

UNIVERSITY OF COLOMBO-SRI LANKA
FACULTY OF ARTS
SECOND YEAR EXAMINATION IN ARTS –SEMESTER II – 2017/2018
PSC 2226 – METHODOLOGY IN SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH
TIME: TWO (02) HOURS

Answer only **three (03)** questions.
Each question carries a maximum of **twenty (20)** marks

1.
 - (a) What do the terms 'objectivist' and 'subjectivist' epistemology mean? Discuss with examples.
 - (b) Political Scientists focus on concepts such as 'nationalism' in their analysis. If you were to study 'nationalism' what do you think would be the best epistemological approach? Give reasons for your answer.

(20 Marks)

2. (a) The history of knowledge production evolved over three phases; theological, metaphysical, and scientific. Discuss the differences among these three phases.

(b) Explain the difference between the 'deductive' and 'inductive' logic with examples.

(20 Marks)

3. (a) What is Empiricism? Write a brief note.

(b) Why did Francis Bacon argue that empiricism was better than metaphysical and theological methods to produce reliable knowledge?

(c) What do you think is the epistemological position of researchers who employ empiricist methods for their social science research?

(20 Marks)

4. (a) 'Paul Feyerabend questioned the superiority of the rationality of modern science and advocated 'methodological anarchism' instead. Discuss.

(b) Explain Imre Lakatos' thesis of 'scientific research programme'.

(20 Marks)

5. (a) What was the Marxist approach to 'reality' and 'scientificity' of knowledge?

(b) What are the similarities and differences between Marxist and positivist epistemologies?

(20 Marks).

(Contd..2/-)

6. Discuss **three (03)** of the following themes briefly:

- (a) Thomas Kuhn's concept of 'paradigm'
- (b) Louis Althusser's concept of 'symptomatic reading'
- (c) August Comte and Positivism
- (d) Influence of positivism on Political Science research
- (e) Phenomenology and Ethnomethodology.

(20 Marks)
