

THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA
MA DEGREE IN DEVELOPMENT STUDIES AND PUBLIC POLICY 2013/2014
MARGA-OUSL COLLABORATIVE PROGRAMME – LEVEL VIII
SSP2130/2104 - CONTEMPORARY POLITICAL THOUGHT AND PUBLIC
POLICY
FINAL EXAMINATION – 2013



DURATION: THREE (03) HOURS

Date: 08.12.2013

Time: 9.30a.m. – 12.30 p.m.

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

1. One could argue that Hannah Arendt articulated a fairly negative conception of modernity. Substantiate this statement with reference to her contribution.
2. Dahrendorf distinguished social classes on the basis of the individual's ability to exercise authority. Discuss.
3. Judith Butler's theory of gender performativity transformed the understanding of this subject in the academic world. Explain.
4. Explain the significance of the two concepts of liberty presented by Isaiah Berlin.
5. Leo Strauss suggests that the masses simply cannot handle the truth and are in need of a class of political elites who, while themselves pursuing the truth, support the noble lies necessary for any society to function. Discuss.
6. Gandhi had the quality of 'authentic self' with all its subsidiary qualities. Explain the special significance of these qualities for national leadership.
7. What is Schelling's diagrammatic representation of the Prisoners' Dilemma? Explain with examples what this means.
8. John Rawl's Theory of Justice amounts to an account of justice as fairness. Discuss.