

THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA
 MA DEGREE IN DEVELOPMENT STUDIES AND PUBLIC POLICY (2018)
 MARGA-OUSL COLLABORATIVE PROGRAMME – LEVEL VIII
 SSP2129 – CONTEMPORARY SOCIAL THOUGHT AND PUBLIC POLICY
 FINAL EXAMINATION – 2019
 DURATION: THREE (03) HOURS



Date: 12th January 2019

Time: 01.30 p.m.- 04.30 p.m.

- **Instructions:**
 - Answer four (04) questions. Each question carries 25 marks.
 - Ensure that answers are well structured and include an introduction, main argument and conclusion written with a critical imagination
1. We accept that engineers, economists, politicians, international donor agencies and international banks must play a key role in planning and implementation of development of a country. In this context, what is the contribution that can be made by sociologists to this development process? Describe.
 2. The current government came into power promising to establish “good governance principles” (*yahapālanaya*) which contributed to improve the trust of international community in Sri Lanka. Do you think that the current government has done justice in meeting the expectations of the international community? Discuss.
 3. The current government is proudly indicating the launch of construction work for building the Kandy highway which is expected to be completed in 2020. Explain how this would impact on rural development of rapidly modernising Sri Lanka.
 4. Is development people centred or party politics centred in Sri Lanka? Debate.
 5. We often hear that the people in hill country areas protest against the Uma Oya project for the damage caused by it. Is the damage an outcome of the lethargy of ordinary people in actively taking part in state’s development activities? Taking this as an example, discuss the relationship between development, the environment and local communities.
 6. Recently we observed that Samurdhi recipients (*Samurdhilābheen*) living in many parts of the country protested against the proposed plans of the current government to remove families who overcame poverty levels according to the survey conducted by the government. Can development eradicate all forms of social stratification in a society? Argue this statement at length giving reasons.

7. Can increasing the percentage of women in the national parliament, provincial and local governments have an impact on social institutions such as family, religion, education? Discuss.
8. Why should there be a proper Social Impact Assessment (SIA) before starting any development project? Describe.

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