

INSTRUCTION OF INDIVIDUAL CASE STUDY AND SAMPLE OF CASE STUDY

Essay Writing Instructions for Students :

- **Contents:** One essay-type assignment of up to 1500 words on current issues in Malaysia, these include student's ability to:
 - i) identify causes of the problems;
 - ii) make constructive proposal for the resolution of such matter;
and
 - iii) have some self-reflections while doing research on the chosen current issue

- **Format:**
 - i) 12 point normal font (i.e. Times New Roman, Arial);
 - ii) 1.5" space between paragraph;
 - iii) 1500 words not included references and appendixes (*if any*);

- **References:**

Students are expected to read/cite and support their ideas from these reading materials:

 - i) minimum 1 academic text references;
 - ii) minimum 2 journal articles either local/international; *and*
 - iii) minimum 2 material from newspaper or magazine either local/international.

SAMPLE OF CASE STUDY :

No.	Current Issues in Malaysia
1	<p data-bbox="323 1413 850 1447">PLAGARISM AND MODERN PIRATES</p> <p data-bbox="323 1487 1428 1709">Neelofa is in huff. That's Malaysian actress Noor Neelofa Mohd Noor for you. And she's angry because some Vietnamese company is ripping off her <i>hijab</i> products. She created Naelofar Hijab in 2014 and it has since grown into a million-ringgit company with exports to some 30 countries, including Singapore, Brunei, London, Australia, Holland and even the United States. But a Vietnamese firm is ripping off her designs, making cheap copies and selling them off as originals, but at about half the price. What's worse, they are selling it right here in Malaysia.</p> <p data-bbox="323 1744 1428 2024">Just a couple of weeks ago, police raided shops in Kajang and Gombak and seized scores of headscarves. She's now planning to sue and she's perfectly entitled to do so. It's a bad idea to steal someone else's idea. That's why we have the Copyright Act and laws on intellectual property. And there's another feud going on down south – between the children of former Singapore Premier Lee Kuan Yew. His daughter Dr Lee Wei Ling is upset at her brother, the present Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, and has criticised him for apparently setting up a dynasty, a charge he has denied. Things have got so messy that she has alluded to him as a "dishonourable son". Throw in a sister-in-law (Lee's wife Ho Ching) who posted a picture of a monkey giving the bird on Facebook, and things got really</p>

	<p>nasty.</p> <p>It all started with Dr Lee's regular column in the <i>Straits Times</i> being rejected. Why? The official story is that chunks of the piece were plagiarised. Some, according to the ST editor Ivan Fernandez, were picked up from an obscure blog and others from the <i>Guardian</i> of London. Thus, he said, he could not run the column.</p> <p>Plagiarism is a no-no in the world of journalism. Yes, many of us have to say the same thing, tell the same story – but we have to say it differently. You do not pick up the work of others and pass it off as your own. Dr Lee has admitted her mistake but says she didn't attempt to plagiarise but "simply forgot to acknowledge the source". While it may be true and I have no wish to go into the politics of Singapore's first family, plagiarism remains an unacceptable matter.</p> <p>Yet, it's common enough in Malaysia. There have been many stories of colleges and universities where students rampantly go on the Internet to "lift" articles to be presented as their own. Many have even got their degrees thanks to such practices. In fact, according to one report, some 95.7% of students have been involved in plagiarism in one way or the other. It's even to be found in the advertising world. Only recently, two submissions for advertising awards were disqualified because they were too much like the published works of others in the world. Pos Malaysia, too, was caught in a situation where a photographer complained that his work had been used in a stamp without his permission. It is just wrong that people should steal the ideas of other who have worked hard to produce a piece of work.</p> <p>Plagiarism is bad.</p> <p>But what do you make of people who steal other people's work – lock, stock and barrel – put it on their own website and pass themselves off as aggregators? And then have the audacity to offer apps on PlayStore and iTunes? It's an entire business model that hinges around stealing other people's work. Then, there are those who pick up the work of others, put it on their own website, and deny the original writer and the publishers the credit due to them.</p> <p>I would call these people the new modern day pirates. The old ones were on the high seas, then came those who recopied DVDs and sold them cheap on the streets. And now, these thieves.</p> <p>The sad thing is they are often backed by wealthy Malaysian institutions. We have to learn to respect intellectual property. Piracy in any form is wrong. Dead wrong.</p> <p>Read more at http://www.thestar.com.my/opinion/columnists/why-not/2016/04/15/plagiarism-and-modern-pirates/#l7rq4xWGQj9IJ338.99</p>
2	<p>MANY MALAYSIANS CANNOT TELL THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN REAL AND FAKE STORIES</p> <p>CYBERJAYA: S. Sumita scores 10As in the PT3 exam. A jealous student rival then gets her boyfriend to tie her to a bunch of bricks and throw her into a river. It's a great story and pictures of the happy girl with her family and that of her body being fished out of the river go viral.</p> <p>There's only one problem – it's not true.</p> <p>The only truth in the whole story is that Sumita did score straight As. Everything else is fake. There was no student rival and the body that was fished out of the river was an incident in Indonesia involving an African man. Yet, there were many who believed the original fake post and passed it on, without asking questions. Welcome to the world of fake news.</p> <p>The 15-year-old Sumita, very much alive, was shaken when her family began receiving a</p>

