

UNIVERSITY OF COLOMBO, SRI LANKA

FACULTY OF ARTS

FIRST YEAR EXAMINATION IN ARTS - SEMESTER I - 2018/2019

SOC 1101 - Fundamentals of Sociology

Two (02) Hours

Answer **FOUR (04)** questions only.

1.
 - i. Explain the distinction between hard and soft sciences. (2 marks)
 - ii. According to the positivists, how can society be studied scientifically? (3 marks)
 - iii. Do you believe that it is possible for a sociologist to be completely objective in studying society? Explain your answer outlining the challenges of studying society. (10 marks)

2.
 - i. What is a sociological perspective? (2 marks)
 - ii. How is the consensus perspective different from the conflict perspective? (3 marks)
 - iii. Compare and discuss how a consensus theorist and a conflict theorist would analyse a certain social phenomenon using a hypothetical example. (10 marks)

3.
 - i. What is the scientific method? (2 marks)
 - ii. How is a probability sample different from a non-probability sample? (3 marks)
 - iii. Assume that you want to do a participatory study on the activities of criminals. What are the ethical issues that you should anticipate? Can these issues be avoided in a way that your findings are not affected? Give reasons for your answer. (10 marks)

- 4.
- i. Define family and state its main characteristics. (2 marks)
 - ii. What is meant by the statement "family is universal"? (3 marks)
 - iii. Do you think that family always makes a positive contribution to the individual as well as society? Present your answer with examples. (10 marks)

- 5.
- i. What is rational action? (2 marks)
 - ii. Max Weber is criticized for overlooking several deficiencies in bureaucracies because of the over-emphasis he placed on its technical superiority. Explain this statement. (3 marks)
 - iii. 'Max Weber placed a great emphasis on how people interpreted their social world.' Explain this argument paying attention to his analysis of religious behaviour. (10 marks)

- 6.
- i. What is the distinction between the sacred and the profane? (2 marks)
 - ii. What did Karl Marx mean by his famous quote "religion is the opium of the masses"? (3 marks)
 - iii. According to the Functionalists, religion has the capacity to strengthen solidarity in society. Does this theory help us understand the incidents that took place in Sri Lanka on 2019 Easter Sunday? Explain your answer with examples. (10 marks)

- 7.
- i. What characteristics are used to identify people belonging to the same social strata? (2 marks)
 - ii. What is the difference between a person's ascribed social status and achieved social status? (3 marks)
 - iii. Sri Lankans rarely discuss caste in public social spheres. However, it is still highlighted as an important concern in the marriage proposals that appear in newspapers. Discuss. (10 marks)

8. Explain the following sociological concepts with examples

- i. Traditional action and rational action (3 marks)
- ii. Crowd and mob (3 marks)
- iii. Voluntary and involuntary groups (3 marks)
- iv. Culture and sub-culture (3 marks)
- v. Socialization and resocialization (3 marks)
