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UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS

2017/2018 ACADEMIC YEAR

SECOND YEAR SECOND SEMESTER

SPECIAL/SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION

**FOR THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF JOURNALISM &
MASS COMMUNICATION**

COURSE CODE: JMC 212

COURSE TITLE: LOGIC AND RATIONAL THOUGHT

DATE: 12TH OCTOBER, 2018

TIME: 8.00 - 10.00AM

INSTRUCTION TO CANDIDATES

Answer Question **ONE** and any other **TWO** Questions

TIME: 2 Hours

This Paper Consists of 2 Printed Pages. Please Turn Over. ►

QUESTION ONE – COMPULSORY (30 MARKS)

- a) Explain the following terms:
- i) Syllogism (3 marks)
 - ii) Conclusion (3 marks)
 - iii) Attitude (3 marks)
 - iv) Relativism (3 marks)
- b) State FOUR differences between deductive and inductive arguments. (4 marks)
- c) Highlight FOUR features of a statement. (4 marks)
- d) Explain FIVE characteristics of a critical thinker. (10 marks)

QUESTION TWO (20 MARKS)

Translate the following into standard categorical form. Then use Venn diagrams to test the arguments for validity.

- a) Anyone who eats pizza every night is at risk for heart disease. Some people who are at risk for heart disease are cab drivers. So, some cab drivers are people who eat pizza every night. (10 marks)
- b) Not every lie is immoral, for no harmless acts are immoral and some lies are harmless. (10 marks)

QUESTION THREE (20 MARKS)

Moral reasoning usually takes place within one or more frameworks or perspectives. Discuss any FIVE perspectives or frameworks that shape moral reasoning.

QUESTION FOUR (20 MARKS)

Explain any 10 fallacies of relevance

QUESTION FIVE (20 MARKS)

In Logic and Rational Thought a critical essay is defined as one in which you analyze and critically evaluate another person's argument. Read the passage below and write a 500 word critical essay

Helmet Laws Discriminate against Bikers

Stan Daniels

Freedom is a most valued and cherished possession. People are willing to fight, and even die, for it. Isn't it great to live in the United States of America where we can choose to live the sort of life we care to live, choose any religion, decide which schools to attend, and choose our own livelihood?

As an avid motorcyclist, I wonder why the governments of some states, including Pennsylvania, target me and other riders with discriminatory legislation such as mandatory helmet laws. There is no discernible difference in motorcycle injuries or fatalities among those states where helmet use is voluntary. Motorcycles represent just 2 percent of total vehicles in the United States and account for less than 1 percent of all vehicle accidents. Trucks and buses account for 28 percent of accidents, and pedestrians account for 15 percent of total vehicle fatalities. Maybe they, too, should have been required to wear helmets, although I believe it wouldn't have mattered.

For me, this is an issue of personal freedom. Mandatory helmet laws are annoying and unnecessary to an extremely small minority of citizens who would prefer to make their own decision on an issue which has no effect on anyone else.

To the average citizen who does not share an affection for motorcycles, this may not seem important. But what if the government decided to discriminate against your small group? Would golfers enjoy a sunny afternoon on the greens sporting helmets to protect them from a stray golf ball, or would hunters care to wear bullet-proof vests in the woods?

Recently, a local television station conducted a telephone poll asking if the state should repeal its current mandatory helmet law. The results were 82 per- cent in favor of repealing the existing law. I believe that the time has come for the government to allow responsible citizens to choose what safety measures best suit their particular needs.