



FINAL EXAMINATION

COURSE : ACADEMIC WRITING SKILLS

COURSE CODE : HWS1013

DURATION : 02 HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES:

1. This question paper consists of **TWO (2)** parts : PART A (02 questions)
: PART B (01 question)
2. Answer ALL questions from PART A and PART B.
 - i. Answer PART A and PART B in the Question Paper.
3. Please check and make sure that this examination pack consists of:
 - i. The Question Paper.
4. Do not bring any material that can help you with this examination paper, into the examination hall, unless permission is given by the invigilator.
5. Please write your answer using a ball-point pen.

MYKAD NO : _____

ID. NO. : _____

LECTURER : _____

SECTION : _____

DO NOT OPEN THIS QUESTION PAPER UNTIL YOU ARE TOLD TO DO SO

The question paper consists of 11 printed pages

MAR2024/A/HWS1013

PART A: READING COMPREHENSION

QUESTION 1

Read the passage below and answer all of the following questions.

Navigating the Complexity of Boycotts
By: Hidayah Hisham

- I As an avid fan of Milo over the years, Anas Amil, 25, has now switched to local brands like Vico for his breakfast. The customer service executive's habits changed after being called to join the boycotts against companies allegedly tied to supporting Israel's occupation of Palestine.
- II "It is difficult to avoid brands that I have been consuming for years, but it is for a good cause so I don't mind it at all," he told The Malaysian Reserve (TMR). Anas is not alone in this. The golden arches and green sirens, among other symbols, once prominent across Malaysia's urban centers, now stand increasingly empty as consumers distance themselves due to alleged links to Israel. 5
10
- III Multiple statements have been issued denying financial ties or support for the Zionist regime, and touting philanthropic contributions to Palestinian causes. Yet, boycotters remain skeptical. With tensions flaring in the Middle East, Malaysians are mobilizing economic protests to stand in solidarity with Palestine. 15
- IV While citizens feel empowered, some experts debate whether scattered spending changes can influence mega-corporations without regulation. Beyond dollars, the boycotts raise larger questions of how people can effectively express values through spending, and what unintended consequences may arise. 20
- V Economist Dr Nungsari Ahmad Radhi opined that the economic consequences are secondary motivations, as the boycotts are foremost an expression of disgust at what the Israelis are doing in Gaza. "Malaysians and the Malaysian government have always supported the Palestinian cause all these years; it has been our consistent diplomatic priority," he told TMR. "The brutality and cruelties we see committed by the Israelis are very distressing and boycotting certain brands is something our people can do to express their disgust," he added. 25
- VI Meanwhile, Malaysia Association of Tax Accountants (MATA) Secretary General Dr Mohd Fairuz A Razak called for the public to weigh economic impact against moral solidarity. "Yes, boycotting products or companies can significantly impact their bottom line and reputation. When consumers choose to boycott a product or company, they send a message that they are dissatisfied with the companies' policies or practices and are unwilling to support them," he told TMR. 30
35

VII Yet, the actual revenue implications for targeted brands remain hazy. With complex and blurry supply chains intersecting local economies, simplistic boycotts often miss their mark. Besides, with Malaysia heavily reliant on exports, lost deals from boycotted partners could jeopardize growth. Domestically, lower sales for boycotted brands also mean less tax revenue. 40

VIII “When fewer people buy certain products, less businesses get profits, and the government will collect fewer taxes,” Mohd Fairuz explained, illustrating the ripple effect. Additionally, boycotts can directly hurt local workers. He highlighted that foreign retail chains employing thousands of Malaysians are now facing hostility and harassment. “The implications will inflict more pain on their fellow citizens than their intended targets,” he said. 45

(Article sourced from: <https://themalaysianreserve.com/2023/11/13/navigating-the-complexity-of-boycotts/>)

Answer ALL questions.

1. Read the statements carefully. Circle to indicate whether they are **TRUE** or **FALSE**.

- | | | |
|----|---|--------------|
| a) | No statement has been issued by the affected chains on the financial ties or support for the Zionist regime. | TRUE / FALSE |
| b) | Boycotting emerges based on the expression of disgust at the franchise who supported the genocide on Gaza. | TRUE / FALSE |
| c) | There will more tax revenue because of the lower sales due to the boycott since Malaysia relies heavily on the export. | TRUE / FALSE |
| d) | Malaysians who were employed by these companies that supported the regime are facing hostility and harassment from publics. | TRUE / FALSE |

(2 marks)

2. Paraphrase line 17 – 20 in Paragraph IV

“Beyond dollars, the boycotts raise larger questions of how people can effectively express values through spending, and what unintended consequences may arise.”

(3 marks)

3. What are the things that have made the boycotters remain skeptical?

(2 marks)

4. What is the opinion of Dr Nungsari regarding the boycott?

(2 marks)

5. What does the sentence "*The brutality and cruelties we see committed by the Israelis are very distressing and boycotting certain brands is something our people can do to express their disgust*" (line 25 to 27) mean?

(2 marks)

6. What is the main idea of Paragraph VII?

(1 mark)

7. Identify **THREE (3)** transition signals and state its function.

(3 marks)

(Total: 15 marks)

QUESTION 2

Read the passage below and answer all of the following questions.

Can Boycotts Really Solve the Israel-Palestine Conflict?

