

THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA  
 DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL STUDIES  
 BA DEGREE PROGRAMME IN SOCIAL SCIENCES – (2018/2019)  
 FINAL EXAMINATION – LEVEL 4 (SEMESTER I)  
 DSU4355/SSU2155 – RELIGION, SOCIETY AND CULTURE



**DURATION: THREE HOURS (03 HOURS) ONLY.**

**Date: 2019.01.12**

**Time: 1.30 p.m. – 4.30 p.m.**

**Instructions:**

➤ Answer five (05) questions only. Each question carries 20 marks.

1. Most students in this course have suggested that it is very difficult for Sociologists and Anthropologists to define religion. What is your position on this stance? Explain.
2. “The feminist view on religion and religious practices are not that practical in Sri Lanka said one of the students who attended a Sociology of Religion day school”. Critically discuss this statement comparing with other theoretical perspectives on religion.
3. Critically discuss the factors that have contributed to creating new religious movements in Sri Lanka. Refer to examples of your choice in the discussion.
4. Why should the demolition or desecration of a religious place essentially link to communal clashes in Sri Lanka? Discuss this phenomenon with special reference to recent religious tensions in Sri Lanka.
5. Compare and contrast the contribution and approach adopted by Arumuga Navalar in the Hindu revival movement and Anagarika Dharmapala in the Buddhist revival movement.
6. “Today people are very concerned with obtaining material benefits rather than considering the life that they will have after death. Therefore, they are not that rigid in selecting religions.” Assess this statement.
7. Are ethics and morals the same? Discuss citing relevant examples.
8. Describe the significant contribution made by any selected Islamic, Hindu, Buddhist, or Christian religious leader in Sri Lanka in creating unity among the ethno-religious groups.

9. Write short notes on any four (04) of the following:

- (i) Religious socialisation in Sri Lanka.
- (ii) The rise of religiosity among migrants to the western societies.
- (iii) Compare sects and cults.
- (iv) Muslim revival movement in Sri Lanka.
- (v) Lighting of fire crackers to mark the dawn of the new year as an example of civic religion in Sri Lanka.
- (vi) Religious syncretism.
- (vii) Influence of religions in shaping party politics.
- (viii) Ethno-religious politics as a constraint for creating the idea of one nation.

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