

THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA
 DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL STUDIES
 BA DEGREE PROGRAMME IN SOCIAL SCIENCES – (2021/2022)
 FINAL EXAMINATION – LEVEL IV (SEMESTER I)
 DSU4355 – RELIGION, SOCIETY AND CULTURE
 DURATION: THREE HOURS (03 HOURS)



Date: 2022.07.24

Time: 1.30 p.m. – 4.30 p.m.

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

1. Traditionally, Sri Lankans seek the support from religion when they face various crises including political-economic crisis. In this context discuss the ways and means through which people use religion to deal with political-economic crisis with relevant examples from Sri Lanka.
2. There are many theoretical perspectives to explain religious behaviour of people in Sociology. Compare and contrast any two theoretical perspectives on religion.
3. As students of Sociology, we see people adhering to morals and ethics in their day to day lives. Describe the role of ethics and morality in contemporary Sri Lankan society.
4. “We observe various trends in religious behaviour of people in the present world. Some of those practices are promoted by conventional religions while others are introduced by various new religious groups in the society”. Within this context discuss the possible relationship between religious organisations and movements.
5. “The Buddhist, Hindu and Islam religious revival movements in Sri Lanka did not create a common platform for all the citizens to unite which eventually led for divisions rather than unity”. Critically discuss the above statement with relevant examples.
6. Describe the association between religious syncretism and religious pluralism citing relevant examples from your everyday social lives.
7. “We have seen that Buddhist, Christian and Islam clergies and leaders visit and make speeches in the protesting site called GotaGoGama which is mostly led by educated young people of Sri Lanka”. Analyse this statement paying special attention on the role that can be played by clergies and religious leaders in a social movement of this nature.
8. “In Sri Lanka, school curricula promote religions while the syllabuses in the universities highlight secularism, thus creating citizens with a confused mind set.” Critically discuss this statement with reference to higher education in Sri Lanka
9. Write short notes on any **four (4)** of the following:
 - (i) The relationship between religion and politics in Sri Lanka.
 - (ii) The role of astrology and sorcery in Sri Lanka.
 - (iii) Clifford Geertz.
 - (iv) The contribution of Anagarika Dharmapala OR Arumuga Navalar OR M.C. Siddi Lebbe in respective religious revival movements in Sri Lanka.
 - (v) Civic religions and formal religions.
 - (vi) Sufism in Sri Lanka OR Kuragala Ancient Buddhist Monastery.

