



THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA
POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN DEVELOPMENT STUDIES AND PUBLIC
POLICY (2007/2008)
(A COLLABORATIVE PROGRAMME OF THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF
SRI LANKA AND MARGA INSTITUTE)
FINAL EXAMINATION – 2008
SSP 1113 – POST-INDEPENDENCE DEVELOPMENT HISTORY OF SRI LANKA

DURATION: THREE (03) HOURS

Date: 29th November 2008

Time 9.30 a.m. — 12.30 p.m.

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

1. “Although the economic social and political indicators for the state of development in Sri Lanka at the time of independence were satisfactory, the critical problems of the future in all three areas were beginning to emerge.” Substantiate this statement with reference to the main development indicators at the time of independence, the dilemmas facing policy makers during the 1948-56 period and the critical problems of the future that are referred to in the statement.
2. Analyse and assess the management of the economic social and political fundamentals of development and the way they interacted during any one of the following periods in Sri Lanka
 - 1956- 1965
 - 1977-1986
 - 1986-1994
3. (a) “Despite changes of government, and the ideological differences of the ruling parties, the main economic social and political policies of the period 1948-77 were characterised more by continuity than by any fundamental changes.”
 (b) “During the period 1948-1977 governments with conflicting political ideologies came to power and followed widely divergent policies that created an environment that was unfavourable for development.”

Comment critically on these two statements, bringing out what is acceptable in each and support your comments with an analysis and assessment of the policies of this period.

4. “The economic social and political objectives that drove the strategy of import substitution. Define these objectives and examine their rationale in relation to the economy, the social structure and the polity. Analyse the processes that led to the mixed outcomes.



5. How does the term “break with the past” apply to the social, 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 three areas and how were they managed?
6. “The economic reforms and structural adjustments of the post-1977 period did not produce the results that were expected during the 1980’s owing to a combination of factors economic social and political.” Comment
7. “Despite the escalation of the war and the heavy financial and other costs that were incurred on the war , the economy has been able to sustain relatively high rates of growth during the period 1995-2007 – higher than in any other period in the past” What explains this performance? Discuss with reference to the structural changes that have occurred in the economy and other social political and demographic factors, particularly in the areas outside the conflict zone.
8. “Sri Lanka has entered the category of aging societies at a relatively low level of income. The attendant economic and social problems pose major challenges”. What are the characteristics that have made Sri Lanka an aging society? Discuss the nature of the economic and social problems that the country faces as an aging society. Support your conclusions with the relevant data and analysis.

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