

THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA
 DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL STUDIES
 BA DEGREE PROGRAMME IN SOCIAL SCIENCES – (2023/2024)
 FINAL EXAMINATION – LEVEL IV (SEMESTER I)
 DSU4355 – RELIGION, SOCIETY AND CULTURE
 DURATION: THREE HOURS (03 HOURS)



Date: 2024.01.07

Time: 1.30 p.m. – 4.30 p.m.

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

1. Is there a link among religion, society, and culture? Discuss the connection among these three concepts taking relevant local and foreign examples.
2. Why should we use theoretical perspectives to explain the religious behaviour of individuals in Sociology? Discuss, citing specific theoretical perspectives with which you are familiar.
3. "The feminist perspective on religion asserts that women are often regarded as second-class citizens across various religious practices. Critically discuss this statement, providing pertinent examples to support and illustrate this viewpoint.
4. "The assertion that a religious movement inevitably transforms into an organization at its pinnacle warrants critical examination". Engage in a discussion, supported by local or foreign examples, to explore the validity of this statement.
5. "The connection between the state and religion in post-independent Sri Lanka appears to have strengthened rather than weakened. Consequently, the notion of establishing a secular state seems more like an unattainable dream than a feasible objective. Critically analyse this viewpoint as expressed by an ordinary citizen of the country.
6. Describe the escalating trend of religious nationalism in South Asia, citing relevant examples from any South Asian country.
7. Do religious syncretism and religious pluralism represent the same phenomenon? Explain your answer using relevant examples from everyday social life.
8. "The religious revival movements in Sri Lanka may not have sufficiently enlightened their followers to perceive the world from a broader perspective. Instead, these movements seem to have focused on mobilizing specific groups to achieve narrow objectives in a competitive world." Describe your stance on this issue, citing relevant examples to support your position.
9. Write short notes on any **FOUR (4)** of the following:
 - (i) Morals and ethics
 - (ii) The nexus between the party politics and religions in Sri Lanka
 - (iii) The Buddhist revival movement or Hindu Revival movement in Sri Lanka
 - (iv) Emile Durkheim's contribution for the development of Sociology of Religion.
 - (v) The influence and involvement of religious leaders in the recent people-led movement at the GotaGoGama agitation site last year.
 - (vi) Civic religions.
 - (vii) Evangelical groups in Sri Lanka.