UNIVERSITI UTARA MALAYSIA

FINAL EXAMINATION
SEMESTER ONE 2008/2009 SESSION

CODE/COURSE : BLE2012/ ENGLISH FOR HIGHER EDUCATION
DATE : 6 NOVEMBER 2008
TIME : 9.00 – 11.30 a.m. (2 ½ HOURS)
VENUE : PMI, DTSO, DSB K.MAS, UUM

INSTRUCTIONS :

1. This booklet consists of FOUR (4) sections in SIXTEEN (16) printed pages excluding the cover page.

2. Answer ALL questions.

3. All answers must be written in the question booklet.

4. Use PEN to write your answers.

NAME OF EXAMINER: ____________________________

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MATRIC NO.: ____________________________ (in words) (in numbers)

IDENTIFICATION CARD NO.: ____________________________

NAME OF INSTRUCTOR: ____________________________

GROUP: [ ] DESK NUMBER: ____________________________

DO NOT OPEN THIS BOOKLET UNTIL YOU ARE INSTRUCTED TO DO SO
SECTION ONE (20 MARKS)

You are advised to spend about 30 minutes on this section.

Read the following passage and answer all questions in PARTS A and B.

I Sungai Petani isn't one of our *glitzy* little towns that are filled with touristic trappings and must-see sights. At best, it may be described as nondescript. However, a recent trip to this town in the state of Kedah unlocked a torrent of memories, that I almost felt embarrassed by my sentimental yearnings for this little town.

II You would too, if memories of your childhood were of hopping into a rickety *bus* headed for Sungai Petani. Mother always maintained that the best place to shop for *baju raya* (new clothes for Eid-ur Fitr celebration) was Sungai Petani. Or, when Dad insisted that the school uniform for my siblings and I be bought in Sungai Petani and nowhere else. For a six-year-old about to go to school for the first time, shopping for uniform was a major, ground-breaking *event*.

III While mom hunted for the best bargains, with a melting ice-cream in hand, I'd gawk at selection of toys in every size, shape and colour in the shops. Nearby, fluttering dresses on racks, and endless rows of colourful fabric made the whole experience even more festive. *My* sisters always went with the hope of getting a doll called *anak patung siam* (Siamese doll), a three feet tall doll with stiff, coarse hair.
Amongst us kids, we knew only the best behaved girl gets this doll. When all the shopping for new clothes was completed, a brief stopover at one of the restaurants for *mee rebus* (noodles with gravy) and *cucur udang* (prawn cakes) was a must.

IV The memories simply came flooding back when I stepped into Sungai Petani and I am pretty certain it does the same to many adults who hail from smaller towns around Sungai Petani. You may live in Butterworth or even Alor Star but everyone agrees that Sungai Petani had the best and cheapest shopping.

V Sungai Petani has changed tremendously. From a small town with one main street, it is now a *thriving* commercial district. Once just a stopover point for a cup of coffee, en route the Alor Star-Butterworth trunk road, Sungai Petani has blossomed into a major town with a lot to see and favour.

VI The best starting point in your discovery of Sungai Petani is perhaps the riverside part of the town. The open-air bus station is situated here. Surrounded by an L-shaped blocked of two-storey shops and a row of stalls, this area is as hectic as ever. Be it the balk of my morning hours or blistering noon heat, the crowd never ceases. Bus commuters and travelers disembark here on transit for their final destinations.
commercial enclave was popularly known as *Pekan Melayu* (Malay Town), as most of the businesses here are operated by Malays.

VII *Pekan Melayu* has some pleasant surprises in store. *Many* of the shops here sell traditional Malay cakes and sweet-meats not found elsewhere in the country. The row of small eateries in this area also offers some of the best Malay food. In the mornings, you simply cannot miss the wafting *nasi lemak* (rice cooked with coconut milk). This humble meal has often been called the national breakfast of the country and is prepared in an authentic way here.

VIII After having had your fill, hop over to the *Pasar Tani* (farmers' market) nearby. This fresh produce fair is frequented by the locals who come here not only for the cheapest buys, but also to stock up on the freshest and sometimes, exotic produce one cannot get from supermarkets. Even if purchasing greens alien to your palate isn't in your itinerary, a stroll here will acquaint you with traditional culinary needs of the local communities.

IX There are also many buildings of historical significance along Jalan Ibrahim, most built over a hundred years ago. The police station at Jalan Ibrahim/Jalan Kuala Ketil junction is typical of British architectural work.
X At the northern end of Jalan Ibrahim is a popular landmark in Sungai Petani. The Clock Tower here was built in 1936 as a gift to the town of Sungai Petani by a wealthy Chinese tycoon, Lim Lean Teng, presented in conjunction with the silver jubilee celebration of King George V and Queen Mary in London. While under construction, King George died and this changes the reason for the tower. Instead, the tower was redesignated to **commemorate** the reign of King George V (1910-1936).