	<p>barrage of calls from relatives and friends to mourn her purported death.</p> <p>"It became a big, big issue. My mother was shocked, my father was shocked. We don't know who would do such a thing," she said.</p> <p>The tech-savvy teen has seen these viral messages before, but never did she expect that she would be the subject of one.</p> <p>"I don't know what to feel," she said.</p> <p>Most Malaysians are now getting their news off social media, but many still cannot tell the difference between real and fake news, according to the Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission (MCMC).</p> <p>The MCMC held media literacy classes for about 900,000 people this year at 700 1Malaysia Internet Centres (PI1M), showing them examples of fake stories involving MH370, celebrity news and the US presidential election.</p> <p>The agency was shocked to find out that most could not tell the difference between real or fake stories.</p> <p>"The (fake) websites are not even as sophisticated as those in the United States, but as long as it reads like something from a newspaper, they can't tell the difference," said MCMC advocacy and outreach senior director Eneng Faridah Iskandar.</p> <p>"People are beginning to wise up (to fake news) but it can't happen without a focused education programme. We have a high user and penetration rate, but we are still not media-literate," said Eneng Faridah, whose division engages mostly rural Internet users on how to discern legitimate sources online. This is especially worrying because the 2016 Reuters Institute Digital News Report revealed that 69% of Malaysians get their news from social media. We are the second biggest social media news consumer in Asia Pacific behind Hong Kong. Malaysia has one of the highest Internet and social media penetration rates in the region, but getting information from only one source could open Malaysians to a higher risk of misinformation, said the MCMC.</p> <p>A study by the University of Washington found that people who consumed news from social media risked being trapped in an "echo chamber" because sites like Facebook tend to feed users news items similar to those they have read before. This could limit variety of opinions and insights into issues, it said. Even more alarmingly, a study by the Stanford University Graduate School of Education found that a shocking 80% of people with primary school education or higher were unable to tell if the content on their social media newsfeed was legitimate news, sponsored content or flat-out fabrications.</p> <p>The situation is no different in Malaysia, where the MCMC said government agencies have had to actively counter false stories going viral on social media, primarily Facebook and WhatsApp. Though reaction to fake news has not been as extreme as the shooting in Washington DC after a hoax claimed Hillary Clinton was running a child sex ring in a pizzeria there, Eneng Faridah feared it could further stoke extremist sentiments in Malaysia.</p> <p>"We have already produced nine suicide bombers who were influenced by what they saw on Facebook," she told <i>The Star</i>.</p> <p>She related how yet another Facebook hoax, this time pictures of a Buddhist ceremony at the A' Famosa Resort, was twisted into a religious dispute with some claiming the act contaminated the resort for other believers. There have been claims of new currency notes in Malaysia, that there would be an increase in road tax, that EPF was blocking withdrawals and that there would be a nationwide power cut on Dec 18, among others, Section 233 of the MCMC Act allows the commission to fine people who spread false information up to RM50,000 and jail them for a year but only four have been brought to court since 2010. Two of these cases involve PKR vice-president R. Sivarasa and artist Fahmi Reza.</p> <p>Despite having blocked 5,044 websites this year, Eneng Faridah claimed none of the blocks were due to false information.</p> <p>Considering most viral hoaxes were either health, religious or crime-related, she said the commission had no authoritative standing to verify or reject social media news; likening it to</p>
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	<p>sending in MCMC to check whether a piece of chocolate was halal or not. That duty, she said, was that of the relevant government agencies. MCMC was more interested in educating users to decide for themselves.</p> <p>"We don't want to be the Internet's clearing house. People who consume the news also have roles in their subsequent actions," Eneng Faridah said.</p> <p>Read more at http://www.thestar.com.my/news/nation/2016/12/23/falling-for-it-hook-line-and-sinker-many-malaysians-cannot-tell-the-difference-between-real-and-fake/#D1LO1JIXvyzWYIYE.99</p>
3	<p>HEALTH MINISTRY BANS SEVEN COSMETICS PRODUCTS CONTAINING POISON</p> <p>KUALA LUMPUR: The Health Ministry's National Pharmaceutical Regulatory Department (NPRA) has named seven cosmetics products that contain scheduled poison which can be harmful to health. The products are Qu Gebu AP Krim, Night Glowing, Night Glow, Glowing Speed Gold Day Cream, Glowing Speed Gold Night Cream, Nour Ain Night Cream and Royal Expert Whitening Cream. Health Director-General Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah, in a statement said the notifications of these cosmetics products have been cancelled after detecting scheduled poison materials in the products.</p> <p>Dr Noor Hisham said among the scheduled poison found in the products were hydroquinone, tretinoin and mercury, which are prohibited in the cosmetic products. Qu Gebu AP Krim and Night Glow have been found to contain hydroquinone and tretinoin, while Night Glowing, Glowing Speed Gold Day Cream, Glowing Speed Gold Night Cream, Nour Ain Night Cream and Royal Expert Whitening Cream contained mercury.</p> <p>He said cosmetic products mixed with hydroquinone, if used can cause redness on the skin, discomfort, undesirable skin discolouration and may also cause the skin to become hypersensitive. "The side effects of the use of hydroquinone can halt the process of pigmentation (depigmentation) which reduces skin protection from UV rays and this could lead to skin cancer. "Cosmetic products mixed with tretinoin are usually used to treat acne and reduce wrinkles. However, unsupervised use of the product can cause redness on the skin, discomfort, burning, peeling and hypersensitivity to sunlight.</p> <p>"For mercury, the side effects - when it is absorbed by the body can cause damage to the kidney and nervous system. It can also affect the development of a child's brain," he said. He said the adverse effects due to the exposure to mercury are usually experienced by the people around, especially children.</p> <p>He said when the products are applied to the skin it can cause rashes, irritation and changes on the skin.</p> <p>Dr Noor Hisham warned sellers and distributors to stop selling and distributing the seven cosmetic products immediately. "If they are found to sell these products, they will face punishment under the Control of Drugs and Cosmetics Regulations 1984. "Offenders can be fined not more than RM25,000 or imprisonment not more than three years or both for the first offence. For subsequent offences, offenders can be fined no more than RM50,000 or be jailed up to five years, or both," he said.</p> <p>Those using these products are advised to stop immediately and seek advice from healthcare professionals if experiencing any discomfort.</p> <p>Read more at: https://www.nst.com.my/news/nation/2017/05/242987/health-ministry-bans-seven-cosmetics-products-containing-poison</p>

