

**NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE**

**SC2205 - SOCIOLOGY OF FAMILY**

**(SEMESTER I: AY2013-2014)**

**EXAMINER: DR ROSE LIANG**

**SOCIOLOGY**

**Time Allowed: 2 Hours**

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**INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES**

1. Please write your student number only. **Do not write your name.**
2. This examination paper contains **TWO** sections: Section A and Section B, and comprises **TWO** pages.
3. Question 1 in Section A is a **COMPULSORY** question.
4. Answer any **ONE** question from Section B.
5. You must answer a total of **TWO** questions.
6. Please start each question on a new page.
7. This is a **CLOSED BOOK** examination.

**SECTION A: COMPULSORY QUESTION (50%)**

1. Discuss ONE major sociological approach and how it has helped you to understand one aspect of family (i.e., an important family issue). Assess this sociological approach in light of its usefulness in explaining and understanding the particular aspect/ issue of the family that you have chosen.

**SECTION B: ANSWER ANY ONE QUESTION (50%)**

2. Coontz (2004) has argued that marriage is currently undergoing a world historical transformation and although it will not regain its monopoly in family life as traditionally defined, she does not believe that marriage will disappear. What did Coontz mean by this? Discuss the implications of her position for the understanding of divorce (and the meaning of divorce) in modern society with reference to lectures and readings.
3. Dermott (2008) has identified 3 paradoxes of contemporary fatherhood. One is that there exists a gap between the cultural representation of equal parenthood and its gendered practice in the family. How would you explain this paradox of the gap between belief and practice? Discuss 4 barriers to the alignment of this cultural representation with practices of family.
4. The importance of State policies in shaping the family is well recognized. Is this merely a one-way process? Discuss with reference to the responses of Singaporean families to state demographic **AND** education policies in different historical periods in Singapore.
5. In the famous paper “Doing Gender” (West & Zimmerman, 1987), the authors aimed “to advance a new understanding of gender as a routine accomplishment embedded in everyday interaction”. Explicate your understanding of the concept of “doing gender”. Then discuss briefly but critically how it contributes to our sociological analysis of family issues, such as marriage, work-family balance and so on.

\*\*\*\*\* END OF PAPER \*\*\*\*\*