Question 1

R. W. Connell’s article “Why is classical Theory Classical?” contends that the discipline of Sociology emerged from a broad cultural dynamic in which the tensions of liberalism and empire were central, and that global expansion and European imperialism gave the discipline its main conceptual framework and much of its data, key problems, and methods. Discuss the fundamental tenets of R.W. Connell’s argument. (33 1/3)

Question 2.

According to Marcuse, the notion of the proletarian revolution is a chimera because the capitalist society has developed technological capabilities that will enable it to contain the putative revolt. Critically examine elements of Marcuse’s thesis presented in his One-Dimensional Man. (33 1/3)

Question 3

Feminist theories in sociology reflect the rich diversity of general theoretical orientations in the discipline, and they have influenced the mainstream sociological theory. But feminist theories have remained on the margins of sociology, ignored by the central male formulatorts of the discipline until 1960. Discuss the varieties of feminist sociological theory, its fundamental principles, and its epistemological contributions to sociology. (33 1/3)

Question 4

Is the discipline of sociology Proscience or Antiscience? Discuss Randall Collins’ critical appraisal of the variety of assaults on the conception of sociology as a science. (33 1/3)

Question 5

The micro/macro issue in sociological theorizing has been extensively debated at a meta-theoretical level within the discipline. Discuss the main elements of Randall Collins’ contribution to this debate. (33 1/3)