

**UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND**  
**FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCE**  
**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY**  
**SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION PAPER, JULY 2006**

**TITLE OF PAPER** : **SOCIOLOGICAL THEORY**

**COURSE CODE** : **SOC 301**

**TIME ALLOWED** : **THREE (3) HOURS**

**INSTRUCTIONS** :  
1. **ANSWER ANY FOUR (4) QUESTIONS.**  
2. **ALL QUESTIONS CARRY EQUAL MARKS.**

**THIS PAPER IS NOT TO BE OPENED UNTIL PERMISSION HAS BEEN GIVEN BY THE INVIGILATOR.**

**QUESTION 1**

Citing appropriate examples, critically discuss the concept of social facts.

**QUESTION 2**

Compare and contrast consensus and conflict theories.

**QUESTION 3**

Provide a critical analysis of the basic assumptions of symbolic interactionism.

**QUESTION 4**

Examine Ralf Dahrendorf's thesis that systematic conflicts are always caused by the differential distribution of authority.

**QUESTION 5**

Discuss the functionalist theory of stratification with specific reference to role allocation and performance.

**QUESTION 6**

Assess Karl Marx's analysis of class conflict and modes of production.

**QUESTION 7**

To what extent would you agree with Jean Baudrillard's argument that contemporary societies are characterized by simulations?

**QUESTION 8**

Identify and discuss the common and divergent elements in feminist theory and postmodern theory.