

UNIVERSITY OF COLOMBO, SRI LANKA

FACULTY OF ARTS

FIRST YEAR EXAMINATION IN ARTS - SEMESTER I – 2017/2018

SOC 1101 - Fundamentals of Sociology

Two (02) Hours

Answer FOUR (04) questions only.

1.
 - i. What is positivism? (2 marks)
 - ii. What are the historical events that generated the need to study and understand society scientifically? (3 marks)
 - iii. How do the concepts of objectivity and subjectivity become relevant to the scientific study of society? (10 marks)

2.
 - i. What is class conflict? (2 marks)
 - ii. According to Karl Marx what is meant by the concepts, infrastructure and superstructure? (3 marks)
 - iii. How did Marx link the social relationship between the oppressor and the oppressed to his idea of a classless utopian society? (10 marks)

3.
 - i. Explain the statement that sociological knowledge is scientific. (2 marks)
 - ii. Briefly state the stages of the scientific method. (3 marks)
 - iii. Imagine that you want to conduct a sociological study on sex workers in Colombo. Will you choose a quantitative study, a qualitative study or a combination of both for this purpose? Give reasons for your decision. (10 marks)

4.

- i. What is a social group? (2 marks)
- ii. Why is the study of social groups important for the sociologist? (3 marks)
- iii. Which is more important in a person's socialization: the primary groups or the secondary groups that he/she belongs to? Explain your answer with examples. (10 marks)

5.

- i. What is a formal social organization? (2 marks)
- ii. 'Max Weber identified bureaucracy as the best example that depicts modern man's ability to rationalize.' Explain this statement. (3 marks)
- iii. How do informal organizations within the formal organization of the university help you successfully fulfil your role at the University? Discuss with examples. (10 marks)

6.

- i. What is religion? (2 marks)
- ii. How did Emile Durkheim explain the role of religion in creating social solidarity? (3 marks)
- iii. Do you think that the relationship between people and religion has changed as a result of people becoming more rational and scientific? Critically present your answer with examples. (10 marks)

7.

- i. What is social stratification? (2 marks)
- ii. Explain the concept strata sub-culture with examples. (3 marks)
- iii. What are the various social stratification systems that you belong to? Explain with examples how earning a university degree will affect your chances of social mobility within these systems? (10 marks)

8. Explain the following sociological concepts with examples

- i. Rational action in relation to a goal and rational action in relation to a value (3 marks)**
- ii. Accidental and regulated social interaction (3 marks)**
- iii. Ascribed and achieved social status (3 marks)**
- iv. Social structure and social relations (3 marks)**
- v. Positive and negative socialization (3 marks)**
