



FACULTY OF LIBERAL ARTS
School of Service Professional Development
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 2021
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.

Does Social Media Affect Teenagers?

Adapted from: Hocking, L 2018, *Does Social Media Depression in Young People Really Exist?*, viewed 9 January 2019, <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2018-02-social-media-depression-young-people.html>

A report published by the London School of Economics suggested that 43 per cent of young people between nine to 12 years old have social network accounts, with more and more children accessing social media with time. This situation occurs despite the ban from creating social media accounts for people under the age of 18. Increasingly, evidence suggests that the use of social media by young people can pose threats to their lives.

The most commonly cited effect is depression, or depressive symptoms, with one study, which specifically looks at young people, suggesting that greater social media use is associated with lower moment-to-moment happiness and life satisfaction. These effects are thought to occur for a range of reasons, for example, the comparison of one's own life to lives of others on social media sites can result in a young person feeling inadequate or worse than others. This effect can be exacerbated if young people are comparing themselves to celebrities whose lives may appear so much more glamorous and exciting than their own. Indirect causes of depression have also been identified with social media use, such as young people developing body dysmorphia, which can lead to depression.

Although the majority of the evidence on the effects of social media use relate to depression in young people, there are a wide range of other adverse effects which can occur. A survey among 1,500 teenagers from 14 to 24 years old in the UK, published by Royal Society for Public Health (RSPH) and the Young Health Movement (YHM), found that Instagram, Snapchat and Facebook were the three worst social media platforms for having negative impacts on children. The report states that this might be related to depression, but there may also be links to an increase in cyber bullying, worsening sleep, and feelings of social isolation and anxiety.

As a result of their survey findings, RSPH and YHM made a number of recommendations to reduce or prevent the negative effects of social media. The recommendations focus on both the users and social media companies. These include warning young people when they have spent too much time on social media and implementing a mechanism which can identify young people who are showing signs of mental health issues on social media. From the report, it appears that educating users to help manage the increased mental health risks is important. It might require safe social media use to be taught as part of a child's education, or a social media component to be included in the training of youth-workers and other professionals who engage with young people.

Despite the potential negative effects, there are also some benefits from using social media. Those suffering from mental health problems and other health issues are able to have better access to other people's health experiences, as well as expert health information. Also, social media can help young people with self-expression and self-identity, which are important aspects of their development throughout the teenage years. Finally, children and young people report that they are able to create better relationships with their friends through social media.

Even if evidence does link the use of social media with some favourable impacts on teenagers' lives, social media can still cause problems to teenagers. Literature suggests that many people demonstrate excessive social media use which can affect their mental health. Managing the risks of mental health because of social media sites is the joint responsibility of both the user and the social media companies. Other than that, by having fake information on their profiles, social media also allows users to mask their identities which can lead to cybercrimes. Social media may also cause stress in relationships both romantic and platonic by encouraging us to jump to conclusions and make rash judgements towards someone's statements. To summarise, the focus may need to shift towards educating younger people in how to cope with the emotions that social media may bring and make them aware of the potential risks of using it excessively. Social media depression is only likely to get worse, so now is the time to educate young people about the potential pitfalls of social media.

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)