4	<p>YOUNG AND JOBLESS</p> <p>PETALING JAYA: The youth unemployment rate in Malaysia has reached more than three times the national unemployment rate of 3.1%, due to the slower growth in hiring, according to Bank Negara in its 2016 annual report. In 2015, the unemployment rate among youths was estimated to have reached 10.7%. Bank Negara said youths represented more than half of unemployed workers, although it only made up a third of the labour force.</p> <p>“In 2015, unemployment rate among youths increased by 1.2 percentage points from an estimated 9.5% to 10.7%, while national unemployment rate went up by only 0.2 percentage points (from 2.9% to 3.1%) during the same period (<i>see chart</i>).</p> <p>“Cautious business sentiments and moderating economic performance have restrained businesses from expanding their workforce,” noted Bank Negara.</p> <p>The central bank stressed that while youths were the most vulnerable to these trends, they were perhaps the last to be hired and first to be made redundant due to a lack of experience, higher information asymmetry on the labour market and poor communication skills.</p> <p>“Slower hiring has had a wider impact on the economy, affecting particularly youth and new jobseekers,” it added.</p> <p>In terms of employability, the central bank said that youths with tertiary education were the highest among the unemployed at 15.3%.</p> <p>About 16% of those aged 15 to 24 years have tertiary education. The highest level of schooling attained by the remaining 84% was secondary education, said the central bank. Among regional economies, Malaysia's youth unemployment were in the double-digits, despite an overall low unemployment rate. But interestingly, this trend does not appear to be unique to Malaysia.</p> <p>“Among regional economies, unemployment rates for young graduates also tend to be higher than non-graduates. “This observation appears to be counter intuitive to the economic wisdom of increasing returns to educational attainment and seems to be the opposite of the experience in advanced economies,” it said.</p> <p>These trends were likely to be related to the nature of global supply chains and ensuing patterns of job creation in the emerging economies. Thus far, research on factors driving comparative trends on graduate versus non-graduate youth unemployment in advanced and emerging economies have been scant. These developments in graduate unemployment have raised several key policy questions for emerging economies, with regards to enhancing the quality and relevance of education systems to prepare for rapidly evolving industries, the types of jobs being created and the readiness of the human capital base, apart from measures to enhance matching in the labour market, among others.</p> <p>Read more at http://www.thestar.com.my/business/business-news/2017/03/27/young-and-jobless/#MyArwwa7medxgFOh.99</p>

