

THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA  
 DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL STUDIES  
 BA DEGREE IN SOCIAL SCIENCES – LEVEL V (2017/2018)  
 FINAL EXAMINATION  
 SSU3252 SOCIAL THEORY



DURATION – Three (03) HOURS

Date: 12<sup>th</sup> May 2018

Time: 9.30 am to 12.30 pm

**Instructions:**

*Answer FIVE (05) questions only. Each answer carries equal marks.*

1. Discuss the theories of Comte and Spencer and examine their influence on functionalism.
2. What does “studying a social phenomenon as a structure” mean? Explain with reference to Levi-Strauss’ structuralism.
3. “According to Durkheim, the task of sociology is to study social facts”. Examine this statement with reference to Durkheim’s study on suicide.
4. Discuss Mead’s idea of how “self” is developed through social interaction. What are the weaknesses in his analysis?
5. How does Parsons explain social change? Discuss with reference to his systems theory.
6. What is Habermas’ concept of “technocratic consciousness”? Do you think this idea is applicable to contemporary Sri Lankan society?
7. Compare and contrast the class analysis of Marx and Weber. Which is more relevant to Sri Lankan society? Justify your answer.
8. “Habitus is determined by the amount of capital an individual possesses”. Discuss this statement with reference to Bourdieu’s analysis of class.
9. Write short notes on any four (04)
  - a) Radical feminist theory
  - b) Manifest and latent functions
  - c) Public sphere
  - d) Symbolic violence
  - e) Positivism
  - f) Legal-rational authority