

## *First step to producing critical-thinking students*

**W**E are all aware of the Pentaksiran Tingkatan 3 (PT3) results last month. Despite complaints of the lack of time to prepare for the new format and the weak technological support on the documentation for the online results, it is interesting to note that some students liked the subjective format being used (PT3 does not contain any multiple choice questions).

Such questions require students to think out of the box. This might be seen as a first step towards producing more critical-thinking students, who are able to think and respond accordingly to the changes of the modern world and the fast technological demands.

In the past, our examination system had been "memory-based". These changes are a breath of fresh air. A few years ago, I wrote some-

thing on the education system in the west. Although they do not have the best system in the world, there are some good elements. Besides educational content, teaching is also an important element to be evaluated.

Teaching students to be creative thinkers means the teachers also need to be creative and innovative. Through the implementation of PT3, this suggests that teachers,

starting from the primary schools, must move in line with the changes brought in PT3. Elements like literature (such as that was promoted in the letter "Nurture Critical Thinking in Young" — NST, Dec 23) and history can become interesting if these are handled in creative ways by the teachers.

I believe that the positive feedback from students who sat PT3 indicates that they, too, want the

changes in the examination system. However, one thing we have to be aware of, and to always consider, is that the implementation of policies related to education needs careful attention.

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