XI Sungai Petani, now, isn’t a sleepy old town. It is modern enough to have not one, but two golf courses! Kelab Sungai Petani and Cinta Sayang Golf and Country Resort both offer opportunities to tee off in natural, verdant, unspoilt surrounding. In fact, Kelab Sungai Petani has its own special historical significance, harking back to colonial times. Established in 1922, it’s a ‘members only’ club with a 9-hole golf course.

XII Sure, Sungai Petani has grown and there are modern township mushrooming all around. However, for me, this town will always be that special place where a wide-eyed, six-year-old child was made to feel all grown-up with his first school uniform-buying trip. Some memories live on forever.

(Adapted from *Going Places*, September 2003)
PART A (10 MARKS)

1. According to the author, how is Sungai Petani best described?

(2 marks)

2. What is the memory that the author fails to forget the most?

(2 marks)

3. Based on the article, where do you think the author lived when he was young?

(2 marks)

4. Name TWO(2) historical landmarks in Sungai Petani as described in the text?

(2 marks)

5. What is special about Kelab Sungai Petani?

(2 marks)
PART B (10 MARKS)
Circle the answer that contains the word similar in meaning to the word found in the passage.

1. glitzy (Para I, Line 1)
   A. chic
   B. tacky
   C. classy
   D. middling

2. thriving (Para V, Line 29)
   A. fulfilling
   B. flourishing
   C. weakening
   D. deteriorating

3. enclave (Para VI, Line 39)
   A. area
   B. ranch
   C. village
   D. kibbutz

4. authentic (Para VII, Line 47)
   A. elusive
   B. genuine
   C. superior
   D. aggressive

5. commemorate (Para X, Line 65)
   A. keep
   B. taint
   C. ignore
   D. honour

(_______ / 10 marks)

Total score for SECTION ONE: _____ /20 marks
SECTION TWO (20 MARKS)

You are advised to spend about **30 minutes** on this section.

**PART A (10 MARKS)**

Fill in the blanks with the **correct form** of the **verbs**.

Facebook (1) ________________ (meet) with some controversy over the past few years. In October 2005, the University of New Mexico (2) ________________ (block) access to Facebook from its campus computers and networks. It cited a violation of the university’s Acceptable Use Policy for abusing computer resources as the reason, stating the website forces use of the university’s credentials for activity not related to the university. The school later unblocked Facebook after the website (3) ________________ (rectify) the situation by displaying a notice on the login page stating the credentials used on the website (4) ________________ (be) separate from the ones used for their school accounts. The Ontario government also blocked access to Facebook for its employees in May 2007, stating the website (5) ________________ (be) "not directly related to the workplace".

A notable ancillary effect of social networking websites like Facebook (6) ________________ (be) the ability for participants to mourn publicly for a deceased individual. On January 1, 2008, a memorial group on Facebook (7) ________________ (post) the identity of murdered Toronto teenager Stefanie Rengel, whose family (8) ________________ (give, not) the Toronto Police Service their consent to release her name to the media, yet. While police and
Facebook staff (9) ____________ (attempt) to comply with the privacy regulations by deleting posts mentioning her name, they noted it was difficult to effectively punish individual users who repeatedly republished the deleted information.

Due to the open nature of Facebook, several countries (10) ____________ (ban) access to it including Syria and Iran. The Syrian government cited the ban was on the premise that the website promoted attacks on authorities. The government also feared Israeli infiltration of Syrian social networks on Facebook.


(__________/ 10 marks)

Part B (5 MARKS)

In the following passage, fill in the blanks with the infinitive form (with or without to) or the –ing form.

The global blockbuster "Mummy" franchise takes a spellbinding turn as the action shifts to Asia for the next chapter in the adventure series, "The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor." Brendan Fraser returns as explorer Rick O'Connell (1) ______________ (combat) the resurrected Han Emperor (Jet Li) in an epic that races from the catacombs of ancient China high into the frigid Himalayas. Rick is joined in this all-new adventure by son Alex (newcomer Luke Ford), wife Evelyn (Maria Bello) and her brother, Jonathan (John Hannah). And this time, the O'Connells must stop a mummy awoken from a 2,000-year-old curse who
threatens (2) ______________ (plunge) the world into his merciless, unending service.

