



**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 : September - December 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 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.

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.

Should You Avoid MSG?

Leech, J 2017, MSG: Good or Bad, viewed 9 September 2018, <https://www.healthline.com/nutrition/msg-good-or-bad#section2>

MSG is short for monosodium glutamate. It is a common food additive that is used to enhance flavour. It has the e-number E621. MSG is derived from the amino acid glutamate, or glutamic acid, which is one of the most abundant amino acids in nature.

There is a ton of controversies surrounding MSG in the natural health community. It is claimed to cause asthma, headaches, and even brain damage. On the other hand, most mainstream sources claim that MSG is safe. There doesn't seem to be any compelling reason to avoid it.

Glutamate is one of the non-essential amino acids, meaning that the human body is able to produce it. It serves various functions in the human body, and is found in virtually all foods. It is popular in Asian cooking, and is used in all sorts of processed foods in Western countries. Some studies suggest that *dietary* glutamate should have little to no effect on the human brain because there doesn't seem to be any convincing evidence that MSG acts as an excitotoxin (chemicals (usually amino acids) that overstimulate neuron receptor in brains).

There is evidence suggests that by adding MSG to foods it can have effects on particular group of people. To investigate this, researchers had people taken MSG-flavoured soups before a meal, and then measured how many calories they consumed during the meal. Studies have shown that MSG can enhance satiety and help people eat fewer calories at subsequent meals. It is believed that the taste of umami, provided by MSG, helps regulate appetite by stimulating receptors found on the tongue and wall of the digestive tract.

There are some people who may experience adverse effects after consuming MSG which is called Chinese restaurant syndrome, or MSG symptom complex. In one study, people with self-reported MSG sensitivity consumed either 5 grams of MSG, or placebo (a dummy pill). 36.1% reported reactions with MSG, compared to 24.6% with placebo.

Some observational studies link MSG intake to weight gain. In China, increased MSG consumption has been linked to weight gain on several occasions, with the average intake ranging between 0.33-2.2 grams per day. One recent controlled trial in humans showed that MSG raised blood pressure and increased frequency of headaches and nausea. There was also a study linking increased MSG intake with metabolic syndrome in Thailand.

Depending on whom you ask, MSG is either 100% safe or a dangerous neurotoxin. As is often the case in nutrition, the truth is somewhere between the two extremes. Looking at the evidence, it seems pretty clear that MSG is safe. This is the strong reason for you not to avoid it. No, MSG isn't bad for you. It is an additive best known for its use in Chinese restaurants and it has had the thumbs up from scientists for quite some time now.

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)

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

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)

PART B : ESSAY WRITING (45 MARKS)

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

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

As artificial intelligence and robotic technology continue to advance, the idea of a robot as a teacher or a companion for a child is no longer confined to science fiction. Several real-life social robots, or autonomous machines that interact and communicate with humans, are already working and assisting people in places like schools, hospitals, and the home. For this reason, the idea that robots can replace teachers becomes an arguable issue.

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.
