

THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL STUDIES
BA DEGREE PROGRAMME IN SOCIAL SCIENCES/BA IN YOUTH
AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (2021/2022)
FINAL EXAMINATION – LEVEL III (FIRST SEMESTER)
DSU3551: UNDERSTANDING SOCIETY AND CULTURE
DURATION: THREE HOURS (03 HOURS)



Date: 18.06.2022

Time: 9:30 AM – 12:30 AM

Answer only five (05) questions. Each question carries 20 marks.

1. (1) What is multicultural society? Explain referring to theoretical and conceptual explanations. (2) Discuss how diversity of cultural practices are co-existed in a pluralistic society.
2. “C. W. Mills’ notion of sociological imagination enables you to better identify and question various aspect of the society that you live” Using examples drawn from your own experiences, explain what sociological imagination means.
3. Although Murdock’s definition and types of family widely used, it may be too restrictive to the new types of family structures. How far the changing Sri Lankan family structures are included in the above definition? Answer this question with reference to relevant examples.
4. Emile Durkheim and Evans-Pritchard have argued about religion through Functionalist perspective while Clifford Geertz theorized religion through symbolic anthropology. What is the theoretical model you would prefer to use in analyzing religion? Describe your answer referring to key arguments discussed in the selected theoretical model.
5. Recently, Sri Lankans have participated in various ongoing protests against the current government. Discuss what you can learn about power and politics through this experience.
6. “Some argue that Marxist theory adequately explains social changes”. Critically evaluate the relevance of Marxist theory in explaining social changes in today’s society.
7. “Although educational opportunity influenced upward, social mobility, some argue that caste identity still prevails and shapes everyday life in Sri Lankan society” Critically examine the above statement citing appropriate cases/examples.
8. Examine the strengths and weaknesses of post-structuralist and post-modernist theories in explaining contemporary Sri Lankan society and culture.
9. Write short notes on four (04) of the following:
 - a) Key features of feminist theory
 - b) Religious syncretism
 - c) Relevance of agency theory in today’s society
 - d) Binary thinking
 - e) Symbolic interactionism
 - f) Social action