By: Zan Azlee

- I I was walking at KLCC yesterday and felt like having coffee. So, I went to Starbucks and ordered myself a grande hot latte. There was a line and the tables were full. I managed to get a seat at one of the tall chairs. So much for the boycott of Israeli-linked corporations during these attacks on Gaza, Palestine. Business as usual, I guess. But we all know that both Starbucks and McDonald's in Malaysia have no links to Israel even if the organizations in America or other countries do. Statements have been released saying the franchise in Malaysia is fully owned by Malaysian entities. Therefore, in that sense, boycotting these two establishments really only hurts Malaysians. As a company, they will suffer and all the people they employ, of which a majority are Malaysians, will suffer. 5 10
- II Will a boycott actually work? In my personal opinion, it might not be as effective as everyone seems to think it will be. The last boycott that had an actual impact was way back in the 1980s, when there was an international boycott against the South African apartheid government. That worked in pressuring the government and eventually, led to the dismantling of apartheid in the country. However, the situation with Palestine and Israel is quite different than South Africa. The support against apartheid in South Africa had overwhelming support all over the world. 15
- III There is something called the BDS Movement (Boycott, Disinvestment and Sanctions) which is Palestinian-led. There are many people and even governments that support this. For example, Danske Bank in Denmark blacklisted Israel's Bank Hapoalim because they provide financing for projects in Israeli settlements in Palestine. PGGM, a Dutch pension fund management company, cut off ties with five Israeli main banks. But is this really enough when there are so many others who support the Israeli version of the war? The support and siding of the situation are almost split dead center. 20 25
- IV Even if it is not exactly dead center in terms of numbers, it is when it comes to economic and financial strength. The few that do support Israel have that might on their side and it is very difficult to fault people for needing to make a living. But I do understand that this is a long game. Pressure these corporations hard and long enough, they will be forced to reconsider in order to survive, and that is what the BDS Movement is counting on. 30

- V Besides, history has proven that most Malaysians will forget about it after a month or two and the enthusiasm will die down. I hope not, but I think it will. 35
Then there is the very delicate issue of supporting Palestine, yet not being anti-Semitic. There needs to be a realization that we should be against the Zionist ideology and those supporting it. We are not against Jews or Israelis. Most ordinary Jews and Israelis are human beings too. They are innocent too and when there are deaths and injuries amongst them, they feel the same way too. 40
- VI Before you all accuse me of being an Israeli sympathizer (I realize how people can jump to this very easily), I know the proportion of death and suffering between Israel and Palestine is largely imbalanced. However, death and suffering are the same no matter what side you are on. Do you really believe that the sorrow a parent feels when his or her innocent five-year-old child is killed by a missile is different depending on whether they are Jews or Muslims? I am going to assume that it is the same. Self-defense or not, who throws the first punch or not, it really does not matter when innocent people die. That is why violence and war is never the answer. If I could have it my way, I would just say that both sides should stop any fighting totally. No giving excuses of retaliation or self-defense. 50
- VII But as they all say, things are not as simple as that. A long history that spans centuries and belief systems that have been ingrained over so many generations just solidifies the complexity that exists between Israel and Palestine. Even though the solutions can be seen as very obvious, to me anyway - both sides should just put down their weapons and have a long talk with each other to settle everything - it probably would not happen that way. So many meetings have taken place between them over the decades and nothing has ever been agreed on, or if there is an agreement, over time, one side will start going against it. 55
60

(Article sourced from: <https://m.malaysiakini.com/columns/685463>)

Answer ALL questions.

1. Read the statements carefully. Circle to indicate whether they are **TRUE** or **FALSE**.

- a) Due to South African apartheid government, international boycott had successfully pressured the government into dismantling the cruel regime towards South Africa in 1980. TRUE / FALSE
- b) Israel's Bank Hapoalim was blacklisted by Danske Bank in Denmark because they supplied Israeli settlements projects in Palestine. TRUE / FALSE
- c) History has proven that Malaysians are excellent with boycotting products in the long term even when the enthusiasm dies down. TRUE / FALSE
- d) We should not be against Zionist ideology and those supporting it because then it would be anti-Semitic. TRUE / FALSE

(2 marks)

2. Paraphrase line 28 – 30 in Paragraph IV

“Even if it is not exactly dead center in terms of numbers, it is when it comes to economic and financial strength. The few that do support Israel have that might on their side and it is very difficult to fault people for needing to make a living.”

(3 marks)

3. From the author’s opinion, how does the boycott affect the two big establishments in Malaysia?

(2 marks)

4. What are the examples of events that are related to the BDS Movement (Boycott, Disinvestment and Sanctions)?

(2 marks)

5. What is the main idea of Paragraph VI?

(1 mark)

6. What does the sentence “A long history that spans centuries and belief systems that have been ingrained over so many generations just solidifies the complexity that exists between Israel and Palestine” (line 52 to 55) mean?

(2 marks)

7. Identify **THREE (3)** transition signals and state its function.

(3 marks)

(Total: 15 marks)

(TOTAL: 30 MARKS)

PART B: ESSAY WRITING

Based on your reading of the two articles “*Navigating the Complexity of Boycotts*” and “*Can Boycotts Really Solve the Israel-Palestine Conflict?*”, write an article on the following topic:

What can be done to ensure that boycotts are really effective at achieving its' intended objectives?

Using the information from the two articles, write an article of about 250-300 words to support your views. (3 main ideas, in-text citation and proper acknowledgement of references must be included)

Write your essay in the space provided below:

[illegible]

[illegible]

CONFIDENTIAL

[illegible]

(20 marks)

(TOTAL: 20 MARKS)

END OF QUESTION PAPER