

UNIVERSITY OF FORT HARE

CLASSICAL SOCIOLOGICAL THEORY

SOC212

SPECIAL EXAMINATION

2019

TIME: 1½ HOURS

SUBJECT: SOC212

MARKS: 50

INSTRUCTION

ANSWER TWO (2) QUESTIONS ONLY.

THIS QUESTION PAPER CONSISTS OF 2 PAGES

INTERNAL EXAMINER: Ms. N. MYALUZA-MASINA

Question 1

1.1 Enlightenment (age of reason) was a cultural movement of intellectuals of the 17th and 18th centuries which began in Europe and later in the American colonies. Its purpose was to reform society using reason, challenge ideas grounded in tradition and faith, and advance knowledge through the scientific method. Critically discuss this statement.

[10]

1.2 Discuss Comte's "dynamic" and "static" formulation of society.

[5]

1.3 Discuss Comte's famous "laws of three stages."

[10]

[25]

Question 2

2.1 The functionalists have often used an organic analogy to compare the operation of society to that of a living organism. Evaluate this statement fully and paying a particular attention on Durkheim's work.

[10]

2.2 At the core of Durkheim's work, he identified the aspects of social life that shape our actions as individuals. Discuss

[10]

2.3 Compare and contrast mechanical and organic solidarity as espoused by Emile Durkheim.

[5]

[25]

Question 3

3.1 According to Talcott Parsons, any social system, and any social action, can be exhaustively analyzed in terms of five (5) pairs of "pattern variables". Discuss these pairs of pattern variables, and please utilize relevant examples to illustrate your argument. [15]

3.2. Talcott Parsons reasoned that a society has four (4) basic needs or prerequisites or imperatives it has to satisfy in order to subsist. Discuss these prerequisites, and in your answer explain how does society solve each imperative?

[10]

[25]

Question 4

Discuss in detail Karl Marx's analysis of capitalism as a social system.

[25]