

UNIVERSITY OF FORT HARE

CLASSICAL SOCIOLOGICAL THEORY

SOC212

DEGREE EXAMINATION / MAY

2017

TIME: 1½ HOURS

SUBJECT: SOC212

MARKS: 50

**INSTRUCTION**

ANSWER TWO (2) QUESTIONS ONLY.

THIS QUESTION PAPER CONSISTS OF 2 PAGES

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### **Question 1**

Enlightenment (age of reason) was a cultural movement of intellectuals of the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> 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.

[10]

2.2 Compare and contrast mechanical and organic solidarity as competing interpretations advanced by Emile Durkheim.

[10]

2.3 Write explanatory notes on the types of suicides that you have studied.

(5)

(25)

### **Question 3**

3.1 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)

3.2 According to Robert Merton society sets cultural goals for the members of the society and prescribes the legitimate means that are available to reach those goals. Describe the 5 different ways of adaptation.

(15)

(25)

### **Question 4**

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

(25)