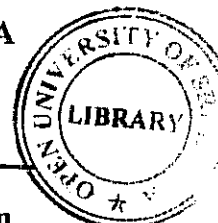


THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA
MASTER OF ARTS DEGREE IN DEVELOPMENT STUDIES AND PUBLIC
POLICY (2008/2009)
(A COLLABORATIVE PROGRAMME OF THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF
SRI LANKA AND MARGA INSTITUTE)
FINAL EXAMINATION – 2009
SSP 1120 – POST-INDEPENDENCE DEVELOPMENT HISTORY OF SRI LANKA



DURATION: THREE (03) HOURS

Date: 8th December 2009

Time: 9.30 a.m. — 12.30 p.m.

Answer four (04) questions only. Each question carries 25 marks.

1. In the first budget introduced after independence, the government claimed that Sri Lanka was already a social welfare state. What were the main elements of the “social welfare state” of Sri Lanka immediately preceding independence? What were the political approaches and ideologies that contributed to it and what was its economic base?
2. “When Sri Lanka (the Ceylon) gained independence in 1948, the first governments inherited an economy that was performing well but was at the same time highly vulnerable to external fluctuations; the leaders had a vision for the new country with focus on a set of social and economic goals. However, promoting economic growth, increasing social welfare and maintaining political control proved to be difficult. The main political parties strongly disagreed about the development model that had to be followed, often without a good grasp of the potential consequences in the short term.” Discuss this statement critically in relation to the economic, social and political conditions and how they were managed in the period 1948-56..
3. “The change of government in 1956 was a decisive turning point in Sri Lanka’s post-independence development. Some of the changes were people- centered and equity-oriented, but others had serious negative consequences;” Critically assess this statement in relation to the social economic and political changes that followed the change of government and evaluate the overall performance applying the criteria of human development.
4. Discuss the specific constraints and challenges faced by the government- economic, social and political - during the period 1965-70 and the steps that were taken and problems faced during implementation. In particular, examine the efforts to adopt more market oriented policies and incentives and deal with the looming unemployment and related problems.
5. How does the term “crisis” apply to the social, economic and political developments in the period 1970-1977? Examine and analyse the different elements of crisis in each of these areas of development and how they were inter-related.

6. The 1977 – 1985 periods were a major departure in political, social and economic terms. Discuss the policy mix adopted by Sri Lanka after 1977 (a) comment on how successful they were in addressing the issues of employment, distribution of development gains, increasing opportunities (b) examine the political and social context in which these changes were framed and the strains and stresses that developed.
7. "If development is defined as simultaneous progress in the social economic and political indicators of a country the period, 1986-94 would be probably the worst after independence" Examine this statement critically. What are your conclusions when you examine all three sets of indicators and their trends for this full period?
8. Compare and contrast the fundamentals in politics, economics and society at the start of the period 1994-2004 with those at the start of the government elected in 1970. Discuss the differences in approach to the economy, the social and political problems that were identified and the policy intent of the government. Discuss how the government saw its role in the economy in 1994 compared with 1970 and discuss some of the major social and political issues the respective governments faced.

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