelling.
- C** There are people who think that dyslexia will go away with age. This is really a myth. There is no outgrowing dyslexia. The good news is that dyslexia can be minimized with early and effective intervention.
- D** Science is developed enough to recognise dyslexia as early as age 5. Educational psychologists and specialist dyslexia teachers use special tests to diagnose dyslexia. The sooner the diagnosis, the faster the child can get help. This is important as dyslexic children face much bullying and trauma in the secondary school years. The bullies are not at an age where they will be sensitive to the special needs of the dyslexic.
- E** Dyslexia is not a medical problem. There is no medication that can heal dyslexia. It is detected by testing reading, writing and spelling. Such testing does not come within the ambit of a doctor's practice. It is more the area of psychologists and other such therapists who have special training for the purpose. Comparative studies have successfully shown that people may be trained to overcome dyslexia. Brain scans of a person who reads normally and a dyslexic as they read are different. When the dyslexic has been trained to overcome his disability, his brain scan when reading will look just like the normal person's. This is proof that the dyslexics may be helped to overcome their disability.
- F** One thing that can be observed in a dyslexic's writing is that some of the letters will be written backwards. Because of this people used to think that dyslexics see alphabets backwards. This is not true. Normally by the age of 8, most dyslexics will get this problem solved.
- G** Speech therapy is of tremendous benefit for children with dyslexia. It teaches them 'phonemic awareness'. Phonemic awareness is the ability to hear and work with the sounds of letters and letter combinations. Sometimes, it is beneficial to teach the kids the relationship between letters and the sounds they make. Therapies are directed at reducing the child's anxiety about school. It makes it easier for the child to perform in class. Psychological counselling is also sometimes needed to help the child.

H Since dyslexics do not make the connection between letters and sounds, the Orton-Gillingham program was designed to address this specific problem. Even after several decades, this program is still the standard for nearly all learning programs. Many teachers choose the strategies developed by this program to teach alphabet and sound. An example of the Orton-Gillingham is having students walk around on the floor in the pattern of a letter.

Adapted from: <http://www.englishdaily626.com/comprehension.php?469>

9. What is the relationship between dyslexia and intelligence? (2 marks)

10. Will dyslexia go away as one grows older? (2 marks)

11. What is the earliest age at which dyslexia may be detected? (2 marks)

12. Who are the professionals who conduct tests to detect dyslexia? (4 marks)

13. How do the reading brain scans of a normal child and a dyslexic compare? (2 marks)

14. What does the reading brain scans of a trained dyslexic look like? (2 marks)

15. Dyslexia is not a medical problem. Give **TWO (2)** reasons to justify your answer. (4 marks)

16. What are the difficulties that dyslexics face in their life? (2 marks)

17. In your opinion, what is the first thing that should be done by parents when a doctor diagnoses their children as having dyslexia? (4 marks)

18. Using your own examples, suggest what can parents of dyslexics do to handle society that may look down on their children. (6 marks)

END OF PART A

PART B : PROBLEM SOLVING (40 marks)

INSTRUCTION(S) : There is only **ONE (1)** section in this part. Write your answer in the space provided.

SECTION 1: (40 marks)

*Write a 300 word essay to discuss the situation given below. In your essay, you must **identify the main problem, analyse the possible causes of the problem, and propose at least TWO (2) solutions that can help solve the problem. You must write in detail with explanations and examples taken from the given situation.***

Steve has just been hired as a computer repair technician (CRT) for Computer World, a large retail computer store. As a recent graduate from the local technical college, Steve is eager to put his new diploma to good use and make a name for himself at Computer World. “Who knows,” he thinks to himself, “in a couple of years I could be running the whole department!” Steve is working with Larry, who’s been a CRT at this location for five years. Larry seems nice enough and has promised to “show him the ropes.”

Their first customer of the day is Mr. Johnson, who admits to not being “very PC savvy.” Larry hooks up the laptop and announces that the hard drive has crashed and needs to be replaced. “The good news,” he tells Mr. Johnson, “is that your repair is under warranty so we can switch that hard drive out for you—no problem—leave it with us, and it’ll be ready tomorrow morning.” Steve is suitably impressed with Larry’s quick diagnosis and his firm commitment to Mr. Johnson that his laptop will be ready in the morning. Mr. Johnson, however, doesn’t seem so pleased. “What about the old hard drive?” he asks. “There’s a lot of personal information on there—can I have it back when you put in the new one?” “Sorry, no can do,” says Larry. “We have to return warranty-replaced parts to the manufacturer—company policy— but don’t worry, their technicians will erase all the data on it before they recycle it—we’re very careful about that.”

Mr. Johnson thinks for a few moments and then decides that he can live with that and leaves the store. Larry quickly replaces the hard drive and throws the old one into a box that Steve notices is labelled “Flea Market” under Larry’s workstation. “What are you doing?” asks Steve. “I thought we had to send that back to the manufacturer for a warranty repair?” “Are you crazy?” laughs Larry. “We just tell the customers that—all the manufacturer needs is a serial number and the paperwork. That’s a perfectly good hard drive—all he had was a file conflict. I’ve already fixed it—but since it’s under warranty, he gets a nice new hard drive for free, we get a nice warranty contract, and I get a slightly used hard drive that I can sell at the flea market this weekend.” “But what about all his personal information on the hard drive?” asks Steve. “Aren’t you going to erase it?” “If I have time,” laughs Larry.

Adopted from: Ghillyer, A. 2010. *Business Ethics Now*. McGraw-Hill.

