

**UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND**  
**FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCE**  
**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY**

**FINAL EXAMINATION PAPER, MAY 2012**

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

**COURSE CODE** : **SOC301**

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

**INSTRUCTIONS**

- 1. ANSWER FOUR (4) QUESTIONS: TWO (2) QUESTIONS FROM SECTION A, AND TWO (2) QUESTIONS FROM SECTION B.**
- 2. ALL QUESTIONS CARRY EQUAL MARKS.**

**THIS QUESTION PAPER MUST NOT BE OPENED UNTIL PERMISSION HAS BEEN GRANTED BY THE INVIGILATOR.**

**SOC301 SOCIOLOGICAL THEORY****SECTION A:**

***Answer TWO questions from this section.***

1. Discuss the influence of the Industrial Revolution and the growth of science on the development of sociological theory.
2. Critically discuss the theoretical contributions of Auguste Comte to the discipline of sociology.
3. Define the term collective conscience, and critically examine Emile Durkheim's characterization of collective conscience in traditional and modern societies.
4. Examine Max Weber's methodology of the social sciences with specific reference to *verstehen*, values, and ideal types.

**SECTION B:**

***Answer TWO questions from this section.***

5. Outline the major assumptions of Ralf Dahrendorf's conflict theory and explain why the theory has been criticized.
6. Discuss the basic principles of the symbolic interactionist perspective and identify the perspective's major weaknesses.
7. Compare and contrast any two strands of contemporary feminist theory.
8. Citing arguments from the literature, discuss the postmodernist view that knowledge is socially constructed.