



**DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL STUDIES**

**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 2020  
 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.

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READING PASSAGE

Before answering the two questions, read the article below.

**Are E-cigarettes Harmful?**

McEwen, A & McRobbie, H 2016, *Electronic cigarettes: A briefing for Stop Smoking Services*, National Centre for Smoking Cessation and Training.

E-cigarettes are devices that deliver nicotine within an inhalable aerosol by heating a solution that typically contains nicotine, propylene glycol and/or glycerol, plus flavours. This aerosol is commonly referred to as vapour and so the use of an e-cigarette is described as vaping. E-cigarettes are claimed to bypass many of the health risks of tobacco smoking, and to offer a more healthful alternative to cigarettes and other conventional forms of nicotine intake.

While e-cigarettes may help some people quit, there is growing evidence that vaping may be harmful in some cases, and more harmful than avoiding smoking altogether. E-cigarette vapour may contribute to various health problems. The vapour may affect humans' lungs, bladder, as well as their heart. For example, e-cigarette use exposes the lungs to a variety of chemicals, including those added to e-liquids, and other chemicals produced during the heating/vaporizing process. A study of some e-cigarette products found the vapour contains carcinogens and toxic chemicals, as well as potentially toxic metal nanoparticles from the device itself. The study showed that the e-liquids of certain cig-a-like brands contain high levels of nickel and chromium.

Early evidence suggests that e-cigarette use may serve as an introductory product for preteens and teens who then go on to use other tobacco products, including cigarettes, which are known to cause diseases and premature death. Nicotine in e-cigarettes also affects the development of brain circuits that control attention and learning. For example, research shows that smoking during adolescence increases the risk of developing psychiatric disorders and cognitive impairment later in life. Nicotine largely affects the area of the brain responsible for attention, memory, learning, and brain plasticity. Nicotine in e-cigarette is one of the most toxic of all poisons to humans' organs and has a rapid onset of action. Apart from local actions, the target organs are the peripheral and central nervous systems. In severe poisoning, there are tremors, prostration, cyanosis, dypnoea, convulsion, and progression to collapse and coma. Even death may occur from paralysis of respiratory muscles and/or central respiratory failure with a LD50 (the amount of the substance

required: usually per body weight to kill 50% of the test population) in adults of around 30-60 mg of nicotine.

Some people argue that there is substantial evidence that shows e-cigarette is safe. Nicotine in e-cigarettes does not cause smoking related diseases, such as cancers and heart disease. These are caused by other chemicals found in tobacco smoke. Nicotine in e-cigarettes poses little danger to adult users because adults can control their addiction. In order to prevent accidental poisoning of children, e-cigarettes and liquids should be stored away safely (just as you would with household cleaning products and medicines). E-cigarettes can support people to quit smoking. Clients of stop smoking services who combined e-cigarettes with behavioural support had the highest quit-rates in 2014–2015. The Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) concludes that e-cigarettes can benefit adult smokers who are not pregnant, as long as they completely replace any other nicotine or tobacco products.

More recent arguments against e-cigarettes emphasise that e-cigarette users who use devices that contain nicotine are exposed to its potentially harmful effects because nicotine is associated with cardiovascular diseases and possible birth defects. E-cigarettes are harmful and addictive to both adults and teenagers depending on their metabolism. A study suggests that e-cigarettes do not help people quit smoking but ‘lure’ them to use other drugs. Any substantive beneficial effect of nicotine on human body including a pregnant woman is yet to be proven. Nicotine should be used only under supervision of trained cessation personnel therefore its sale needs to be strictly regulated. Needless to say, which research for safer alternative to nicotine must be taken on priority.

## 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)

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IV. the reasons in support of the opposing claim

(8 marks)

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V. the refutations of the reasons in support of the opposing claim

(8 marks)

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