

**UNIVERSITY OF COLOMBO – SRI LANKA**

**FACULTY OF ARTS**

**THIRD YEAR EXAMINATION IN ARTS – SEMESTER I – 2017/2018**

**PSC 3150 – METHODOLOGIES AND APPROACHES TO POLITICAL SCIENCE  
RESEARCH**

**Time: Two (02) Hours**

Answer only **three (03)** Questions.

Each answer will carry a maximum of **twenty (20)** marks.

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01.

- a. Describe the Institutional approach to Political Science research.
- b. Critics of traditional institutionalism point to its limitations in terms of its scope and methods. Explain these limitations.

02.

- a. How important is the Philosophy of Science in choosing a research approach to study politics? Illustrate your answer with examples.
- b. Give an example for a political phenomenon that should be investigated using a research approach that is founded on subjectivist epistemology. Justify your choice.

03.

- a. Can politics be studied using scientific methods? Explain.
- b. Discuss the main premises of Behavioural approach to Political Science.
- c. Provide an example for a research that was conducted using scientific methods and explain the approach used in that research.

04.

- a. Feminists claim that 'private is political'. Explain.
- b. Discuss the Feminist approach to Political Science research.
- c. Give an example for a study that should be researched using the Feminist research approach.

(P.T.O.)

05.

- a. What are the main assumptions of Rational Choice theorists about human behaviour?
- b. Discuss the importance of Rational Choice Theory to study voter behavior in Sri Lanka.
- c. What are the main critique levelled against Rational Choice theory?

6. Select two out of the following approaches to Political Science and discuss their ontological and epistemological positions.

- a. Marxist approach
- b. Interpretive approach
- c. Feminist approach
- d. Institutional approach

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