

**THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA  
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL STUDIES  
BA IN SOCIAL SCIENCES – LEVEL V  
FINAL EXAMINATION – 2016/2017  
SSU3155 EDUCATION AND SOCIAL MOBILITY**



**DURATION: THREE (3) HOURS**

**Date: 10<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2016**

**Time: 9.30am to 12.30pm**

**Please answer only five (5) questions.**

- **Each answer carries equal marks (20 marks each).**
1. Imagine that you are invited to address officials of the Ministry of Education on the topic of 'Challenges within the Education System in Sri Lanka'. Explain what you would highlight in your speech and your recommendations as to how Ministry officials could face the challenges you have identified.
  2. Critically examine the process of socialisation in relation to education.
  3. Discuss the Marxist influence on theories of education. Develop an argument *against* the privatisation of education using the theories of Gramsci, Althusser or Bourdieu.
  4. It has been argued that education is highly valued in Sri Lanka because it is an important source of social mobility. How effective have education policies in Sri Lanka been in facilitating social mobility?
  5. Examine the key events and issues that shaped the trajectory of education policy in Sri Lanka during the latter part of the British colonial period.
  6. Critically discuss the impact of education on women's empowerment with special reference to the situation in Sri Lanka.
  7. "Protests should not be a part of university students lives". Discuss this statement taking into consideration the link between education and conflict in Sri Lanka.
  8. What are some of the disparities that can be observed in the education system in Sri Lanka? How do you explain these disparities?
  9. Using examples, show how the 'hidden curriculum' can reproduce inequalities in society.

10. Should the Grade 5 Scholarship examination be retained or scrapped? Discuss your position using Parson's argument about meritocracy, role allocation and achieved status.

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