

THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA  
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL STUDIES  
BA DEGREE IN SOCIAL SCIENCES – 2015/2016  
FINAL EXAMINATION - LEVEL 4  
SSU2154: ECONOMY AND SOCIETY



**DURATION: THREE (03) HOURS**

**Date: 02<sup>nd</sup> April 2016**

**Time: 1.30 p.m. – 4.30 p.m.**

**Instructions:**

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

01. Discuss the transformations that took place between the 14<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries that have shaped our modern ideas of the economy and the society.
02. Discuss Weber's main argument in his classic text 'The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism'. How valid is his argument for understanding the relationship between the economy and society in contemporary society?
03. What are the features of the modern state? Examine how the emergence of capitalism contributed to the creation of the modern state.
04. Discuss the theory of class as explained by Marx and Lenin. Examine the emergence of class in Sri Lanka and discuss to what extent class identities have shaped political struggles in Sri Lanka.
05. Define and explain neo-liberalism. To what extent have economic policies in Sri Lanka been influenced by neo-liberal values? What has been the social impact of neo-liberal economic policy in Sri Lanka?
06. Critically discuss Partha Chattajee's argument that South Asian elites internalised the colonial's assumptions about the world – particularly the notion that the 'West' is technologically more adept while the 'East' is spiritually superior. Provide examples of how these assumptions shape current ideas about the 'East' and 'West'.
07. Critically examine the role of the military in the post-war economy in Sri Lanka.
08. Write short notes on **five (05)** of the following:
  - (a) Commodities
  - (b) Imperialism
  - (c) The French Revolution
  - (d) Orientalism
  - (e) Estate sector workers
  - (f) The non-formal sector of the economy
  - (g) Free Trade Zone