

UNIVERSITY OF COLOMBO, SRI LANKA

FACULTY OF ARTS

**EXAMINATION IN MASTER OF ARTS IN SOCIOLOGY (TWO YEARS)
2017/19 & MASTERS IN SOCIOLOGY (ONE YEAR) 2017/18**

Semester I

MAS 617 – Sociology of Religion

Answer four (04) questions only.

Time : Three hours (03) Hours

1. What is religion? Explain the three major strategies used by sociologists to define religion.
2. Critically discuss the theoretical contribution made by Max Weber and Karl Marx to development of the Sociology of Religion.
3. 'Religion is a product of the mind.' Critically discuss this statement by paying attention to the Freudian theoretical approach to religion.
4. 'Religion has been contributing to women's oppression.' Do you agree with this statement? Explain with examples.
5. Write short essays on any four (04) of the following concepts:
 - a. Life cycled rituals
 - b. Pilgrimage
 - c. Productive, Protective and Destructive Magic
 - d. Religious cosmology
 - e. Religious myths
 - f. Religious syncretism

P.T.O.

6. What are the main features of religiosity expressed in Kataragama, Kudagama and Muneswaram?
7. Write short essays on any two (02) of the following thinkers of Sociology and Anthropology of religion:
- a Victor Turner
 - b Stanley Jayaraj Tambiah
 - c Gananath Obeyesekere
 - d Talal Asad
 - e Clifford Geertz
8. "The multi-religious nature of our society should be understood not as a threat but as a strength of Sri Lankan Society." Do you agree with this statement? Explain with examples.
