

THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA  
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL STUDIES  
BA DEGREE PROGRAMME IN SOCIAL SCIENCES &  
BA DEGREE IN YOUTH AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT – LEVEL 3  
FINAL EXAMINATION 2024/2025 (SEMESTER I)  
DSU3551 - UNDERSTANDING SOCIETY AND CULTURE



DURATION: THREE HOURS (03 HOURS)

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Date: 19<sup>th</sup> April 2025

Time: 9.30 am – 12.30 pm

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**Instructions:**

- Answer only **FIVE** (05) questions.
- Each question carries equal marks (20 Marks).
- Write legibly.

- 1) What is cultural relativism, and why is it important? Explain with examples.
- 2) What forms kinship connections? Explain with examples from various cultural backgrounds.
- 3) Describe the functionalists' explanations of 'age and aging'.
- 4) Describe the three kinds of legitimate power proposed by Max Weber and justify which type of authority is the most common in modern societies.
- 5) "Murdock's definition, although widely used, is restrictive in the way it defines the family". Explain your opinion on this statement with examples.
- 6) Write an essay on religious syncretism in Sri Lanka with examples.
- 7) Describe the characteristics of social stratification in contemporary Sri Lanka.
- 8) Explain 'personhood' from a cross-cultural perspective with examples.
- 9) Write short notes on **any four** (04) of the following.
  - a) Collective conscience
  - b) Symbolic interactionism
  - c) Dialectic materialism
  - d) Structure Vs Agency
  - e) Ethnocentrism
  - f) Secularism

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