

THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA  
 DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL STUDIES  
 BA DEGREE PROGRAMME IN SOCIAL SCIENCES – 2015/2016  
 FINAL EXAMINATION – LEVEL IV (SEMESTER I)  
 RELIGION, SOCIETY AND CULTURE – SSU2155



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

**Date: 2015.11.15**

**Time: 1.30 p.m. – 4.30 p.m.**

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

1. Does religion play a vital role in modern man's life? Explain your answer with reference to the theories and concepts discussed in this course.
2. Assess the strengths and weaknesses of the Feminist perspective in explaining today's religion.
3. You may still remember how a Buddhist monk self-immolated in front of the Dalada Maligawa as a protest against cattle slaughter in Sri Lanka. Discuss the impact of this act on the efforts to create a secular society in the country.
4. In any society religion must adjust to keep pace with the changing socio-economic, political and cultural environment. Discuss this situation in relation to any religion of your choice.
5. "It is very misleading to believe that each religious group in Sri Lanka confines itself strictly to their own selected religion." Critically assess this statement.
6. Can we consider religious revival movements in Sri Lanka as deriving from the teachings of the founders of specific religions (Allah, Lord Buddha, Jesus Christ, etc.) or as responses to particular political, social and cultural changes of that time? Discuss.
7. Identify and describe any local or international new religious movements.
8. How do you explain the operation of religious nationalism in South Asia? Use relevant examples to illustrate your discussion.
9. Write short notes on any **four (4)** of the following:
  - (i) Sacred and profane aspects of religion
  - (ii) Religious socialisation
  - (iii) Religion and the state
  - (iv) Religious cults
  - (v) The book "The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism" (1958)
  - (vi) Religious pluralism
  - (vii) Religion and religiosity

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