Doomed by a double-crossing sorceress (Michelle Yeoh) (3) ____________ (spend) eternity in suspended animation, China’s ruthless Dragon Emperor and his 10,000 warriors have lain forgotten for eons, entombed in clay as a vast, silent terra cotta army. But when dashing adventurer Alex O’Connell is tricked into (4) ______________ (awaken) the ruler from eternal slumber, the reckless young archaeologist must seek the help of the only people who know more than he does about (5) ______________ (take) down the undead: his parents.

As the monarch roars back to life, our heroes find his quest for world domination has only intensified over the millennia. Striding the Far East with unimaginable supernatural powers, the Emperor Mummy will rouse his legion as an unstoppable, otherworldly force, unless the O’Connells can stop him first.


(___________ / 5 marks)

PART C (5 MARKS)
Fill in the blanks with ‘a’, ‘an’, ‘the’ or ‘Ø’ where necessary.

Vienna hospitals ban Crocs

Vienna’s hospitals said on Tuesday they were banning popular Crocs plastic clogs, often worn by nursing staff, as they may pose safety risks for patients.
"Technical evaluations have shown that they’re not antistatic and could interfere with (1) ________ proper functioning of precision electronic equipment, or even cause explosions," said Peter Woelfl, (2) ________ director of technical services at Vienna’s city hospitals.

(3) ________ hospital in the capital banned the clogs, recognisable for the large holes in their surface and their often bright colours, last month and the measure will now be applied to all the city’s clinics by the end of the month, he said.

The ban will be especially enforced in (4) ________ operating rooms and intensive-care units, as well as radiology and dialysis departments where antistatic clothing is compulsory, Woelfl added.

"There have been no reports so far of any incidents involving these shoes, but this is a necessary preventive measure," he said.

Crocs clogs, (5) ________ American brand, are especially popular among nursing staff, who say they are comfortable and light, and like the fact that they are machine-washable.

(Adapted from The New Straits Times, August 23, 2008)

(______): 5 marks)

Total score for SECTION TWO: _____ /20 marks
SECTION THREE (10 MARKS)

You are advised to spend about 30 minutes on this section.

Read the text below and then transfer the relevant information from the text to the chart given.

It is not easy to be an effective manager today where changes and uncertainties abound in the competitive business world.

However, management ‘gurus’ have listed 19 competencies focusing on workplace practices and behaviours which enable a manager to be efficient and successful. These 19 competencies can be classified into five areas – informational, decisional, interpersonal, political and personal behavioural qualities – although they are closely linked and influence each other.

Information is an important commodity. What kinds of information does a manager need? First of all, he must know his own organisation – its culture, structure, people, products, etc. Equally important, he has to be familiar with external factors like the social, political, and economic climate of the country, and also his competitors and their products.

The environment today creates problems of information overload. Therefore, merely obtaining information is not useful to a manager. A manager has to possess certain skills which would enable him to make full use of the information he has obtained. First, he has to be able to manage and sift through information
effectively. He must know how to get the relevant facts, understand them and use them efficiently. Furthermore, he should be able to use his network of relationships with people within and outside his organization to get whatever information he needs and to identify the sources of this information. Finally, communication is important. He should be able to write and speak articulately so that his ideas are clearly understood and conveyed.

Why are these competencies and information important to be an effective manager? They enable a manager to make wise decisions and solve problems. Besides that, they also help him to identify business opportunities, and recognise problems and threats which may jeopardise profits or cause losses.

(Adapted from The Star, August 3, 2008)
(i)  

Interpersonal  Decisional  

(ii)  

Informational

- Managing and using information
  - Get relevant facts
  - (iv) _________
  - Use facts effectively

- (v) _________
  - Use relationships to get relevant information
  - Pick out sources of information

- (vi)
  - Write and speak well to explain ideas effectively

Information that a manager needs to know

a. (vii) _________
b. External factors
   - Social
   - political
   - (viii) _________
   - competitors and their products

Reasons why a manager needs information

a. (ix) _________
b. Problem solving
c. (x) _________
d. Recognising problems and threats

Total score for SECTION THREE: ______ /10 marks
SECTION FOUR (40 MARKS)

You are advised to spend about 60 minutes on this section.

Choose ONE of the topics below and write an argumentative essay of about 250 words. You are required to write TWO pro-arguments and ONE counterargument to persuade your readers. Before you begin your essay, state the following:

a. The specific audience/readers of your essay (1 mark)

b. The purpose of your essay (2 marks)

Essay topics:

1. Motorsport racing brings more disadvantageous than advantageous.

2. Watching ghost movies is a waste of time.

State your audience:

__________________________________________________________________________

State your purpose:

__________________________________________________________________________

Write your essay here:

__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________
END OF QUESTION PAPER