



MALAYSIAN INSTITUTE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

**FINAL EXAMINATION
JANUARY 2016 SEMESTER**

SUBJECT CODE : MPU 3343
SUBJECT TITLE : CULTURE AND LIFESTYLE IN MALAYSIA
LEVEL : BACHELOR
TIME / DURATION : 9.00 am – 11.00 am
(2 HOURS)
DATE : 29 MAY 2016

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

1. Please read the instructions given in the question paper CAREFULLY.
2. This question paper is printed on both sides of the paper.
3. This question paper consists of THREE (3) sections, Section A, B and C.
4. Answer ALL questions in Section A and B, and only ONE (1) question in Section C.
5. Please write your answers in the answer booklet provided.

THERE ARE PAGES OF QUESTIONS, EXCLUDING THIS PAGE.

SECTION A

15 MARKS

Read the following statements on the major races/ ethnics in Malaysia and match each statement to the correct race/ ethnic. (refer to the given example)

Malays		Indians		Kadazans
	Chinese		Ibans	

0. They celebrate two major festivals, which are Malays
Hari Raya Aidil Fitri and Hari Raya Aidil Adha.

1. They brought with them their colourful culture such as ornate temples, spicy cuisine and exquisite sarees. _____
2. The women prefer not to shake hands with members of the opposite sex as it is prohibited by the religion. _____
3. In the past, they were a fearsome warrior race renowned for headhunting and piracy. _____
4. The second largest ethnic group in Malaysia, they are known for their diligence and keen business sense. _____
5. *Sumazau* dance is traditionally used to honour spirits for bountiful paddy harvests and cure illnesses. _____
6. One should not serve alcohol and dishes which contain pork. _____
7. *Deepavali*, or also known as 'The Festival of Lights', is observed in recognition of the triumph of good over evil. _____
8. Their New Year is also known as 'The Spring Festival'. _____

- 9. ***Hari Raya Aidil Fitri*** sees families and friends seeking forgiveness from each other, saying prayers at the mosque and visiting relatives and friends. _____

- 10. The ***Ngajat*** dance is usually performed during festivals. _____

- 11. The largest ethnic group of Sabah, they are mainly inhabitants of flat valley deltas, which are conducive to paddy field farming. _____

- 12. Typically, the women's traditional outfits are completed with a shawl or headscarf. _____

- 13. Do not bring flowers because they are usually given to the sick and are used at funerals. _____

- 14. They are refrained from eating beef and hurting cows as many Hindus consider the cows as holy. _____

- 15. ***Hari Raya Aidil Fitri*** is the day that marks the end of *Ramadan*. _____

UNIKLAMPIT

SECTION B

25 MARKS

Read the passage below and answer the following questions.

JUST THE RIGHT AMBIENCE

Para 1

Call me a stickler for **ambience** if you wish but wouldn't you agree that somehow, some things just have to be done in the right setting and the right context? Particularly food. Nowadays, it is possible to buy durians, pre-opened and pre-wrapped with cling wrap plastic paper on a Styrofoam plate but somehow, **it** just does not taste the same.

Para 2

When God designed the durian, he definitely had in mind the spirit of friendship and **camaraderie** that has to be shared when partaking this remarkable fruit. Even come across anyone eating the durian all by himself? That would be the epitome of loneliness. The durian is a fruit that begs **fraternizing**. It is best eaten with a group of friends or family members, in a casual setting, say, at the durian stall itself, in the open and in the kitchen. Because of its hard thorny covering, it is usually opened on the floor itself with a knife and a wooden stick, surrounded by hungry onlookers, squatting or sitting around, all halfway to Paradise already, just from the incredible and **overwhelming** smell of the durian.

Para 3

Opening the durian is such a feat that it begs an audience as well. You have got to find the exact place to make the incision, slit it in the wrong place and it becomes easier to rob a bank. Each tug, each boring action, each knock plays a **crucial** part in getting the fruit to open up.

Para 4

The durian is also a fruit that demands intense passion about it; you either love it, or you hate it. There is no **compromise** or fence-sitting when it comes to the durian. Generally, Malaysians of all races love it, while the average *orang puteh* would rather be thrown into the lion's den than spend a night with this fruit.

