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THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL STUDIES
MA IN DEVELOPMENT STUDIES AND PUBLIC POLICY
(A COLLABORATIVE PROGRAMME OF THE OUSL AND MARGA INSTITUTE)
SSP1120/1113 – POST INDEPENDENCE DEVELOPMENT HISTORY OF SRI LANKA
FINAL EXAMINATION – 2010

DURATION: THREE (03) HOURS

Date: 06 November, 2010

Time: 9.30 am – 12.30 pm

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

1. "The social, economic and political problems that were emerging in the period 1948-1956 assumed crisis proportions in the period 1970-77 when the full impact of the demographic changes, the problems of the Tamil minority and the imbalances in the economy were felt." Discuss.
2. "Development is simultaneous progress in the social, economic and political indicators of a country" How would you assess the period 1986-94 in terms of this criterion?
3. How does the term "break with the past" apply to the economic and political developments in the decade following the change of government in 1977? What were the fundamental changes that occurred in each of these areas? How would you assess their impact on political stability, economic growth and income distribution?
4. "The development policy in the period 1965-70 failed to address the main structural problems of the economy although it was able to mobilize a substantial volume of external resources and take a few market oriented initiatives" Discuss.
5. "The political, social and economic costs of the ethnic conflict and the war arising out of it have been massive in terms of economic growth, democracy, political stability and social harmony. Nevertheless the social indicators have made steady progress for the country as a whole". Comment and identify the nature and extent of the losses incurred. Support your statements with the analysis of the developments after 1977 and relevant statistical data. How would you account for the progress in social indicators despite the war?
6. "The policy of import substitution in rice, through small scale agriculture and the resettlement of the dry zone, was aimed at achieving several important economic, social and political objectives". Identify these objectives in each area and evaluate their positive and negative outcomes.
7. "The structural changes in the economy together with other fundamental social and demographic changes created the conditions which enabled the economy to sustain a higher average economic growth in the period 1990 to 2004." What were these changes and how did they lead to more stable and higher growth?
8. "The aging of the population in Sri Lanka and the decline in fertility have major economic and social consequences." Discuss.