

THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA
 DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL STUDIES
 BA DEGREE PROGRAMME IN SOCIAL SCIENCES – (2024/2025)
 FINAL EXAMINATION – LEVEL V (SEMESTER II)
 DSU5356 – ETHNICITY IN EVERYDAY LIFE



DURATION: THREE HOURS (03 HOURS)

Date: 2025.08.16

Time: 1.30 p.m. – 4.30 p.m.

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

- 1) 'We have spent a lot of time talking, debating, and arguing about ethnicity and ethnic divisions in the country, wasting valuable time and energy that should have been devoted to strategizing the country's development.' Give your explanation of this statement, highlighting the significance of ethnicity in Sri Lanka.
- 2) Describe different forms of ethnicity, taking examples from your everyday life.
- 3) How have both the concepts of 'ethnicity' and 'race' been interpreted and used throughout the history of Sri Lanka to categorize the people living on this tiny island? Discuss with examples.
- 4) Compare and contrast the primordial and instrumental theoretical explanations of ethnicity, taking relevant examples.
- 5) Why have we always tended to forget cultural similarities and highlight differences among ethnic groups? Discuss with special reference to relevant sociological theories and concepts.
- 6) What is the most suitable sociological theory that explains the nature of ethnic relationships in Sri Lanka? Describe, citing relevant examples.
- 7) Describe at least four (04) disappearing ethnic groups in Sri Lanka, highlighting the reasons for the disappearance of their ethnic identity in the country.
- 8) Explain the mixing and hybridity among various ethno-linguistic and caste communities in the Vanni border regions to illuminate the island's multicultural past.
- 9) Write short notes on any **FOUR (04)** of the following:
 - (i) Food sharing and ethnic boundary negotiation in Sri Lanka
 - (ii) My favourite sociological or anthropological explanation of ethnicity
 - (iii) The link between economic crisis and the ethnic divisions
 - (iv) The survival of ethnicity in globalised era
 - (v) The impact of educational reforms on ethnicity
 - (vi) The Functionalist explanation of ethnic division