

**UNIVERSITY OF COLOMBO, SRI LANKA  
FACULTY OF ARTS**

**THIRD YEAR EXAMINATION IN ARTS – SEMESTER II – 2017/2018**

**SOC 3243 – Sociology of Religion**

**Two (02) Hours**

**Answer Three (03) questions only**

*Student are allowed to refer recommended articles during the examination.*

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1. What are the basic characteristics of religion? Explain with examples.
2. Emile Durkheim and Karl Marx adopt two theoretical approaches that are contrast to each other towards the concept of religion. Do you agree with this statement? Analyse with relevant examples.
3. 'Max Weber states that religion can be a force of social change.' Examine this statement paying attention to his work, 'The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism.'
4. 'Pilgrimage to Mihinthale is a result of post-colonial Sri Lankan nationalist Project' Explain this statement paying attention to Jonathan Walters article on Pushing Poson: the Politics of a Buddhist Pilgrimage in Postcolonial Sri Lanka.
5. Discuss about the role of Buddhist monks in politics in relation to the essay, බෞද්ධ 'සංඝයාගේ චරිතයේ සංකේතමය භූමිකාව' ("Symbolic Role of the Sangha") by Newton Gunasinghe.
6. Write two (02) Short notes on any of the following topics:
  - i Feminist ideologies on religion
  - ii Changes in the role of catholic priest in Post Vatican II period
  - iii Magic
  - iv Sacred Narratives

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