Para 5

Likewise, ever tried eating seafood in an elegant, air-conditioned restaurant with soft music, dim lighting, beautiful table settings and peachy-pink tablecloths? Just doesn't feel quite right, does it? Somehow, one detests the idea of dirtying the tablecloth or using one's fingers.

Para 6

The best way to dine on seafood, seafood connoisseurs will tell you, is in the open where you can tear at the limbs of the crab like a starving barbarian, gnaw and suck the flesh out of its legs, smash its pincers open with a mallet or hammer or anything heavy that you can lay your hands on, in order to coax out the last shreds of crabmeat still lurking in the corners of the carapace, lick the sweet sour sauce off your fingers, and yet, not feel that you are behaving like some uncouth country bumpkin. When the last crap pieces are gone, the waitress comes along and just bundles up everything in the tablecloth when you leave.

Para 7

Another Malaysian food that tastes its best in the right setting is the *Indian rojak*. There is nothing quite like eating *Indian rojak* just after the Rojak Man has made it, right there beside the stall itself, usually along the roadside in the shade of a tree. One just stands there or sits by the drain and slurps up the *rojak*. And where the Rojak Man is, the Indian Chendol Man can also be found. Nothing complements the *rojak* as superbly as the Indian *chendol*. What a heavenly way to take one's lunch, downing the *rojak* to the sound of the ice being scraped for the *chendol*, enjoying the open air and the unspoken friendship and 'bonding' with the others doing the very same thing.

Para 8

Therefore, for certain things, one really does not require a sumptuous five-star setting to enjoy them to the fullest. One just needs the right ambience.

Adapted from:

Lee Su Kim (1996). *Malaysian Flavours*. Kelana Jaya: Pelanduk Publications.

1. Match the following words with their right meanings.

- | | | | |
|-------|--------------|------------|--------------|
| i. | ambience | (Para 1) | solidarity |
| ii. | camaraderie | (Para 2) | important |
| iii. | fraternizing | (Para 2) | atmosphere |
| iv. | overwhelming | (Para 2) | experts |
| v. | crucial | (Para 3) | uncivilized |
| vi. | compromise | (Para 4) | swallows |
| vii. | connoisseurs | (Para 6) | socializing |
| viii. | uncouth | (Para 6) | grand |
| ix. | slurps | (Para 7) | negotiation |
| x. | sumptuous | (Para 8) | overpowering |

(10 marks)

2. 'but somehow, it just does not taste the same.' (Para 1)

What does the word 'it' refer to?

(2 marks)

3. List the **THREE** types of food mentioned in the passage above.

(2 marks)

4. Is it recommended to eat durian alone? State any **TWO** reasons.

(3 marks)

5. **'Unlike the locals, most foreigners despise durians utterly.'**
Quote a sentence from the passage that supports the idea above.

(2 marks)

6. Why do people prefer to dine on seafood in the open as compared to an elegant, air-conditioned restaurant?

(2 marks)

7. Where can one normally find the Indian *rojak* and *chendol* peddlars?

(1 mark)

8. In your opinion, how does the Indian *rojak* contribute to the '**unspoken friendship and bonding**' as stated by the writer at the end of the passage?

(3 marks)

SECTION C**20 MARKS****Answer only ONE (1) question.**

1. You are required to give a talk about the various races/ ethnics of Malaysia in an international conference – focusing particularly on the three major races which are the Malays, the Chinese and the Indians.

In about **300 words**, write a short overview on '**Malaysia: The Melting Pot of Asia**'.

You may focus on any **THREE (3)** given criteria below:

- i. Language
 - ii. Costume
 - iii. Food
 - iv. Festivals
 - v. Traditional Games
 - vi. Martial Arts
2. Your friend from Kazakhstan is interested to know more about Malaysian culture, in particular its **Do's** and **Don'ts**.

In about **300 words**, write about any **FIVE (5) Do's** and **Don'ts** that you know of, along with their justifications (if any).

~~~ END OF QUESTIONS ~~~