THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL STUDIES
BA DEGREE PROGRAMME IN SOCIAL SCIENCES
FINAL EXAMINATION – LEVEL 4 (1ST SEMESTER)
SSU 2241- LIVING POLITICAL IDEAS

DURATION: THREE HOURS (3 HOURS)

Date: 06.11.2016 **Time: 01.30 Pm – 4.30 pm**

Instructions:

- **Answer Four Questions Only**
- **Read the questions very carefully and use examples where necessary to illustrate your answer.**
- **Please write in legible handwriting**
- **Questions 1- 8 have two components (a) and (b). You are required two answer both components.**
- **All questions carry equal marks (25 marks). In questions 1-8 component (a) carries 10 marks and component (b) carries 15 marks. In question 9 all components carry 6.25 marks each**

(1). (a). Political ideas can influence the political culture. Do you agree? Explain with examples. **(10 marks)**

(b). Analyze the role of political ideas in shaping political institutions? **(15 marks)**

(2). (a). How does the State derive its authority? Explain in relation to political philosophy. **(10 marks)**

(b). The Sri Lankan state faces a crisis in legitimacy? Examine this statement with examples. **(15 marks)**

(3). (a). Briefly examine the relationship between ethics and politics. **(10 marks)**

(b). Mahatma Gandhi and Vaclav Havel have rethought political ethics. Evaluate their contribution to the study of political ethics in the contemporary world. **(15 marks)**

(4). (a). Human Rights provide a moral approach to the study of politics. Examine this statement. **(10 marks)**

(b). Explain the non-Western foundations of Human Rights. **(15 marks)**

(5). (a). What is Equality? **(10 marks)**

(b). Analyze how Marxism and Liberalism view the concept of Equality. **(15 marks)**

(6). (a). Justice has multiple meanings. Briefly explain the theme of Social Justice. **(10 marks)**

(b). Examine the critiques of John Rawl's theory of justice. **(15 marks)**

(7). (a). Democracy is manifested in many ways. Discuss this statement with examples. **(10 marks)**

(b). What are the arguments presented by the critics of liberal democracy? **(15 marks)**

(8). (a). Violence is a necessary instrument in politics. Critically analyze this statement. **(10 marks)**

(b). What are your suggestions to address violence in the political and social structure? **(15 marks)**

(9). Write short notes on **four (4)** of the following topics. **(Marks 6.25 x4)**

(a) Social Exclusion

(b) Democracy to come

(c) Social Democracy

(d) Radical Plural Democracy.

(e) Republican Freedom

(f) Niccolo Machiavelli

(g) Limited Government

(h) Antonio Gramsci

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