



University of Fort Hare  
*Together in Excellence*

**SOCIOLOGY OF EDUCATION**

**SOE 411**

**BACHELOR OF EDUCATION**

**FINAL EXAMINATION**

**MAY / JUNE 2023**

Time: 3 Hours

Marks: 100

This paper consists of **3** pages including the cover page

Internal Examiners: Mr. R, Karima

External Examiner: Dr M, Buka

**INSTRUCTIONS**

1. Answer question **one** and any other **two** questions
2. Credit will be given for appropriate examples from education in general and from South Africa in particular
3. Begin each question on a fresh page

### **QUESTION 1**

Discuss the role of education in a society from a functionalist perspective and explain the role of the teacher.

(34 marks)

### **QUESTION 2**

Analyse the view that a school can be regarded as an organisation.

(33 marks)

### **QUESTION 3**

The implementation of an effective language policy is critical to educational success, especially in a complex, multilingual society such as South Africa. Among the many language debates is the argument over English versus mother-tongue as the medium of instruction.

Briefly explain why the language issue is such a complex one in the present South African educational context and then discuss what you consider to be the main considerations in the English versus mother-tongue medium of instruction argument. In your conclusion, state how you think this matter can best be resolved from an educational point of view.

(33 marks)

### **QUESTION 4**

South Africa has put in place policies and legislation on gender transformation. Discuss policies or measures that have been put in place to ensure gender equality in education particularly in high schools in South Africa since 1994. Identify the challenges of implementation and suggest how they could be addressed.

(33 marks)

### **QUESTION 5**

Within multicultural contexts less powerful cultures have traditionally been assimilated by the dominant culture. Explain briefly what this means and then discuss in detail how the issue of culture should be addressed in South African schools in the present educational context.

(33 marks)