

**THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL STUDIES
BA DEGREE IN SOCIAL SCIENCES – LEVEL IV (2016/2017)
FINAL EXAMINATION – FIRST SEMESTER
SSU 2153 – KINSHIP, FAMILY AND MARRIAGE**



DURATION – THREE (3) HOURS

Date: 13th November 2016

Time: 1.30pm to 4.30pm

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. 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. You learned in this course that women delaying marriage and pregnancy are features of modernisation. However, we also hear of the rise of under-age marriages and teenage pregnancies in today's society. Discuss this apparent contradiction using theories and concepts relating to changing marriage practices as well as feminist theories of kinship.
2. This course exposed you to the fact that different cultures have different marriage and kinship practices. Describe these differences using specific examples. What do these practices teach us about the concept of 'culture'?
3. "Modern reproductive technologies reinforce stereotypes about women and motherhood". Discuss this statement.

Part B (60 marks)

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

1. Explain the basis for a socio-cultural understanding of kinship rather than a biological explanation for kinship.
2. What are descent systems? Discuss the main categories for tracing kinship relations through descent.
3. Discuss the relationship between marriage, sexual relations and incest.
4. Examine the relationship between modernisation and changing marriage practices.
5. Discuss how historians described marriage practices among Sinhalese Kandyans between the 16th and 20th centuries.

6. Discuss the differences between functionalist, conflict and feminist theories of family.
7. Write short notes on three (3) of the following:
 - a. Westmarck hypothesis
 - b. Companionate marriage
 - c. Marriage Residence Rules
 - d. The nature/culture debate

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