

**THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA  
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL STUDIES  
BA DEGREE IN SOCIAL SCIENCES – LEVEL IV (2018/2019)  
FINAL EXAMINATION – FIRST SEMESTER  
DSU4353 – KINSHIP, FAMILY AND MARRIAGE**



**DURATION – THREE (3) HOURS**

**Date: 02<sup>nd</sup> FEBRUARY 2019**

**Time: 1.30pm to 4.30pm**

**Instructions**

**This paper has two (2) parts: Part A and Part B. Please answer one (1) question from Part A and four (4) questions from Part B. (Altogether you should answer five (5) questions). Please indicate the relevant part and the number of the question you are answering in the answer script clearly.**

**Part A (40 marks)**

- **Please answer one (1) question only.**

1. Examine the significance of kinship studies for anthropology and sociology.
2. Using examples, discuss what the study of marriage rules in diverse societies tell us about the influences on social norms and behaviours.
3. Critically examine the debate on the incest taboo.

**Part B (60 marks)**

- **Please answer four (4) questions only.**
- **Each answer carries equal marks (15 marks).**

4. Discuss the limitations of the biological understanding of kinship relations.
5. Explain the key features of the alliance theory of kinship.
6. “Rules of marriage and rules regulating sexual relations are the same”. Discuss this statement referring to the work of David Schneider.
7. Reflect on the concepts of ‘agency’ and ‘accountability’ in relation to changing marriage rituals in Sri Lanka.
8. Compare the functionalist view of family with the conflict view of family.
9. Discuss the nature/culture debate in relation to the subordination of women in society.
10. Write short notes on any 3 of the following (5 marks each).

- a. Kandyan marriage customs.
- b. The household in Langkawi, Malaysia.
- c. Initiation rituals
- d. New reproductive technologies

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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.