

UNIVERSITY OF FORT HARE

FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

HONOURS - OCTOBER/NOVEMBER EXAMINATION 2014

SOC523

INDUSTRIAL SOCIOLOGY

TIME : 3 HOURS

MARKS : 100

INSTRUCTIONS: ANSWER THREE (3) QUESTIONS ONLY.

THIS QUESTION PAPER CONSISTS OF 3 PAGES
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INTERNAL EXAMINERS : Ms. N. MYALUZA-MASINA

Mr. V. DUMA

EXTERNAL EXAMINER : Prof. P. CUNNINGHAM

Question 1

In “When Work Disappears – The World of the New Urban Poor”, **William Julius Wilson** contends that the social problems endemic to America’s inner city (“the ghetto”) – from fatherless households to drugs and violent crime – originate directly from the disappearance of blue-collar jobs in the wake of a globalized economy. Discuss main arguments advanced by Wilson to substantiate the above contention. (33 1/3)

Question 2

Richard Sennet’s “*The Corrosion of Character*” interrogates what is known as “flexible capitalism” – a euphemistic phrase often used to describe a situation in which workers at all levels are regarded as wholly disposable - ceasing to think in terms of any long-term relationship with the organizations they work for. Discuss the central tenets of Sennet’s thesis that work has become routinized, flexible, illegible, and risky. (33 1/3)

Question 3

Jeremy Rifkin argues that the global economy is undergoing a fundamental transformation in the nature of work that will reshape civilization in the present century. Sophisticated computers, robotics telecommunications, and other Information Age technologies are fast replacing human beings in virtually every sector of the industry. Near-workerless factories and virtual companies loom on the horizon. Critically examine the main elements of Rifkin’s argument about the “end of work”. (33 1/3)

Question 4

Union investments are often mentioned as one strategy to achieve economic empowerment of workers and their organizations. However, union investment companies are a controversial issue within many labour movements around the world. Critically discuss the role and function of different trade union investment companies in South Africa. (33 1/3)

Question 5

Affirmative action refers to policies and practices aimed at redressing social, economic, and educational imbalances or inequalities arising out of unfair discrimination. Critically discuss arguments in favour of introducing programmes of affirmative action and arguments often put forward in opposition to affirmative action.

(33 1/3)

Question 6

Discuss the Employment Equity Act, 1998 (Act 55 of 1998) as an instrument to achieve employment equity. (33 1/3)

Question 7

The Labour Relations Act 97 of 1995 protects the rights of employees and employers. Discuss in detail the rights of both the employees and employers covered by the Act.

(33 1/3)

THE END!