

THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA  
 DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL STUDIES  
 BA DEGREE IN SOCIAL SCIENCES – LEVEL 3  
 FINAL EXAMINATION– 2024/2025 (SEMESTER II)  
 DSU3552 – UNDERSTANDING SRI LANKAN SOCIETY AND CULTURE  
 DURATION: THREE HOURS (3 HOURS)



Date: 02.08.2025

Time: 9.30a.m -12.30 p.m

*Instructions*

- Please answer 5 questions only from the questions given below.
  - Illegible handwriting will be penalized.
01. How do dominant discourses on culture and tradition in Sri Lankan society reflect underlying power structures that result in the exclusion of certain social groups? Discuss with reference to concepts such as discourse, power, and exclusions.
  02. Discuss the role of Anagarika Dharmapala in shaping Protestant Buddhism in colonial Sri Lanka, highlighting his efforts on both Buddhist revivalism and Western Protestant influences.
  03. Explain the themes of current research in Sri Lankan anthropology and sociology that respond to contemporary social challenges.
  04. Explain how concepts such as competitive humanitarianism, patronage, corruption, and gender relations help to understand the social impact of disasters in Sri Lanka. Support your discussion with relevant examples.
  05. How does the structure of Sri Lankan peasant society shape rural development? Support your discussion with examples from key rural development projects in Sri Lanka.
  06. (a) Explain the difference between refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs).  
 (b) Describe the social and gendered impacts of displacement during the Sri Lankan civil war
  07. In what ways have women and women's organizations influenced development in Sri Lanka, particularly in social, economic, and political spheres?
  08. Compare and contrast Sinhala Buddhist nationalism and Tamil Hindu nationalism.
  09. Write short notes on any two (02) of the following
    - I Youth Insurrections in Sri Lanka
    - II War and Militarization in Sri Lanka
    - III *Baya Nethi Kama* 'fearlessness' & Violence
    - IV Evolution of Muslim identity and politics in Sri Lanka
    - V Increasing violence in Sri Lankan society