

**THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL STUDIES
BA DEGREE PROGRAMME IN SOCIAL SCIENCES &
BA DEGREE IN YOUTH AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (2023/24)
FINAL EXAMINATION - LEVEL -III (SEMESTER - I)
DSU3551: UNDERSTANDING SOCIETY AND CULTURE
DURATION: THREE HOURS (03 HOURS)**



Date: 09th December 2023

Time: 9.30 am – 12.30 pm

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

- 1) Describe the historical background of the emergence of sociology and social anthropology.
- 2) What is sociological imagination? How would you apply sociological imagination in the real world? Explain your answer taking 'unemployment' as an example.
- 3) "There are many variations in the way specific cultures and societies understand kinship and therefore, kinship is not tied to biological relationships alone in all societies". Examine this statement with appropriate examples from different socio-cultural contexts.
- 4) Discuss the effects of social change on marriage system in contemporary Sri Lanka.
- 5) "Functionalists argue that religion serves several functions in society". Discuss with examples.
- 6) What is ethnic identity and how does ethnic identity affect a person's life? Explain with example from any socio-cultural context.
- 7) Describe the effects of the three waves of feminism on women.
- 8) The Sri Lankan government strongly proposes to expand the privatization of education as a means of cutting public spending on education in the context of current crisis. What is your view on privatisation of education? Explain with reference to an appropriate theoretical approach to education that you learnt in this course.
- 9) Write short notes on any four (04) of the following topics.
 - a) Positivism and Interpretivism
 - b) Ethnocentrism and Cultural relativism
 - c) Endogamy and Exogamy
 - d) Caste and Class
 - e) Nature/Nurture debate
 - f) Structure/ Agency debate

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