

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 1225 - POLITICAL FUNDAMENTALS OF DEVELOPMENT



DURATION: THREE (03) HOURS

Date: 4th December 2009

Time 9.30 a.m. — 12.30 p.m.

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

1. Write a brief essay focusing on the questions "What is politics? How does politics affect the life of the people?"
2. Describe and critically evaluate the following policies that are adopted by nation states in dealing with the problems of minorities:
 - (a). Assimilation
 - (b). Integration
3. Examine the problems of nation building in post-colonial societies focusing on the Sri Lankan experience.
4. Compare and contrast the Unitary and Federal States providing examples to substantiate the points you make and commenting on their capacity to deal with problems of a pluralistic multi-ethnic society.
5. Describe and discuss the justification provided for the modern state by the European social contract theorists.
6. Describe and evaluate any two (02) of the following types of democracy and provide examples
 - (a). Formal Democracy
 - (b). Liberal Democracy
 - (c). Participatory Democracy
 - (d). Social Democracy
7. "Civil society refers to the arena of uncoerced collective action around shared interests, purposes and values. In theory, its institutional forms are distinct from those of the state, family and market, though in practice, the boundaries between state, civil society, family and market are often complex, blurred and negotiated." Discuss this definition of civil society and examine how it is different from the state, market and family. Explain why the existence of a vibrant civil society is important for liberal democracy with examples of successful action taken by civil society organisations.

8. "There are significant variations in the way in which the welfare state functions in the developed democracies. They are guided by different ideologies concerning the role and responsibility of the individual and the state" Describe the main variations and evaluate them in terms of the coverage and social security they provide.

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