

THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL STUDIES
BA DEGREE PROGRAMME IN SOCIAL SCIENCES – (2014/2015)
FINAL EXAMINATION - LEVEL III (SEMESTER II)
SSU1252 – UNDERSTANDING SRI LANKAN SOCIETY & CULTURE



DURATION: THREE HOURS (03 HOURS)

Date: 15.03.2015

Time: 9.30 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.

Answer five (05) questions only. Each question carries 20 marks.

1. One of the students who attended a Sociology day school suggested that “Anthropologists and Sociologists are a group of stupid people. They do not bother about their ethno-national loyalties”. Discuss this statement with special reference to the role of Sociologists or Anthropologists in analysing Sri Lankan society and culture.
2. Describe the recent changes of marriage and kinship patterns in Sri Lanka.
3. What are the colonial influences on caste and class relations in Sri Lanka? Discuss giving relevant examples.
4. “The behavior of the Sinhala majority contributed to the awakening of Muslim and Tamil nationalisms”. Critically assess this statement.
5. Discuss the contribution of feminist scholars and various women’s organisations in assuring the freedom and development of women in Sri Lanka.
6. “Sri Lankans become violence due to primordial reasons”. Comment on this statement based on the scholarly work that you were introduced to in this semester.
7. Why is ethnic identity a very important factor in Sri Lankan party politics? Discuss.
8. What is political Buddhism? Can politics be linked with other religions as well? Argue.
9. Write short notes on any **four (4)** of the following:
 - (i) The Veddha community.
 - (ii) Emile Durkheim’s contribution to explaining deviance.
 - (iii) Nationalism.
 - (iv) Hegemony.
 - (v) Peasants in Sri Lanka.
 - (vi) Sinhala Buddhism.
 - (vii) Militarisation of Sri Lankan society.