



LSP 401 – GENERAL ENGLISH

SEMESTER I

ACADEMIC SESSION 2020/2021

RESPONSE WRITING (30%)

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GROUP: 4

Answer **ALL** questions.

Any **PLAGIARISED** answers will be penalised.

Excerpt 1

As most classes from primary to tertiary education remain online in the pandemic era, a good internet connection and adequate digital devices can easily be taken for granted. However, one particularly remarkable Sabahan student who spent 24 hours atop a tree just to get a good enough internet connection for online exams serves as a reminder of those who are left behind in the digital gap.

Veveonah actually did not intend to spend the night atop a tree to do her online examinations. The young Sabahan had initially planned to take her online exams in a hut she had built a few weeks prior atop a hill that had good internet connection. Unfortunately, she found the hut had partially collapsed, probably due to the strong winds and heavy rains over the past few days. Not one to give up so easily, the resourceful young woman quickly decided that the top of a tree is the next best option. Armed with a phone, powerbank, a bottle of mineral water, some food, mosquito netting and tools to aid for her online exam, her 24 hours began.

This particularly resourceful young woman shares videos that have a similar vibe to YouTube channel, showing how she builds a traditional underground well, cooking cassava outdoors on firewood. It is clear that Veveonah does not have an easy life, but her optimism and savviness make her an inspirational figure.

(Extracted from: The Rakyat Post, June 2020)

Link: <https://www.therakyatpost.com/2020/06/14/to-get-good-internet-for-online-exams-this-sabah-student-spent-24-hours-in-a-tree/>

Respond in about **100-150 words** for **EACH** question.

1. In your opinion, what are the attributes in Veveonah that could inspire you?

(15 marks)

The difficulties of life that Veveonah went through have motivated me to stay positive and not give up. In my opinion, **Veveonah has a strong spirit**. For example, she remains eager to face exams even though she has a weak internet network problem. Besides, **she is very brave because** she can decide climb a tree and stay there for 24 hours by herself to finish her online examinations. Furthermore, **she is a meticulous person and makes initial preparations**. Veveonah thought carefully about her supplies like a power bank, water, food, a mosquito net and exam supplies. Moreover, **she also remains patient throughout her life even** though she has a hard life where faced the problem of getting internet access and other facilities like a power outage. In conclusion, her hard work towards her education may prove that there is nothing that can hinder someone's efforts to succeed.

(147 Words)

2. Since there is an easy access to online sources, in your opinion, how effective are online tests or quizzes in reflecting students' performance?

(15 marks)

Covid-19 spreads awful around the world. Most of the universities have decided to make online tests. In my opinion, **online tests are not that effective in reflecting student's performance**. Seeing that the **students can access many online sources to find the answers**. This clearly shows that the students are not well-prepared to sit for any test. Besides, from this behavior, **we can know that some of the students who tend to copy the answer** do not fully understand the syllabus since the aim of online test is to assess academic performance among students. Furthermore, **the student is susceptible to cheating** during the time and the lecturer cannot measure the student's performance as there is no evidence shows that they did not refer to any sources while answering the tests. In conclusion, the lecturer cannot reflect the student's actual performance by doing the online tests.

(144 Words)

Excerpt 2

A zero waste lifestyle requires looking at your rubbish bin and asking if any of those discarded items could be put to another use or replaced with something reusable. Is anything bio-degradable or will it sit in a landfill for hundreds of years, polluting the environment?

Despite what some of us may think, recycling alone isn't enough. Local statistics show that while Malaysians produce 30,000 tonnes of waste every day, only five percent of it is recycled. Furthermore, the website said that the country's build-up of solid waste is resulting in tremendous land and air pollution for the environment, health problems for communities and bottlenecks to economic growth.

Before even making a purchase, we should ask ourselves another question. Sancelot acknowledges that "... the marketing gets us all the time and we want to buy those things," before continuing: "But look at what is already in your house and how many items you have in your bathroom. Ask yourself, do I really need it? Was it out of stock and I needed it?" The impassioned zero waste advocate isn't expecting Malaysians to turn their lifestyle around 360 degrees the way she has done but she actively encourages little changes so that we can be part of the solution — not keep contributing to the problem.

(Extracted from: New Straits Times, January 2019)

Link: <https://www.nst.com.my/lifestyle/pulse/2019/01/446142/eco-shopping-conscience>

Respond in about **100-150 words** for **EACH** question.

1. In your opinion, how could Malaysians practise living a zero waste lifestyle?

(15 marks)

Malaysian could practice living a zero-waste lifestyle by doing a few things. In my opinion, **Malaysian can practice sustainable living**. We **can reform old items into new products**. For example, we can modify water bottles into flower pots and turn tissue boxes into money boars. Therefore, we do not have to buy new items because old items can still work for other things. Besides, **donate the items that are no longer needed** or no longer be used to those in need. We can give clothes to others, so they can wear them. This is not only can avoid wastage, but we even practice sharing with others. Furthermore, **we need to prioritize the purchase of essential items** such as buying food supplies that are almost out of stock and just buying what we need. In this way, Malaysians can achieve sustainable development goals that include the well-being of the people.

(149 Words)

2. Being a university student, you could do your part in achieving a more sustainable environment. In your opinion, how could you make it possible?

(15 marks)

As university students, we can do something in achieving a more sustainable environment. In my opinion, **students can run awareness campaigns on the importance of sustainable living** at the university. **We can together avoid food waste**. We can organize what we are going to cook and how we will use the leftovers. We also can practice portion control by starting to measure food. So, that's no leftover. Besides, **we will reduce energy use in student residential colleges** such as turn off appliances and lights that not in use. Furthermore, **the student will rely less on the motorcar**. Students will walk, ride a bike, and use the bus provided by the university to get to class. Therefore, air pollution can be reduced. In these ways, university student effort also leads to a healthier and more meaningful life.

(136 Words)