

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCE
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION PAPER, JULY 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. Compare and contrast the theoretical positions of any two classical social theorists of your choice with specific reference to continuity and social change in society.
2. What evidence does Emile Durkheim present to support his argument that suicide is a social fact?
3. Define the term mode of production and explain how Karl Marx posited the relationship between the material base and the ideological superstructure.
4. How does formal rationality differ from substantive rationality? Provide appropriate examples to support your viewpoints.

SECTION B:

Answer TWO questions from this section.

5. Explain the relationship between Talcott Parsons's AGIL framework and his analysis of the general system of action.
6. Define the term "duality of structure" and critically discuss Anthony Giddens's arguments regarding agency and structure.
7. To what extent would you agree with Ralf Dahrendorf's view that systematic conflicts are caused by the differential distribution of authority?
8. State and explain the defining features of postmodernism in sociological theory. Cite relevant examples to illustrate your answer.