



**BERJAYA SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES
Faculty of Liberal Arts**

FINAL EXAMINATION

Student ID (in Figures) :

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Student ID (in Words) : _____

Course Code & Name : **MPU3232 Academic Writing Skills**
Trimester & Year : May - August 2018
Lecturer/Examiner : Shazan Khan Omar
Duration : 2 hours

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

1. **This question paper consists of 2 parts:**
PART A (55 marks) : READING COMPREHENSION & SUMMARY
There are **TWO (2)** questions. Answer both in the booklet provided.
PART B (45 marks) : ESSAY WRITING
There is **ONE (1)** question. Write your essay in the booklet 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 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.

PART A : READING COMPREHENSION & SUMMARY (55 MARKS)

INSTRUCTION(S) : There are **TWO (2)** questions. Answer both in the booklet provided.

READING PASSAGE

Before answering the two questions, read the article below.

Are Humans Adapted to Modern Environments?

Barber, N 2004, *Are humans adapted to modern environments?*, viewed 25 April 2018, <https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/the-human-beast/201704/are-humans-adapted-modern-environments>.

Our two main theories of human behavior do a poor job of explaining how humans change to meet the demands of varied environments. One theory - cultural determinism - mostly denies that this happens. The other – evolutionary psychology – claims we are matched to the environments of our remote ancestors. Weaknesses of both theories are exposed by recent evidence. As the species that colonises new habitat unlike any other, humans are better adapted than most.

Apparently, exploiting varied resources were required in human adaptation to ensure their survival. For this reason, anthropologists believe that *Homo erectus* had both butchered animals with stone choppers and used fire to cook meat for over a million years. Although they likely took advantage of naturally occurring bush fires, there was at least one population, at Gesher Benot Ya'Aqov in the north of Israel, where hearths were regularly used from 750,000 years ago. This population was involved in hunting large game, catching fish, and cooperative movement of large stone slabs used in tool manufacture.

As our ancestors migrated out of Africa, they encountered much colder climates and likely adapted by using animal skins to keep themselves warm. For satisfactory clothing, hides had to be properly cured and deftly stitched. The crucial task of clothes making in cold-adapted populations like the Inuit is performed mostly by women, representing a time-honored division of labor and superior manual dexterity.

There is a body of inherited knowledge underlying such skills – knowledge that is unlikely to be lost given that it is critical for survival in a familiar habitat. Knowledge and skills may be lost over time. Solutions had to be produced quickly as our ancestors migrated to new habitats so that gene selection was mostly irrelevant. One well-known example is the loss of boat-building technology by aboriginal residents of Tasmania. Anthropologists now believe that when the island lost its land bridge to the mainland that the remaining population was too small to sustain specialized boat-building skills. Clearly, skills and technological innovations helped humans to solve problems easily and quickly that defeated other mammals and primates.

However, some people believe that humans could not be psychologically or behaviourally adapted to modern conditions. It is not just the biologists which view adaptation as a very slow process requiring hundreds of generations of gene selection but evolutionary psychologists also assumed that behavioural evolution was extremely slow as well. Evolutionary psychologists believe that other vertebrates are actually very good at adjusting to altered environments through rapid behavioural change. It was widely assumed that human fears of snakes, spiders, and large predators such as lions were partly inherited by genetic.

It is emphasised that even if there was no time for gene selection, our hunting forbears were highly adapted to new ways of life contrary to the views of cultural determinists. This process of adaptation to new ecologies was mostly non-genetic given that gene selection is too slow to accomplish most of the necessary changes. It is social learning that causes humans to adapt to new environments. The sketch of our archaeological past implies that our ancestors were very good at adjusting to new habitat, by exploiting new food sources, and surviving in a range of climatic extremes.

QUESTIONS

1. Reading comprehension (30 marks): Reconstruct the argument presented in the article above by identifying the following elements:
 - i. the main claim
 - ii. the reasons in support of the main claim
 - iii. the opposing claim
 - iv. the reasons in support of the opposing claim
 - v. the refutations of the reasons in support of the opposing claim.

2. Summary (25 marks): Summarise the article given above in 60 words, using (i) vocabulary and sentence structures different from those in the original and (ii) one short in-text citation (using Harvard referencing style).

END OF PART A

PART B : ESSAY WRITING (45 MARKS)

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

Where do you stand on the following issue? Write a 300-word essay to convince me of your claim.

For some, the goal of living an ethical life is expressed by the Golden Rule: Do unto others as you would have them do unto you, or treat others as you would like to be treated. Your personal value system will guide you throughout your life, both in personal and professional matters. How often you will decide to stand by those values or deviate from them will be a matter of personal choice, but each one of those choices will contribute to the ongoing development of your values.

Think it through first (generating ideas, selecting points and deciding on your line of reasoning); next, plan out your essay (pre-drafting), followed by writing (drafting of the core content, revising, adding introductory and concluding paragraphs), and finally, editing and proofreading (post-drafting). Take short breaks between the various stages.

END OF EXAMINATION PAPER