FACULTY OF LETTERS AND FINE ARTS
ENGLISH DIPLOMA PROGRAM

Name of Course	:	**Reading Comprehension I**
Semester	:	**I**
Time/ Type	:	**75 minutes/ closed-references – 3rd Exam**
Examination Date	:	**January 2011**
Student's Name	:	....
Student Number	:	....
Class	:	....

Passage 1
Read the passage and answer the questions which follow by crossing A, B, C, or D (Score:20)

Pornography is defined as films, magazines, writings, photographs, or other materials that are sexually explicit and intended to arouse sexual excitement in their audience. Deriving from the Greek words *pornē* ("prostitute") and *graphein* ("to write"), the word *pornography* originally referred to any work of art or literature dealing with sex and sexual themes. Pornography is one of the most controversial forms of expression. Societies have long debated whether pornographic works should be subject to censorship, and the question of how to distinguish between artistic works and pornography has perplexed governments ever since they began to take freedom of expression seriously. In addition, the social consequences of pornography have become the subject of intense debate.

Pornography is not the same thing as obscenity, although people often use the terms interchangeably. Obscenity is a legal concept that applies to those forms of pornography that society considers the most harmful to sexual morality, and that it punishes under criminal law. In the United States, for example, the Supreme Court limits the definition of obscenity to "hard-core" pornographic depictions, meaning extremely explicit portrayals of sex. Thus, pornography is illegal only if judged to be obscene.

Many feminist thinkers, such as Americans Gloria Steinem, Catharine MacKinnon, and Andrea Dworkin, have proposed another definition of pornography, distinguishing it from erotica. Such thinkers define pornography as the "sexually explicit subordination of women" and view it as a form of discrimination against women, not simply a violation of traditional moral norms. Erotica, on the other hand, is sexually explicit material that portrays men and women in postures of equality and mutual respect.

Although little is known about the origins of pornography, it is as old as written records. The ancient Greeks used pornographic themes in songs in Dionysian festivals, and ancient Romans painted pornographic pictures on walls in the ancient city of Pompeii. Pornography was also prevalent in some ancient Eastern cultures, such as those of India, Japan, and China. In medieval Europe, authors used bawdy ballads and verses to ridicule the church, and *Il decamerone* (1353; *The Decameron*) by Italian writer Giovanni Boccaccio was licentious in nature. It was not until the 1800s, however, that pornography began to become a social problem, primarily because the spread of technology—such as printing, photography, and motor vehicles—made it more readily available and because of the growth of democracy and individual freedom.

Adapted from Microsoft ® Encarta ® 2009. © 1993-2008 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.

1. What is mainly discussed in the passage?
    A. The difference between pornography and erotica.
    B. The origin of pornography.
    C. The social effects of pornography in a society.
    D. The various views about pornography

2. According to the writer, pornography _____.
    A. is not different from obscenity
    B. is more complex than erotica
    C. is frequently overlapped with obscenity
    D. is the most common expression

3. The word *prevalent* in the last paragraph is similar to _____.
    A. common
    B. unusual
    C. awkward
    D. special

4. Pornography develops into social problems due to the _____.
   A. low education of the society
   B. spread of the technological advancements
   C. change of people's thought
   D. exploitation of women and children

5. It is implied from the passage that _____.
   A. it was obvious where and how pornography originated and developed
   B. pornography positions men and women equally
   C. the feminists thought that pornography has violated the traditional moral norms
   D. Americans would say anything as pornography unless it is considered obscene

Passage 2
Read the text below and answer the questions briefly! (Score:20)

Television becomes one of the most important **devices** which take place in almost all houses. It can unite all members of the family as well as separate them. However, is it important to know what your kids are watching? The answer is, of course, absolutely "Yes" and that should be done by all parents. Television can expose things you have tried to protect the children from, especially violence, pornography, consumerism and so on.

Recently, a study demonstrated that spending too much time on watching TV during the day or at bedtime often causes bed-time disruption, stress, and short sleep duration.

Another research found that there is a significant relationship between the amount of time spent for watching television during adolescence and early adulthood, and the possibility of being aggressive.

Meanwhile, many studies have identified a relationship between kids who watch TV a lot and being inactive and **overweight**.

Considering some facts mentioned above, protect your children with the following tips:

- Limit television viewing to one-two hours each day
- Do not allow your children to have a TV set in their own bedrooms
- Review the rating of TV shows which your children watch
- Watch television with your children and discuss what is happening in the show

*(Adapted from: http://understandingtext.blogspot.com/2009/02/example-of-hortatory-**********-in.html)*

1. What is mainly talked about in the text?

   Protecting children from TV

2. What genre can the text be considered into?

   Exposition

3. What is the synonym (in English) of **devices** in the first line?

   Equipment, gadgets, instruments

4. What is the appropriate meaning for the word **overweight** above?

   Kegemukan, kelebihan berat badan

5. What can be an appropriate title for the text?

   Protect your children from TV (or more or less like this having the same main points)

Passage 3
Read the passage and answer the questions briefly (Score:40)

A few years ago, distance learning was seen as an **inferior** way but nowadays even famous and established traditional colleges and universities are providing distance learning courses and it is generally considered a way to improve one's life.