5	<p>SCHOOL KNOWN FOR BEING A HOTBED OF GANGLAND ACTIVITIES</p> <p>KLANG: The school outside which a group of hooligans caused a ruckus is known for gangland activities, according to students and those doing business nearby. A Form Four student who identified herself only as Nadia said gangsterism was a normal thing at SMK Sri Andalas in Taman Sri Andalas.</p> <p>“It has been going on for years and I know some of our schoolmates are involved in gangsterism. They behave badly at school and are not afraid to say that they have friends who can ‘take care’ of them.</p> <p>“They like to loiter around the school compound when school ends, with other youths from outside.</p> <p>“My friends and I try to avoid them at school because we don’t want any trouble,” she said when met outside the school here yesterday.</p> <p>A check at the school saw police presence – a two-man team in a patrol car was stationed at the school’s main entrance.</p> <p>A motorcycle patrol unit and traffic policemen were also seen frequently patrolling the area. Police were also keeping watch at SMK Raja Mahadi in Taman Klang Jaya and SMK Kampung Jawa in Jalan Kota Roja. A senior officer from the Klang South district police headquarters (IPD) said the gathering was a common practice for Gang 24, which celebrated April 24 every year as its “significant day”.</p> <p>“Since April 24 this year is a public holiday, they brought the celebrations forward to the 20th,” he said. A hawker who has been selling snacks and drinks outside the school compound for the past five years said it was common to see students and youths revving their motorcycle engines and behaving rowdily.</p> <p>“It happens a few times a week,” said the 45-year-old, who only wanted to be known as Ahmad.</p> <p>When approached outside the school, a police officer said they had been tasked with monitoring schools in the area for suspicious activity following the arrests. Many youths who were not students were seen loitering near the school compound, but there was no rowdy activity.</p> <p>Another officer from the Klang South IPD said the brazen behaviour of some students and youths showing their affiliation with gangsters at schools was nothing more than a way to attract the attention of potential recruits.</p> <p>“They want to impress on other students their capability to be bad, as they know it appeals to those going through puberty and showing signs of teen rebelliousness,” he said. He added that those involved were believed to be from Gang 24, Gang 21 and Gang 08. Deputy Education Minister Datuk P. Kamalanathan said the school authorities had been told to investigate and that the state Education Department would submit a report on the incident.</p> <p>Read more at http://www.thestar.com.my/news/nation/2017/04/22/school-known-for-being-a-hotbed-of-gangland-activities/#S2ASK6xfuwfkIGI3.99</p>
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