

THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA
 DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL STUDIES
 BA DEGREE IN SOCIAL SCIENCES – LEVEL 4
 FINAL EXAMINATION– 2024/25 (II SEMESTER)
 DSU4354 – ECONOMY AND SOCIETY
 DURATION: THREE HOURS ONLY (3 HOURS)



Date: 24.08.2025

Time: 9.30 a.m -12.30 p.m

Instructions

- Illegible handwriting will be penalized.
 - Please answer 5 questions only from the questions given below.
01. In what ways did capitalism transform feudal societies and contribute to the development of colonial systems? Analyze the link between capitalism and colonialism.
 02. "Protestant ethics laid the foundation for capitalist growth in Western Europe." Analyze this statement critically, using examples to support your argument.
 03. How do economic conditions affect society? Discuss with reference to the recent economic crisis in Sri Lanka, focusing on its causes and social impacts.
 04. Discuss the origins and evolution of the estate sector in Sri Lanka, focusing on the socio-economic and political challenges faced by estate communities today.
 05. Compare the socio-economic conditions of workers in the estate sector and the Free Trade Zones in Sri Lanka. How do these economic systems affect the social lives of the people involved? Provide brief examples.
 06. How applicable are Karl Marx's ideas about the rise of capitalism to understanding modern global economies?
 07. Explain the fundamental features of neo-liberalism as a modern economic approach, highlighting how it differs from previous economic systems.
 08. What is the link between economic changes and social problems in a country? Discuss how decisions by the government, global trends, and people's living standards affect this.
 09. Write short notes on any two (02) of the following topics
 - i. French Revolution
 - ii. Sri Lankan employment sectors
 - iii. Stigmatized lifestyle of the Free Trade Zone Workers
 - iv. Feudalism
 - v. The Welfare State in Sri Lanka