



KENYATTA UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS 2018/2019

FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATION FOR THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

ASC 905: CONTEMPORARY SOCIOLOGICAL THEORIES

DATE: Thursday 29th November 2018

TIME: 9.00a.m -12.00p.m

INSTRUCTIONS:

ANSWER QUESTION ONE AND ANY OTHER THREE

- Q1. a) Compare critical theory and postmodern theory showing the issues they have in common and those that keep them apart. [10 marks]
- b) According to C. Wright Mills, what does a social analyst need to do to accomplish the promise of sociology? [10 marks]
- c) Briefly identify and describe how three contemporary sociologists have accomplished the promise of sociology. [10 marks]
- Q2. a) Critically examine general features of all social action theories. [5 marks]
- b) Use examples to compare and contrast Parson's structure of social action and contemporary rational choice theories. [5 marks]
- Q3. Discuss how Pierre Bourdieu's theories could be used to analyze power and inequality in society. [10 marks]
- Q4. a) What level of analysis accompany conflicts, functionalism and symbolic interaction perspectives? With examples from recent global events illustrate your answers. [5 marks]
- b) Use arguments to discount or support the claim that since sociology is under attack on every page of a news paper the discipline is in a state of crisis. Which theory or theories can you use to explain your answers. [5 marks]

- Q5. a) Use your workplace experience to explain how Karl Marx views the concept of social consciousness. [5 marks]
- b) "Sociology is a product of, and a response to, modernity." Explain what is meant by this statement. In answering the question, base your answers on classical and modern social theories such as feminism and structural functionalism. [5 marks]
- Q6. a) Use examples to elaborate Gidden's explanation of relationship between structure and agency. [5 marks]
- b) Discuss five aspects of theoretical knowledge. [5 marks]