

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE

EXAMINATION FOR ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES 1

(SEMESTER II: 2011-2012)

SC1101E – MAKING SENSE OF SOCIETY

SOCIOLOGY

April 2012 - Time Allowed 2 Hours

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

1. This examination consists of **THREE** sections, Section A, Section B, and Section C, and comprises **TWO** pages.
2. **Question 1 in Section A is a compulsory question.**
3. Answer ONE question from Section B and ONE question from Section C.
4. You must answer a total of **THREE** questions.
5. Question 1 and Section B carry 20 marks each, while Section C carries 10 marks.
6. This is a **CLOSED BOOK** examination.

SECTION A: (COMPULSORY) (20 MARKS)

1. In March 2012, a policy was announced to give maids in Singapore a weekly day off. Employers who object to this policy complain about housework not being done during the maids' rest day; they feel that their maids have sufficient rest during the regular working days; they fear that free time equals "idle" time (maids having boyfriends and getting pregnant). Do a sociological analysis of employer-maid relations by using only ONE of the following perspectives: functionalist, conflict, or feminist.

SECTION B: ANSWER ONE OF THE FOLLOWING (20 MARKS)

2. "What connects the sociological interest in diverse areas like class, ethnicity and gender is really the attempt to understand power in all its manifestations." Discuss.
3. How do sociological explanations transcend biological accounts of race, gender and sexuality?
4. Write an essay on "reification and the social construction of god".

SECTION C: ANSWER ONE OF THE FOLLOWING (10 MARKS)

5. There is a high rate of religious activity at a secular institution like NUS, especially during the period of examinations. Use rational choice, risk theory and religious economy perspectives to analyze this phenomenon.
6. "Deviance is symptomatic of the moral decay of a society." Why would sociologists not necessarily see deviance in this light?
7. Based on your knowledge about the link between schooling and social inequality, propose some policies to reduce social inequality in a given society.

***** END OF THE PAPER *****