Private & Confidential

DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL STUDIES

RESIT EXAMINATION

Student ID (in Figures) :														

Student ID (in Words) : _____

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Course Code & Name : **MPU3232 Academic Writing Skills**
Trimester & Year : May - August 2019
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 questions in the space provided.
   PART B (45 marks) : ESSAY WRITING
   There is **ONE (1)** question. Write your essay 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 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 = 7 (Including the cover page)

PART A : **READING COMPREHENSION & SUMMARY (55 MARKS)**

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

READING PASSAGE

Before answering the two questions, read the article below.

Do Vitamins Have Placebo Effects?

Barber, N 2018, *Do Vitamins Have Placebo Effects?,* viewed 25 April 2018, https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/the-human-beast/201704/are-humans-adapted-modern-environments

After years of hearing that vitamin supplementation was protective of health, we are now hearing that they are a waste of money for people with an adequate diet. My first reaction to such flip-flops is that we should not be too surprised. Who amongst us has not tired of hearing about the alleged benefits of a Mediterranean diet, or a Vegan diet, or a low-fat diet, or a low-carbohydrate diet, or a low-protein diet?

Many people believe that vitamins produce placebo effects. The placebo effect is defined as a phenomenon in which some people experience a benefit after the administration of an inactive substance or sham treatment. The primary controversy about the size of placebo effects is whether or not they apply to objective measures of illness as opposed to self-reports used in studies of depression. I believe that vitamins do not produce placebo effects.

If vitamins produce placebo effects, they could potentially have beneficial effects for general health and longevity. Once again, the evidence could not be more disappointing. Vitamin users live exactly as long as non-users according to a meta-analysis combining many different studies. Placebo is impossible to be produced by vitamins because researchers found that placebo effect is the result of a natural recovery from the illness. Also, an influential 1955 study entitled *The Powerful Placebo* finally established the idea that placebo effect is related to the brain's role in physical health. In fact, recent studies skew in the opposite direction, having found that vitamins do not produce placebo effects and some of them may be bad for you. Several have been linked with an increase in certain cancers, for example, while others have been tied to a rise in the risk of kidney stones.

However, some people have argued that vitamins do produce placebo effects. Although doctors used to laugh amongst themselves about administering placebos, the joke is on them for several reasons. Firstly, the placebo effect can be quite strong. Secondly, it can be "real" in the sense that placebo in the vitamins are able to produce physiological effects which might be prevented by experimental administration of opiate blockers or other drugs. Thirdly, most active medicines are accompanied by a placebo effect that must be controlled in drug research. In addition, some people believe that the colour of a tablet (e.g. vitamin) can alter the strength of its placebo effect, and larger pills induce a stronger effect than smaller pills. It is also rumoured that placebo effects produced by some type of vitamins can be increased if patients drink more than three litres of water every day.

Even though it was believed that placebo effects in the vitamins and active medicines are able to affect humans physiologically, more credible and rigorous studies need to be conducted because the evidence that supports the hypothesis is not completely substantiated. Moreover, placebo effects are generated by chemical substance in the brain (not determined by the colour and shape of the vitamins) such as serotine and other hormones which can influence a person's mood. To illustrate, scientists think they've located a region of the brain that's linked to the placebo effect – a psychological phenomenon where patients feel better because they think they've been given real drugs.

QUESTIONS

1. Reading comprehension (30 marks): Reconstruct the argument presented in the article above by identifying the following elements:

I. the main claim (3 marks)

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II. the reasons in support of the main claim (8 marks)

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III. the opposing claim (3 marks)

IV. the reasons in support of the opposing claim (8 marks)

V. the refutations of the reasons in support of the opposing claim (8 marks)

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).

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END OF PART A

PART B : **ESSAY WRITING (45 MARKS)**

INSTRUCTION(S) : There is **ONE (1)** question. Answer the question in the space provided.

Many of us have an idea of who is homeless, and why they become homeless. These ideas can come from a variety of places, including our own experiences, those of family or friends, or through the things we read or see on TV, the internet or in the newspaper. These different sources of information shape our ideas about who we think a typical homeless person is, but in the end may or may not be accurate. The reality is that there is no such thing as a 'typical' homeless person, and the population is incredibly diverse. No one is absolutely safe from experiencing homelessness. Very few people choose to be homeless and it can happen to anyone. In view of this issue, some factors and experiences can make people more vulnerable to homelessness.

Write an argumentative essay based on the issue above. Your essay should contain **approximately 350 words**.

END OF EXAMINATION PAPER