

**THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL STUDIES
BA DEGREE PROGRAMME IN SOCIAL SCIENCES – LEVEL V
FINAL EXAMINATION– 2023/2024 (SEMESTER II)
DSU5352 – SOCIAL THEORY**



DURATION – THREE HOURS (03 HOURS)

Date: 24.08.2024

Time: 09.30am – 12.30pm

Instructions:

Answer FIVE (05) questions only. Each answer carries equal marks.

1. “Individual consciousness is at the centre of interactionist perspective”. Examine this statement with reference to George Herbert Mead’s ideas on the individual and society.
2. “Clifford Geertz’s analysis of public symbols as culture is no longer applicable to understanding local culture in a globalized world”. Evaluate this statement.
3. Critically analyze how the Frankfurt School theorists borrowed ideas from classical Marxism to study advance capitalist society. Refer to the works of Horkheimer, Adorno and Marcuse in your answer.
4. Focusing on the work of Jurgen Habermas, discuss whether the public sphere exists in contemporary society. Elaborate your answer with examples from Sri Lankan society.
5. “Gendered division of labour exists to maintain the subordination of women in society”. Discuss this statement using a feminist theoretical perspective.
6. Discuss with examples how structuralism and post-structuralism differ in their understanding of social structures to explain social phenomena.
7. “Anthony Giddens’s theory of structuration attempts to resolve the structure-action debate”. Do you agree with this statement? Explain.
8. Discuss the relevance of Pierre Bourdieu’s analysis of class relations and possession of capital to understand contemporary Sri Lankan society.
9. Write short notes on any four (04).
 - a. Foucault and Discourse
 - b. Thick description
 - c. Colonization of the lifeworld
 - d. Logocentrism
 - e. Symbolic interactionism
 - f. Femininity and feminism

