

UNIVERSITY OF FORT HARE

EAST LONDON CAMPUS

ICL321E

DEGREE EXAMINATIONS

NOVEMBER 2019

CONTEMPORARY LABOUR HISTORY

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Time: 3 Hours

Marks: 100

Subject: Contemporary Labour History

This paper consists of 2 pages including the cover page

Internal Examiner:

External Examiner:

Mr. Lucky Kunene

Dr. L. Sinwell

Instructions:

ANSWER ANY THREE (3) QUESTIONS

ALL QUESTIONS ARE EQUAL IN VALUE

Please remember that it is in your interest to write legibly

ANSWER ANY THREE (3) QUESTIONS

1. According to Richard Hyman there are two categories of trade union theory: "those approaches which see significant revolutionary potential in trade union activity and those which argue that such activity does not in itself facilitate the revolutionary transformation of capitalist society". Critically assess the validity of his claims with reference to two of the following theorists:
 - (i) Vladimir Lenin
 - (ii) Rosa Luxemburg
 - (iii) Leon Trotsky
2. Discuss some of the structural and political challenges faced by earlier South African black and other non-racial trade unions such as ICU and CNETU in mobilising and resisting black worker's super-exploitation in the 1920s until the 1960s.
3. With reference to the trade union movement in South Africa post 1994, what are the key strengths particularly of COSATU as a biggest federation of South African trade unions?
4. What key factors are identified by Robert Michel as behind the bureaucratisation of trade unions, and how in specific terms do these factors lead to the bureaucratisation of trade unions?
5. Discuss the recent Marikana mine shootings and discuss in particular such an incident affecting workers is a signal of post-apartheid trade unions weakness and lack of care for workers well-being and concerns through discussing the trade unions failures to prevent the violence that occurred during the massacre.
6. Discuss and describe some of the critical social, economic and political events that united trade unions and the liberation movements and community organizations in the struggle against apartheid in the 70s and 80s in South Africa?
7. It is commonly claimed that the Durban strikes of 1973 gave birth to the South African trade union movement. With critical reference to the strikes in question, discuss and describe the conditions (social, economic and political) that shaped and gave rise to the Durban strikes and how they affected the future of trade unions strategies for resisting workers exploitation in South Africa.
8. The talk of a Social Contract in South Africa, and the workers party are all indicative of the choices and issues faced by trade unions before the 1994 transition, what is a social contract and how were South African trade unions better placed to ensure leadership and interests of workers in a new nation about to be born at the time?

END OF EXAMINATION PAPER

