

UNIVERSITY OF COLOMBO, SRI LANKA

FACULTY OF ARTS

FOURTH YEAR EXAMINATION IN ARTS

SEMESTER I – 2022/2023

SOC 4181 – Colonial and Postcolonial Societies

Duration: **Two (02) hours.**

Answer **Three (03)** questions only.

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- 1 Why is post-colonialism as a theoretical perspective important to understand the cultural, political and economic legacy of colonialism and imperialism? Explain with examples.
- 2 ‘According to Gayathri Spivak it is impossible for the subaltern to speak as they are divided by gender, class, caste, region, religion and other narratives. These divisions do not allow them to stand up in unity’. Critically examine this statement by referring to her work on ‘Can the Subaltern Speak?’
- 3 ‘Homi Bhabha highlights the necessity of contesting through resistance the Eurocentric hegemony and cultural imperialism in favour of the people living in the margin’. Do you agree with this statement? Explain.
- 4 ‘The nationalism far from being the complete opposite of colonialism, in fact absorbs much of the value system of colonialism, and acts to benefit a middle class elite’. Discuss this statement by referring to Partha Chatterjee’s study on ‘Nationalist Thought in the Colonial World: A Derivative Discourse?’
- 5 Explain the concept of “Empire” which was formulated by Michael Hardt and Antonio Negri to understand the neo-liberal world.
- 6 **Either**  
Critically examine the Marxist response to postcolonial theory by paying attention to Vivek Chibber’s work on ‘Postcolonial Theory and the Specter of Capital’.

**Or**

Discuss the British colonial impact on Sri Lankan society and culture by referring to reading materials presented at group work.

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