However, people still argue whether distance learning give more advantage or disadvantage. Some of them who see the benefit of distance learning will say that distance learning needs no commuting. Of course it saves money and time that students would take. Furthermore, distance learning can be done at any student's convenience. Mostly of the classes of distance learning are asynchronous. It means that students do not have

to attend a lecture at a fixed particular time and place. Students can review the assignments and do their homework during off-hours or from home. **Additionally**, distance learning gives more accessibility. No one can deny it. People with limited mobility may **encounter** the problem when they take traditional class. With the online class system, the problem is absent.

Despite the many advantages, the other people will see that distance learning is costly and needs complex technology. To attend online learning, student must have a computer with possibly access to the internet. Admitted or not, such technology devices are not always available for common students. Another disadvantage of distance learning is that it does not provide **immediate** feedback. Unlikely traditional classroom, students have to wait for the feedback and comment until the instructor has review the works and sent response to them. Most of the time students will study alone. Distance learners may feel isolated or miss that social physical interaction that comes with attending a traditional classroom

Regarding the individual's learning style; some students are able to learn when there is a live interaction between them and the available of accompanying teacher while others don't really need it. So before deciding a choice of attending distance learning or not, each student needs to do a **fair** analysis regarding the kind of person he/she is.

*(Source: http://understandingtext.blogspot.com/2009/05/*********-text-sample-on-distance.html)*

1. What is the main topic of the passage?

   The advantages and disadvantages of Distance Learning

2. The word **inferior** in the first line has positive or negative meaning?

   Negative

3. What is the function of the word **Additionally** in the second paragraph?

   Adding argument/ explanation/ information

4. What is the appropriate translation of the word **encounter** in the second paragraph in Indonesian?

   Menghadapi

5. What is the function of the word **despite** to be placed at the beginning of the third paragraph?

   Contrasting

6. What is the meaning (in Indonesian) of the word **immediate** in the third paragraph?

   segera

7. Compared with distance learning, traditional class seems to have positive value to the learners, namely

   Live interaction with the other learners

8. What is the synonym of the word **fair** in the last sentence?

   Objective, balanced, honest

9. What does the writer recommend?

   A student needs to do a fair analysis about what type of person he/she is

10. What can be a good title for the text?

    - The advantages and disadvantages of Distance Learning

    - Plus and minus of Distance Learning

    - Distance learning: is it necessary?

Passage 4
Read the text and answer the questions based on the text (Score:20)

When something is issued by someone, we say it has been consumed. We as consumers use many things, both natural and processed. We consume more of the Earth's resources than other animals do and, as a result, we cause problems for the environment.

Like all animals, we need clean air and water, food and shelter for survival. Unlike other animals, however, we have certain "want". These are items that are not necessary for our survival, but that we want because they make our lives easier or more enjoyable.

Environmentalists claim that a great deal of waste is created by both the production and the consumption of these items or products. Disposable products, such as pens, take away food containers, plates, shavers and cutlery, are made using the Earth's resources. When these products are thrown away, the resources are lost.

Another example of waste is the unnecessary packaging on many products. The material is often not recycled and used again.

Throwing thing away also increases pollution. The amount of disposable plastic litter that ends up in waterways is a serious problem. When this waste reaches the oceans, it can kill marine life.

Industrialists counter these arguments with their own point of view. They claim that consumer's expect to be able to purchase food which is attractively presented, prepackaged to extent its life and easy to store. In a busy society, convenience is a priority. Industrialists argue that they cater to this perceived need.

Packaging is also big business and provides jobs for many people who might otherwise be unemployed and a burden to society.

Environmentalists declare that for thousands of years, people survived perfectly well with re-usable products. However, people of the twenty-first century have become used to wing in a 'thrown-away' society. It is up to each one of us to dispose of waste products carefully, recycle as much as possible and to reduce the stress on our environment. Think when buying pre-packaged goods and consider whether the same products can be bought without the extra wrappings. Let's make the best of what we have.

*(Adapted from: http://titaviolet.wordpress.com/2010/01/25/**********-text/)*

1. What genre should the text be classified into?

   Discussion

2. According to the writer, what makes human beings different from animals?

   Humans have certain "want"

3. Which sentence which shows opposition?

   Industrialists counter these arguments

4. What is the impact of plastic rubbish for the underwater animals?

   It can kill them

5. What do the environmentalists suggest in order to save the environment?

   - To recycle as much as possible

   - To dispose of waste products carefully

   - To reduce the stress on our environment

© *Yusuf Kurniawan, December 2010*
Good luck!