

THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL STUDIES
BA IN SOCIAL SCIENCES – LEVEL III
FINAL EXAMINATION (SEMESTER 1) – 2018/2019
DSU3551 UNDERSTANDING SOCIETY AND CULTURE



DURATION: THREE HOURS (3 HOURS)

Date: 19th January 2019

Time: 9.30am – 12.30pm

Instructions

- Please answer **5 questions** only.
 - Each question carries equal marks (20 marks)
 - Read the questions carefully and answer to the point.
1. According to C.W. Mills, having a sociological imagination, requires us to be able to place ourselves outside the familiar and the everyday and examine things from within a wider context. Using any example from your own experiences, explain what this means.
 2. “Sri Lankan culture has a long, unchanging and unbroken history”. Discuss this statement critically.
 3. What is kinship? Discuss using examples from different cultures.
 4. Discuss the differences between Durkheim’s explanation of religion and that of Geertz.
 5. Recently, Sri Lankans experienced what was described as a ‘constitutional crisis’. Discuss what we can learn about power and politics through this experience.
 6. Explain how Marxist theory describes social change.
 7. University students in Sri Lanka often engage in public protests for various reasons. Using a symbolic interactionist approach, how would you explain this behaviour?
 8. “Women have achieved equality therefore, feminism is outdated in today’s world”. Do you agree or disagree? Discuss.

9. "Sri Lankan women have greater autonomy and room for manouvering within social structures than other Asian women". Discuss in relation to the concepts of structure and agency.

10. Write short notes on four (4) of the following:

- a. Foucault and the idea of discourse
- b. Key features of functionalism
- c. Relevance of Secularisation in today's society
- d. Homo-economicus
- e. Caste in modern society

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