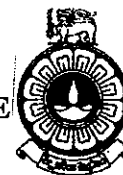THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA
MA DEGREE IN DEVELOPMENT STUDIES AND PUBLIC POLICY 2012/2013
MARGA – THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA COLLABORATIVE
PROGRAMME – LEVEL VII
FINAL EXAMINATION
SSP2130/2104 - CONTEMPORARY POLITICAL THOUGHT & PUBLIC POLICY

DURATION – THREE (03) HOURS

Date: 16ᵗʰ December 2012   Time: 9.30 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.

Answer four (04) questions.
Each question carries 25 marks.

1. Critically examine Hannah Arndt's political thought under any three of the following:
    (i)   Modernity
    (ii)   Rise of the social
    (iii) Private-public distinction
    (iv)   Totalitarian regimes

2. Briefly examine how Ralph Dahrendorf explains the formation of conflict within groups and compare that with the Karl Marx's theory of conflict.

3. Judith Butler's theory of Performativity creates a new equality in gender roles. Discuss the ways in which Butler's theory expands the roles of women and men in development.

4. The theory of distributive justice proposed by John Rawls establishes a clear justification for the right to development. Do you agree? Discuss.

5. Examine Isaiah Berlin's concepts of Liberty and Pluralism and discuss how they can promote the value system of a liberal democracy.

6. Many political analysts regard Strauss as a neo Conservative political thinker. Discuss and critically assess the main elements in Leo Strauss's thought that have lent credence to this view.

7. What are the roots of the term Harijan? How did it come to refer to "Untouchables"? What was the earlier term used to refer to this category? What are the other terms currently used? Discuss their implications and Gandhi's role in the process.

8. What is the Prisoners 'Dilemma, and how did that term originate? Give at least three practical examples of the operation of Prisoners' Dilemma, and discuss the implications of the resolution / non-resolution of each these. Does everyone encounter the Prisoners' Dilemma frequently? What is Schelling's diagrammatic representation of the Prisoners' Dilemma?

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