



Index No: 00029

**THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA**

**B.A. / DIPLOMA IN ENGLISH**

**AND ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHING - LEVEL 3**  
**FINAL EXAMINATION - August 2017**  
**ACADEMIC READING /ADVANCED READING - LSU1201/LSD1201**  
**DURATION - THREE HOURS (03 hours)**

**DATE: 19. 08. 2017**

**TIME: 9.30 am.- 12.30pm.**

**Instructions: Answer all questions on the paper itself.**

**For Examiner's Use Only**

Question No:	Marks Obtained	Maximum
1	.....	40
2	.....	20
3	.....	40
<b>Total</b>		<b>100</b>
	=====	=====

Signature of Examiner : .....

Name : .....

### Question 1

Read the following passage and answer the questions given below. The lines have been numbered for easy reference.

1           A discussion about sustainable development is not complete without a  
2 conversation on gender equality. Since women account for half of any country's talent  
3 base, empowering their participation in the workforce greatly enhances productivity  
4 and **fosters** economic growth. In fact, World Bank studies show that development  
5 strategies focusing on gender equality see stronger economic growth than gender-  
6 neutral strategies. Throughout the world, women represent a substantial,  
7 underutilized force for sustainable development. In Asia, for example, women are  
8 responsible for 50% of agricultural output, while nearly 80% of the agricultural labour  
9 in Africa is female. Unfortunately, many of these women lack access to necessary  
10 agricultural resources, which, if freely accessible, could decrease global hunger by  
11 12-17%.

12           Extreme poverty presents a large **obstacle** as women and girls comprise 70%  
13 of the 1.3 billion people living on less than a dollar per day. Empowering women to  
14 take part in the workforce is not a simple problem to solve. For many women, there  
15 are physical and psychological consequences for entering the workplace –  
16 harassment, discrimination, violence and shame. Moreover, women across the globe  
17 still require investment in basic health and education. A crucial part of the solution is  
18 getting resources for these working women to access, allowing **them** to thrive in their  
19 economic environments so that they may, in turn, foster the success of local  
20 communities. However, the solution must fit both the lifestyles of women and their  
21 cultures. For example, in indigenous societies women are custodians of traditional  
22 knowledge relating to resource management; providing access to modern technology  
23 presents a perfect opportunity for both empowering local women and encouraging  
24 **sustainable** development.

25           The strategy for economic empowerment, according to the World Bank is  
26 twofold: (1) making the market work for women and (2) empowering women in the  
27 market. Supporting the economic empowerment of women is not just good company

28 policy; **it** actually benefits the corporate world. Firms that employ women in  
29 leadership positions have better performance and higher profits. And, contrary to  
30 what might be believed, supporting female employment actually has a positive impact  
31 on family life and encourages women to have more children. Countries with family-  
32 oriented practices and government funded healthcare have both more working women  
33 and higher birth rates than **those** without gender equality policies, an important  
34 consideration for countries with aging populations.

35 Gender equality is not just a lofty **aspiration** anymore; it is the necessary  
36 missing link for sustainable development. Women, on average, reinvest up to 90% of  
37 income into **their** households. Reducing gender inequality gives women more money  
38 to spend on food, housing and education – crucial components for reducing poverty  
39 and promoting sustainable development. The corporate world increasingly realizes  
40 the importance of gender equality policies, with more firms looking for guidance on  
41 voluntarily reporting and improving their gender equality policies in the workplace,  
42 the supply chain and the community. The consensus is growing: getting more women  
43 into the workforce is the cure to many economic ills and imperative to sustainable  
44 development.

### Questions

**Complete the following sentences using the information given in the above passage.**

1. One of the key factors that should be considered is (1) .....  
..... , when talking about sustainable development. Women  
represent (2) ..... of any country's talent base. (3).....  
women's participation in the workforce increases (4)..... and  
fosters economic growth.

**(05 marks)**

2. What do the World Bank studies reveal in relation to development strategies?

(02marks)

3. Do you 'agree' or 'disagree' with the following statement? Tick (✓) the correct answer.

'Many countries in the world have utilized women workforce sufficiently for sustainable development.'

agree	disagree
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Cite a statement from the passage to support your claim.

(02 marks)

4. Complete the following table using the information provided in the passage.

Name of the country / countries	Female contribution in agriculture (%)
Asia	i) .....
ii) .....	80%

(02 marks)

5. What prevents the reduction of global hunger by 12 – 17%?

(02 marks)

6. Are the following statements 'True' or 'False'? Tick (✓) the correct answer.

- a) Empowering women to enter the workforce is a complex issue.

True	False
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- b) Women face only physical consequences when entering the workplace.

True	False
------	-------

- c) Women in some countries still need investment in basic health and education.

True	False
------	-------

- d) If local women are allowed access to modern technology, they subsequently will promote the success of local communities.

True	False
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(04 marks)

7. a) How did the World Bank categorize the strategy for economic empowerment?

b) Name it / them.

**(03 marks)**

8. Why does the writer say that supporting the economic empowerment of women is not just good company policy?

**(01 mark)**

9. According to the passage, what are the benefits of employing women in leadership positions.

**(03 marks)**

10. What are the differences between countries with family-oriented practices and countries without gender equality policies?

**(02 marks)**

11. What is the conclusion of the author?

**(02 marks)**

12. What do the following words refer to?

i) them in line 18

ii) it in line 28

iii) those in line 33

iv) their line 37

(04 marks)

13. What do the following words mean in the passage?

i) fosters in line 04

ii) obstacle in line 12

iii) sustainable in line 24

iv) aspiration line 35

(08 marks)

**Question 2**

**Present the content of the passage as a structured overview.**

**(20 marks)**



